EEAA

Reducing Illegal Trapping of Migrating Birds in Northern Egypt

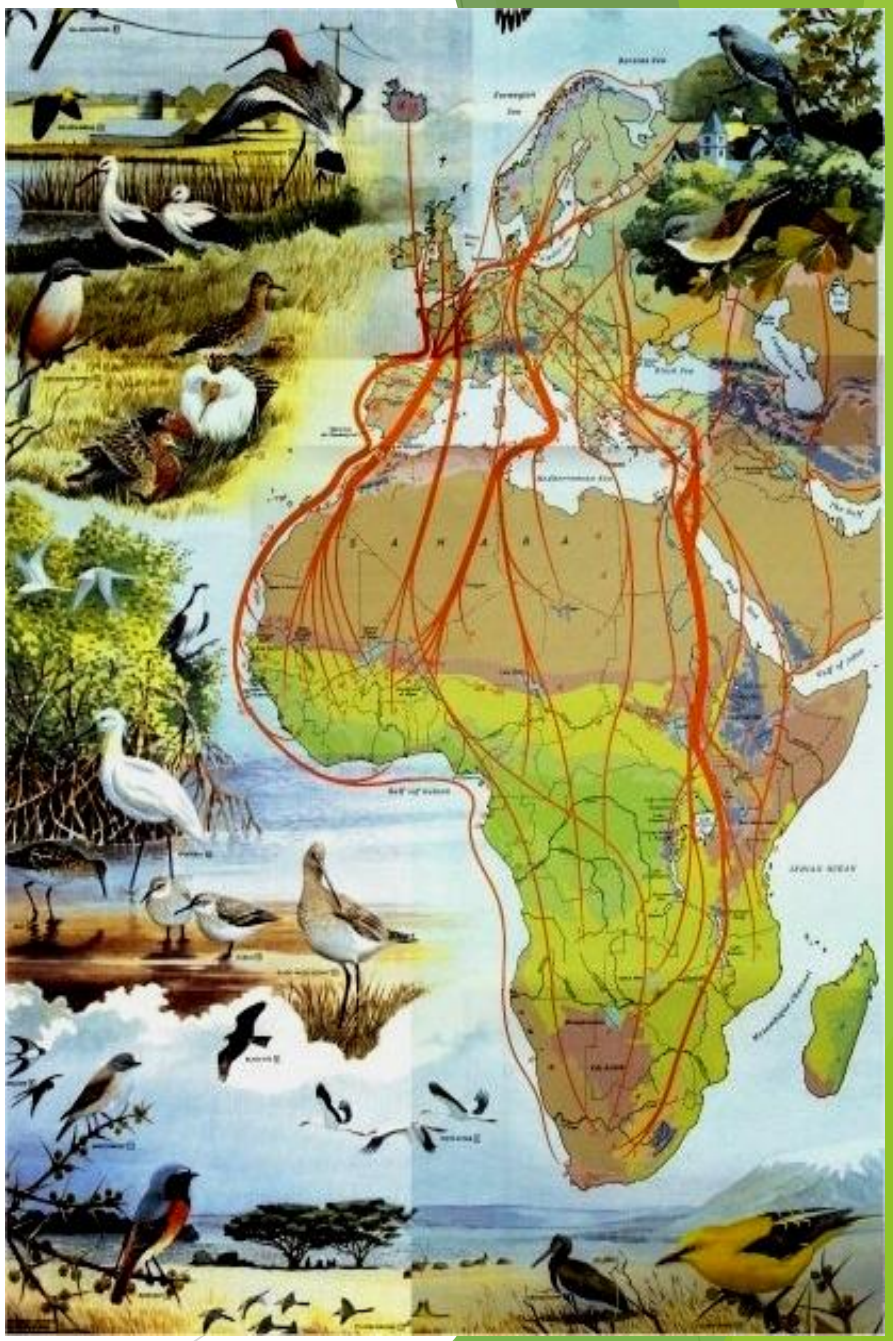
By

Waheed Salama

Responsible Hunting Project (RHP)Management- NCE -Egypt

- Egypt has international importance for birds with globally significant populations of breeding, wintering and migrating

Value !!! - or - Threat !!!



