

Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway



History and Framework for Action

12 March 2023
Brisbane, Australia



Summary

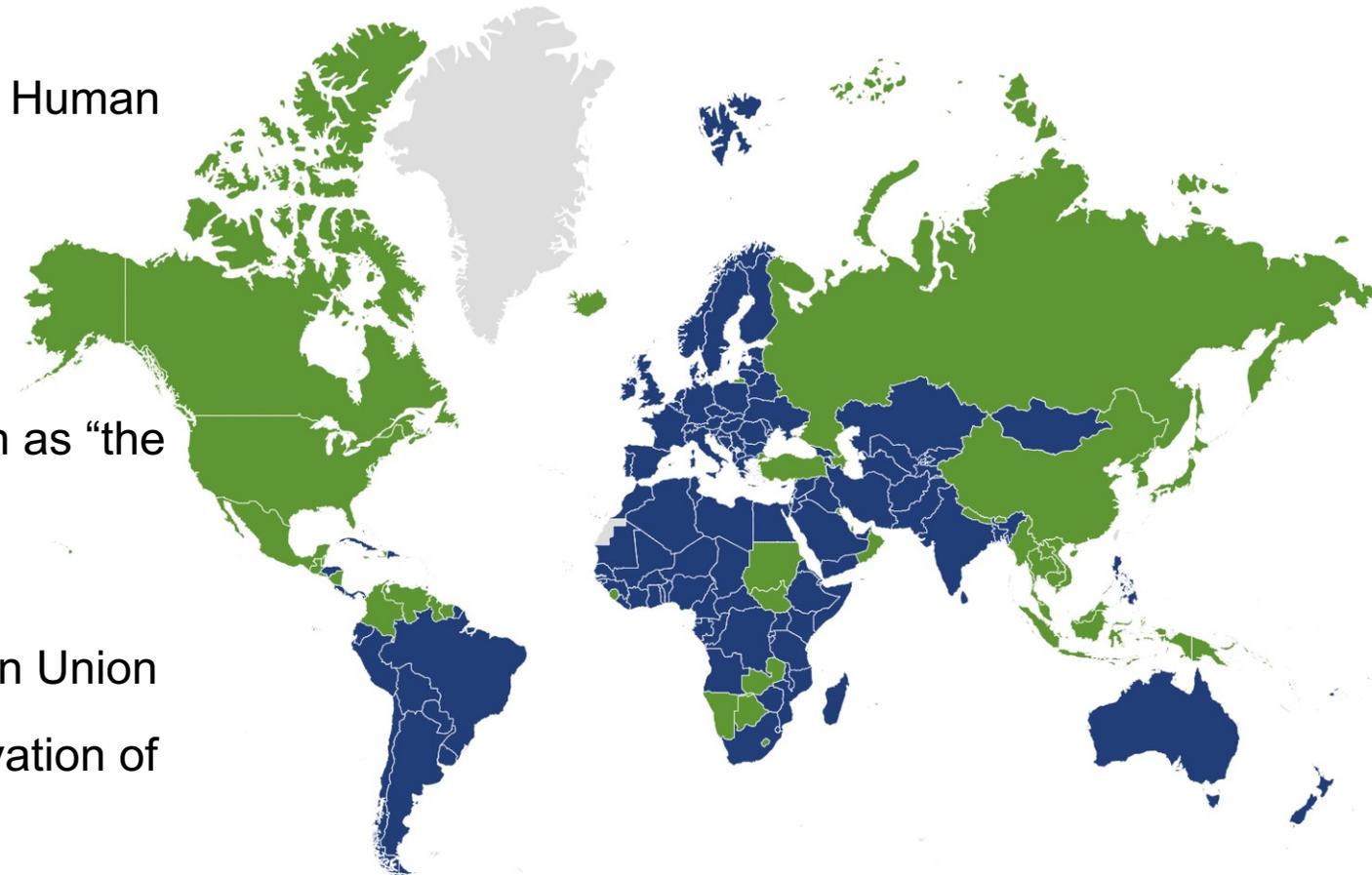
- What is the CMS
- Our mandate
- Our work in the Mediterranean
- The launch of ITTEA
- Next steps



