

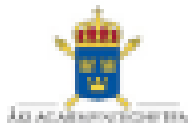
# AN INTRODUCTION TO, AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON, THE ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADING OF MIGRATORY WILD BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION PART 1



PRODUCED BY THE LIFE-ENPE WILDLIFE CRIME WORKING GROUP (WG1) BEING PART OF A TRAINING PACKAGE DEVELOPED FROM THE

SEGOVIA WORKSHOP FOR PROSECUTORS FROM MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES IN MAY 2018. THE WORKSHOP INVOLVED THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE CMS (BONN) CONVENTION

The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018-2020. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
LE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT



**THE FOLLOWING NOTICE ACCOMPANIED THE FULL 4-PART TRAINING PACKAGE SENT TO THE PROSECUTORS OF EACH COUNTRY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION.**

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# Note to readers of the ENPE and CMS websites

- **THESE SLIDES ARE SLIDES THAT WERE USED TO PROVIDE PROSECUTORS WITH RELEVANT BACKGROUND FOR TRAINING ON IKB. THIS MATERIAL DOES NOT INVOLVE CASE STUDIES OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT WAS AGREED TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.**
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# INTRODUCTION TO ENPE



# European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment



*Our aim is: “to improve compliance with EU environmental law by addressing uneven and incomplete implementation across Member States through improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of prosecutors and judges in combating environmental crime”.*

# ENPE - OUR MISSION

- Promote the prosecution of environmental crime by supporting the operative work of environmental prosecutors
- Strengthening trans-national ties
- Exchanging information and experience
- Delivering training
- Providing guidance on best practice
- Data collection and analysis concerning environmental law and its criminal enforcement



# LIFE-ENPE PROJECT - A 5 YEAR WORK PLAN

Working groups on 4 areas of trans-national environmental crime:



WG1 -Wildlife Crime



WG2 Waste crime



WG3 Air pollution



WG4 Prosecution and sanctioning



ENPE receives funding from the European Union LIFE financial instrument, LIFE/GIE/UK/000043





# WHY WILDLIFE CRIME?

IN RECENT YEARS  
WILDLIFE CRIME HAS  
MOVED UP BOTH THE  
INTERNATIONAL AND EU  
AGENDA FOR EXAMPLE  
THE UN REPORT OF MAY  
2016

SHORTLY WE WILL FOCUS  
ON AN EXAMPLE  
AFFECTING OUR PART OF  
THE WORLD - THE  
ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING  
AND TRADING OF WILD  
BIRDS (“IKB”)



## World Wildlife Crime Report

Trafficking in protected species





# LIFE-ENPE WG1 - DATABASE

- At the outset of the LIFE-ENPE project a Capitalisation and Gap-filling Report was commissioned, reporting on recording of environmental crime across Europe.
- It found that recording of environmental crime was very inconsistent.
- It found that wildlife crime was particularly less recorded than other environmental crimes.
- LIFE-ENPE WG1 has set up a prosecutor's database of significant wildlife crime judgements.





## LIFE-ENPE WG1 – WILDLIFE CRIME



© BirdLife Cyprus

**SOME REGIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE PARTICULAR WILDLIFE CRIME PROBLEMS. THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS ONE SUCH REGION. THAT PROBLEM IS THE ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADING OF WILD BIRDS INCLUDING MIGRATORY SPECIES.**