•**The hunting of migratory birds in Egypt is an ancient practice that has endured for centuries and has developed into a significant socio-economic activity in the region, particularly in rural areas.**

• **It has been estimated to involve hundreds of thousands of people supporting a variety of groups at both subsistence and livelihoods levels.**

In 2012, several international media published articles documenting an increase in unsustainable trapping practices along Egypt's Mediterranean coast; emerged that such practices extended along around 700 kilometres of Egypt’s Mediterranean coastline

Slaughter of migratory birds on the shores of Egypt

Millions of birds killed every year – threat to bird populations in Europe

A disturbing picture presents itself along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt: Journalists of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation (BR) have documented continuous nets along 700 km of coast, recalling a picture know from ball fences around sport courts. But here the nets are used to catch birds at an unimaginable scale, to offer them later as delicacies on the markets and in the restaurants across the country.


CYPRUS
2.3m
SYRIA
3.9m
LEBANON
2.6m
CROATIA
0.5m
FRANCE
0.5m
ITALY
5.6m
ALBANIA
0.3m
GREECE
0.7m
OTHER COUNTRIES
1.2m (combined)
LIBYA
0.5m
EGYPT
5.7m

Initiatives

Development Process for the Plan of Action

Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), the Birdlife Partner in Egypt, developed a draft plan of action in cooperation of Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) to tackle illegal trapping in Egypt.

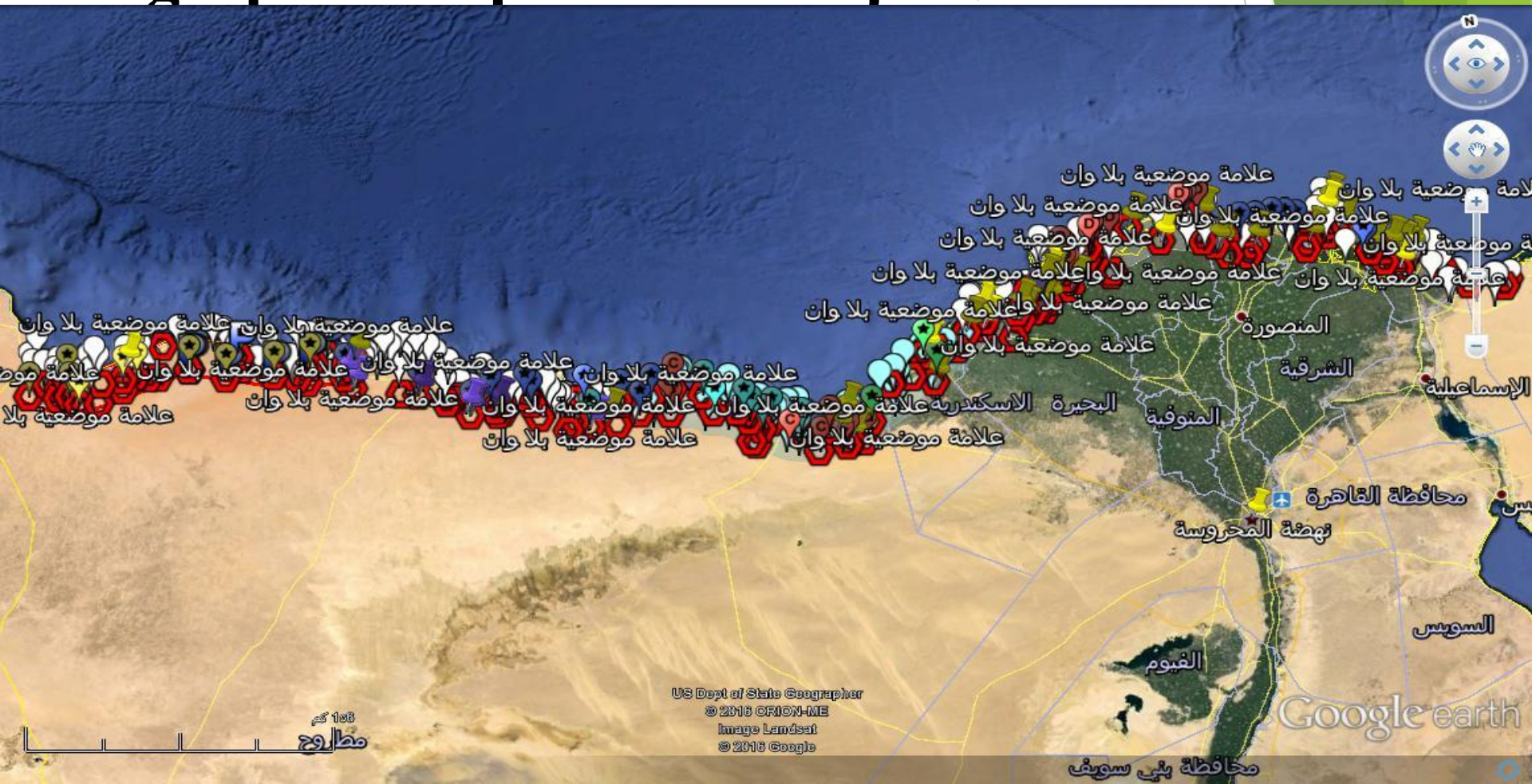
In November 2013, AEWA secretariat leads the process and in cooperation with CMS secretariat , Birdlife and called for a meeting in Bonn to push for make the action plan a reality, not only in Egypt but also to include Libya.

