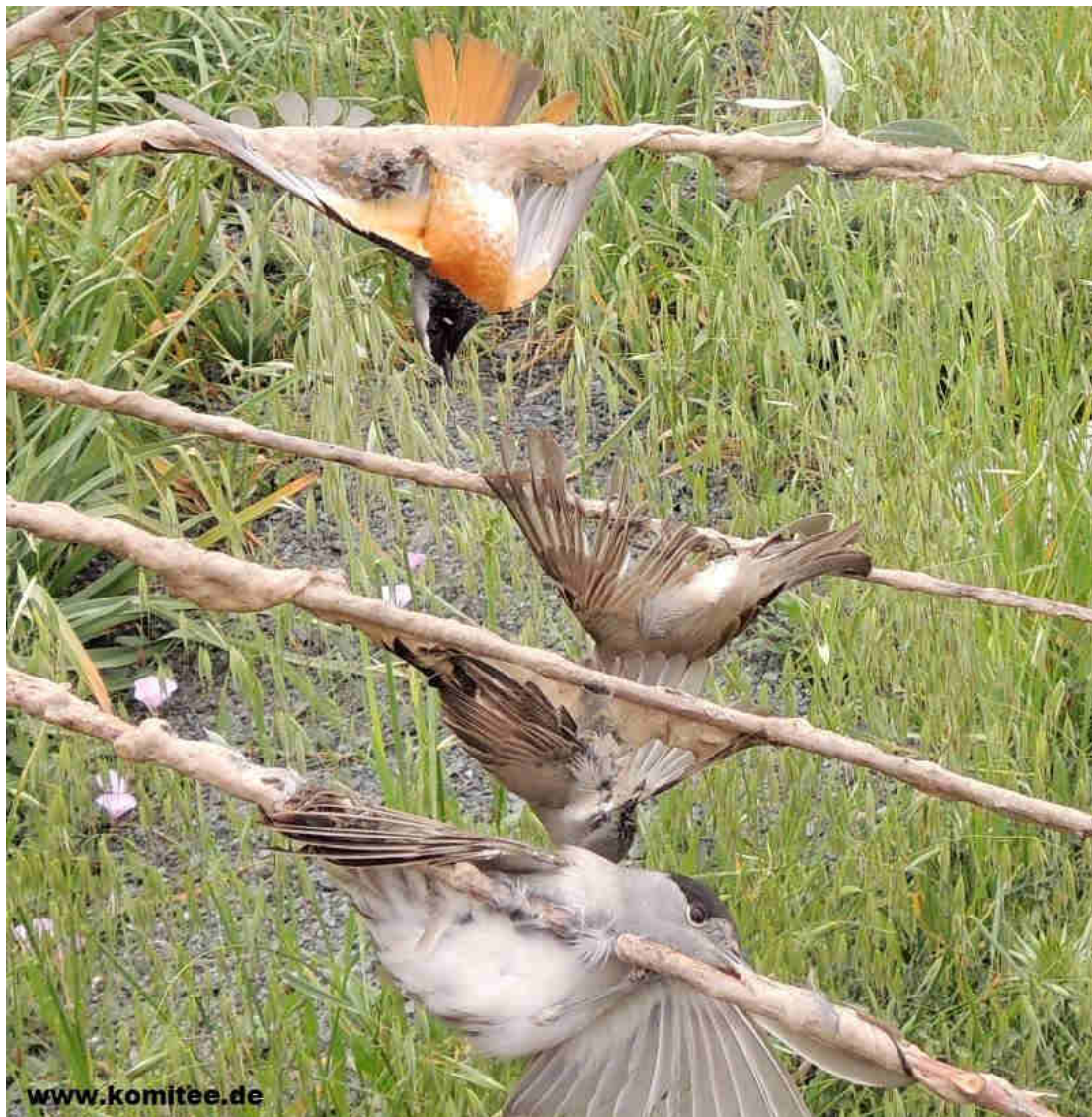




**Committee Against
Bird Slaughter - CABS**
Komitee gegen den Vogelmord e.V.

Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt®
Foundation Pro Biodiversity®

Field Report:
**SPRING 2017 BIRD PROTECTION CAMP
CYPRUS**
(25th March – 7th May 2017)



Bonn/Bielefeld, Germany: August 2017

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Photo on the cover:

Birds caught in limesticks at the trapping site found during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp (Photo: CABS)

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SUMMARY

In March, April and May 2017, the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) and the Foundation Pro Biodiversity (SPA – Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt) conducted their 10th Spring Bird Protection Camp (BPC) in Cyprus. The Camp took place from 25th March – 7th May 2017.

Twelve activists from 6 different countries participated at the Camp and monitored bird trapping activity in the south-eastern part of the island: Famagusta and Larnaca Districts within Republic of Cyprus and the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA), the British Overseas Territory in Cyprus. During the Camp, 282 known trapping sites were investigated and 62 (22.0 %) of them were found to be active. The percentage of active trapping sites was the second lowest ever recorded and 6.1 percent lower than in the previous spring, when 28.1 % of all investigated sites were found to be active. The majority of all detected active sites (56) were found in Famagusta District.