# **IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

**EMERGENCE OF CONCERN OVER IKB**

# **IKB IN THE MED REGION - EMERGENCE OF CONCERN**

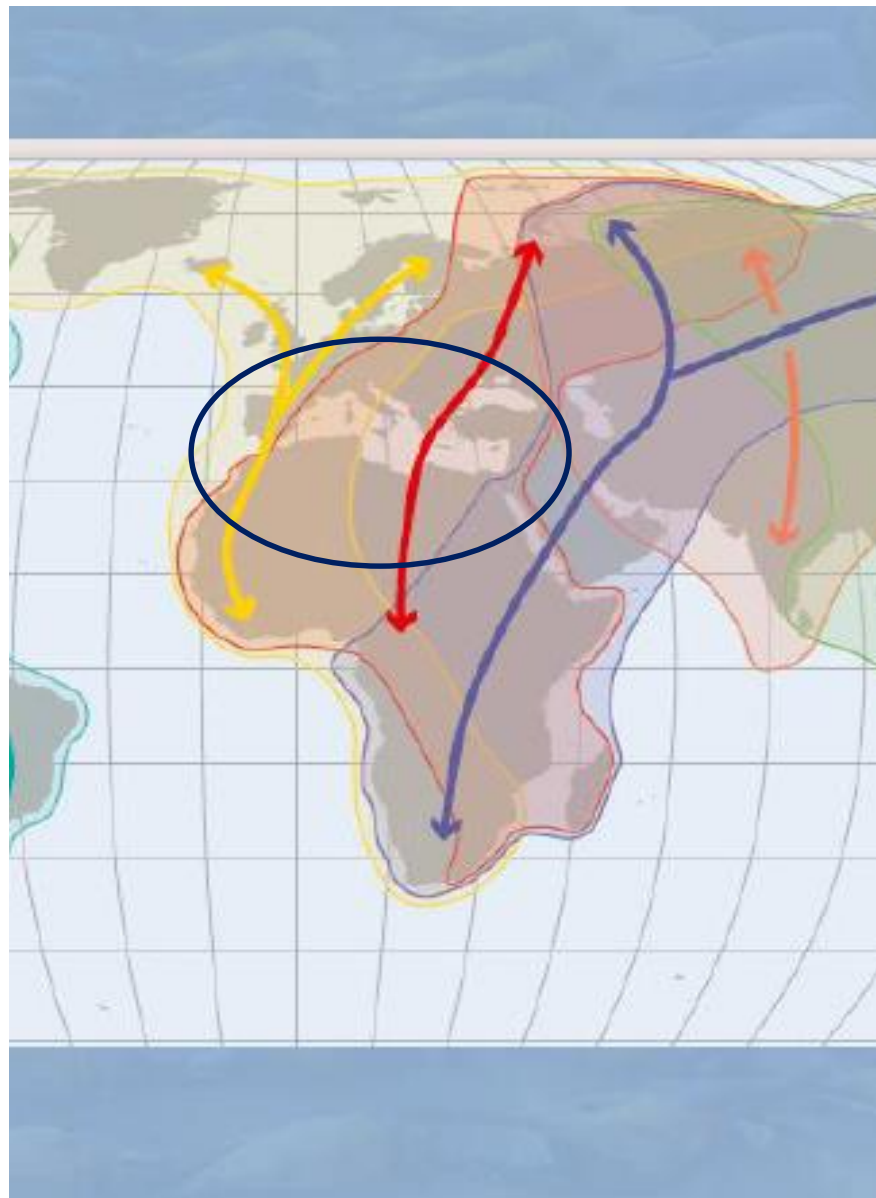
- **1990s - emergence of international action for the conservation of migratory birds in the world's "flyways", including our flyway – the African-Eurasian flyway.**
- **In 1999 the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement AEWA was signed; 2008 saw the Raptor's MoU for the same flyway; 2014 – the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). All are international agreements under the aegis of CMS (Convention of Migratory Species).**
- **2013 the Bern Convention on habitats and species targeted IKB in the EU and in Tunisia and Morocco ("Tunis Action Plan").**
- **2014 The CMS (Bonn) Convention initiated the inter-governmental task force on IKB in the Mediterranean (MIKT), joining with the Bern convention. Its first meeting was in Cairo in 2016.**



# IKB IN THE MED REGION

## THE AFRICAN- EURASIAN FLYWAY

THE MED REGION  
OUTLINED IN DARK  
BLUE – TWO THIRDS  
OF THE WIDTH OF  
THE FLYWAY



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - EU CONCERN

## EXAMPLES:

**2009** - From the preamble Birds Directive – 2009/147/RC

- “**A large number of species** of wild birds naturally occurring in the European territory of the Member **States are declining in number, very rapidly in some cases.**”
- “**(4) The species of wild birds naturally occurring in the European territory of the Member States are mainly migratory species. Such species constitute a common heritage and effective bird protection is typically a trans-frontier environment problem entailing common responsibilities.**”

**1979** - From the preamble to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife & Natural Habitats:

- “Recognising that **wild flora and fauna constitute a natural heritage of aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational, economic and intrinsic value that needs to be preserved and handed on to future generations;**”
- “Noting that **numerous species...are being seriously depleted and that some of them are threatened with extinction;**”
- “**... that international co-operation should be established to protect migratory species in particular;**”



# IKB IN THE MED - INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

## EXAMPLE:

- [11th Meeting of the Parties to the CMS](#) (Bonn) Convention for the protection of migratory species, held in November 2014 in Quito, Ecuador passed **a Resolution that recognized illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds as a global problem, and focussed “on the Mediterranean as a region where this activity is especially acute and needs a proactive approach to find solutions that can help to prevent or minimize it.”** (CMS statement)
- **The Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) was set up as a result of that resolution** at the first meeting of the Task Force, in Cairo, in 2016, the then Task Force Co-ordinator (Carmen Naves) said: **“The illegal killing of birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean has reached alarming levels recently”**