Resulted in Launching a National Project

Project's Time Frame:

The project was started in Sept., 2014 and should be completed in Aug., 2017 (**3 Years**).

Geographic Scope of the Project:




Mediterranean Sea
1
2
3
4
5
6
N
Jordan
Sinai
Saudia Arabia
Egypt
Libya

Project Aim:

To reduce the level of illegal hunting of migratory birds along the Mediterranean coast of North Egypt, through strengthening institutional and governance and to engage all relevant stakeholders at national level to address illegal trapping issues of migratory birds.

Overall Goal:

Bird trapping activities along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt are becoming sustainable.

Objectives:

Objective 1: To increase knowledge of the scale of impact, socio-economic and legal aspects of bird trapping.[6 Results +14 Actions]

Objective 2: To ensure that effective legislation and regulations are in place and are properly enforced.[3 Results +6 Actions]

Objective 3: To build capacity of Government institutions, NGOs and local communities to effectively address the bird trapping issue.[4 Results + 9 Actions]

Objective 4: To increase awareness locally, nationally and internationally, in order to promote bird conservation.[1 Result +3Actions]

Expected Outcomes:

1. Increased understanding of the scale and bird population impact of trapping (legal and illegal) on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt
2. Increased understanding of the socio-economic drivers of bird hunting in Egypt, informing implementation of the agreed Action Plan
3. Increased understanding of the existing laws and regulation related to bird hunting and trapping in Egypt amongst all key stakeholders and revisions to legislation advocated where necessary
4. Timing and extent of netting at targeted protected areas along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast reduced by at least 50% by autumn 2017 through stronger on the- ground enforcement
5. Timing and extent of illegal trapping along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast reduced by 20% by the end of the project, through stronger on-the-ground enforcement.

Target species

Target and variable by Catch species









Achievements

1. Training Workshop for nature conservation Sector staff within PAs located within the project scope

2- Signed the MOU between NCE as BLI partner & Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Nature Conservation Egypt

<u>These activities are Aiming to :</u>

- *Co-ordinate efforts* to ensure low enforcement .
- *Working together* for, reducing the Illegal Trapping of Migrating Birds in Northern coast of Egypt.