In total, 1834 limesticks, 19 mist nets and 10 electronic bird callers were seized during the Camp. The number of seized limesticks was similar to the previous spring while the number of seized nets was lower than in spring 2016. In total, 430 wild protected birds belonging to 25 different species were found trapped or killed during the Camp. 97 birds were rescued from traps, 5 birds from aviaries, 29 birds were found dead in the traps and 310 dead birds were seized by enforcement officers during investigations.

During the Camp we cooperated with police officers from the Republic of Cyprus Police, Sovereign Base Area (SBA) Police and with game wardens from Game and Fauna Service (GFS). We reported 32 active trapping sites to them and they investigated 14 of them (38.9 %). **Enforcement officers caught and prosecuted trappers at only 6 sites reported by our teams.** The percentage of investigated trapping sites was the lowest ever recorded at Spring BPCs and the number of prosecutions was the lowest since 2012.

1 INTRODUCTION

Cyprus lies on one of the key migratory routes that birds use during their journey between Europe and Africa, with around 100 million birds visiting the island every spring and autumn (Lederer 2016). Cyprus is also an important wintering place for birds which migrate to Cyprus to avoid harsh winter conditions in Europe.

Cyprus is one of the main hotspots of illegal bird killing in the Mediterranean. It is estimated that more than 2 million migrating birds get caught and killed in illegal traps every year in Cyprus (Brochet et al. 2016). Trapping has affected a total of 153 recorded wild bird species, of which 78 are threatened and listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive or listed in one of SPEC (Species of European Conservation Concern) categories (Birdlife Cyprus 2016).

CABS and SPA organise Bird Protection Camps in Cyprus three times per year; in spring, autumn and winter seasons, to prevent illegal, non-selective and large-scale trapping, killing and trade of migratory birds passing through Cyprus. During the Camps our volunteers monitor bird trapping activity in the field and report active trapping sites to the competent authorities for immediate intervention.

This spring, the 10th successive Spring Bird Protection Camp was organised by CABS and SPA in Cyprus. It took place from 25th March until 7th May 2017.



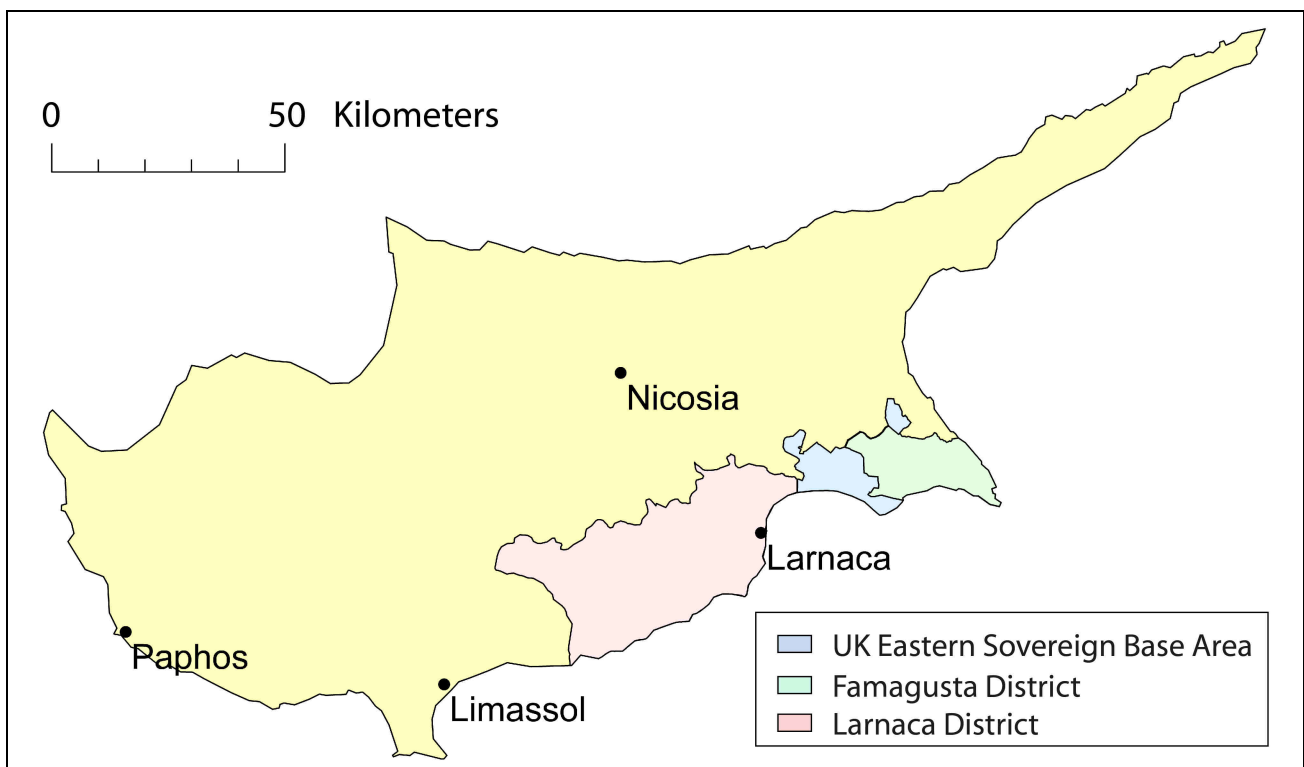
Picture 1: Bag with bird feathers found at one of the trapping sites investigated during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp (Photo: CABS)

2 WORKING METHODS

A total of 12 activists from Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain and Slovenia participated in the Camp. Participants searched for active trapping sites in the field and reported them to enforcement agencies for immediate action against trapping.

