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ROME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2030:

Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region

Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation of the Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Bern Convention)
and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

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1. Introduction

Over the last few decades, bird populations have been experiencing a dramatic and unprecedented decline. Overexploitation, including illegal killing, taking and trade, is a main driver of extinctions of wild birds globally, and it is the most significant threat, after habitat loss, to migratory birds. Illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) threats the survival of avian species from songbirds to birds of prey, for different purposes, including human consumption, sports, trade or singing competitions. Within Europe and the Mediterranean region, it is estimated that 25 million birds are unlawfully killed every year[1].

Due to the massive extent of bird species being driven to extinction, their conservation has become a global concern, requiring urgent and coordinated international action.

In response, the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), their Contracting Parties and observers, together with partners and relevant stakeholders, have worked for decades towards the eradication of IKB. Building on their past work, the Bern Convention and the CMS have developed the present *Rome Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region*.

The preservation of wild bird species' future is our shared responsibility and the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan will therefore require the support of all members of the international community. Both the Bern Convention and the CMS are determined to maintain and increase the political focus and momentum on preventing IKB at national, regional and international level.

The generous support of the European Commission and the Council of Europe (Bern Convention) has enabled the delivery of the activities implemented under the TAP, through the SFPs, and the MIKT POW, including the development of the present Rome Strategic Plan.

CHAMPION PLUS

The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018-2020. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.

European Commission

2. Development of the Rome Strategic Plan

The Bern Convention has pioneered regional-scale policy action on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (IKB) for over three decades, starting with the adoption of a first Recommendation on the prosecution of persons illegally catching, killing or trading in protected birds in 1986. In 2013, it recommended implementation of the Tunis Action Plan (TAP) 2013-20202 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and established its Network of Special Focal Points for IKB (SFPs). In 2018, the progress achieved in the implementation of the TAP, was critically reviewed. Bern Convention Contracting Parties, observers, partners and stakeholders contributed to the exercise, through a structured consultation on a Concept Note Beyond 2020: Bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation

[1] Birdlife International (2015), The Killing 2.0 - A view to a kill: https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/the_killing_2.0.pdf

[2] The Tunis Action Plan (2013-2020) was structured around three priority areas, loosely categorized as: "enforcement and legal aspects", "biological and institutional aspects" and "awareness aspects". Each priority area opens to a set of related objectives, actions and corresponding results.

The enforcement and legal aspects priority area contains actions related to elaboration of national enforcement priorities against IKB, the development of "conservation impact statements" and adoption of standardized "gravity factors" and sentencing guidelines for IKB-related crime, as well as the establishment of relevant mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.

The biological and institutional aspects priority area seeks to ensure that aspects such as knowledge of bird mortality due to IKB and its drivers, information on legal harvest, and tools for prosecutors and judges on IKB is taken into consideration throughout the enforcement chain.

The awareness chapter of the TAP deals with building "positive and effective alliances with stakeholders" through opportunities for dialogue at the national level (including through decision-making "by consensus"), systematic publication of enforcement results, targeted communication and engagement with specific stakeholder groups as well as a sustained effort to improve education and awareness of IKB and its conservation impacts.

concern for the flyways which took stock and synthesised key information available on the implementation of the TAP 2013-2020.

In 2014, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as part of its wider work to combat wildlife crime impacting migratory species adopted CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds.* Within this framework the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) was established by the CMS Secretariat in conjunction with the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit and the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) Working Group. The MIKT supported the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan and other existing guidelines and action plans, in particular the AEWA-led Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya, and the EU roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds. At its first meeting in 2016, the MIKT developed a Programme of Work[3] (POW) 2016-2020 in alignment with the TAP, and adopted the Cairo Declaration on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region.

Subsequently, the Bern Convention and CMS have joined efforts against IKB. A major outcome of the collaboration, following a joint meeting in Malta in 2017 was that both Conventions have promoted the use of the *Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds* (Scoreboard), a monitoring tool to track the implementation of efforts to combat IKB by providing a framework for national self-assessment, via Recommendation No. 196 (2017) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the establishment of a Scoreboard, and CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP 12): The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds where the Scoreboard is contained in Annex 1.

Both Conventions have therefore been working closely to address illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) within their specific mandates, building synergies and sharing resources thus increasing efficiencies. The subsequent development of the Rome Strategic Plan for the next decade is a natural progression to maximize the impact of the work towards eradicating IKB. This Strategic Plan has been envisaged as a collaborative initiative, for use by Parties to the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species.