The Convention on Migratory Species



- CMS is a multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) of the United Nations
- History:
 - Stockholm 1972 - UN Conference on the Human Environment – establishment of UNEP
 - Recognized the special threats faced by migratory species and the need for an international agreement
 - CMS signed in 1979 in Bonn (also known as “the Bonn Convention”)
 - Entered into force on 1 November 1983
- 133 Parties – 132 countries plus the European Union
- The only global treaty to focus on the conservation of migratory species and their habitats



■ Party ■ Non-Party

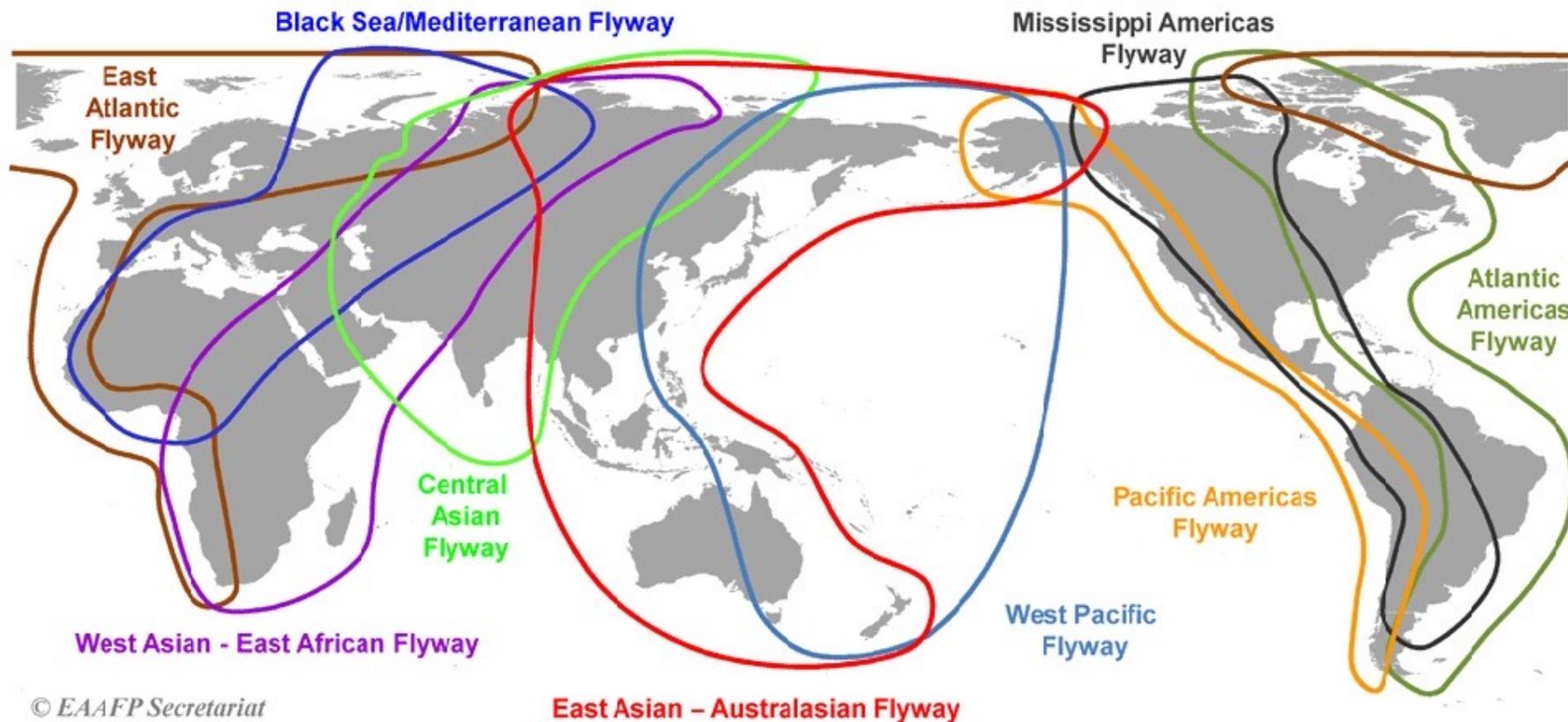
CMS Definition of Migratory Species

Species that cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries



Objectives of CMS

- **International cooperation** to conserve migratory species (CMS provides a 'passport' to migratory species)
- CMS protects **avian, marine and terrestrial species** and their **habitats**. If a species needs the help of CMS, the first step is to **list** it on one or both **Appendices**
- As an **umbrella convention**, CMS protects species using a toolbox of **Agreements** and **MOUs**