# IKB IN THE MED REGION

AUGUST 2015 – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHED “THE KILLING”, A REPORT OF THEIR RESEARCH INTO THE EXTENT OF IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

IKB SHOWN AS PROBABLY OF THE ORDER OF 25 MILLION BIRDS PER ANNUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



## THE KILLING

Unlawfully shot, trapped or glued.  
Every year around 25 million birds are slaughtered  
in the Mediterranean. Read our first review  
of illegal killing of birds in the region



# IKB IN THE MED REGION – ENPE BECOMES INVOLVED

- 2016 ENPE were invited by CMS to the first meeting of MIKT in Cairo in July of that year, with Observer Status (a member of the WG1 attended).
- In 2017 ENPE were invited by CMS to a joint meeting of MIKT with the Bern convention in Malta. Again a representative from WG1 attended. Essentially this meeting was to monitor progress in addressing IKB and to finalise a “scorecard” template (an action and assessment list for each country, which includes prosecution activity and training). The stated aim is the elimination of IKB across Europe and the Mediterranean region. The scorecard is used to assess the progress being made towards that aim and obliges each country to assess and report on their performance against a list of actions that further that aim.
- The matter has clearly become a high priority issue with the EU. Consequently, in 2017, ENPE decided to address the subject and conduct an IKB workshop for prosecutors from Mediterranean countries as we are EU-based and funded, we requested the assistance of our friends in CMS to secure attendance from Middle Eastern and North African Mediterranean countries.



# THE SEGOVIA WORKSHOP ON IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

THE FIRST EVER IKB TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR  
PROSECUTORS FROM THE ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN REGION  
– A COLLABORATION BETWEEN ENPE & THE CMS (BONN)  
CONVENTION



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - THE SEGOVIA WORKSHOP

- As the problem involves North Africa and The Middle East, and not just the EU, we co-ordinated with CMS, who facilitated attendance from North African and Middle Eastern Mediterranean countries.
- Through the good offices of ENPE's Spanish representative, the Chief Prosecutor for Environment and Planning matters, Antonio Vercher Noguera, and generosity of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environmental Affairs, we obtained the use of Spain's National Environmental Training Facility near Segovia.
- A 3 day workshop was conducted from 9-11 May, 2018. The 37 delegates, included prosecutors from 3 North African\*, 2 Middle Eastern\*\* and 7 European Mediterranean countries\*\*\*.



\* Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt, \*\* Israel and Lebanon, \*\*\* Spain, Italy, Malta, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Greece, Cyprus

