

Bird Hunting along the Mediterranean Coast of Egypt Socioeconomic study

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Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety



Presentation Outline

- Context
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings
- Recommendations/Next Steps

Background

- Hunting in Egypt: an ancient practice
- Increase in unregulated hunting practices over the past decade; population, demand, technology;
- Media coverage in 2012 brought IKB to the international community's attention;
- Lack of research to properly address conservation concerns;

Plan of Action – IKB in Egypt & Libya

- 2013 – Bonn, Germany ; International Task Force
- AEWA, CMS, German Federal Ministry for Environment, NABU, BLI, EEAA & NCE
- Main Objectives:
 - Research – Fill in gaps in knowledge
 - Effective legislation in place & enforced
 - Capacity building for conservation
 - Awareness raising

Plan of Action – Funding

- German Federal Ministry for the Environment – through AEWA (socioeconomic study)
- Nando-Peretti Foundation (NPF) – Monitoring, Legal Review & other conservation actions;
- NABU – fundraising via German public;



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Plan of Action – Research

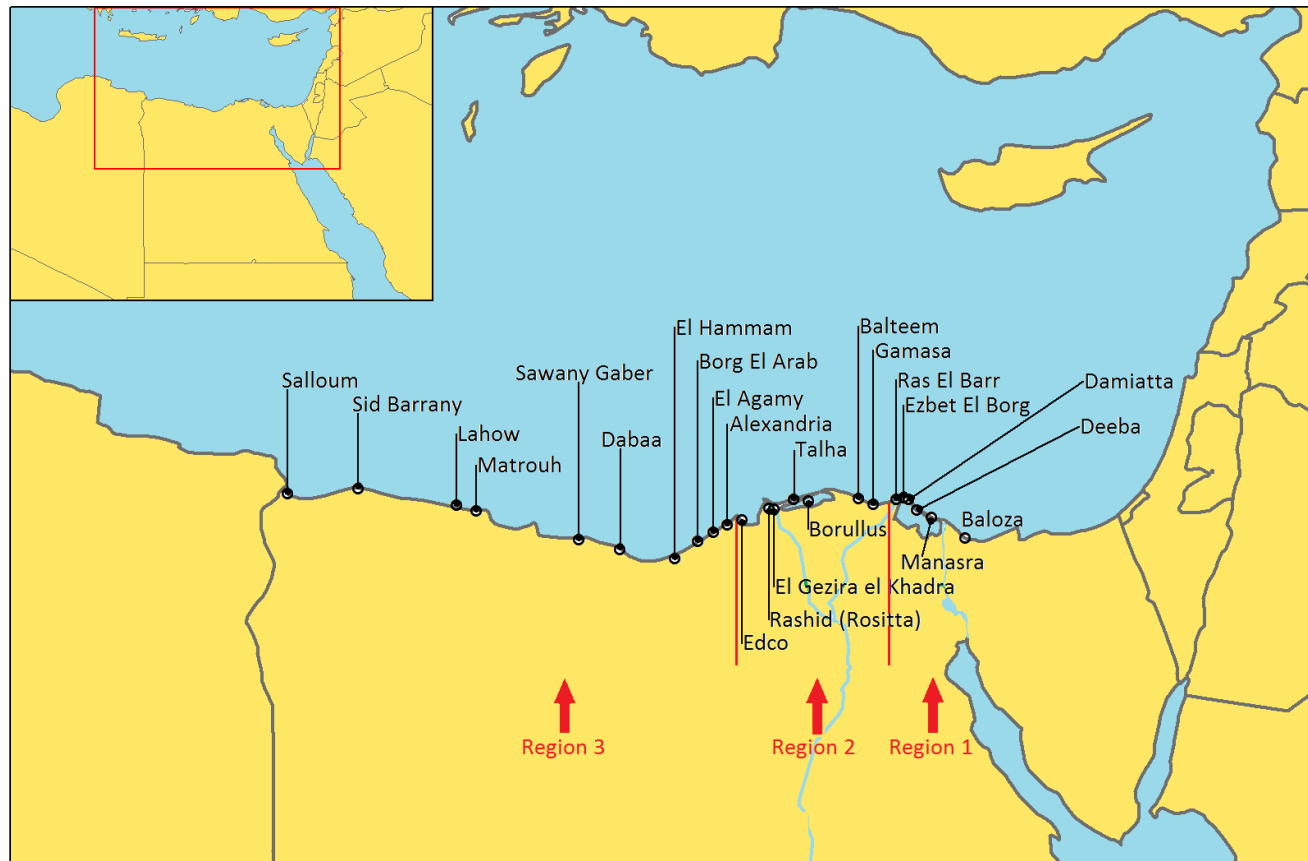
- Socio-economic drivers of bird hunting activities;
- Legal review of legislative and administrative infrastructure
- Monitoring hunting activities - types, scale, and species;

