

Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of  
Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the UN-Environment/CMS  
Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the  
Mediterranean  
*(Rome, Italy 8 – 10 May 2019)*



**CABS report on implementation.  
Observations on anti-poaching activities in  
Lebanon, Cpyrus, Italy, Malta and Germany**

## COUNTRIES

Lebanon		
Cyprus		
Italy		
Malta		
Germany (non Mediterranean)		

## GENERAL

**1) Main obstacles hindering the implementation and effectiveness of anti-poaching activities**

**2) How have the best results been achieved**

# LEBANON

**24,000 registered hunters, plus most likely estimate of 500,000 unregistered hunters killing all species of birds on a bottleneck**

**Entire world population of Lesser Spotted Eagle migrating through a 20km broad corridor targeted by thousands of shotguns**

**New law 580/2017 with loopholes (killing protected species is prohibited, but not the possession) is not enforced at all: 99% of reported abuses come from NGOs or cases with international outcry**



[www.komitee.de](http://www.komitee.de)

# Malta

1 – improvement in the shooting of protected species

2 – no improvement against bird trapping authorities sympathizing with illegal trapping and general apathy of the enforcement: on average 75% of all cases in Malta come from CABS and/or BL Malta and 100% in Gozo. And thanks to the evidence the NGOs provide.

**malta**today

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## Wild Bird Regulation Unit accused of taking credit for CABS's work

eNGO CABS has accused WBRU head Sergei Golovkin of using its efforts to 'whitewash the total failure of his authority to control illegal bird trapping in spring'



# ITALY

Italy is some steps forward in tackling bird trapping: proactive NGOs, volunteer game wardens, a central Anti-Poaching Unit (NOA-SOARDA)

Despite strong efforts and a slow, but steady improvement, illegal killing remains widespread and repeat offenders are common

# National Action Plan

- Strengthening the SOARDA



- Employment of new Game Wardens (Polizia Provinciale)



- Increase of local enforcement activities in the IKB blackspots



 **Valtellina**news.it

A costoro gioverebbe sapere che il Governo sta redigendo un piano d'azione cosiddetto antibraconaggio, che è nei fatti una dichiarazione di guerra alla caccia, e criminalizza in particolare le Prealpi lombarde».

Così l'assessore all'Agricoltura della Lombardia, Gianni Fava, che invita sugli impianti di cattura, a chiarirsi le idee una volta per tutte.

Rimane però una **ferma, quanto sproorzionata, volontà di inasprire i reati venatori** e le conseguenze che essi possono poi avere sul futuro del cacciatore.

e 1997)



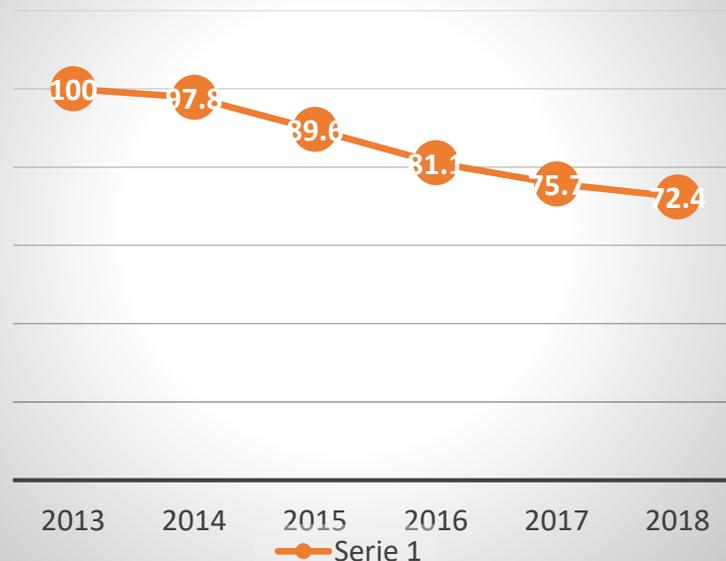
# CYPRUS



## Active trapping sites ESBA



## Active trapping sites RoC



TREND RoC:  
Stable in Spring  
30% increase in Winter

# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS?

1 – Between 2013 and 2017 the slow but steady decrease was due to the cooperation between CABS and the Police Anti Poaching Squad, the GFS having reduced their number of cases.

2 – In 2017 the new system of fines, contradictory since in a country where 75% of trapping is practiced with limesticks, introduces the lowest fines settled is for the use of limesticks. But they strongly punish mistnetting

# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS?

## CyprusMail Online

### Cypriot hunters 'being hunted' by the law, left 'helpless and unprotected', they say

Members of the Liopetri hunters association gathered in the Famagusta village

Speaker Costas Michael said the reason for the demonstration was that many members of the association had complained about the high fines imposed by the game fund in recent weeks, stressing at the same time that the association was not in favour of poaching.

On September 4 two men were fined some €13,000 after police found illegal trapping equipment and game on a property in the Famagusta district.

The case followed another fine imposed on a 67-year-old man in Larnaca for poaching. He was fined €21,586 for illegal bird trapping.

# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS?

4 – In Winter 2017-2018 there is no more cooperation with APS, which is left undermanned and drops down from 40-50 to 3-4 prosecutions per year (CABS previously contributed to 80%-100% of all APS cases)

5 – Game Wardens further decrease their engagement, kept away from the core trapping area and with a working schedule which hinders any prosecution. Only 1 case out of 10 we provide to them ends with a prosecution (10/10 with APS)

# GERMANY

## **PROJECT EDGAR to monitor and combat the persecution of raptors in Germany**

- Populating a database of all cases and achieving a general overview
- Networking, providing and organizing evidence of each cases for prosecutors: from the report to the fine
- Training police, prosecutors and authorities on this phenomenon
- Informing the public

## **RESULTS**

- 1188 cases in 10 years – 84 offenders – 38 get an oral warning, 46 fined
- 37% hunters, 35% pigeon fanciers, 8% chicken farmers, 20% unknown

## PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS

- Police officers, prosecutors and judges have zero knowledge on trapping, biology of birds and biodiversity
- Most tribunals tolerate this kind of crime and issue rather oral warning than fines: they consider «there is no public interest»
- The law does not punish the possession of raptor traps

CABS proposes the creation of regional central departments with a staff that deals with the prosecution of raptors and other crimes against biodiversity and follows up every case until the verdict of the tribunal, collecting the evidence and «guiding» the prosecutors towards a technically correct verdict. Suggests a guideline to be issued by the Ministry of Justice, underlining the seriousness of these crimes to be considered a damage for the society. Plus a total prohibition for the possession and trading of raptor traps.

# GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

POSITIVE ASPECTS	NEGATIVE ASPECTS
Proactivity of NGOs	No relevant evolution in the last 2 years
Central Anti-Poaching Units	General lack of interest in tribunals
Cooperation between different stakeholders	No political will to back up efforts
	Hunting federations lobbying against serious improvement