Trapping sites that are considered active are those with set traps (either limesticks or mist nets), as well as those with no traps at the moment of visit but with signs of recent trapping activity. Feathers on the ground at trapping locations or pieces of glue on branches indicate that a location was recently active. Furthermore, trapping sites with electronic bird callers playing at them, even if there are no traps set out at the time of visiting, are counted as active. These callers are sometimes used solely in the night to attract birds to the trapping site and the trappers set their traps at them in the early morning.

Due to the small number of participants, field investigations were limited to the main trapping hotspots in Cyprus: Famagusta District, Larnaca District and the British Overseas Territory on Cyprus, the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) (Picture 2).



Picture 2: Cyprus and the areas monitored during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

3 RESULTS OF THE BIRD PROTECTION CAMP

3.1 TRAPPING ACTIVITY

3.1.1 MONITORING OF TRAPPING ACTIVITY

In Spring 2017 CABS and SPA organised the longest ever Spring Camp, lasting for 44 days in total. The long duration of the Camp allowed us to cover most of the spring trapping season, which is considered to last for approximately 60 days from mid-March to mid-May.

Our teams checked 282 trapping sites during the Camp. Most of the field investigations were conducted in Famagusta District, where we checked 259 out of 282 sites. According to our previous observations, pre-nuptial bird migration is particularly high in this district and consequently trapping is concentrated in this area during spring.

Of the 282 sites checked, 62 were found active, either with set traps or with signs of recent trapping, such as feathers on the ground. Most of them, 56, were found in Famagusta District (Table 1, Figure 1, Picture 3).

Table 1: Results of monitoring of trapping activity during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp. ESBA = Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

	Famagusta District	Larnaca District	ESBA	All
No. of sites checked	259	19	4	282
No. of active trapping sites found	56	3	3	62
Percentage of active sites found	90.2 %	4.9 %	4.9 %	100.0 %