Socioeconomic Study - Objectives

- Identify the spatial patterns and techniques
- Assess the socioeconomic drivers of bird hunting, dependency and social resilience
- Evaluate the communities' understanding of bird conservation policies
- Determine if the communities would consider further bird conservation strategies

Methodology

1) Dividing the Coast into three regions:



Methodology

2) Field Survey

- 73 hunters and traders from 25 local communities were interviewed
- Pre-tested questionnaire
- Group discussions



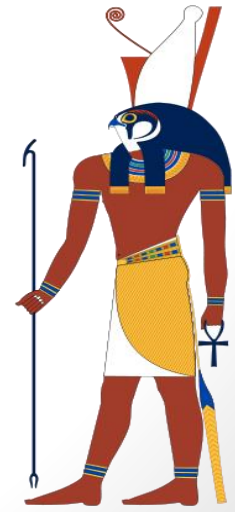
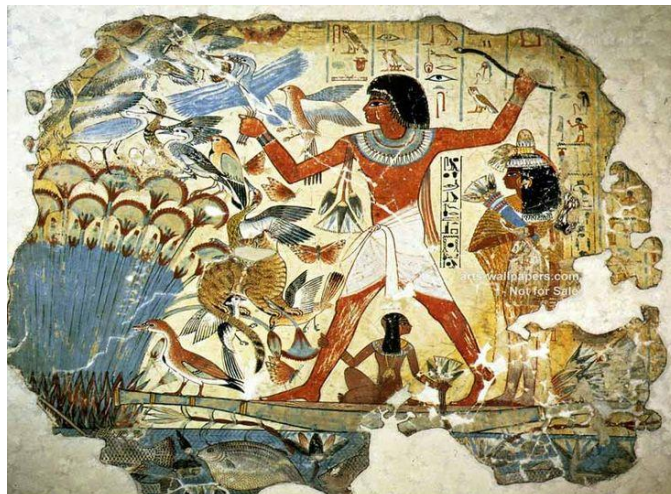


Findings



Cultural Dimension of Bird Hunting

- Birds have held an important place in Egyptian culture.
- An important source of food in Ancient Egyptian times as well as a popular sport
- Hunting is considered a recreational and social activity involving many families and their friends