The development of the Rome Strategic Plan was carried out building on the following preparatory work:

1. A broad-brush situation analysis was undertaken, to map out the pre-TAP policy context relevant to IKB, including the key strategic inputs that shaped a post-2013 strategic response. In this process, key policy inputs were briefly examined, as well as the responses to the policy priorities by Bern Convention's Contracting Parties' and other partners' response to the policy priorities.
2. A strategic assessment of the state of implementation of the TAP[4] was consequently undertaken, and, drawing also on the conclusions of recent IKB-related developments, such as the recommendations of the 2018 Global Summit for the Flyways, key lessons learned from the experience of TAP implementation so far were deduced and areas where further work is needed were identified.
3. A multi-stakeholder consultation exercise was also undertaken on the first draft of the Concept Note "Beyond 2020: Bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation concern for the flyways" during July to October 2018. A specially designed questionnaire on Post-

[3] The MIKT Programme of Work 2016-2020 was divided into 4 main thematic work areas, in line with the Tunis Action Plan:

Overarching issues, including objectives to encourage the development of National Action Plans, reporting the national situation, prioritise action in hotspots and measure progress.

Legal and enforcement issues, this work area ensures national legislation complies with international and EU laws, contains actions to facilitate sentencing guidelines, encourage adoption of gravity factors, supports enforcement and strengthen regional cooperation across law enforcement chains.

Conservation and monitoring, dealing with research of scale and drivers, and alternative sources of income for local communities.

Education and public awareness, this work area has objectives on improving education, raising awareness at the national level working with hunting communities, at the local level working with communities and at the general level with the public. This work area encourages countries to develop national communication strategies.

[4] For more information on achievements under the Bern Convention TAP please consult the Concept Note Beyond 2020: Bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation concern for the flyways and the Mid-term review of implementation by Bern Convention Contracting Parties of the TAP.

2020 policy priorities on eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds was circulated in July 2018 amongst Bern Convention Contracting Parties, Observers and members of the CMS MIKT.

4. The lessons learned from the situation analysis were subjected to a broad-brush assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), based on which, a set of updated and revised conclusions and recommendations for post-2020 IKB-related policy priorities were proposed.
5. A set of strategic parameters to guide the development of a vision, objectives and high-level targets was then proposed, forming the basis of the present Strategic Plan.

A ten-year post-2020 policy horizon was chosen as a strategic window during which the new objectives and targets are to be implemented.

The strategic document in its current form has been prepared by the Secretariats of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and of the Convention on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). It was presented and discussed at the Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), held from 8 to 10 May 2019 in Rome, Italy. A consequent first consultation round on the document was organised in the period 1 August 2019 – 5 September 2019. A second consultation round was organised in the period 19 September – 15 October 2019. This document as well as a draft recommendation is tabled for discussion and adoption at the 39th Standing Committee meeting of the Bern Convention.

3. Executive Summary

The Rome Strategic Plan calls for maintaining and strengthening the zero-tolerance approach to IKB, to bring IKB to an end within the geographical scope of the Plan. It also calls for enhanced collaboration with regional and global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), partners and networks, to promote eradication of IKB in all our planet's flyways. The Vision of the Plan is subsequently translated into one process-oriented objective and five results-oriented objectives. The proposed strategic objectives comprehensively cover a large spectrum of measures necessary for the achievement of the proposed vision. The objectives range from (1) improving understanding of the scale and scope of, and motivations behind IKB (2) ensuring IKB is addressed effectively and efficiently into national legislation, (3) ensuring that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken, (4) ensuring ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences, and (5) establishing an active prevention of IKB. This is to be achieved through the implementation of this Strategic Plan, including the development and adoption of National Action Plans or other corresponding national tools in priority countries.

4. Vision

The overall objective of the CMS and Bern Convention's extensive work on IKB has always been the total eradication of IKB. In accordance with their specific mandates as outlined above, the Bern Convention and CMS facilitate the international cooperation, coordination and implementation of activities to eradicate IKB in this region. Therefore, the Rome Strategic Plan for 2020-2030 aims at bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds within its geographical scope, Europe and the Mediterranean region[5]. This overall objective is translated into the following vision for IKB policy 2020 – 2030:

[5] Countries within the geographic scope of MIKT and the Bern Convention: Countries in **bold** are members of the MIKT, countries in *italics* are observers to the MIKT. **Albania**, **Algeria**, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, **Croatia**, **Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Denmark, **Egypt**, Estonia, **European Union**, Finland, **France**, Georgia, *Germany*, **Greece**, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, **Israel**, **Italy**, *Jordan*, Latvia, **Lebanon**, **Libya**, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, **Malta**, Moldova, **Monaco**, **Montenegro**, **Morocco**, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, *Portugal*, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, Sweden, Switzerland, **Syrian Arab Republic**, **Tunisia**, *Turkey*, Ukraine, **United Kingdom**.