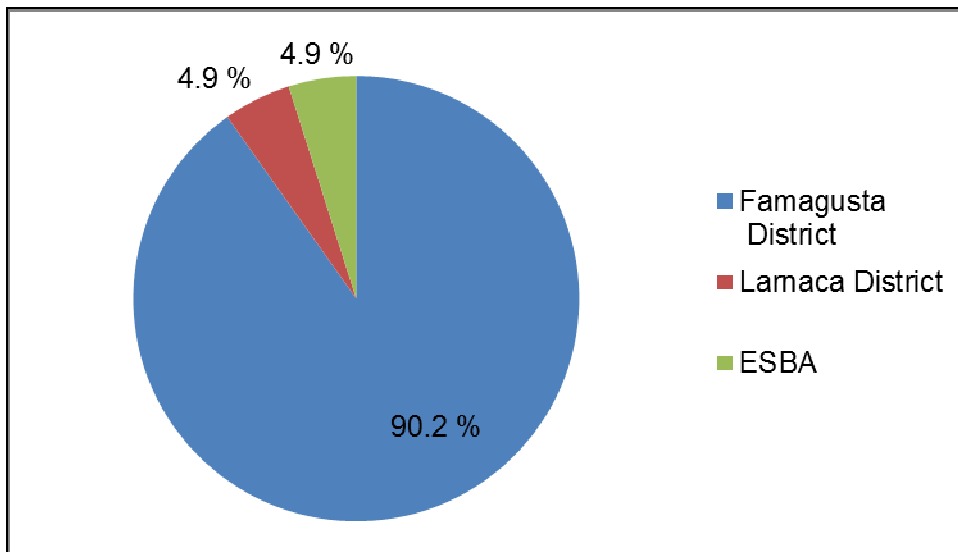
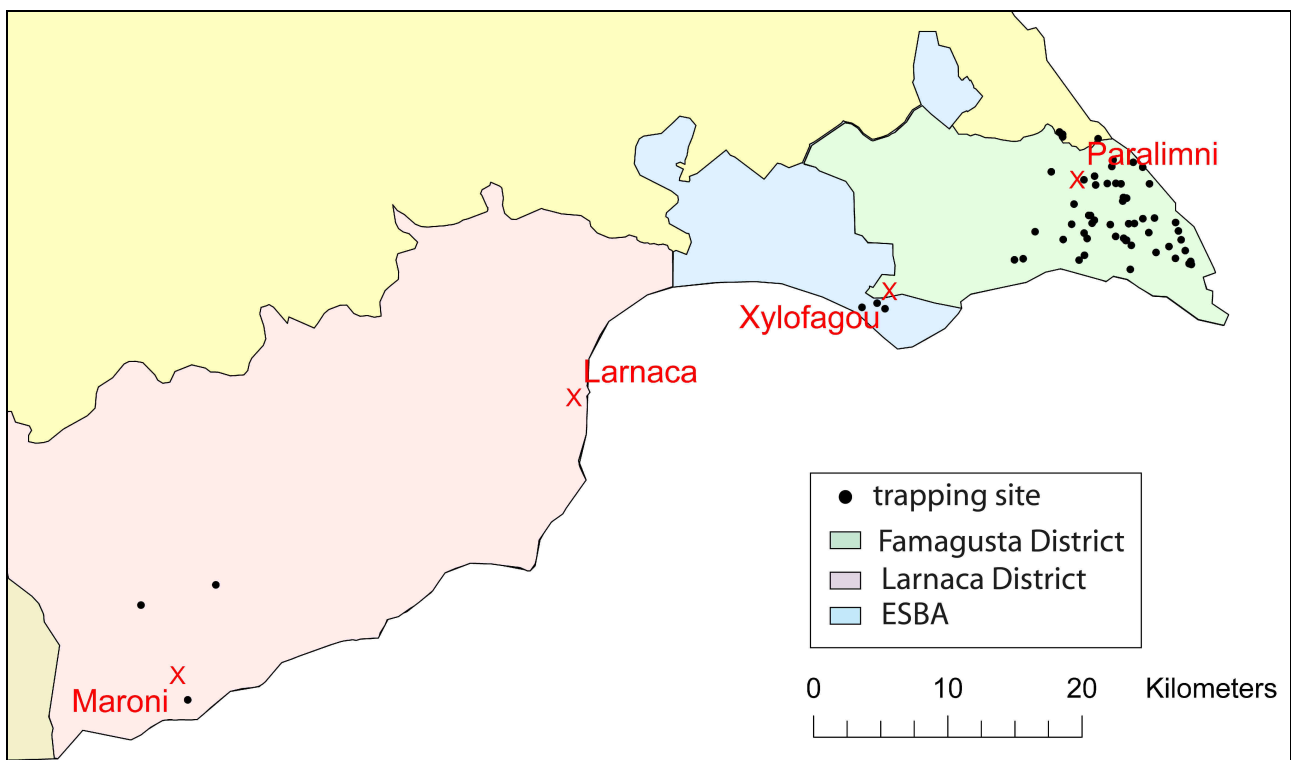


Figure 1: Percentages of trapping sites found to be active during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp per regions. ESBA = Eastern Sovereign Base Area.



Picture 3: Distribution of trapping sites found to be active during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp. ESBA = Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

At the 62 sites found to be active during the Camp, trapping activity was detected 108 times, meaning that on average each site was found active 1.7 times. Table 2 presents the number of detections of trapping activity at active sites for each week of the Camp. The highest number of active trapping sites detected per volunteer was recorded at the beginning of the Camp, with a successive decrease, following the fluctuation of the migration, but without reaching the initial figure. This can be explained by the lack of

enforcement actions against trapping outside the BPCs. In spring 2016 we observed that the Game and Fauna Service was not making any efforts in prosecuting trappers in the Famagusta area (Debersek 2017).

Table 2: Trapping activity over the duration of the Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

	25th-31st March	1st-7th April	8th-14th April	15th-21th April	22nd-28th April	29th April -7th May
No. of active sites found	16	14	19	17	19	24
No. of volunteers monitoring trapping activity	2	3	5.6	4	4.6	6
No. of active sites found per volunteer per day	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4

3.1.2 COMPARISON OF TRAPPING ACTIVITY DETECTED AT SPRING BIRD PROTECTION CAMPS BETWEEN 2011 AND 2017

As we check different number of trapping sites every year at the Spring Bird Protection Camp, we cannot use the number of found active sites to compare trapping activity between different years. To compare it, the percentage between all active sites and all checked trapping sites is the most appropriate measure.

This spring the percentage of trapping sites found active during field investigations was 22.0 %. This is the second lowest percentage of detected active sites recorded at Spring Bird Protection Camps between 2011 and 2017 (Table 3, Figure 2). With exception of the year 2015, this percentage is steadily decreasing and it indicates that spring trapping activity in south-eastern Cyprus has considerably declined in the period 2011-2017.