Hunting Techniques

- Trammel Nets



- Haleeg & Eb Nets



Hunting Techniques

- Lime Sticks



- Munsab

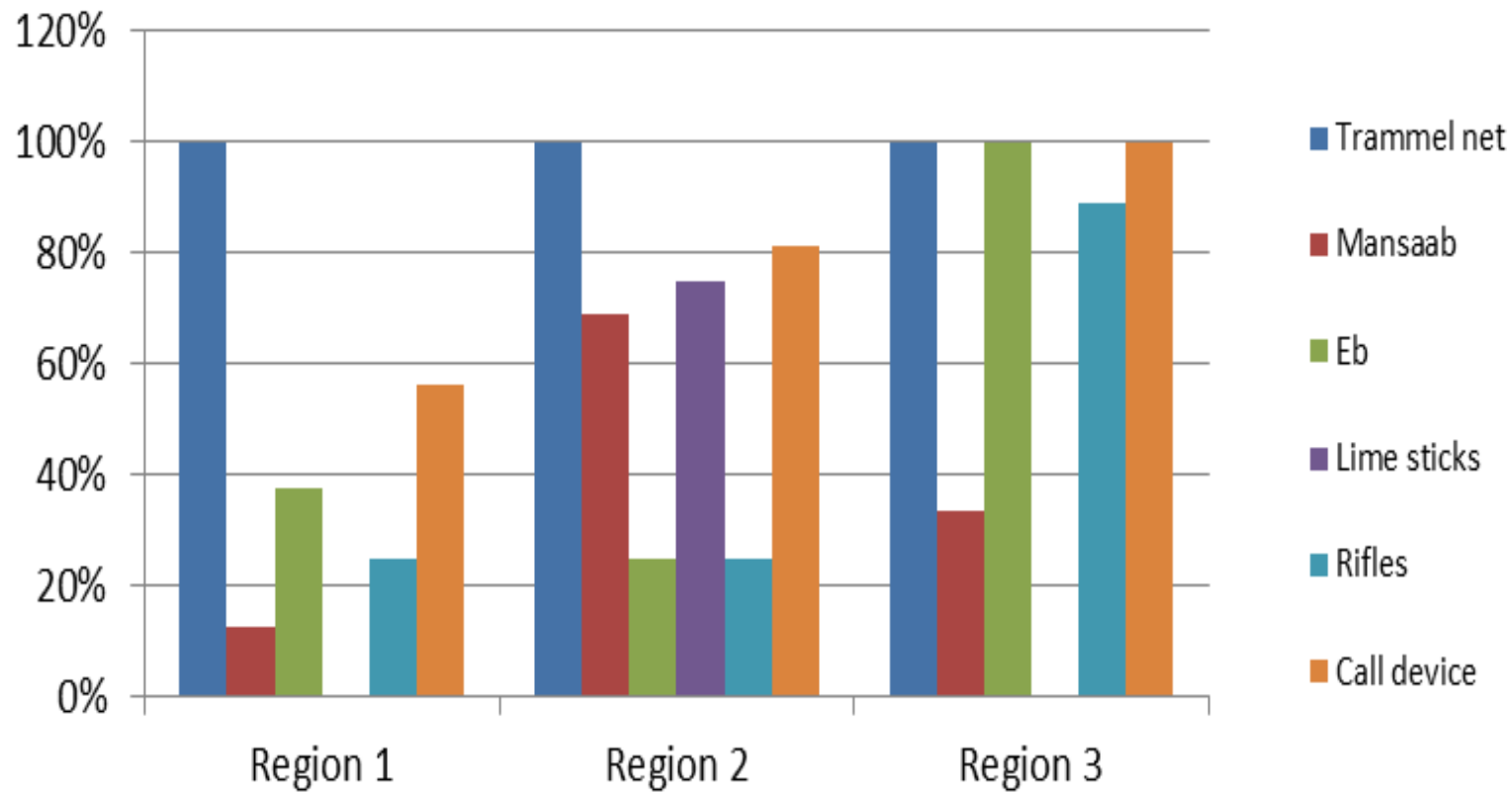


Hunting Techniques

- Shot Guns