VISION 2030 OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN

In the ten-year period between 2020 and 2030, CMS and the Bern Convention, their Contracting Parties and observers, as well as other partners and stakeholders will continue to build upon the measures piloted under the Tunis Action Plan and the MIKT PoW, taking bolder action to achieve zero-tolerance and scaling up efforts, to eradicate IKB in the long term. By 2030, Bern Convention Contracting Parties and MIKT Members and Observers will strive to achieve a reduction in the scale and scope of IKB by at least 50% within their national territories, over a 2020 baseline, aiming ultimately at the eradication of IKB.

OVERARCHING LONG-TERM GOAL:

Eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds within the geographic extent of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT.

GOAL OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020–2030:

By 2030, the scale and scope of IKB have been reduced at least by 50% compared with the 2020 baseline.

INDICATOR FOR THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

A 50% reduction in the illegal killing, trapping, taking and trade of wild birds within the geographic remit of the Plan as measured by an assessment carried out against the national thresholds identified in the 2020 baseline.[6]

5. Parameters of the Strategic Plan

Based on the factors identified in a SWOT analysis (see document T-PVS/Inf(2018)3), several strategic parameters guide the Rome Strategic Plan priorities. The ethos underpinning these parameters is the need to maximise existing strengths, whilst addressing current weaknesses, as well as the need to capitalise on existing opportunities, whilst minimising or mitigating threats. In consideration of the above, the following parameters guide the Plan:

1. The **time horizon** for the post-2020 framework should allow a sequential and incremental progress on specific priorities, and the possibility of long-term mobilisation and planning of the necessary financial, human and technical resources to achieve long-term goals. Therefore, the Strategic Plan is to be implemented over a ten-year time horizon from 2020 to 2030. The ten-year horizon will be punctuated by a strong element of periodic assessments, to be undertaken on a 3-yearly basis in 2023, 2026 and a final assessment in 2030, using the process already in place for the IKB Scoreboard. This would allow stakeholders to remain motivated and committed to long term goals, whilst ensuring that progress remains on track and the necessary corrective measures are taken if the intermediary assessments reveals the need for any revision.
2. The post-2020 policy framework is guided by an ambitious **overarching 10-year goal**: reducing the scope and scale of IKB by half by 2030, compared with the 2020 baseline.
3. The **geographic extent** of the Rome Strategic Plan is the entire area covered by the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT.
    - **Distinct regional focus**: The Strategic Plan recognizes the scale of IKB in the Mediterranean region as being of significant concern. The Rome Strategic Plan also recognizes the particular

[6] For those Range States with insufficient baseline data in 2020, the mid-term assessment for 2025 will provide an opportunity to gather better information against which to calculate progress.

importance of addressing IKB in countries considered hotspots within the Mediterranean region, where most of the IKB impact takes place according to current scientific research.

4. The overarching 10-year goal is underpinned by one **process-oriented objective** and five **result-oriented objectives**, which inspire long term action and are achievable within the timeframes albeit requiring increased effort and resourcing by all stakeholders, including an increase in political will and action at the national level, compared with the status quo.
    - Objective No. 1: To understand the scope, scale of and motivations behind IKB
    - Objective No. 2: To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds
    - Objective No. 3: To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation
    - Objective No. 4: To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken
    - Objective No. 5: To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences
5. The objectives are accompanied by **incremental targets**, **actions** for their achievement, as well as **indicators** and **means of verification** for each of the targets
6. The IKB Scoreboard, a **monitoring tool**, provides for self-assessment and sharing information on progress at the national level towards eradicating IKB.
7. Efforts are to be made to **integrate the strategic objectives** of the Strategic Plan into other key international policy instruments, both vertically and horizontally[7].
8. The Strategic Plan aims at the alignment of priorities and at avoiding duplication of work between the two Conventions. Building on the Strategic Plan, the focus will be on attaining **higher levels of synergy** between existing and emerging strategies, policy mechanisms and networks.
9. The Strategic Plan **builds upon existing measures and tools** and refers to existing definitions and terminology used by the SFPs and MIKT processes.

[7] Horizontal integration refers to policy instruments that operate at the same level than the Rome Strategic Plan, vertical integration refers to instruments that operate at a different level.

5.1. Fundamental pre-conditions

Resourcing: Sufficient resources (both human resources and funding) are needed to implement the Rome Strategic Plan. National authorities are encouraged to increase the amount of national resourcing devoted to this issue. In addition, an overview of possible international funding sources should be maintained and communicated by the Secretariats.

International coordination: International coordination is a crucial aspect for the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan and needs to be maintained by the CMS and Bern Conventions, through their corresponding MIKT and Special Focal Points for IKB.

5.2. Definitions

For the purpose of this Strategic Plan the following definitions shall apply:

Geographic extent: the spatial extent covered by the Rome Strategic Plan

IKB: illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds

Justice system: understood as the processes established by countries to control crime and impose penalties on those who violate laws, for the purpose of identification of actions under the Rome Strategic Plan detection and enforcement are included under Objective 4 and prosecution and adjudication under Objective 5. Note: combating IKB includes the roles of different actors along the compliance chain, including inspectors, police, prosecutors, judges.