3- Developing a strategy to monitor illegal killing and taking of birds in Egypt

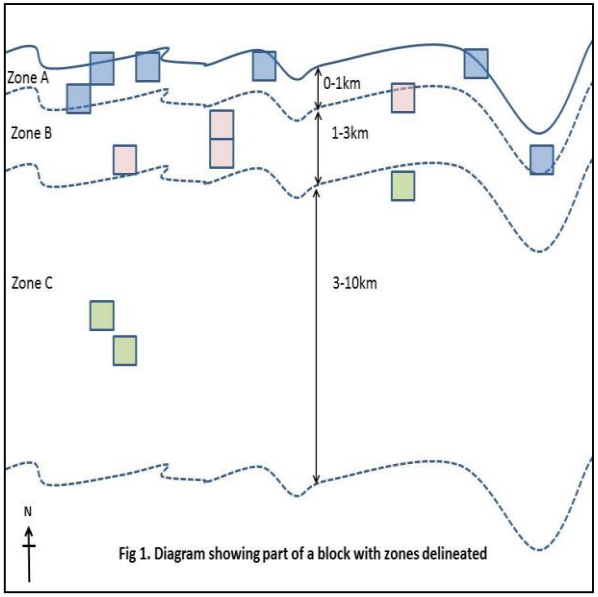
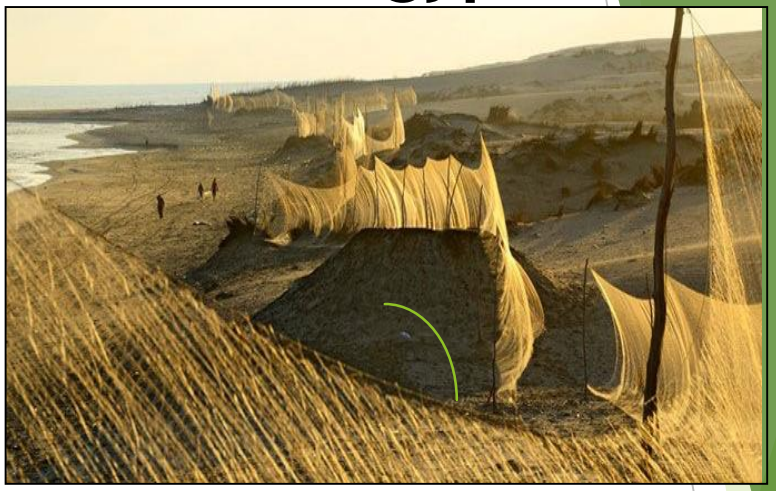


Fig 1. Diagram showing part of a block with zones delineated



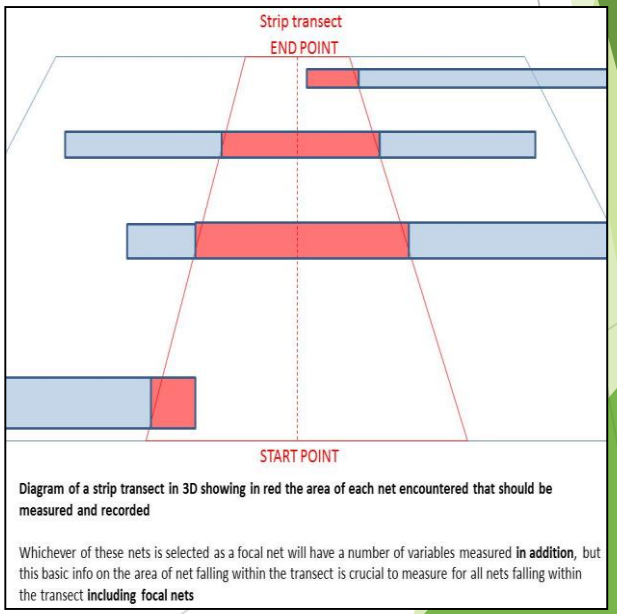
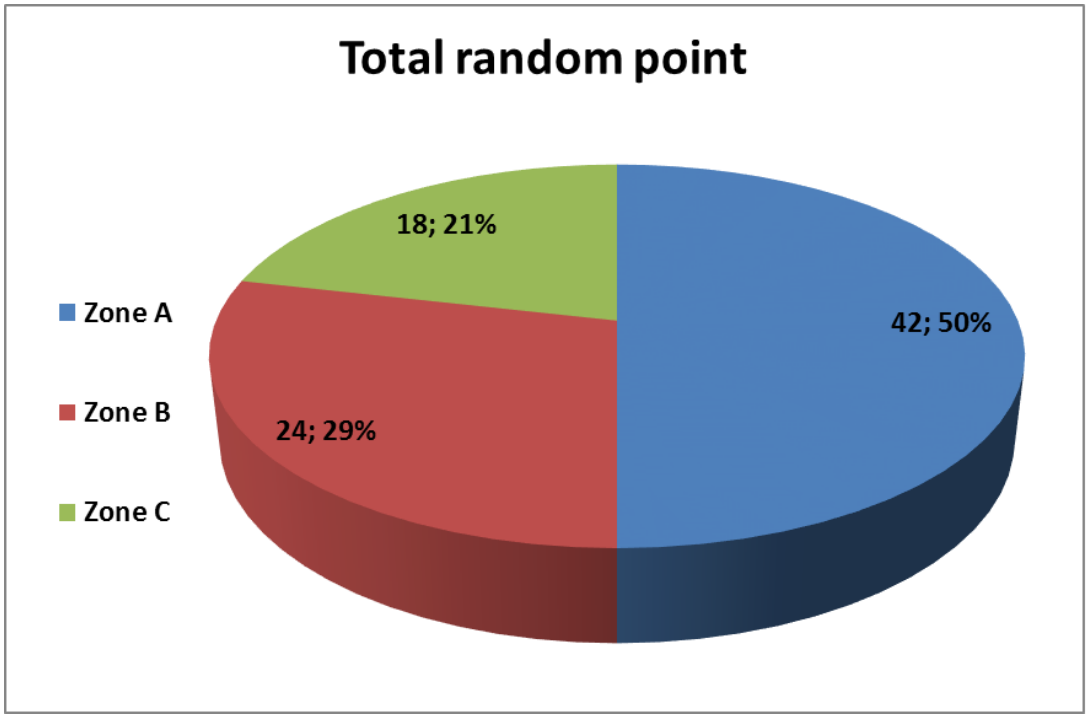