- Call Devices



Hunting Technique for each Region



Catching Birds of Prey

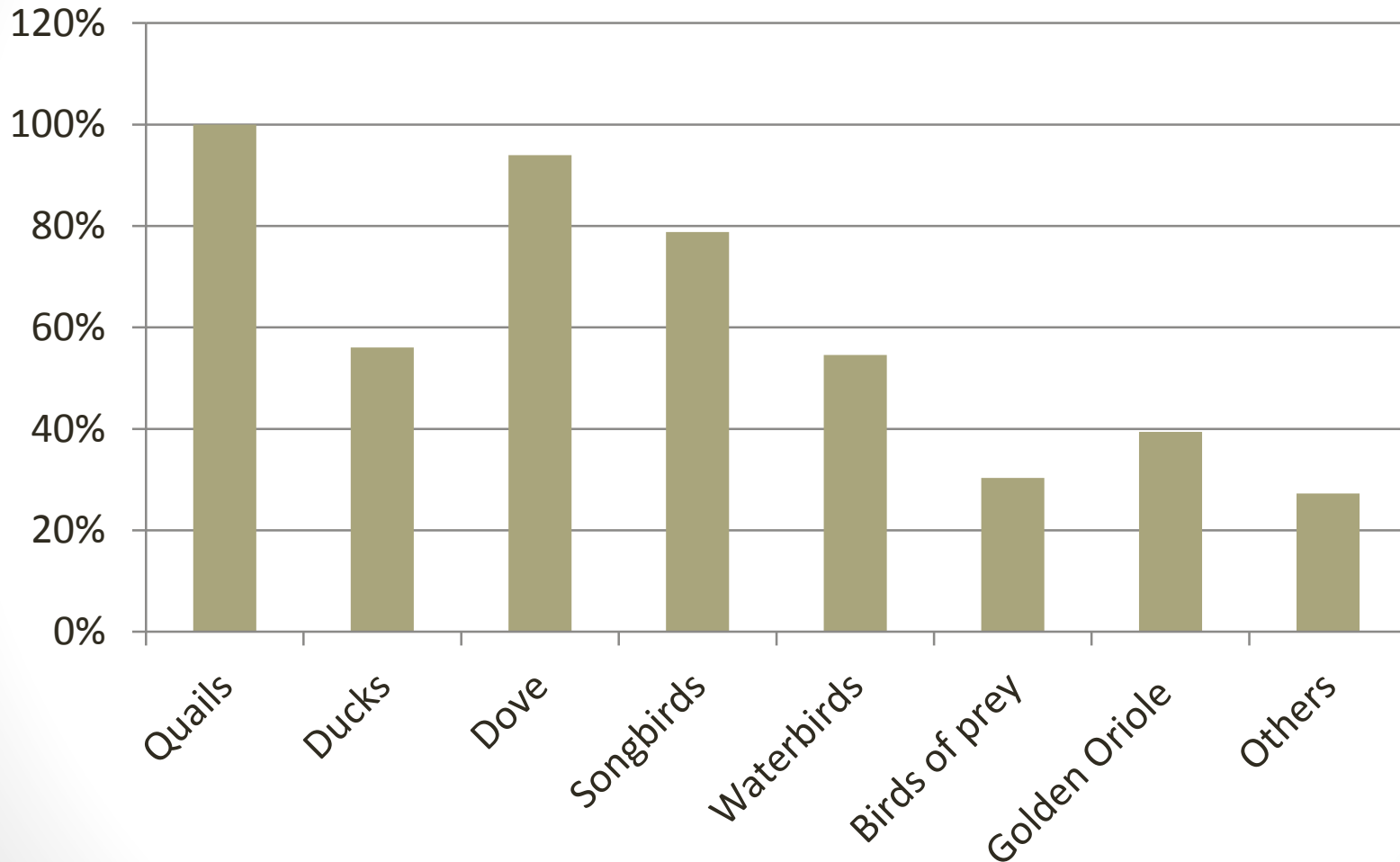
- Trapping Techniques:
 - Sharak (Noose Harness)
 - Fakh (Trap)