Observers: The Bern Convention has a general official observer status for non-governmental organisations at both European and national levels (around 120 organisations are listed by 2019). The MIKT has a list of observers to the Task Force available on its dedicated webpage[8].

Scope of IKB: physical area where IKB cases take place

Scale of IKB: number of birds that are illegally killed, taken and/or traded

5.3. Establishment of the 2020 baseline

The achievement of the goal of reducing the scale and scope of IKB by 50% by 2030 will be measured against the national thresholds identified in the 2020 baseline.

The 2020 baseline will be established, in line with action 1.1.a of this Strategic Plan, through a separate exercise to be completed by May 2020, in consultation with the Bern Convention and MIKT networks, including members and observers. The establishment of the baseline will be primarily informed by the outcomes of the first assessment of the Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds, implemented in 2018. When data is not available for the 2018 assessment of the Scoreboard, independent research such as the Birdlife assessments of the scope and scale of IKB in Europe and the Mediterranean and best scientific research available will be considered.

5.4. Assessments

1. Periodic Scoreboard based assessments

The strategic ten-year policy horizon of the Rome Strategic Plan, from 2020 to 2030, is punctuated with a strong element of self-assessment and sharing of information, to be performed periodically within the Plan timeframe, using the process already in place for the IKB Scoreboard. The Scoreboard had a first assessment in 2018, and will have periodic assessments in 2020, 2023, 2026 and 2029. Aiming to compile the most complete information available, the IKB Scoreboard may need to be adjusted as appropriate to ensure that countries can effectively use the scoreboard alongside the Rome Strategic Plan. Any adjustment to the Scoreboard will be discussed and agreed through international coordination. Using a periodic assessment timeline that relates each objective to both short- and long-term outcomes will allow countries to use the assessment results to refine the actions as needed.

[8] https://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/mikt

2. Assessment of the plan

The progress in achieving the goal of 50% reduction in the scale and scope of the illegal killing, trapping, taking and trade of wild birds within the geographic remit of the Plan , and the progress achieved in each Range State, will be assessed against the thresholds identified in the 2020 baseline, according to a methodology decided by countries within the Bern SFP network and CMS MIKT.

To ensure the success of the Rome Strategic Plan and progress toward achieving its goal such assessments may include the following elements:

i. Assessing the empirical measures of success through the outcomes identified by the indicators for each objective. The indicators for each of the actions of the Rome Strategic Plan establish a logical framework matrix that forms the overall composite index, allowing measuring of progress against the 2020 baseline.

ii. Assessments will be informed by national reporting to the Conventions, independent research and the periodic Scoreboard information as responded by countries, including other relevant information.

3. Assessments Timeline

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Periodic assessment, using the Scoreboard	■			■			■			■	
Assessment						■					■

6. Logical Framework Matrix of the Rome Strategic Plan

6.1. Process-oriented objective

This process-oriented objective deals specifically with National Action Plans, for these to be developed, adopted and implemented in all countries by a multi-stakeholder group, if an initial assessment by the country indicates the need for a National Action Plan, according to the existing guidelines on consultative national action plan planning processes. Involvement of all relevant national authorities and stakeholders in helping to prepare, guide and deliver a National Action Plan is considered key to achieving maximum buy-in of all those who can help deliver effective IKB reduction.

Each National Action Plan against IKB are intended to identify the strategies and actions of the Rome Strategic Plan that are the most relevant to the situation of the country to which it applies or provide a ranking in terms of priorities for the actions to be implemented. Countries with other existing policy means to structure their work on IKB are encouraged to align their policy and implementation tools to achieve the goal of the Strategic Plan, including by undertaking a prioritization exercise.

National IKB Action Plans

2030 Target	Indicator & means of verification	Actions	Main actors[9]	Applicable in Range States	Links to other int. processes
National Action Plans are developed and adopted and are being implemented in all countries	**Indicator** (quantitative) i. Number of National IKB Action Plans or relevant document identifying priority actions to address IKB ii. Degree of implementation of National IKB Action Plans, as assessed by the corresponding country and other stakeholders **Means of verification**: Completion of Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating (IKB) **Scoreboard indicator:** C14. **Indicator** (qualitative): iii. Comprehensiveness of National IKB Action Plans in covering action to address all IKB issues in country,	a) By September 2021, provide a format including guidance for the development and implementation of National IKB Action Plans.[10]	a) Bern Convention and MIKT Coordinator in consultation with countries and relevant stakeholders b) Range state governments and respective national stakeholders	N/A	International and National Action Planning guidance adopted under AEWA
		b) By December 2021 based on the scoreboard or other relevant source of information, each Contracting Party assesses the need to develop and adopt a NAP, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats			
		c) By December 2022 develop and adopt National Action Plans on IKB and the mechanism for its implementation when assessed as necessary or develop and adopt other relevant document, implementation tools or mechanisms which includes actions to address IKB (*Cross-reference with Objective 1 of this Strategic Plan*)	Range state governments and respective national stakeholders	*All, recognizing Range states prioritized for National IKB Action Plans*	