Table 3: Comparison of trapping activity recorded at Spring Bird Protection Camps between 2011 and 2017

Spring Bird Protection Camp	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Duration of Bird Protection Camp (days)	13	25	27	23	29	43	44
No. of sites checked	122	238	267	311	249	395	282
No. of active trapping sites found	78	120	111	102	51	111	62
Percentage of active trapping sites	63.9	50.4	41.6	32.8	20.5	28.1	22.0

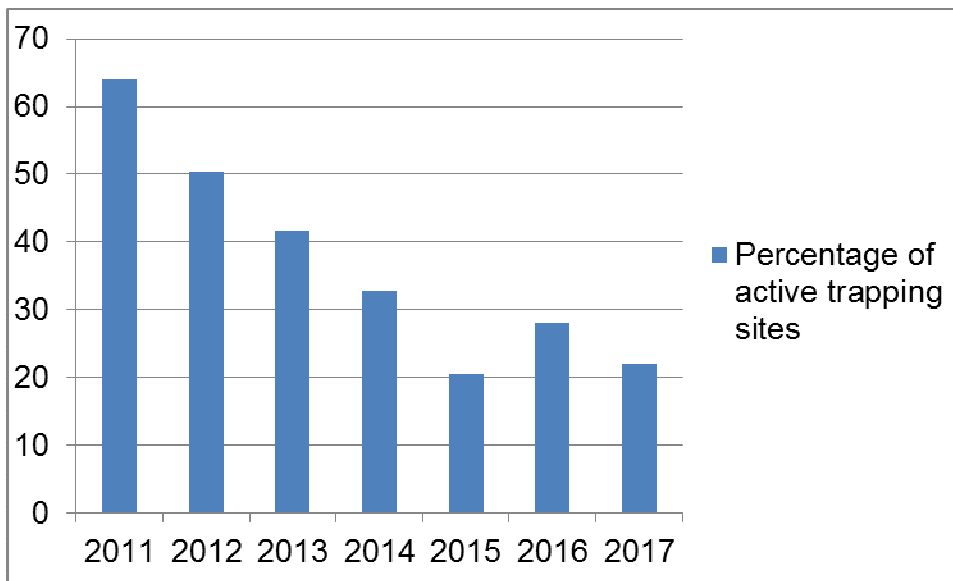


Figure 2: Percentage of active trapping sites recorded at Spring Bird Protection Camps in the last seven years

3.1.3 ACTIVITY OF TRAPPING SITES WITH PREVIOUS PROSECUTIONS

During field investigations we regularly find trapping activity at the same sites where trappers were caught and prosecuted in the past. This spring we checked 38 trapping sites with previous prosecutions and 9 of them were found to be active again (Table 4).

Table 4: Activity of the trapping sites with previous prosecutions checked during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

No. of sites with previous prosecutions checked	38
No. of reactivated prosecuted sites	9
Percentage of reactivated prosecuted sites	23.7

The percentage of reactivated prosecuted trapping sites this spring was higher than it was in the previous two Spring Bird Protection Camps (Table 5). Nevertheless, this percentage is much lower than that routinely recorded during Autumn Bird protection Camps in Cyprus. For example, in autumn 2016 the percentage of reactivated prosecuted sites was 57.1 (Debersek and Rutigliano 2016d). The reason for this discrepancy is the difference between the nature of trapping in spring and autumn trapping seasons. In spring, trapping is less intensive and more amateur-like. Trappers mostly use limesticks and catch birds for their own consumption. In autumn, trapping is more intensive and many trappers trap for profit. As these profits can be very high, they can easily compensate the fines received when they are caught and prosecuted for trapping and hence they continue with this illegal activity, even reusing sites that have been visited by enforcement officers before.

Table 5: Comparison of activity of the trapping sites with previous prosecutions checked during Spring Bird Protection Camps 2015-2017

Spring Bird Protection Camp	2015	2016	2017
No. of sites with previous prosecutions checked	37	65	38
No. of reactivated prosecuted sites	7	14	9
Percentage of reactivated prosecuted sites	18.9	21.5	23.7

3.2 SEIZED TRAPPING PARAPHERNALIA

During the Camp, 62 trapping sites were found to be active. At 54 active sites set traps were found and on the remaining 8 sites signs of recent trapping activity were observed.

Altogether, 1932 limesticks and 19 nets were observed at those sites. Electronic callers were used to attract birds in 9 cases. Volunteers and enforcement officers removed 1835 limesticks and 19 nets from the investigated sites (Table 6).

Table 6: Trapping paraphernalia found during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

No. of all active sites found	62
No. of active sites with set traps found on them	54
Trapping with limesticks	
No. of sites found with set limesticks	49
No. of sites using electronic callers	6
No. of found limesticks	1932
No. of seized limesticks	1835
Average number of limesticks used per site	39.4
Trapping with nets	
No. of sites found with set nets	5
No. of sites using electronic callers	3
No. of found nets	19
No. of seized nets	19
Average number of nets used per site	3.8

The number of seized limesticks this spring was the third lowest and the number of seized nets was the lowest at Spring Bird Protection Camps since 2011 (Table 7, Figure 3).