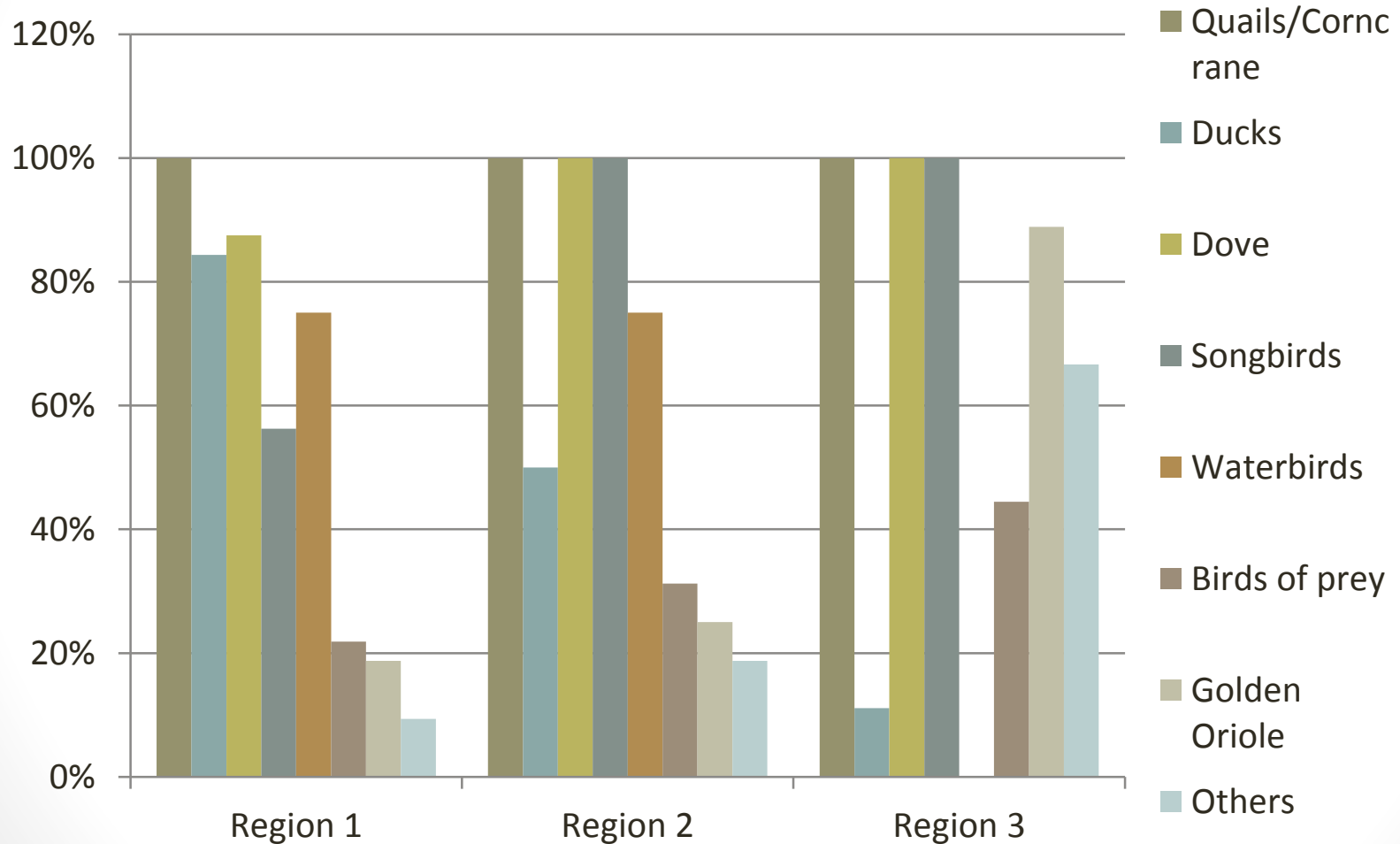
Hunting Seasons

Species	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Quails	x	x	X					x	X			
Ducks		x	X	x	x							
Dove		x	X					x	X			
Songbirds	x	x	x					x	X			
Golden Oriole		x	x									
Birds of prey		x	x	x				x				
Water birds		x	x	x				x	X			
Others		x	x	x				x	X			