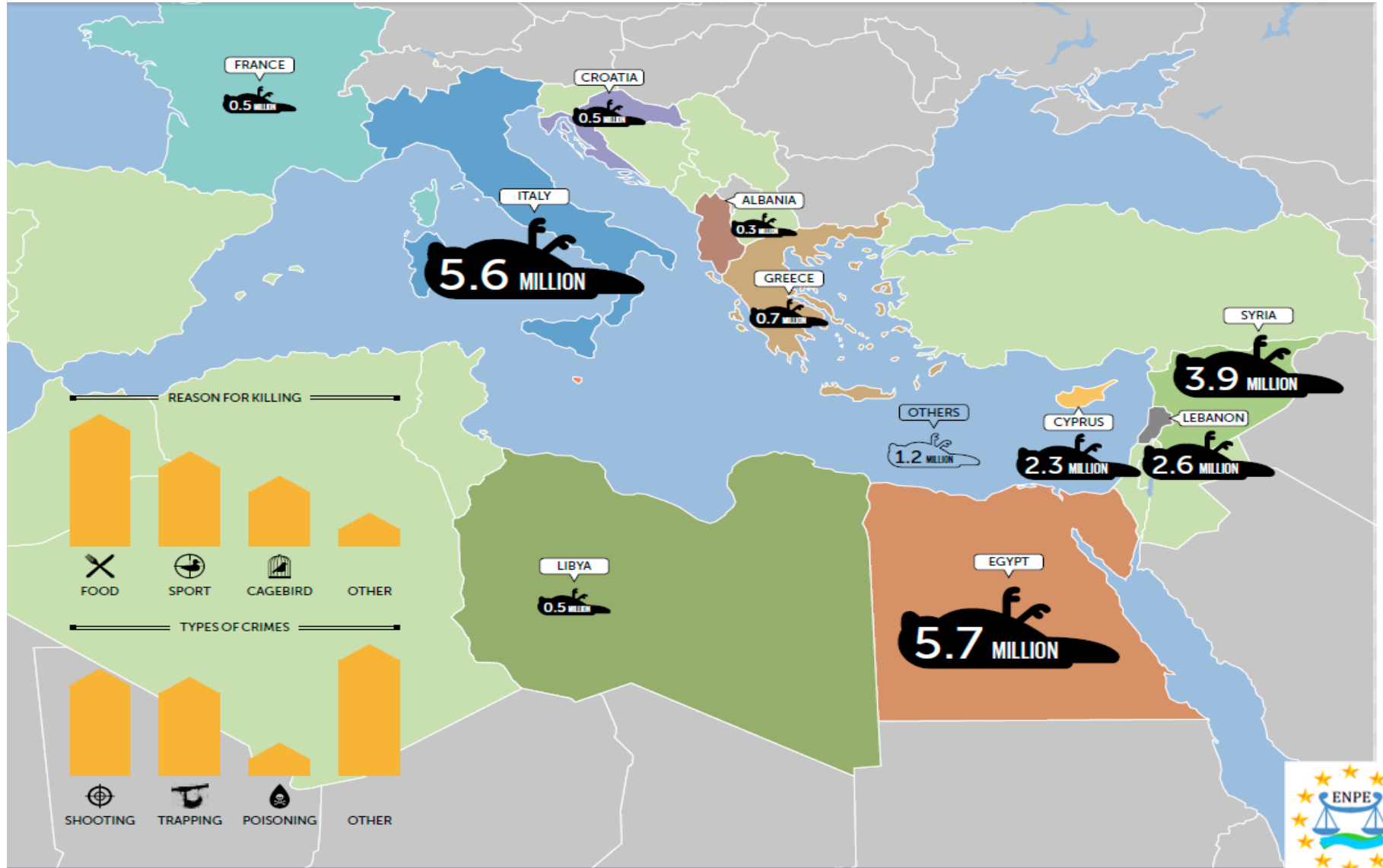


# **IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

## **THE RESEARCH**

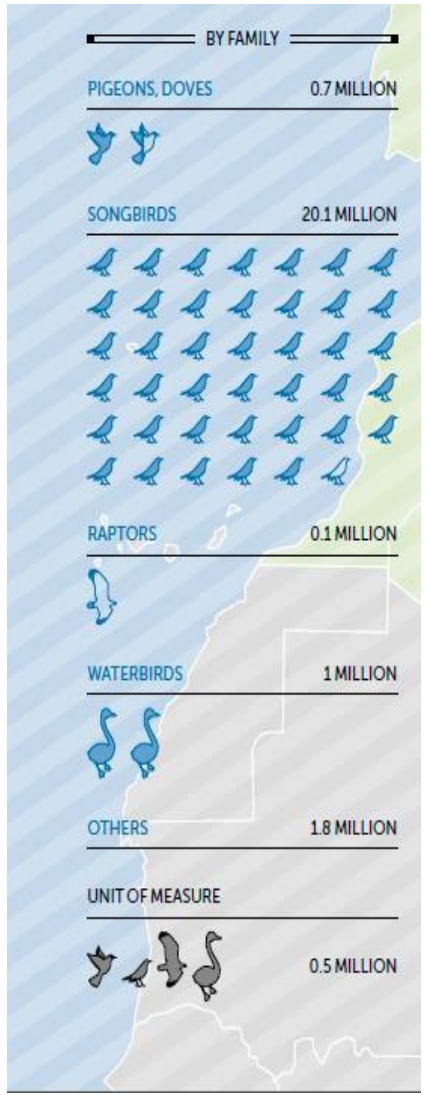
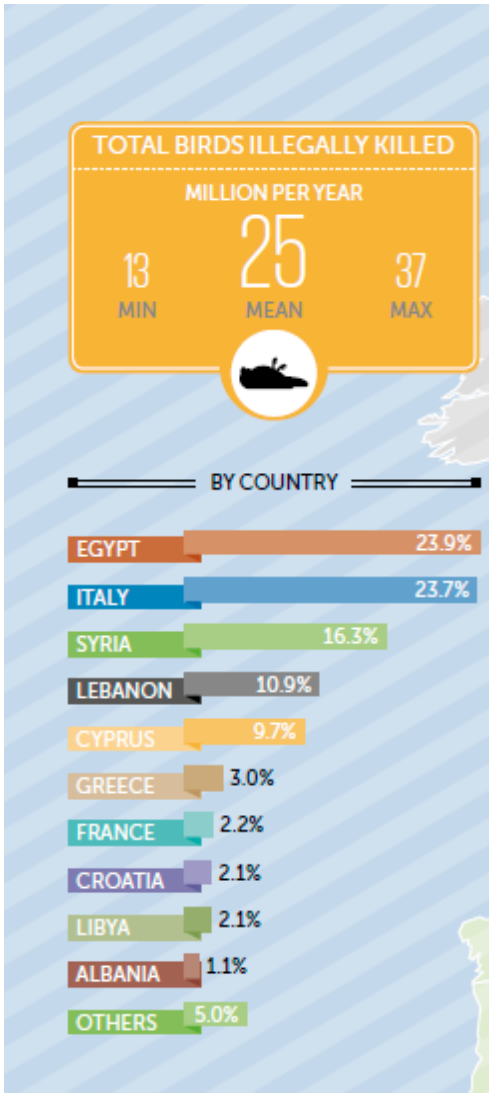
# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH: “THE KILLING – 1.0”