Table 7: Comparison of seized paraphernalia during Spring Protection Camps 2011-2017

Spring Bird Protection Camp	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Duration of BPC	13	25	27	23	29	43	44
No. of limesticks	3892	5461	3371	2256	1470	1828	1835
No. of mist nets	33	20	32	27	25	50	19
No. of electronic bird callers	12	17	16	10	10	13	9

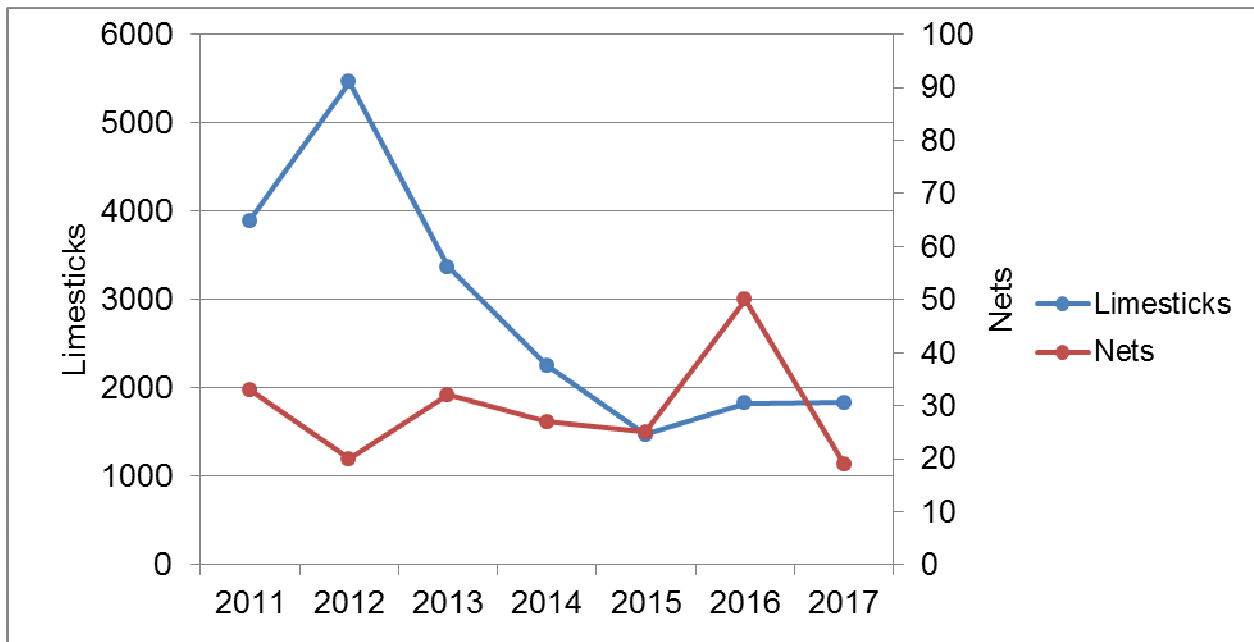


Figure 3: Seized limesticks and mist nets during Spring Bird Protection Camps 2011-2017

3.3 BIRDS FOUND IN TRAPS, AVIARIES AND IN THE POSSESSION OF TRAPPERS

In total, 430 birds belonging to 25 different species were either rescued from traps and aviaries or found dead in traps and in the possession of trappers during the Camp (Table 8).

Table 8: Birds found trapped, illegally kept or killed during Spring Bird Protection Camp 2017

		No. of birds rescued from traps	No. of birds rescued from aviaries	No. of birds found dead in traps	No. of birds found dead in possession of trappers
1	Lesser whitethroat	23		3	
2	Blackcap	21		1	
3	Common Nightingale	4		2	
4	Willow warbler	2			
5	Robin	1		1	
7	Masked shrike	1			
8	Woodchat shrike	1			
9	Eastern Bonelli's warbler	1			
10	Wheatear	1			
11	Tree pipit	1			
12	House sparrow	1			
13	Garden warbler	1			
14	Song thrush		3		
15	Wood pigeon		1		
16	Wryneck			5	
17	Common Redstart			2	
18	Golden oriole			2	
19	Spectacled warbler			2	
20	Pied flycatcher			1	
21	Scops Owl			1	
22	Hoopoe			1	
23	Cretzschmar's bunting			1	
24	Chiffchaff			1	
25	Whinchat			1	
	Unidentified	39		5	310
	Total	97	4	29	310



Picture 4: Masked Shrike rescued from a limestick during the Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp (Photo: CABS)

4 RESULTS OF COOPERATION WITH ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

4.1 OVERALL RESULTS

During the Camp we cooperated with the Anti-Poaching Squad (APS) and local police officers from the Republic of Cyprus Police; police officers from Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) Police; and with game wardens from the Game and Fauna Service. Altogether we reported 32 active trapping sites to them and they have investigated 14 of them. Six investigations ended with catching and prosecuting individuals involved in illegal bird trapping (Table 9).

In total, only 43.8 % of reported sites were investigated by enforcement officers this spring. This is much less as previous spring, when this percentage was 74.2 % (Table 10). Number of prosecutions made for the reported sites this spring is the lowest ever recorded at Spring Bird Protection Camps between 2012 and 2017 (Figure 4).