Target Species



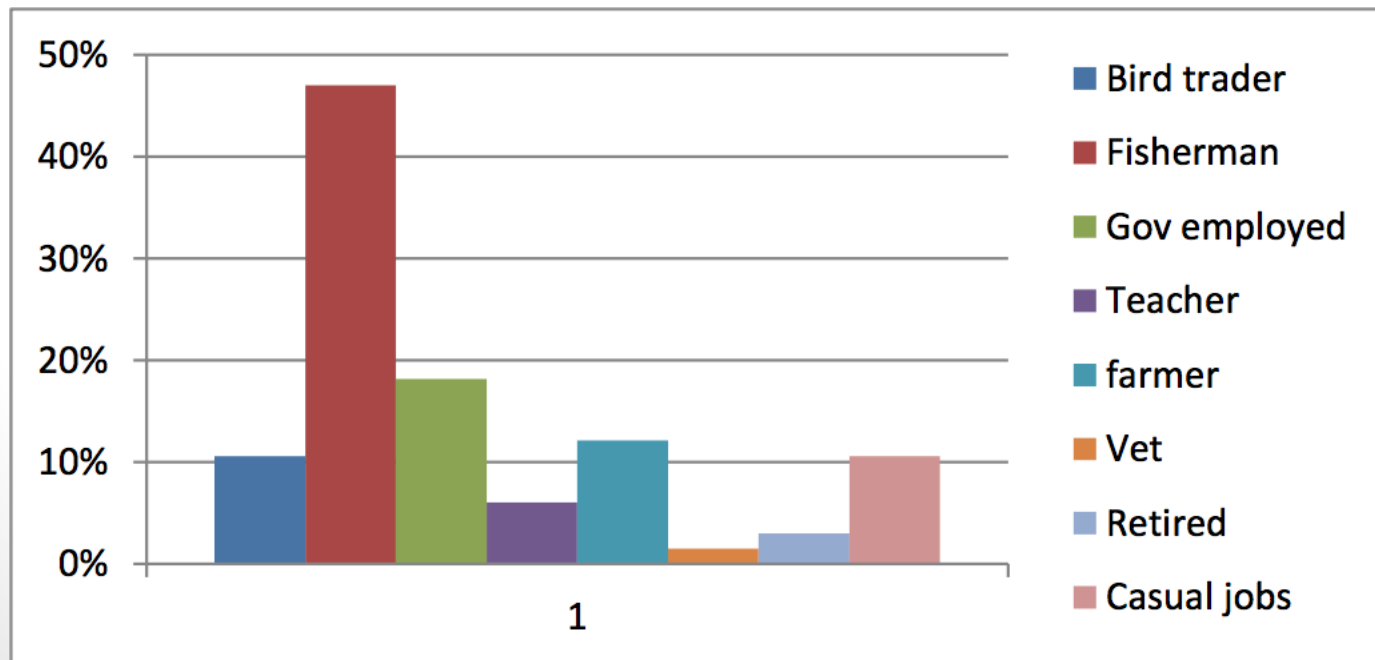
Target Species By Region



Occupations

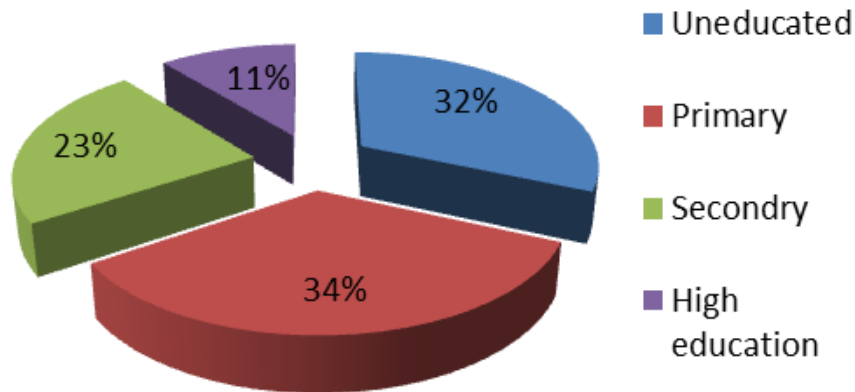
- Majority are fishermen
- Other professions include government employees, farmers, traders, etc.

Occupation

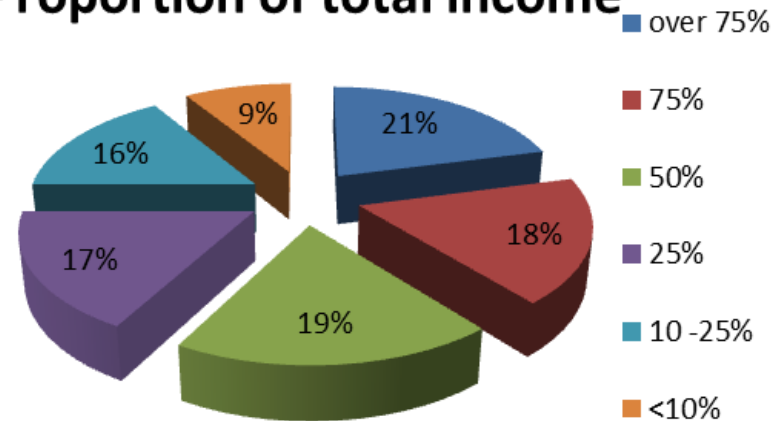


Socio-economic Factors Influencing Hunting

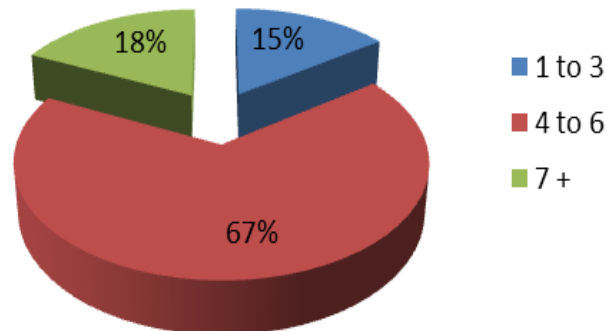
Education



Proportion of total income



Size of household



Interpretation

- No correlation between bird hunting and age, marital status and education.
- Significant correlation between bird hunting and proportion of income, size of household and occupation.
- The proportion of income and size of household were found to positively influence individuals' engagements in bird hunting,

Resilience of Hunting Practices

- The majority of respondents were confident that they would never give up hunting of birds
- Local people were unconfident about their abilities to change (92%)
- Slight majority agreed to having new hunting laws & regulations for sustainable practices (67%)

Perception and Attitude Towards Conservation

- Almost all respondents acknowledged the decline in bird numbers
- A great belief that God is responsible for the future and will protect and secure birds
- “People will harvest and eat everything no matter what”
- Respect certain species that were mentioned in Qur’an