CMS Appendices

Appendix I – Endangered Species

- Grants highest degree of protection
- In danger of extinction in all or most of their range
- Habitat to conserve/restore
- No taking permitted



Appendix II - Species Requiring International Agreements

- Have an unfavorable conservation status
- Would benefit significantly from international cooperation achieved through international agreements

Agreements and MOUs

Legally Binding



Wadden Sea Seals

ACAP

EUROBATS

ACCOBAMS



ASCOBANS



Gorilla



AEWA

Non- Legally Binding



Aquatic Warbler



Bukhara Deer



Dugong



Great Bustard



Pacific Cetacean



Raptors



Ruddy Headed Goose



Saiga Antelope



Sharks



Siberian Crane



Slender-billed Curlew



West A Aquatic Mammals



High Andean Flamingo



Marine Turtles Africa



IOSEA



Mediterranean Monk Seal



West African Elephants

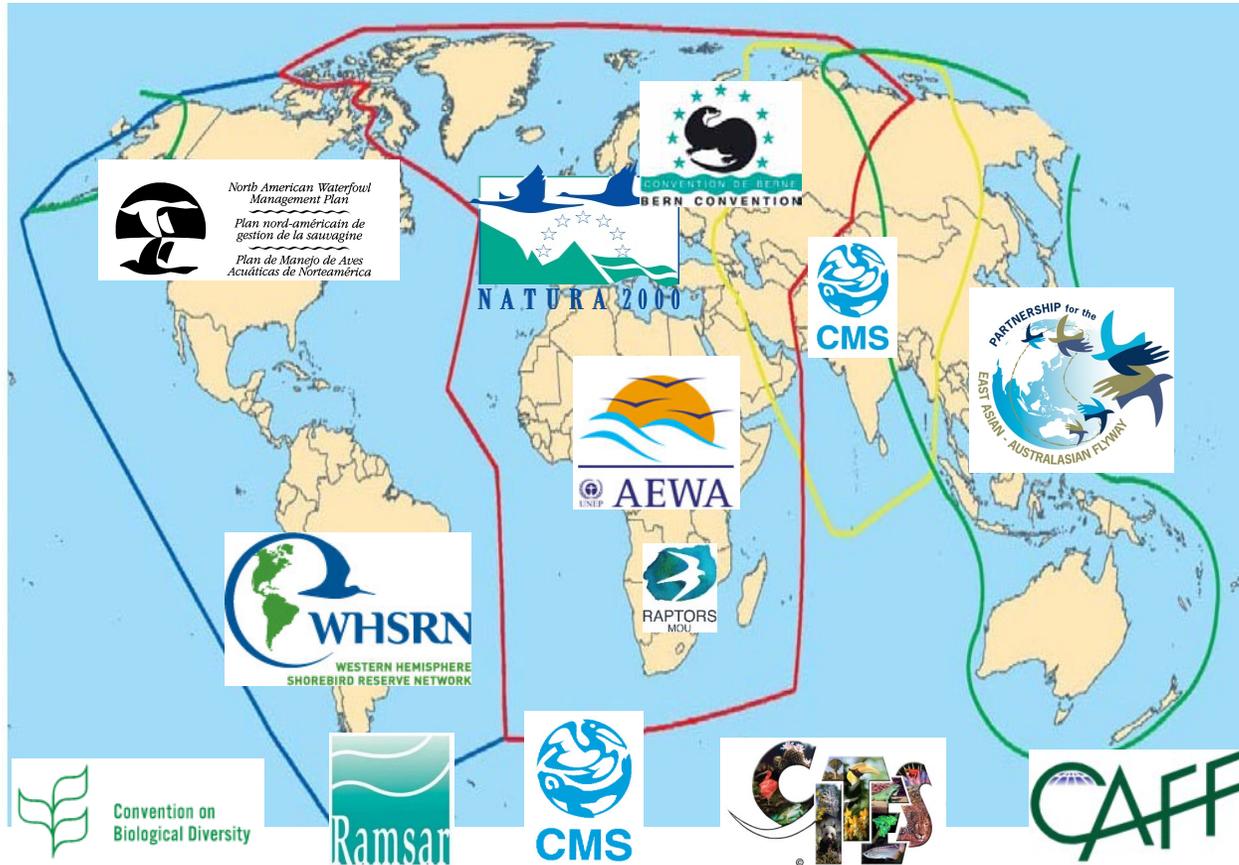


Grassland Birds of South America



Huemul

International frameworks – multiple stakeholders



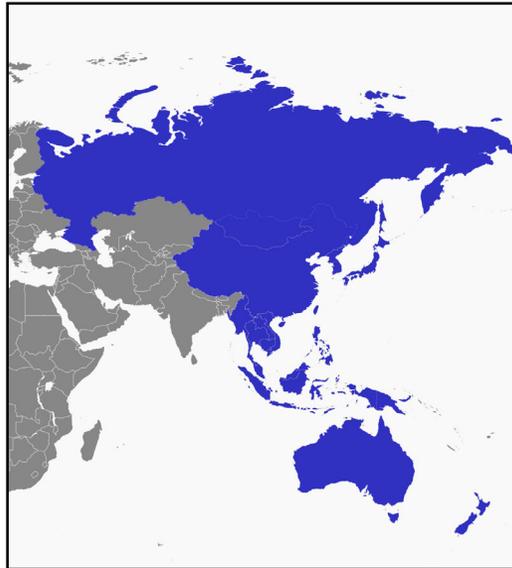
Specific CMS avian mandates and initiatives:

- Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds – Task Forces: MIKT, ITTEA
- Flyways Programme of Work
- Americas Flyways Task Force
- Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds
- Energy Task Force - *reconciling renewable energy developments with conservation of migratory species*
- Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)
- Single and Multi-species Action Plans, Concerted Actions
- Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway

The EAAF encompasses 22 countries. It is home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds from over 250 populations, incl. 36 globally threatened species and 19 near threatened species.

- **Australia**
- **Bangladesh**
- Brunei
- Cambodia
- China
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Laos
- Malaysia
- **Mongolia**
- Myanmar



- **New Zealand**
- Papua New Guinea
- **Philippines**
- Republic of Korea (South Korea)
- The Russian Federation
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste (East Timor)
- United States of America
- Vietnam