[9] The support from actors is expected to the extent that resources, work plans and funding allow.
[10] Work developed under the TAP by the Bern Convention will be taken into account, in particular Recommendation No. 171 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and Recommendation N° 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

	as assessed by the corresponding country and other stakeholders iv. Establishment of National Action Plan committee with appropriate multi-stakeholder structure and a remit covering development of the NAP and guidance of its implementation v. Funding is dedicated or/and secured by countries to address IKB by implementing the NAPs vi. The scale (number and severity) of species of wild birds impacted by IKB is identified in the National IKB Action Plans **Means of verification**: National Action Plans or relevant document including appropriate actions to address IKB adopted Completion of Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating (IKB)				
		d) Within the period 2020-2030, organize regional workshops to support the development (finished by 2024) and implementation of National Action Plans, where needed.	Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats in consultation with countries and relevant stakeholders	*All*	

6.2. Result-oriented objectives

The following 5 result-oriented objectives identify targets, indicators and means of verification, actions, actors, range states and other relevant processes for the achievement of the goal of the Strategic Plan.

Objective No. 1: To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds					
2030 Target	**Indicator & means of verification**	**Actions**	**Main actors[11]**	**Applicable in Range States**	**Links to other int. processes**
1.1 The scale and scope of IKB is fully understood in each country covered by the scope of the Rome Strategic Plan and monitored regularly.	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. Number of countries and stakeholders achieving the actions and providing relevant documentation ii. Number of IKB hotspots[12] identified and monitored per country **Means of verification**: Documentation provided by the countries and stakeholders includes the completion of the Scoreboard and written reports detailing activities, voluntarily provided **Scoreboard indicator:** A1, A2, A3, A4	a) By the end of May 2020, the countries, in consultation with stakeholders decide on an approach for using the Scoreboard to set a baseline and a methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan, as referred to in section 5.4 of the plan.	Country representatives in the Bern SFP network and CMS MIKT, stakeholders and invited experts (e.g. IMPEL)	All	*IMPEL* *Europol*
		b) By the end of 2024, IKB hotspots are identified and a monitoring system is established in each range state.	Countries and stakeholders with support from Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats	All	*BirdLife assessments of the scope and scale of IKB in the geographic area of the Rome Strategic Plan*

[11] The support from actors is expected to the extent that resources, work plans and funding allow.
[12] IKB hotspots are defined as areas with high intensity of illegal killing, taking or trade of wild birds.

		c) Monitoring carried out using the Scoreboard as agreed approach to assess the scale and scope of IKB as well as activities to address it. Findings resulting from relevant research studies in the region will be considered.	National governments and other stakeholders, including NGOs	All	*BirdLife guidelines: A best practice for monitoring illegal killing and taking of birds*
1.2 The motivations behind the illegal killing of birds are fully understood in each country covered by the scope of the Strategic Plan and action to address these drivers is included in the national action plan and implemented	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. Number of countries and stakeholders that have carried out an assessment of the motivations behind IKB based on robust evidence **Means of verification**: Gap assessment reports **Scoreboard indicator:** E25, E26 **Indicator** (qualitative): ii. The extent to which cultural, social and economic aspects of IKB are considered in activities and all stakeholders are engaged **Means of verification**: Documentation provided by the countries and stakeholders and inclusion of appropriate activities in National Action Plan	a) An overall survey and review of the motivations behind IKB, based on a common format and best available evidence is carried out for all countries in the scope of the Strategic Plan by 2021, including regional/national recommendations for further review using robust methods and action to address the identified motivations.	All countries Countries with the greatest needs are prioritized, with support from Secretariats	All	SWM[13] RESSOURCE[14]
		b) By 2022 national surveys are completed based on agreed methodology and guidance in countries with greatest needs further refining understanding of IKB motivations, building on the work already achieved under the TAP.	Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats to facilitate/commission work, including development of agreed methodology	All	
		c) Summary report of the country assessments to identify priority countries for action and issues is produced d) Recommendations are issued to address the identified motivations and appropriate action is included in National Action Plans and implemented	Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats to produce synthesis and propose recommendations National governments supported by international	All	