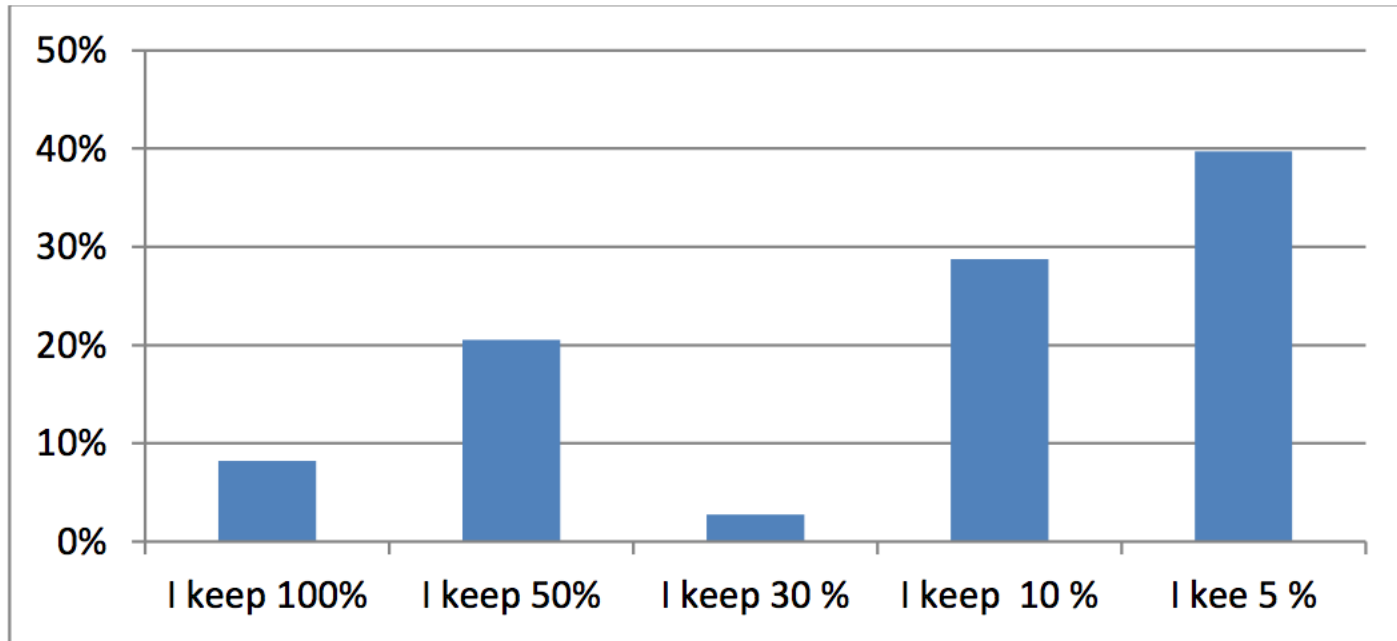
Types of Hunters

- Commercial Hunters – target economic value;
- Subsistence Hunters
- Recreational/Cultural Hunters



Personal Consumption

Proportion of the hunted birds kept for personal consumption



Conclusions

- Spatial patterns & techniques:
 - Hunting practices documented all across the coast, particularly trammel nets;
 - Illegal hunting practices (limesticks, Haleeg nets) and tools (bird-calling devices) widespread
- Socioeconomic Drivers:
 - Source of revenue for local communities
 - Motivated by increasing income
 - Major seasonal dependency on this resource

Conclusions

- Community Understanding of Conservation Policies:
 - Traditional understanding of need to protect birds during Spring occasionally expressed;
- Consideration of future conservation efforts:
 - More affluent hunters show resilience to change
 - Poorer communities more vulnerable due to higher dependency

Recommendations

- Acknowledge the cultural roots of bird hunting and its importance to the individuals involved in this activity.
- Engage local community in decision making regarding policy changes
- Enforcement of hunting regulations is urgently needed to bring the hunting of birds under more effective control
- Securing high-level political support to ensure that measures to address the impact of bird hunting is given a high priority in the conservation sector

Recommendations

- Develop mechanism to manage and control permits for nets;
- Further studies on the export industry of migratory birds;
- Detailed socio-economic studies on black-spots to assess economic alternatives to hunting and trapping;