Underlined: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership network

Bold: CMS Parties

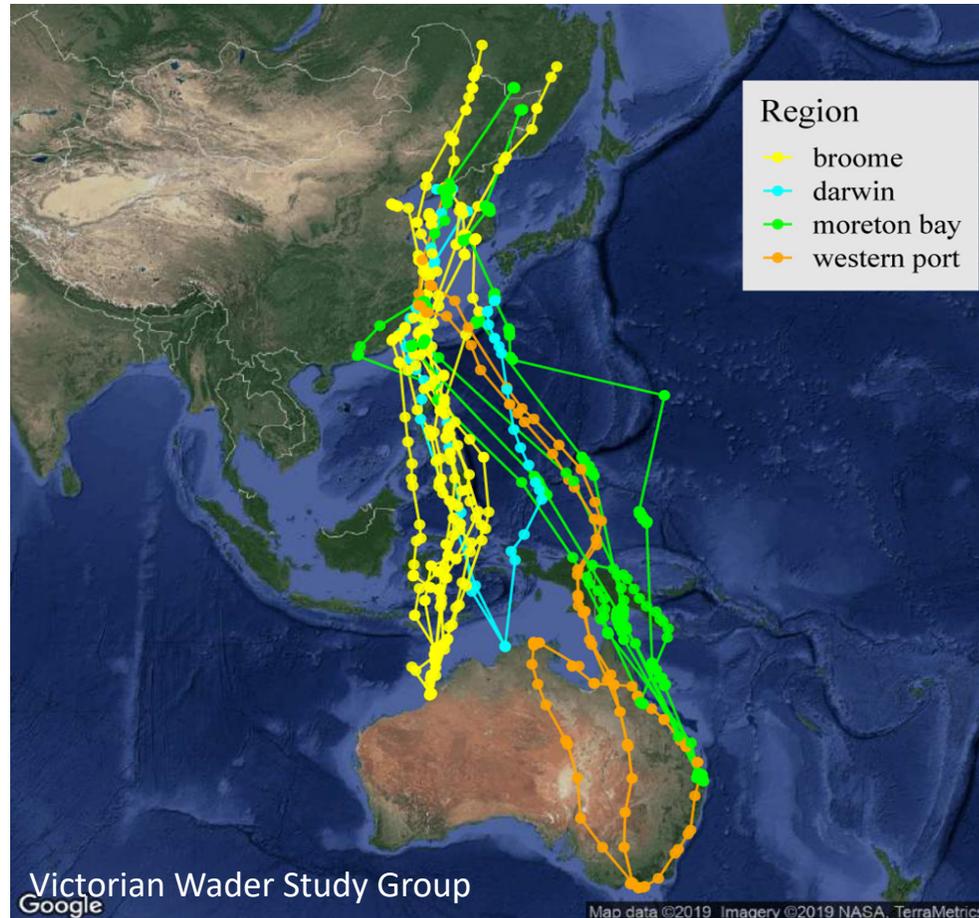




Some examples
of CMS support
in the region



International Single-species Action Plan for the Endangered Far-eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)



CMS Appendix I and II

Projects:

- *Evaluation of the impact of shorebird hunting in the Russian Far East (Partner: BirdsRussia); intentionally ('trophy') or accidentally shot during hunts on other shorebirds, mainly Whimbrel*
 - Birds Russia estimated total yearly harvest of FEC in Sakhalin oblast can reach 1100 birds
- *Exploratory surveys to clarify the status of the Endangered Far Eastern Curlew on the Sarawak coastline in Borneo, Malaysia (Partner: Malaysian Nature Society – Kuching)*



International Single-species Action Plan for the Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

- Former breeding range: 15.7 million sq km. from Japan to Finland
- Estimated number prior to the 1990s: hundreds of millions. Superabundant.
- Estimated decline by 84.3 – 94.7% between 1980 and 2013 (Kamp et al 2015)
- Unustainable harvest is the main reason of the decline (Kamp et al 2015)

Kamp et al.

3

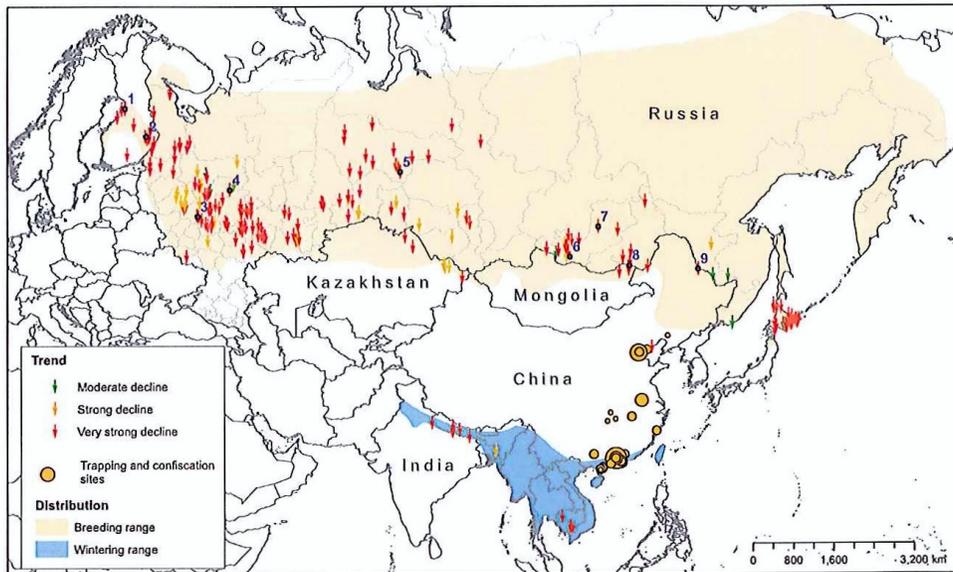


Figure 1. Spatial distribution and magnitude of population declines and illegal trapping incidents for Yellow-breasted Bunting (orange dots, sites where large quantities of these buntings were confiscated, dot size scaled to the number of confiscated birds, range 100–120,000; dark blue circles, sites from which monitoring and survey data were used to calculate the population trend; site numbers correspond to those in Supporting Information (source of the distribution map: BirdLife International distribution database).