Table 9: Overall results of cooperation with enforcement agencies during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp. APS = Anti-Poaching Squad; SBA = Sovereign Base Areas

	Cyprus Police APS	Game wardens	Cyprus Police on-duty officers	SBA Police on-duty officers	All agencies
No. of reported sites	15	8	5	4	32
No. of investigated sites	5	1	4	4	14
Percentage of investigated sites (%)	33.3	12.5	80.0	100.0	43.8
Prosecutions	4	1	0	1	6

Table 10: Comparison of enforcement results at Spring Bird Protection Camps 2016 and 2017

Spring Bird Protection Camp	2016	2017
No. of reported sites	31	32
No. of investigated sites	23	14
Percentage of investigated sites (%)	74.2	43.8
Prosecutions made at investigated sites	13	6

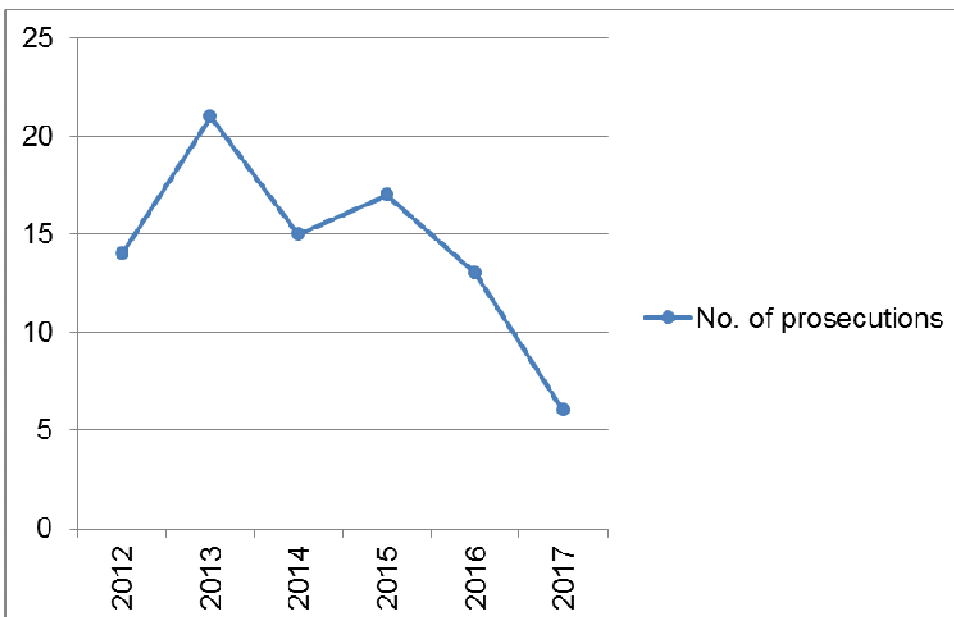


Figure 4: Number of prosecutions for illegal bird trapping made at Spring Bird Protection Camps between 2012 and 2017

4.2 COOPERATION WITH ANTI-POACHING SQUAD (APS) FROM CYPRUS POLICE

We arranged 12 joint operations with APS officers before the start of the Spring Camp. Cooperation started well and until 10th April we conducted 3 joint operations with good results. APS officers caught and prosecuted 4 trappers reported by us.

Around that date the APS leadership changed hands and that had a significant impact on the cooperation between CABS and SPA teams and APS officers. From 10th to 19th April we conducted 6 joint operations and reported 8 active trapping sites to the APS officers. None of the reported sites were investigated. To make the Cyprus Police Headquarters aware of this lack of cooperation, we decided to cancel the joint operations with APS in May 2017 (Annex 1).

Table 11: Detailed results of the joint CABS, SPA and Anti-Poaching Squad (APS) operations during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp.

Monitoring of trapping sites	
No. of days working together with APS	9
No. of active trapping sites reported by CABS and SPA members	15
No. of active trapping sites investigated by APS	5
No. of sites with prosecution of trappers	4
No. of sites with confiscation of trapping paraphernalia only	0
No. of sites where nothing was found by APS	1
No. of sites without investigation	10
No. of cases with investigation of premises	4
Seized trapping paraphernalia	
Limesticks	275
Mist nets	0
Electronic bird callers	1

4.3 COOPERATION WITH GAME WARDENS

During the Camp we reported to the game wardens from Game and Fauna Service (GFS) 3 trapping sites and 5 sites where protected wild birds were kept in aviaries. The response from the wardens was disappointing. They investigated only 1 out of 8 reported sites (Table 12). Even if we always contacted their field patrol unit, which was already patrolling the area for illegal activities, they were always busy with other work at the time of our call and were unable to investigate reported sites.

This is not the first season in which we have observed a lack of response from game wardens for reported trapping cases. Considering the low number of prosecutions for bird trapping game wardens made in 2016 (Debersek 2017), we had expected more interest in cooperation, but this was not the case either in this season.

Table 12: Detailed results of game wardens investigations of reported sites during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp.