Diagram of a strip transect in 3D showing in red the area of each net encountered that should be measured and recorded

Whichever of these nets is selected as a focal net will have a number of variables measured **in addition**, but this basic info on the area of net falling within the transect is crucial to measure for all nets falling within the transect **including focal nets**

Monitoring concentrated in a total of 84 random samples (squares- (56 in zone A, 17in zone B 11 in zone C) (each 1x1 km) during daytime Autumn 2015,and 136 plots in Spring 2016 .


Total random point
18; 21%
42; 50%
24; 29%
Zone A
Zone B
Zone C

Data sheet format for collecting data

Illegal trapping of Birds monitoring					
1. General information					
Area : Description: **East of Ras Al Bar Ezbit El Buarge, coastal protection blocks ,fish farms**					
Observers:	WS/MB/HE/RM/RE			Point no.	31
Date	17/09/2015	Start time:	07: 00	End time:	08:00
Wind direction (Degrees) NW			No of Trammel 2		
Investigation trammel			GPS N		GPS E
			31.52172		31.86319

2. T rammel encountered (crossing or starting within 50 m either side of transect line)

Number: 2

3. Trammel investigated: (maximum 1000m/ per 1 km)

Trammel ID	Length	Height	Trapper present and interviewed?	Notes
1	2400M	2,5M	YES	One hunter covered the all area Dead corncrake, quail are the main target other catchment are short toed lark, nigtjar,weaters sp, willo warble,little owle,bee eater,red backed shrike, thrush nightingale, hoopoe , and swallow.
2				
3				
4				

Trammel ID	Species trapped in trammel	No	Notes
1	Quail Corncrake	12 1	 Dead

Trammel ID	Species trapped in trammel	No	Notes
1	Quail Corncrake	12 1	 Dead

Part of Field Survey

4- Socio-economic study is conducted

Aiming to :

- Understand and assess the **socioeconomics aspects** of illegal trapping .
- Understand the **drivers** and **motivation** of local hunters to continue hunting .

Socio-economic training for PA team

5- Addressing Illegal Bird Killing in Egypt

Review of Egypt's National Laws, Regulations, and Adequacy of Enforcement

Hunting methods along the Mediterranean north coast of Egypt

Hunting methods percentage and Geographical distribution (observation)

Hunting method types	Blocks					Geographical Distribution
	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	
Coastal Trammel nets	+	+ +	+ + +	+ + +	+ +	Zone A
Inland Trammel nets	++	+	+ +	+ +	++	Zone B & C
Lime sticks	-	-	-	+ +	++	Zone B & C
Traditional Eb nets	-	-	-	+	-	Zone A
Modern Eb nets	+	+	+	-	-	Zone B & C
Haleeg nets	+	+ ++	+ + +	-	-	Zone B & C
Toraha nets	-	-	-	+ +	+	Zone A
Shotgun	+ + +	+ + +	+ +	++	++	Zone A, B & C
Air rifles	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+	Zone A, B & C
Bird calling devices	++	++	+ + +	+ +	+	Zone B & C

(+) = present **(++) = moderate present**

(+++) = High present **(-) = Absent**

Hunting Methods.1

1.Coastal Trammel Nets

Description

Trammel nets (“munsub”) (also referred to as mist nets, depending on the material used) are nets that are manufactured specifically for catching migratory Quail in autumn. Trammel nets are erected parallel to the coast using poles and ropes to stretch them out.