CMS Appendix I

IUCN: Critically Endangered, since 2017



Illegal Taking of Birds: the case of the Mediterranean region

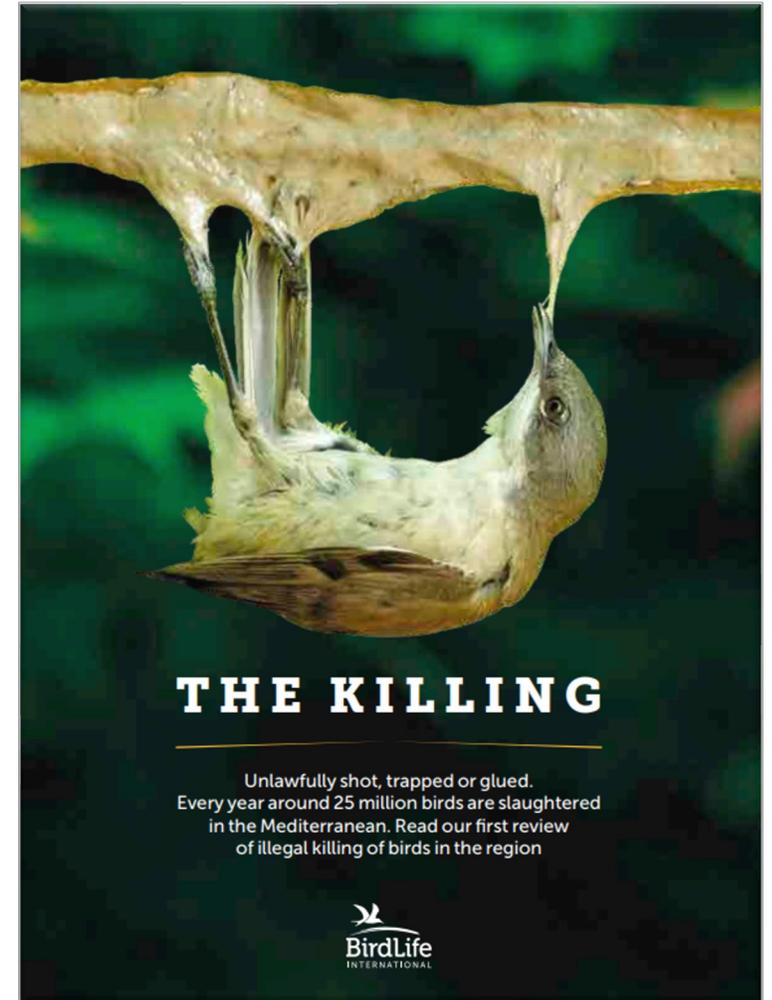
- Paper by Brochet et al 2016 and 2017
- Estimated 25 million birds taken illegally per year

Bird Conservation International (2016) 26:1–28. © BirdLife International, 2016

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doi:10.1017/S0959270915000416

Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean

ANNE-LAURE BROCHET, WILLEM VAN DEN BOSSCHE, SHARIF JBOUR, P. KARIUKI NDANG'ANG'A, VICTORIA R. JONES, WED ABDEL LATIF IBRAHIM ABDOU, ABDEL RAZZAQ AL- HMOUD, NABEGH GHAZAL ASSWAD, JUAN CARLOS ATIENZA, IMAD ATRASH, NICHOLAS BARBARA, KEITH BENSUSAN, TAULANT BINO, CLAUDIO CELADA, SIDI IMAD CHERKAOUI, JULIETA COSTA, BERNARD DECEUNINCK, KHALED SALEM ETAYEB, CLAUDIA FELTRUP-AZAFZAF, JERNEJ FIGELJ, MARCO GUSTIN, PRIMOŽ KMECL, VLADO KOCEVSKI, MALAMO KORBETI, DRAŽEN KOTROŠAN, JUAN MULA LAGUNA, MATTEO LATTUADA, DOMINGOS LEITÃO, PAULA LOPES, NICOLÁS LÓPEZ-JIMÉNEZ, VEDRAN LUCIĆ, THIERRY MICOL, AÏSSA MOALI, YOAV PERLMAN, NICOLA PILUDU, DANAE PORTOLOU, KSENIJA PUTILIN, GWENAEL QUAINTENNE, GHASSAN RAMADAN-JARADI, MILAN RUŽIĆ, ANNA SANDOR, NERMINA SARAJLI, DARKO SAVELJIĆ, ROBERT D. SHELDON, TASSOS SHIALIS, NIKOS TSIPELAS, FRAN VARGAS, CLAIRE THOMPSON, ARIEL BRUNNER, RICHARD GRIMMETT and STUART H.M. BUTCHART



