



Update on Recommendation No 164 (2013) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

Outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of Special Focal Points for Illegal Killing of Birds, 14-15 April 2016, Tirana (Albania)

First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

Cairo, Egypt, 12 – 15 July 2016

Sergei Golovkin

Chairman, Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points for Illegal Killing of Birds



Tunis Action Plan at a glance

1. Identification of national wildlife crime priorities
2. Taking conservation impact into account
3. Identification & standardisation of gravity factors
4. Elaboration of sentencing guidelines
5. Taking into account the biological and institutional aspects
6. National dialogue amongst stakeholders on IKTTB
7. Establishing trust
8. Awareness raising and education
9. Publication of enforcement results, crime statistics, reports
10. Networking and capacity building

1. **State of implementation of EU IKB Roadmap:**

- mtg of the monitoring group
- IMPEL projects on hunting tourism and IRI mission to Italy
- forthcoming review of Env. Crime Directive
- EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking
- proposal for EU Action Plan on illegal poisoning (ENEC)
- progress on lead munitions (discussions within REACH)
- ongoing Fitness Check of Nature Directives

2. **Briefing on the scope of CMS MIKT** – emphasis on coordination

3. **Updates from BirdLife Europe:** many stakeholders involved in IB issues; multitude of initiatives; scope for more coordination, prioritisation (for instance hot spots: 20 areas account for 34% of illegal killing – 10-36 million birds annually)

3rd Meeting of SFP Network, 14-15 April, Tirana (contd.)

4. **Updates from FACE:** role of hunters in eradication of IKB, examples of cooperation at international level, importance of European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, case studies
5. **European Network Against Environmental Crime:** synergy between legal and conservation aspects; work on preventing illegal poisoning, a review of implementation of Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law
6. **Proposed reporting format for recording wildlife cases & statistical evidence (Cyprus)**
7. **Case studies:**
 - Hungary: identification of enforcement & policing priorities; focus on combating poisoning
 - Italy: combating IKB in black spots
 - Albania: hunting ban
 - Malta: legal & enforcement reforms to implement Tunis AP
 - Role of NGOs in the implementation of Tunis AP
 - Importance of biological aspects in a flyway approach to eradication of IKB – coordination with CMS

Some highlights from mid-term review of the implementation of Tunis AP:

1. Reports received from 15 Parties (at the time of the meeting)
2. Considerable progress, but not uniform
3. Most respondents identified national enforcement priorities, largely by consultative process
4. Most states have specialised enforcement agencies, but depend on a varied array of methods & stakeholders
5. Only few states have national databases to collect and report data on IKB
6. Not much progress yet on promoting the use of gravity factors with the judiciary systems
7. Impacts on IKB on the populations of birds remain largely unknown due to lack of data (and methodologies), especially on a flyway scale
8. Awareness-related actions only succeed if these address motivation / drivers behind IKB at blackspot level. Several states have done good awareness measures with involvement of NGOs
9. Relatively good coordination at national level, including between NGOs and governments
10. Much improvement in coordination at international level, but need for more involvement with Interpol

Suggestions for potential priorities

Implementation of the Tunis Action Plan is of course the overarching priority for the Bern Convention. The following three areas of work appear as strategic priorities:

(1) The need to strengthen national legislation. Weak or inconsistent legislation, poor or insufficient legal deterrents against bird crime, inadequate regulatory controls over certain activities would effectively nullify all other efforts to combat IKB. Therefore improvements to legislation are absolutely necessary for progress on IKB to be made. **International cooperation, networking, sharing of experience, exchange of information on legislation, compilation of relevant statistics at wider regional level and similar actions envisaged in Tunis Action Plan can help states improve their legal systems.**

(2) The need to improve enforcement and compliance with the law on the ground. Achieving this aim would involve **training and capacity building for enforcement personnel, better networking and information sharing at national and international levels** (e.g. through platforms like EnviCrime Net, Interpol, etc), **development of national enforcement and policing priorities related to IKB, publication of enforcement statistics, and similar actions. Identification of specific black spots, understanding root causes of IKB, awareness raising and education are also very important components that ultimately underpin enforcement.**

(3) The need to improve effectiveness of judiciary processes. Irrespective of the soundness of the legal system, or effectiveness of enforcement on the ground, a weak judicial system would be a major stumbling block on the way to eradication of IKB. The Tunis Action Plan envisages several actions that are directly relevant in this respect, such as **application of gravity factors and sentencing guidelines, developing expert networks and raising judiciary's awareness on issues that are specific to IKB, and similar actions.**