Coastal Trammel Nets

The length of trammel nets is usually between 12-16 metres, and the height varies between 240-350cm. They are produced from nylon, but can be made using cotton. Trammel nets typically consist of two layers, an outer layer facing the sea with an average of $3cm^2$ openings, and an inner layer consisting of $17cm^2$. Difficult to see from a distance, this method capitalises on exhausting birds arriving on the north coast after a sea crossing a trammel net as it approaches the coast and flies closer to the ground. Upon collision, a bird will fly into the $3cm^2$ opening at a high speed, forcing itself into the second larger layer of nets, entangling it in a pouch-like trap.

Geographical distribution

Coastal trammel nets were documented all along the coast with very few spaces between them, spreading across all of the monitored blocks (Blocks 1-5). Trammel nets were even recorded in public beaches and a number of private tourism resorts.Most of the coastal trammel nets were recorded between 5 – 250 meters from the sea (Zone A).

Coastal Trammel Nets

Affected Species

A number of species were recorded as trapped in coastal trammel nets. Primarily Common quail (permitted) are found in nets, however a number of non-permitted species were caught, including Wheatear, Isabelline wheatear, Corncrake, European nightjar, Short-toed lark, Willow-warbler, Red-backed shrike, and Barn swallow.

Legality

Coastal trammel nets are permitted under Egyptian law, however under specific regulations.

However, these regulations are rarely enforced by the designated entities. Trammel nets are erected within the prohibited 500m buffer zone. The 25% rule of net-free space is not abided by. Nets have been recorded to exceed the permitted 3m height, and birds are and retained for consumption/ sale' to make clear that they aren't being caught indiscriminately but then released ca regardless of the permitted species.

Inland Trammel Nets.1

Description

Identical to the coastal trammel nets (4.1.2.), inland trammel nets are placed further inland away from the coast. Bird-calling devices are used to attract birds into the nets, to be caught in the same way as coastal trammel nets.

The length of inland trammel nets is usually between 12-16m, however, unlike coastal trammel nets, inland trammel nets do not exceed a total of 10-12 connected nets, sporadically spread across the coast, and runs of nets belonging to different hunters/ trappers tend to be separated from one another.

Geographical distribution

Inland trammel nets were seen along the coast (Blocks 1-5). They are mainly placed between 2-5 kilometres (Zones B & C). They are less concentrated than coastal trammel nets, sporadically distributed in different areas in each of the monitored blocks.

Affected Species

A number of species were Trapped in trammels encountered outside of the allocated… sampling squares, including Common Quail, Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Short-Toed lark, and Turtle Dove

Legality

Inland trammel nets are not permitted by Egyptian hunting regulations. Unlike coastal trammel nets, no permits can be acquired to set up inland trammel nets. The use of bird-calling devices is explicitly prohibited.

Lime Sticks.1

Description

Lime sticks are among the oldest traditional hunting techniques that are still being used today across Egypt and the Mediterranean. This hunting technique consists of long twigs (40-60cm) covered in a sticky glue made fromthe fruit of the Assyrian plum tree. The glue-covered twigs are placed in small shrubs in open areas. Birds attracted to the shrubs will get caught between the gluey twigs.

Geographical distribution

Lime sticks are concentrated in Blocks 4 & 5, specifically west of Damietta and north of Lake Borollos Lime sticks are also found between 3-5 kilometres from the coast (Zones B & C) Close to the coast?

.

Lime Stick*s*

Affected Species

A number of species were recorded outside of the allocated sampling squares, including Willow Warblers, Red-Backed Shrike, Nightingale, wheatears, Spotted Flycatcher, and on one occasion a Kestrel.

Affected Species by Lime Sticks

Legality

Lime sticks are not permitted by Egyptian hunting regulations. They are not included in the list of permitted hunting methods.