Milestones in tackling IKB: Mediterranean region

- **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)**
Larnaca Declaration 2011: Call on governments and stakeholders for **Zero Tolerance Approach** to IKB
- **EU Roadmap 2012-2017: Towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds:** actions for EU Commission and concerned Parties
- **Bern Convention Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds**
- **CMS-AEWA- Action Plan to Address Bird Trapping along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya in 2013;** supported by BirdLife International & BirdLife Europe, Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds, Governments of Egypt, Libya and Germany

CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13)

Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds

Initially adopted at CMS COP11 in Quito in 2014 –

Global mandate on addressing illegal taking of migratory birds

Urging Parties to commit to adopt a Zero-Tolerance approach to IKB





**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13)
Original: English

THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS
Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th Meeting (Gandhinagar, February 2020)

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)



Geographic Scope: Mediterranean region

22 MEMBERS - Government officials of CMS contracting Parties.

36 OBSERVERS:

- Non-CMS Parties and other interested countries.
- Other stakeholders include Secretariats of the participating MEAs, UNEP, UNODC and other UN organizations, INTERPOL, Europol, EUFJE, ENPE, IMPEL, the hunting community and NGOs, like BirdLife International.





Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Expert Groups (SEGs) 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 (MKT)
7-9 June 2022
6th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds
9-10 June 2022

Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Expert Groups (SEGs) 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 (MKT)
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Joint strategic approach of CMS MIKT and Bern Convention: the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030



Vision

*A reduction of at least 50% in the scale and scope of IKB by 2030, within the geographic extent of the plan (Europe and particularly the Mediterranean region), compared to a 2020 baseline, aiming ultimately at the **eradication of IKB**.*

- Mediterranean and Europe (Bern Convention reach)
- Joint meetings of CMS MIKT and Bern Convention Special Focal Points on Eradication of IKB
- Implementation of projects and activities e.g:
 - Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating IKB (annexed to CMS Res. 11.16 (Rev.COP13));
 - Produced legislative guidance & model laws for addressing IKB
 - Definition and promotion of training materials and workshops for enforcement personnel and judges

Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating IKB

The Scoreboard adopted through Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12) in 2017

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13)/Annex 1



Annex 1 to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13)

Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB)

A self-assessment framework for national use

Scoreboard areas

- A. National monitoring of IKB – data management of scope and scale of IKB
- B. Comprehensiveness of national legislation
- C. Enforcement response: preparedness of law enforcement bodies and coordination of national institutions
- D. Prosecution and sentencing - effectiveness of judicial procedures
- E. Prevention - other instruments used to address IKB

Prepared with
This document
Eradication of Illegal
UN Environment/C

A. National monitoring of IKB – data management of scope and scale of IKB.

1. Status and scale of IKB

The extent to which data and information on illegal activities at national level are available.

Question: What is the quality of national data about IKB?

Measurement:

0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Data and information on number of totals of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB are not available.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based on expert opinion ⁷ and anecdotal information.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimates of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based largely on quantitative data and records.

Comments:

Preventing IKB Globally: Res 11.16 and ITTEA

- The COP

“Decides to establish, subject to the availability of resources, an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway (ITTEA) and adopts the terms of reference included in Annex 2 to the Resolution”



CMS



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13)

Original: English

THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th Meeting (Gandhinagar, February 2020)

What does Resolution 11.16 (Rev COP13) say

- Calls on the Secretariat to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)...involving the Mediterranean Parties, including the European Union, other interested Parties, including from outside the region
- *Decides* to establish, subject to the availability of resources, an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian- Australasian Flyway (ITTEA) and adopts the Terms of Reference included in Annex 2 to this Resolution;
- *Calls also on* the Secretariat actively to work with Parties and non-Party Range States and others in South and Central America and the Caribbean to conduct an assessment of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in that region
- *Instructs* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, and building on the experience in the Mediterranean to support efforts to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds elsewhere in the world, including through the organization of workshops, as appropriate;



Moving ahead through ITTEA





Some final remarks on ITTEA

- ITTEA rely on its members' commitment
- We need to hear from you and work on common solutions & resources
- CMS can offer examples of successful initiatives, but they need to be tailored to your regional and local reality
- The ITTEA Programme of work is a live document
- Commitment to implementing and monitoring its results is fundamental to maintain motivation and attract resources
- Resources are limited, lets think collectively on next steps



CMS



EAAFP

Lets work together
on this!

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