WE ALREADY HAD ACCESS TO THIS 2015 RESEARCH BEFORE SEGOVIA




# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH: "THE KILLING – 1.0"

## RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH SURROUNDED THE MAP ON THE LAST SLIDE



**STATISTICAL CAVEAT**

**NOTE** All numbers in the map are mean best estimates, for further details and minimum/maximum estimates, see the scientific paper: Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean (Brochet et al., in revision).





# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [a]

PRESENTATION BY DR VICKY JONES – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL  
SHE REFERRED TO THE EARLIER RESEARCH, UPDATED IT, AND COMMENTED ON IT

**DEFINITION OF IKB -  
USED FOR BIRDLIFE  
INTERNATIONAL'S  
RESEARCH.**

**(Note the “use of  
methods”, 3<sup>RD</sup> bullet,  
means the use of  
methods that are  
outlawed.)**

## Illegal killing and taking of birds

**Defined as: “any form of deliberate action that results in the death or removal from the wild of an individual bird (regardless of whether it was the target of this action or not), that is prohibited under national legislation”**

- Taking of species prohibited under law
- hunting of 'game' species during the closed season or in protected areas
- use of methods (e.g. traps, mist-nets, lime-sticks, poisons)
- prohibited activities (e.g. egg-collecting)
- Taking under derogation counted as legal



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [b]

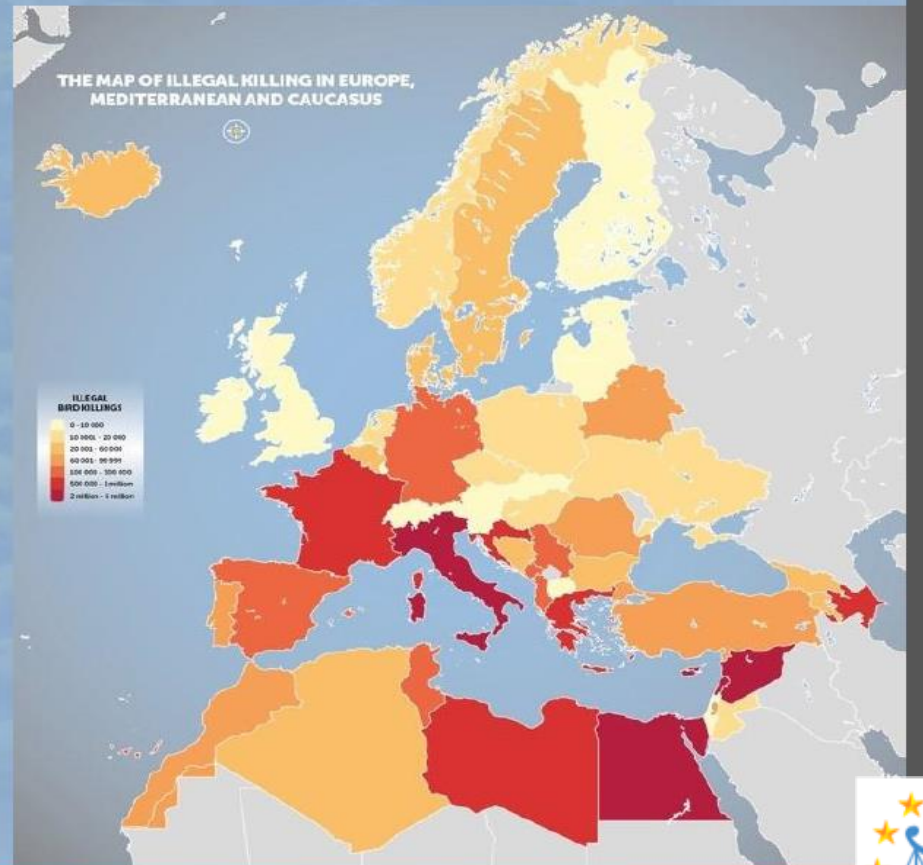
“KILLING 2.0” - WHOLE OF EUROPE & CAUCASUS - ADDS 1.2 MILLIONS TO MED REGION’S 25 MILLION = 26.2 MILLION