Traditional Eb Nets.1

Description

Traditional Eb nets, also known as E'sh (due to its similar appearance to a nest) are among the oldest bird trapping techniques, and are rare'. Traditional Eb nets consist of collecting a number of reeds, tying them together to create a vertical structure (40-50cm) with a circumference of 30-40cm, and placed on the ground. The small structure is covered with one layer of netting (small openings of $3cm^2$), leaving the southern side of the structure open to allow birds in from one side. Smaller birds will enter these structures for shelter and are trapped in the process.

Geographical distribution

Traditional Eb nets are no longer in use, but old remains of unused Eb structures were found in Block 4. Remains of unused structures could be found between 100-200m from the coastline (Zone A).

Traditional Eb Nets

Modern Eb Nets.1

Description

Similar to the traditional Eb nets, the modern Eb net consists of one layer of net covering shrubs or dried branches in a pyramid-like shape, with an opening facing south to allow birds in, trapping them in the net as they cannot escape from the northern side of the bush.

Modern Eb Nets

Geographical distribution

Modern Eb nets were recorded between Salloum and Hammam (Blocks 1, 2 & 3), a predominantly arid region of the Egyptian coastline. This hunting method was not documented in Blocks 4&5 (east of Alexandria, west of North Sinai). Modern Eb nets were recorded between 3-5 kilometres (Zones B & C) from the coastline.

Affected Species

A number of species were documented in modern Eb nets outside of the sample squares, including Golden Oriole, Redstart, Northern Wryneck, Nightjar, Nightingale, and Short-toed lark.

Legality

Modern Eb nets are not included in the permitted hunting methods, therefore are considered illegal.

Haleeg Nets.1

Description

Haleeg nets are large mist nets consisting of one layer, covering medium and large sized trees, with a south-facing opening to let birds in. On the northern side of the net, rocks are used to pin down the nets to the ground at a distance from the tree, enabling hunters/trappers to easily access the trapped birds. Some of the trees include Casuarina, Tamarex, Acacias and olive trees. Occasionally, decoys and bird-calling devices are used to attract birds into the Haleeg nets.

Haleeg Nets

Affected Species

A number of species were trapped in Haleeg nets and documented outside of the sampling squares, including Turtle dove, Golden oriole, Palm dove, Chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Red-backed shrike, and Nightingale.

Legality

Haleeg nets are not permitted by Egyptian hunting regulations as a method of hunting, therefore are considered illegal.

Toraha Nets.1

Description

Toraha nets are a traditional hunting method where nets, similar to fishing nets, are thrown by hunters/trappers at shrubs and small trees to capture birds. Nets vary in size but can reach a total area of $10m^2$.

Geographical distribution

Toraha nets were recorded in Blocks 4 & 5, specifically east of Alexandria to Damietta. Torraha nets were not recorded between Blocks 1 & 3. Torraha nets were used to catch birds between 10-300 meters from the coastline (Zone

Toraha Nets

Affected Species

A number of species were found trapped in Toraha nets encountered outside of the sampling squares, including Common quail, Corncrake, Willow warbler and Nightjar.

Legality

Toraha nets are permitted by Egyptian hunting regulations, due to their traditional nature and small scale of trapping.

Shotgun’ .1

Description

These shotguns are tailored for hunting, measuring between 12-20mm bore, with the 12mm being the most commonly used. The number of shots per cartridge ranges between 0 – 10 gauge. Decoys and bird-calling devices are used to attract birds within shooting range. Trees, shrubs and artificial hides are used as shooting hideouts by many hunters. Higher gauges are used for smaller birds, while the lower gauges are used to hunt larger birds. Shells produced locally are made out of lead, while imported shells are made from stainless steel or plastic, to avoid lead poisoning.

Geographical distribution

shotguns use was encountered all along the Egyptian coast (Blocks 1-5), however a higher intensity was noted between Salloum and Hammam (Blocks 1-3).

Shotgun

Affected Species

A number of species were hunted using shotguns and documented outside of the sampling squares, including Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Common Quail, Turtle Dove, Golden Oriole, and a variety of waterfowls.

Legality

Shotguns can only be used if two sets of licenses are acquired: the first license is to bear arms, and the second license is specifically for hunting. In light of security concerns, both licenses have been difficult to acquire since 2011, increasing the occurrence of unlicensed shooting.

Air Rifle.1

Description

Air rifles use pressurized air to shoot pellets. They are intended to shoot small birds and doves. They are widespread and easily accessible, as they do not fall under restrictions or regulations. Many young hunters will use air rifles for hunting birds.

