



GLOBAL FLYWAYS SUMMIT, APRIL 23-26 2018

Zero tolerance of the illegal killing/hunting and taking of migratory birds

The illegal killing/hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB)¹ is a globally significant conservation issue and increasingly a priority on the national and international agendas. In the Mediterranean basin alone an estimated 11-36 million migratory birds are killed every year. IKB is strongly embedded in the cultural and socio-economic context and addressing it therefore calls for, in addition to strong legislation and enforcement, a change in the attitudes of people towards migratory birds and nature. To put an end to IKB requires long-term collaboration of a wide range of stakeholders from governments to intergovernmental agreements, hunting organisations, conservation NGOs and donors.

The IKB session at the Flyways Summit synthesised our current understanding of the scale and scope of IKB in each global migratory flyway, and explored successful approaches to end IKB. By bringing together key stakeholders, we built upon and further developed committed alliances for the delivery of priority actions to stop IKB in each of the major flyways.

The session was attended by over 75 delegates and identified the following actions as being **overall priorities** for addressing the illegal killing/hunting of migratory birds:

- Ensure global level understanding of the scope and scale of IKB. Prioritise **situation analyses** in Central and South-east Asia and in Sub-Saharan Africa to complement those already undertaken by BirdLife for the Mediterranean, rest of Europe and Middle East.
- Increase focus on supporting a lasting **change of attitude** towards greater respect for migratory birds and nature in general. In building communication strategies, combine science and compassion-based approaches, involving emotive visuals, whilst taking into account cultural contexts. Prioritise engagement with young people and families.



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¹ There are regional differences in the agreed terminology, in English, for the problem of the illegal removal of birds from the wild; in Europe and the Mediterranean, the agreed term is "illegal killing and taking" to avoid confusion with legitimate hunting practices whereas in Asia-Australasia, the agreed term is "illegal hunting and taking" due to cultural sensitivities.

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- Strengthen **engagement** with hunters to champion conservation and zero-tolerance of illegal activities.
- Advocate for governmental commitment to address IKB through **National Action Plans** which should foster collaboration between civil society and governments, including in terms of capacity building, exchange of expertise and communication.
- Support the continued facilitation, with stronger policy and funding mechanisms, of national and international implementation via **intergovernmental Task Forces**, learning from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and Bern Convention Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (for Europe and North Africa), including the use of a **scoreboard** to assess national progress. Prioritise formation of a task force in Asia under CMS and the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). Stimulate conservation action planning in Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq.
- A **zero tolerance** approach to IKB should be retained or introduced worldwide, with **clarity on definitions** of legal/illegal activities.

Building on the examples presented in the plenary and the breakout discussions, the following theme-specific priority actions were identified:

A. Changing hearts and minds

1. Seek input from **behavioral sciences** in developing attitude-change strategies adapted to local context and audiences.
2. Increase focus on emotion and maximise science-based evidence in **narratives that combine emotion, science and follow-up action**.
3. Ensure clear legal frameworks for conservation are in place allowing for successful engagement with **local communities**. Use participatory and culturally sensitive approaches and identify and support alternative livelihoods where relevant. Involve community leaders (religious, cultural etc.) and identify and support local IKB champions within communities
4. Stimulate **young people** to connect to nature by embedding environmental education programmes into official school curricula, setting up of youth conservation forums to foster active involvement, and engage with families as a win-win long-term investment.

B. Reducing IKB in the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Iran

1. Important that data and results of **IKB review** are shared to improve understanding of the scale of IKB in the region. The first review is an important starting point but **improvement in**

data is needed for future editions.