MED REGION STILL ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 90% OF IKB FOR WHOLE AREA

## Mediterranean, N & C Europe and the Caucasus

Illegal killing was reported to be **widespread all around the Mediterranean: 11-36 million birds** may be illegally killed/taken per year

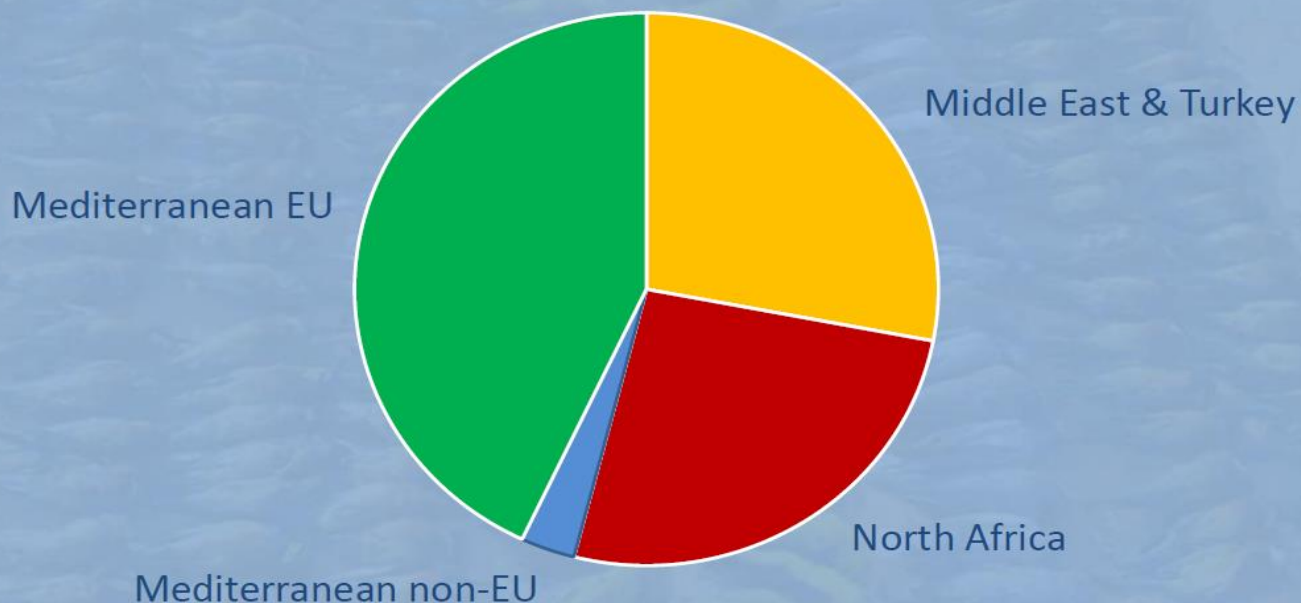
Italy	5.6 million
Egypt	5.4 million
Syria	3.9 million
Lebanon	2.6 million
Cyprus	2.3 million



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [c]

## 43% OF IKB IN THE EU

### Illegal killing in different areas of the Mediterranean



**43% of birds reported to be killed/taken** around the Mediterranean on average may be killed/taken **in the EU**



Partnership for nature and people

## **IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [d]**

**NOTE THAT BIRDLIFE RESEARCHERS COMPILED FACTSHEETS FOR EACH COUNTRY. THESE CONTAIN:** the principal legislation involved, regulatory authority; species protected, numbers of individual species & species permitted to be killed or taken; permitted and prohibited methods of hunting; gaps or inconsistencies in national legislation;

**The datasets were put online so that they could be examined by external experts, including national government experts, NGOs and hunting associations. Feedback was used to revise or confirm data.**

**These factsheets are publically available on the Birdlife Website – data zone/country profiles.**





# IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [e]

- Of the estimated 26.2 million IKB birds p.a. approx. 20 million are passerines- small song birds.
- Several globally Threatened or Near Threatened species are subject to IKB, as well as species in very severe decline in a number of regions or countries.
- The Mediterranean Region accounts for 90% of total IKB in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. 43% (10 million) in EU.
- Dr Jones referred to the importance of the work of NGOs in the field, including national BirdLife partners. She instanced their work in Cyprus and Malta and summarised reports from Croatia, Tunisia, Greece & Lebanon
- Dr Jones outlined many impediments that Birdlife found for the effective combatting of IKB. They included legislative, governance and funding problems. They also included the need for specialisation in the investigative and enforcement areas.