Geographical distribution

Air rifles have been documented out of the sampling squares all along the Egyptian coast (Blocks 1-5).

Air Rifles

Affected Species

A number of species were hunted using air rifles and documented outside of the sampling squares, including Common Quail, Redbacked Shrike, Great Grey Shrike, Isabelline Wheatear, Nightingale, Corncrake, Common Hoopoe, Turtle dove, Collared Dove, Palm Dove, Spotted Flycatcher, Short-toed lark, Redstart and Blackstart.

Legality

Air rifles are permitted for hunting by Egypt's hunting regulations. They are not subjected to any restrictions, and do not require permits or licenses to be used.

Law enforcement against illegal

1. Conclusion

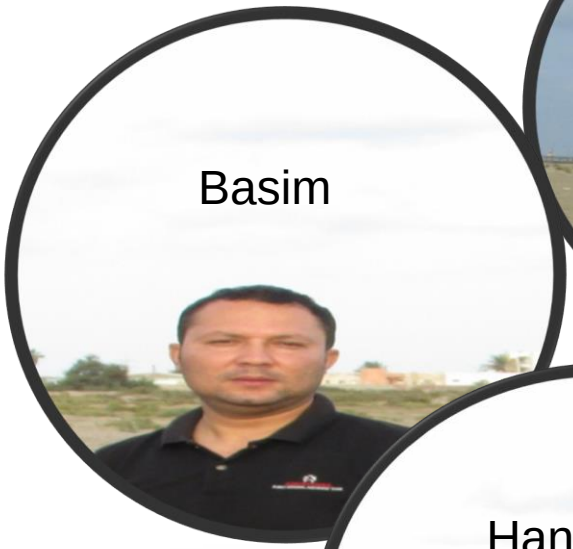
1. Preliminary Findings:

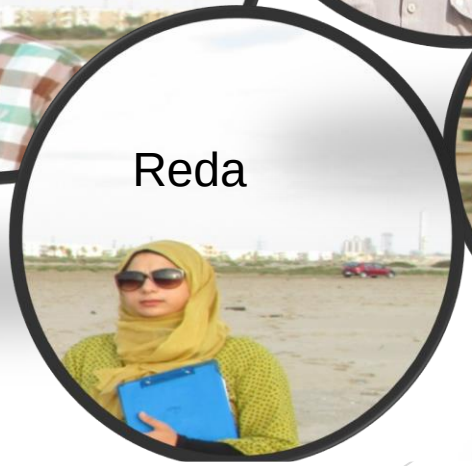
- **Coastal and inland tr**ammel nets have been documented all along Egypt's Mediterranean coast, specifically Blocks 1 – 5. Monitoring did not take place in Block 6 (North Sinai) due to security concerns.
- Coastal trammel nets located at a distance between 1 – 200 metres from the coastline (Zone A), creating an interconnected net structures all along the coast.
- Inland trammel nets were mainly located between Zones B & C, sporadically dispersed along different areas.
- Trammel nets are being used to indiscriminately catch birds, leading to the trapping of non-permitted species according to Egypt's hunting regulations.
- Other forms of illegal hunting mechanisms were document along the coast, some concentrated in specific blocks:
  - Lime sticks (4.1.3) were mainly documented in Zones 4 & 5;
  - Modern Eb Nets (4.1.5) were located in Zones 1-3.
  - Haleeg Nets (4.1.6) were located in Zones 1 – 3.
- Bird calling devices and decoys were located across the monitored blocks, used extensively in Zones B & C.
- Other legal hunting methods were documented along the coast, such as air rifles and Torraha nets, however these methods were used to indiscriminately hunt/trap birds, deeming the hunting/trapping activities illegal.

Recommendations:

- The implemented methodology should be refined adding light of the obstacles, to ensure data collection on number of birds caught, as well as their species. and to working more closely with individual trappers to document nirds catch
- Enforcement of illegal bird hunting regulations and birds calling devices are necessary needed .
- Public awareness's programme must take place along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt
- Integration of the monitoring with the socio-economic study.
- The need to take legal action against the illegal export of birds abroad
- Regulations and guidelines for hunting must be reviewed.
- Develop bird watching and ecotourism as an alternative to hunting to generate sustainable income for local community.

Team work






Thank you