[13] http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife/95602/en/
[14] http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife/63179/en/

			and national partners, as appropriate		

Objective No. 2: To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds					
2030 Target	**Indicator & means of verification**	**Actions**	**Main actors**	**Range States**	**Links to other int. processes**
2.1 General public recognises IKB and its negative impacts	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. % of respondents in opinion surveys, including among youth, which are aware of the existence of and express concern about IKB ii. Number of communication campaigns and strategies targeting IKB iii. Funding dedicated secured for communications campaigns to combat IKB	a) By 2024, provide best practice guidance on how to implement activities aimed at preventing illegal killing targeting the main identified motivations for IKB (for example guidance on alternative livelihoods, education and awareness-raising including on engaging with various stakeholder groups, guidance for National Focal Points etc.)	Bern Convention and MIKT Coordinator to facilitate production of guidance in collaboration	All	
		b) Organize regional workshops for government representatives and stakeholders on best practices for outreach aiming at preventing IKB, based on the best practice guidance	Bern Convention Secretariat and CMS/MIKT Coordinator national authorities and other stakeholders	All	
	iv. Number of informative materials provided to communities with limited access to internet v. Number of commitments by governments, private sector, and other civil society entities to support eradication of IKB **Means of verification**:	c) Encourage countries to develop national communication strategies to prevent IKB addressing national stakeholders	Bern Convention Secretariat and CMS/MIKT Coordinator national authorities and other stakeholders	All	Birdlife IKB campaigns CITES
		d) By 2025 and 2030 have developed and implemented two large-scale campaigns on IKB implemented throughout the geographic scope of the Bern Convention and the MIKT	Bern Convention Secretariat and CMS/MIKT Coordinator national authorities and other stakeholders	All	

	Communication campaign or strategy analytics (communication marketing metrics) National reporting **Scoreboard indicator:** E28 **Indicator** (qualitative): vi. IKB is spotlighted in relevant events vii. Governments, private sector, and other civil society entities have set commitments to support eradication of IKB **Means of verification**: Conference/meetings dedicated webpages and proceedings	e) Provide overarching basic information on IKB, including materials provided by countries and stakeholders on official websites from countries and organisations	Bern Convention Secretariat and CMS/MIKT Coordinator, national authorities and other stakeholders	All	Birdlife IKB campaigns
		f) Ensure presence in multilateral fora, including side events and other events in relevant conferences and meetings	Bern Convention Secretariat and CMS/MIKT Coordinator, national authorities, other stakeholders	All	CITES CBD ENPE EU Roadmap Ramsar

2.2 Local and other relevant communities are engaged in and benefit from wildlife conservation	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. % of increase of sustainable and alternative livelihoods ii. Number of training sessions for hunting communities where awareness raising on IKB, including prevention and eradication, is included **Means of verification:** Local surveys/studies National reporting Reporting from hunting associations on trainings conducted Traffic light assessment **Scoreboard indicator: E27**	a) Encourage close engagement with members of local and other relevant communities, key community actors and leaders, local educators and younger generations to mobilize their support in the fight against IKB b) Raise awareness on and use of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity adopted by the Bern Convention and other relevant Codes of conduct [20] c) Support measures for community resilience, which could limit recourse to IKB.	Bern Convention and CMS/MIKT Coordinator in consultation with national authorities, local communities, other national stakeholders	All	Council Conclusions on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking SWM-RESSOURCE
2.3. Use of cutting-edge technology[21] is promoted, where appropriate, to address key technical limitations hindering eradication of IKB	**Indicator (qualitative):** iii. % of increase in use of leading technologies iv. Number of innovative solutions implemented by countries **Means of verification:** National reporting	a) Promote technological expertise and innovative solutions, including needed funding b) Identify fora and experts to facilitate sharing and exchange technological expertise among range states c) Develop, maintain and update a centralized online database shared with all range states listing species/sub-species that can be legally hunted within each range state / regions, hunting quotas and the period during which such hunting may be allowed	Bern Convention and CMS/MIKT Coordinator, national authorities, other stakeholders	All	Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge (WCTC) New technologies section of Best practice guide for monitoring IKB

[20] Recommendation No. 128 (2007) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

[21] Understood as innovative science and technology solutions to combat IKB. Some examples can be use of drones, bio-mimicry, human-detecting cameras or next generation DNA sequencing. Example projects available on https://www.wildlifecrimetech.org.