# **IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [f]**

## **Dr JONES HAD 4 “TAKE HOME MESSAGES” FOR PROSECUTORS:**

- **IKB in the Med Region is at a scale that can have real impacts on the conservation status of individual and groups of species and often undermines expensive conservation action taken elsewhere.**
- **Tackling IKB requires action at local, national and international levels and from a range of stakeholders.**
- **What prosecutors see is a tiny fragment of the IKB that is occurring.**
- **Far greater effort and far more resources must be committed to the enforcement of existing legislation.**

**HER MESSAGE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IS THAT IKB IS A  
“SHARED RESPONSIBILITY”**



# IKB IN THE MED REGION

## THE MOTIVES AND METHODS OF IKB IN THE REGION

A SELECTION OF IMAGES FROM PRESENTATIONS IN SEGOVIA  
(AND A COUPLE FROM THE CAIRO MIKT MEETING)

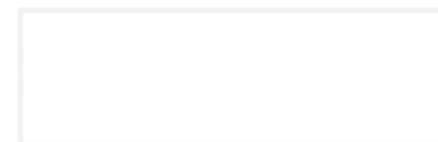
[WE ARE GRATEFUL TO CMS, IMPEL-ESIX, ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES FROM ITALY, SPAIN, CYPRUS, MALTA, EGYPT, LEBANON, RUMANIA & BELGIUM, AND THE NGOs BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL (AND ITS NATIONAL PARTNERS), CABS (THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BIRD SLAUGHTER) AND CARLA CAMPANARO OF THE LAV FOR THE FOLLOWING IMAGES]





# **IKB IN THE MED REGION - MOTIVES FOR IKB SUMMARISED**

- **FOOD** – for subsistence and as a delicacy (cultural factors).
- **SPORT SHOOTING** – including **TOURIST HUNTING** in other countries of the Region which have more birds, lax laws or poor enforcement.
- **CAPTURE OF LIVE BIRDS** – caged birds, aviaries and for live lures.
- **FALCONRY** – in the Middle East and Caucasus, falconry has been traditionally practiced and live birds or eggs are sought.
- **TAXIDERMY** (particularly rarer birds).
- **TRADING** – sale for food, for falconry market and for caged birds
- **PREDATOR/PEST CONTROL** – Raptors, Pigeons, etc.



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - THE FOOD MOTIVE



*Ambelopoulia*



*Ortolans*

**CYPRUS – Ambelopoulia (Blackcaps) – business worth 15 million euros p.a.**  
**FRANCE – Ortolans – 30,000 trapped p.a. and fattened up – up to 150 euros each.**  
**ITALY – Polenta with birds, a traditional dish.**



CABS  
www.komitee.de



polen

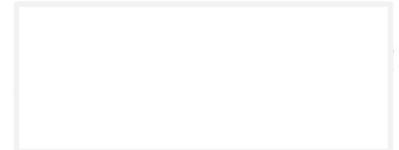
# **IKB IN THE MED REGION - FOOD & SPORT MOTIVE**



**Pipits and Larks – shot by Italian hunters in Romania – sold to Restaurant trade in Italy – partly to defray ammunition costs**



**Offences involved included breaches of hunting and firearms laws and corruption of local officials**





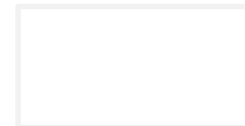
## **IKB IN THE MED. REGION – THE FALCONRY MOTIVE**



**THIS IS NOT A PHOTO OF ILLEGALITY – THESE FALCONS ARE LEGAL, OBVIOUSLY PRIZED, AND ARE KEPT AND TRAVEL IN LUXURY (SOME 80 OF THEM). THE PHOTO IS USED TO SHOW THE IMPORTANCE AND PRESTIGE OF THE SPORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CONSEQUENTLY IT BECOMES A TARGET FOR UNSCRUPULOUS OPERATORS FROM OTHER REGIONS WHO ATTEMPT TO PASS OFF ILLEGALLY SOURCED BIRDS (FOR BREEDING PURPOSES), FROM THE EU, AS LEGAL.**

# IKB IN THE MED REGION – METHODS OF IKB SUMMARISED

- **SHOOTING**
- **MIST-NETTING** – strung between poles within known migration landfall areas. Cheap and very effective.
- **TRAPPING** – many types of traps and snares etc.
- **LURES: ELECTRONIC BIRD CALLERS & LOUDSPEAKERS USE OF LIVE BIRDS** - for trapping/netting/shooting – (live birds are may be tethered or caged, or even mutilated prevent flight).
- **LIME STICKS/ LIME GLUE** – sticks covered with home made adhesive substances which traps perched birds – often a slow death.
- **CITES OFFENDING** – equipment used for CITES (convention) offending.