2. There is **no single solution to IKB** in the region so different approaches and resources are needed, adapted to the national/local conditions, but where possible **improving collaboration/coordination** nationally, regionally and internationally, including for:
 - **Education and awareness** to improve recognition of IKB as a problem for bird populations, amongst Government and practitioners and via cultural and religious leaders, the school curriculum and movie spots (especially for the younger generation),
 - **Regulations and enforcement** which need to be reviewed and strengthened where necessary at least to bring them into line with international commitments (licensing and permissions vary between countries) and communicated with the public.
 - Understanding the **socioeconomic dimensions** to IKB, including the movements of hunters between countries.
 - Engaging with **hunters, including falconers** especially via existing clubs (or through prompting the establishment of associations), to build trust, recognise responsible hunters and encourage their role in stopping IKB.
 - **Protected areas (safe havens, refuges)** designation and management locally for responsible hunting, linked to livelihoods.
 - **Developing capacity** of relevant authorities and **exert pressure** as necessary (political and emotional) but not confrontational.
 - Developing more systematic **monitoring** protocols, building on existing schemes with appropriate capacity development, including using social media photo detection, alerts/reports and other intelligence to hotlines (e.g. WhatsApp groups), focused on blackspots and encouraging legitimate hunters also to report transgressions.

C. African – Eurasian Flyway: Med, Africa & Central Asia

1. **IKB in African Eurasian Flyway – Tunis Action Plan/MIKT**
 - Tackling IKB should be presented as a conservation concern **of relevance for the whole flyway** (due to connectivity along the flyway).
 - **Mobilize political will/resources/funding** to fully implement the Tunis Action Plan and MIKT programme of work and potential projects contributing to it.
 - Promote development of **National Action Plans** on IKB,

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building on good examples (e.g. Italy), including through highlighting incentives for their development (both “negative” like infringement procedures, and “positives” like fulfilling international obligations) and coordinated where possible with CBD and other relevant processes (e.g. subchapter in national biodiversity strategies and action plans of CBD or African Union).

- Encourage collaboration via projects and capacity building sessions between governments and existing **flyway network partnerships**, like the **Mediterranean Waterbirds network’s** projects on illegal killing in North Africa.
- Need for joined up approach between civil society and governments (example through **national stakeholder workshops**) on **monitoring and law enforcement**, including capacity building of law enforcement officers.

2. Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia

- **IKB reviews in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia** would help ‘complete’ our understanding of the scale and scope of IKB at the level of the African–Eurasian Flyway and would be the first such flyway-scale review. It is advised to split the work in geographic units of manageable size (for example Sahel, Southern Africa). The Sub-Saharan IKB review should also include intra African migratory birds.
- Reviews to build on **multiple inputs** such as waterbird census, AEWA African Action Plan, CMS Raptors Memorandum of Understanding, IUCN work on bushmeat, CMS work on terrestrial and aquatic wild meat, BirdLife’s work as well as ongoing projects (e.g. in West Africa).
- Review process must **include all stakeholders from the start**, especially governments, taking steps to ensure **national capacity** is available to input.
- The review process should encourage governments to use the **IKB scoreboard** approach.

3. IKB in African Eurasian Flyway – post 2020

- Promote the use of the MIKT/Bern Convention **IKB scoreboard** in a post 2020 context, broadening the scope from the Mediterranean and Europe to other parts of the flyway, from a regional to global perspective; problems and solutions in one part of the flyway will have an effect on other parts of the flyway. Level of ambition must be high but with realistic time frames for implementation.
- **Coordinated effort is needed between CMS/CITES/Bern Convention/CBD** and other relevant instruments, including the relevant national focal points and national action plans, ensuring that IKB chapters are included in CBD national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

D. East Asian – Australasian Flyway

1. There should be a **single task force to address the issue of illegal hunting/ taking/ trade in the East Asian Australasian flyway** to which both CMS and EAAFP and their parties/partners would contribute through their respective mandates, with EAAFP covering waterbird relevant elements only.
2. CMS, EAAFP, and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council and BirdLife are committed to driving this process forward including through establishment of an **interim steering group**, involving a few key governments and BirdLife, to oversee the process of establishing the task force and help guide any situation analysis work that precedes full task force establishment.
3. BirdLife should lead the **situation analysis** as per the CMS COP12 mandate and consult IUCN ASAP, TRAFFIC and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.



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