Objective No. 3: To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation					
2030 Target	**Indicator & means of verification**	**Actions**	**Main actors**	**Applicable in Range States**	**Links to other int. processes**
3.1 All countries have appropriate national legislation in place and enacted to address IKB	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. 90% percent of the countries covered with appropriate legislation ii. Degree (%) in which the legislations respond to the targets established by the Rome Strategic Plan **Means of verification**: Assessment of national legislation Scoreboard results **Scoreboard indicator:** B5 to B12 **Indicator** (qualitative): iii. The extent to which national legislation in place is comprehensive and effectively combats IKB **Means of verification**: Assessment of national legislation and Scoreboard results **Scoreboard indicator:** B5 to B B12	a) By December 2021, undertake an expert assessment of national legislation[15] addressing IKB in each range state to identify possible gaps.	Range state governments with support of Secretariats, international and/or national stakeholders etc.	All	BirdLife assessment of the scope and scale of IKB in the geographic scope of the Rome Strategic Plan
		b) By December 2020, develop guidelines on effective legislation including examples of model legislation on combating IKB that has proved effective and disseminate to all countries.	Secretariats within their respective remits in collaboration with international legal experts	All	ENPE IMPEL Europol
		c) By 2023, develop and/or revise national legislation, and report on progress made as necessary, aiming for 100% percent of the countries covered with appropriate legislation that is implemented effectively by 2030.	National governments and related stakeholders / national NGOs	Countries where gaps are identified	SWM-RESSOURCE
		d) Facilitate support for countries in need of guidance in revising national legislation, as requested (rolling task).	National governments Secretariats and stakeholders such as ENPE, MPEL, EUFJE, Europol	Countries in need of guidance	ENPE IMPEL EUFJE Europol

[15] During the expert assessment it will be recognized that for EU MSs the EC ensures that national legislation transposes Art. 5 (general system of protection) of the Birds Directive.

Objective No. 4: To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken					
2030 Target	**Indicator & means of verification**	**Actions**	**Main actors**	**Applicable in**	**Links to other int. processes**
4.1 IKB is afforded appropriate and proportionate [16] enforcement priority at the national, regional and local level	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. Percentage of hotspots controlled; ii. Percentage of inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and judges trained; iii. Resources assigned to detection investigation and prosecution; iv. Number of specialized units v. Ratio of reported IKB incidents to investigated cases. vi. Number of arrests for IKB offences. Number of subsequent prosecutions. vii. Ratio of prosecutions to convictions. **Means of verification**: Information on use of Scoreboard and other written reports from countries **Scoreboard indicator: C15** **Indicator** (qualitative): viii. Relevant compliance monitoring and enforcement officers will consider IKB when prioritising activities and assign corresponding	a) By 2022, consult national governments and stakeholders on the existing available enforcement resources and prioritization of enforcement at the appropriate jurisdictional level and disseminate the information	Secretariats National governments/ authorities international and/or national stakeholders, such as IMPEL ENPE Europol.	All	IMPEL ENPE *Europol*
		b) Organize specialized training for compliance assurance and enforcement personnel dealing with IKB issues, including inspectors, police officers, prosecutors, judges.	*National governments/ Secretariats*	All	IMPEL ENPE EC Europol
		c) Develop specialized enforcement units dealing with wildlife crime	National governments/ authorities	Particularly in countries with high levels of IKB Priority countries[17]	

[16] Highest level of priority is to be sought for countries with highest levels of IKB in the Mediterranean region which is the distinct focus of the Strategic Plan, all countries appropriately prioritize enforcement taking into account the zero-tolerance approach.
[17] As informed by the latest scientific research on IKB in the region and Scoreboard assessments when available.

	relevance to IKB in their work programmes **Means of verification**: Surveys undertaken at trainings				
4.2 Support is provided to facilitate effective implementation of inspection, surveillance, detection, investigation, prosecution and application of sanctions for IKB incidents by the designated law enforcement agencies	**Indicator** (quantitative) i. % of enforcement personnel deployed within the law enforcement agencies dealing with IKB have undergone appropriate specialised training on IKB-related issues ii. Ratio of investigated IKB incidents compared to detected/reported incidents iii. Ratio of total IKB incidences compared to those detected thanks to work of enforcement authorities iv. Ratio of seizures by authorities including at ports and along the borderline compared to enforcement effort (officer hours) v. Average time to investigate following a detection/ report of IKB vi. % of detected/ reported incidents punished by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions in accordance with law or transmitted for prosecution vii. % of detected/ reported incidences of IKB recorded in a database, response of authorities and action	a) Ensure that specialist support and specific information and materials for raising awareness is available to relevant police forces	National governments/authorities and other stakeholders	All	IMPEL ENPE Europol
		b) By 2023, a programme of support for countries in facilitating exchange of compliance assurance and enforcement expertise, training for inspectors, police and customs officers and other enforcement personnel, capacity-building, intelligence on illegal trade and similar activities, in the areas of relevance to overall capacity building for enforcement against IKB, is developed. (Cross reference to Action 5.3.b) of the Rome Strategic Plan)	Secretariats, countries, international and/or national stakeholders etc.	Priority countries	INTERPOL ENPE IMPEL EC Europol
		c) Ensure a sufficient number of specialised staff and appropriate resources for investigation, detection and field control, as well as necropsies, other forensic analysis and related activities.	National governments/ authorities	All	
		d) Where they consider it appropriate and necessary, enforcement agencies: I. Survey inspection, surveillance and active detection IKB including regular patrolling and monitoring at known blackspots, markets, internet, etc.	National government enforcement authorities with support from other stakeholders such as INTERPOL and especially organizations engaged in on-site IKB	All (in line with existing national legislation on publication of relevant data)	*INTERPOL* *TRAFFIC*