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (1) - NETTING



EGYPT – MIST NETTING – ON A GRAND SCALE





# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (2) – NETTING & ELECTRONIC LURES



**THE DEADLY MODERN COMBINATION – LARGE CHEAP NETS  
AND ELECTRONIC BIRD CALLERS**





## **IKB IN THE MED REGION**

### **– COMMENT ON THE LAST TWO SLIDES**

**They illustrate an important point – how “tradition” interfaces with the modern world. Traditionally, for hundreds of years, fishermen on the Mediterranean Coast of Egypt became bird trappers at the time of the “autumn” migration. They sold their captives, mainly dead - for food in the local markets. The birds, with numbers newly boosted by the current year’s juveniles, seek rest and food, after flying south over the Mediterranean. Previously, they were caught in relatively small nets, made by the fishermen themselves, which were placed over shrubs or stonework.**

**Today, kilometres of cheap, Chinese-made, nets are strung along the coastline and the calls of their own species, from loudspeakers projecting electronically recorded calls, lures them to their death – ON A SCALE NEVER PREVIOUSLY SEEN - AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE.**

**THE MOTIVE MAY BE TRADITIONAL, THE METHODS ARE NOT.**



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (3) – NETTING & SHOOTING

## THE MIDDLE EAST



SHOOTING OF SOARING BIRDS - STORKS 

NETTING - THOUSANDS OF SMALL SONG BIRDS FOR SALE 



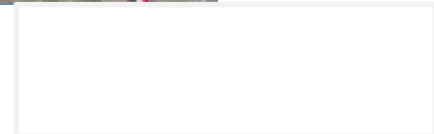


# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (4) - SHOOTING

## SHOOTING HIDES/PLATFORMS – TOP LEGAL, BOTTOM TWO ILLEGAL



Many shooting hides or platforms are legally erected and can be used for legal hunting. They can, like the one shown here, on the left, also be used illegally e.g. out of season and/or for prohibited species. This Tuscan platform was used to kill two “endangered” migrating Bald Ibises. Ibises, reared in Austria with private charitable and EU financial help.





# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (5) – LIVE LURES & TRAPS



ABOVE – live lures

(Goldfinches)

ABOVE RIGHT – Bow traps

(Robin)

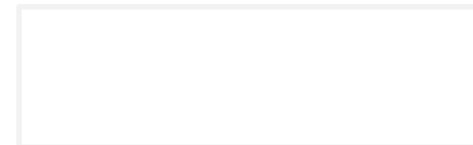
BOTTOM RIGHT – Spring

Traps (Robin)

ITALY 2017 – Op Robin

301 Spring Traps & 252

Bow Traps seized.



# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (6) – LIVE LURES AND MASKS



Live decoys are used to attract wild birds



Masks are regularly encountered

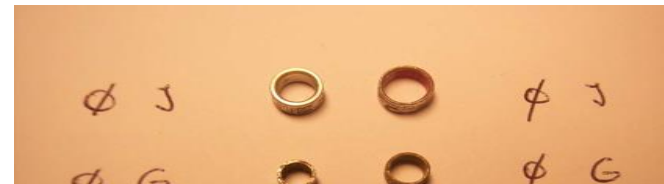




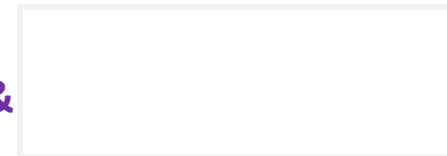
# IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (7) – GLUE STICKS & CITES OFFENCES KIT



ABOVE (MALTA) - two victims of Lime Sticks – female Blackcap & Whitethroat





ABOVE – equipment used for CITES offending - false rings & ringing kit to pretend birds aviary bred

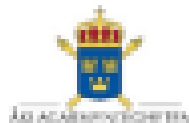




# END OF PART 1

 The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018-2020. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.





EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
LE FORUMUM JUCES POLIE I ENVIRONMENT



With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community