	resulting from investigation and made public **Indicator** (qualitative): viii. Existence of formal structures and committees for consultations/meetings at the national/international level **Scoreboard indicator: C17, C18, C19**	II. Ensure prompt and effective investigation of all incidences of IKB detected or reported to authorities III. Take the necessary measures to ensure that IKB is punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions /transmit case promptly for prosecution in accordance with the law IV. Maintain records of all incidences of IKB detected or reported, response of authorities and action resulting from investigation and make public V. Have access to the database listed under Target 2.3, Action c	monitoring and online investigation)		

Objective No. 5: To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences					
2030 Target	**Indicator & means of verification**	**Actions**	**Main actors**	**Applicable in**	**Links to other int. processes**
5.1 The average period for initiation and conclusion of administrative and criminal court proceedings in IKB cases is reduced	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. Number/Percentage of criminal and administrative proceedings (excluding appeals) in IKB cases are concluded within one year from initiation that have increased; ii. Number/Percentage of proceedings penalties and sanctions resulting in imposition of penalties that are	a) Adopt national sentencing guidelines for IKB cases (where the National Criminal Code does not contain the judicial requirements related to IKB cases) based on international guidance and recommendations.	National authorities, Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats, with support from EUFJE, ENPE	All	*CMS Raptors MoU, CMS Landbirds Action Plan, AEWA Strategic Plan, EU Roadmap* *EUFJE, ENPE*
5.2 All criminal or administrative proceedings in IKB cases where		a) Include sentencing guidelines, and have regard to existing international guidance, in training activities at national level for relevant justice officials and staff regarding IKB,	*ENPE*	MIKT Range States, Caucasus Range States	ENPE INTERPOL

conviction is achieved result in imposition of penalties that are in line with sentencing guidelines	appropriate and proportionate having regard to relevant guidance[18] **Means of verification**: National reporting **Scoreboard indicator: D20** **Indicator** (qualitative): iii. Average fine sentenced for IKB offences iv. Average jail time sentenced for IKB offences v. Severity of penalties has increased in countries with standards below the sentencing guidelines **Means of verification**: Information on sanctions provided by countries as part of the Scoreboard	including information on successful prosecutions and convictions.			

[18] Such as guidelines developed in the framework of the Bern Convention TAP 2013-2020: Bern Convention Recommendation No. 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

5.3. A core group of prosecutors and judges (who deal with wildlife crime) have received training in IKB-related aspects (50% of judges and prosecutors who deal with wildlife crime within the country by 2025)[19]	**Indicator** (quantitative): i. Percentage of specifically trained prosecutors/judges **Scoreboard indicator: D22, D23** **Means of verification**: Information voluntarily provided by countries **Indicator** (qualitative): ii. IKB-related aspects figure prominently as part of trainings on combating wildlife crime **Means of verification**: Content of wildlife crime training	a) Continue the training sessions for the specialisation of prosecutors and judges conducted under the MIKT POW 2016-2020, complementing the trainings on IKB organized by the European Commission, ENPE and other organizations	National authorities, Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats, with support from EUFJE, ENPE, and other international and national partners	*All*	*EUFJE* *ENPE*
		b) Develop and enact a programme to support experience sharing, and capacity-building among prosecutors and judges involved in IKB cases (Cross reference to Action 4.2.b) of the Rome Strategic Plan)	National governments, Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats, Interpol, Europol EUFJE, ENPE and other international and national partners	*All*	*INTERPOL* *Europol* *EUFJE* *ENPE* *IMPEL*
5.4 Information on judicial processes and sentencing statistics is publicly available in all countries	**Indicator** (quantitative) i. % of increase of judicial processes and sentencing that the public can access	a) Record and make publicly accessible information on prosecution and sentences / sanctions applied in the case of IKB-related criminal or administrative proceedings in accordance with national law. (Cross reference to Action 4.2.d) IV of the Rome Strategic Plan)	National authorities, NGOs, others	All	

[19] To be adapted to national circumstances, i.e. small number of judges or to consider training all involved agents/officers if specific environmental judges do not exist in the national system.

	Means of verification: Official websites, other official platforms and means of distribution **Indicator** (qualitative): ii. Relevant elements of sentencing guidelines referenced and publicly available in documentation for all proceedings on IKB-cases **Means of verification**: Public documentation available	b) Establish case law databases, including information on the judicial processes and make the data publicly available	National authorities, with support from Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats, EUFJE, ENPE, other stakeholders	*National governments* *All Signatories of the Aarhus Convention for indicator ii.*	*EUFJE* *ENPE*