Monitoring of trapping sites	
No. of active trapping sites and sites with illegally kept bird in aviaries reported by CABS and SPA teams	8
No. of trapping sites visited by game wardens	1
No. of sites with prosecution of trappers	1
No. of sites with confiscation of trapping paraphernalia only	0
No. of sites without investigation	0
No. of cases with investigation of premises	0
Seized trapping paraphernalia	
Limesticks	48
Mist nets	0
Electronic bird callers	0

4.4 COOPERATION WITH LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS FROM CYPRUS POLICE

During the Camp we reported 5 active trapping sites to the police officers on duty at Ayia Napa and Paralimni police stations. The results of their investigations are presented in Table 13.

Local police officers did not make any prosecutions at the reported sites, they only confiscated traps, also in well fenced-in sites, where the owner could unequivocally be held liable for the possession and use of traps.

Table 13: Detailed results of the investigations made by local police officers from Cyprus Police during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

Monitoring of trapping sites	
No. of active trapping sites reported by CABS and SPA teams	5
No. of trapping sites visited by on-duty police officers	4
No. of sites with prosecution of trappers	0
No. of sites with confiscation of trapping paraphernalia only	3
No. of sites without investigation	1
No. of cases with investigation of premises	0
Seized trapping paraphernalia	
Limesticks	96
Mist nets	0
Electronic bird callers	0

4.5 COOPERATION WITH SBA POLICE

This spring we didn't arrange joint operations with the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) from SBA Police as we did in previous years. We have learned from experience that spring trapping in the ESBA occurs rarely and sporadically. In accordance with this, we decided to make field investigations independently and report detected trapping activity to the SBA Police officers that were on duty at that time. The results of cooperation with SBA Police officers are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Detailed results of the investigations made by Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) police officers during Spring 2017 Bird Protection Camp

Monitoring of trapping sites	
No. of active trapping sites reported by CABS & SPA teams	4
No. of active trapping sites visited by SBA Police	4
No. of sites with prosecution of trappers	1
No. of sites with confiscation of trapping paraphernalia only	3
No. of sites where nothing was found by APU	0
No. of sites without investigation	0
No. of cases with investigation of premises	0
Seized trapping paraphernalia	
Limesticks	0
Mist nets	17
Electronic bird callers	4

5 CONCLUSIONS

Spring bird trapping has been declining over the last 7 years in south-eastern Cyprus according to the data gathered by CABS and SPA members. This decrease was steady between 2011 and 2015, when the APS was conducting bird trapping field investigations both in the day and night time and for most of the spring season in Famagusta district. In spring 2016 a change of work schedule for the APS resulted in fewer field investigations made by APS officers, causing a reversal in the trend (Figure 2, page 11). Luckily the presence of CABS and SPA managed to keep the pressure on trappers and in 2017 this trend has taken again a slow downward direction. Nevertheless, 62 active trapping sites were found during field investigations, restricted to a small part of Cyprus. Almost all investigations were conducted in Famagusta District within the Republic of Cyprus. Therefore we can reason that there were, in fact, few hundred trapping sites active across the whole of Cyprus this spring.

Illegal bird killing in spring has a big impact on bird populations, as every bird that is killed during spring migration usually results in one fewer breeding pair in Europe. It also affects a wide range of species. This is evident from the results from the Spring Camp as we found 25 different bird species in the traps or in the possession of poachers.

Despite the big impact of spring trapping, the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and UK SBAs are not taking this issue seriously and are not implementing the Laws for the Protection of Wild Birds. In the previous spring game wardens made only 1 prosecution for illegal bird trapping (GFS, written communication), APS officers made 10 prosecutions, Cyprus Police local officers made 2 prosecutions and SBA Police officers made 1 prosecution. All prosecutions but the one made by the GFS were initiated by our members during Spring Bird Protection Camp 2016 (Debersek and Rutigliano 2016c): without our interventions all enforcement agencies in the Republic of Cyprus would have achieved only 1 prosecution on their own.

The lack of pro-active law enforcement against trapping was evident again during this spring. The highest number of active trapping sites detected at the beginning of the Spring Camp, followed by a decrease as soon as trappers noticed our presence in the field, can only mean that trappers felt undisturbed until the start of the Spring Camp.

The cooperation with law enforcement units this spring was the worst in the last several years. With fewer joint operations carried out together with enforcement officers than in previous years and with fewer hours of cooperation per day, we had the chance to report only 32 out of the 62 detected active trapping sites. Moreover, the officers investigated only 14 out of 32 cases (43.8 %) reported by our members.

Especially disappointing was the cooperation with game wardens and APS officers as they investigated only 1 out of 8 and 5 out of 15 reported cases respectively. The overall low

number of prosecutions made for reported cases is also worrying. All together only 6 prosecutions for bird trapping were made during the Spring Camp and this is much less than previous spring, when 13 prosecutions were made (Debersek and Rutigliano 2016c).

The lack of cooperation with the APS is a matter of major concern, since these joint operations were the main tool against rampant bird trapping in previous years. Since the end of the Camp we have started an open dialogue (Annex 2 and 3) with the Minister of Justice and Public Order and the Cyprus police Headquarters in order to again establish a minimum standard of professionalism and a proficient modus operandi which does not allow any step back in the results achieved by the APS.

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ANNEX 1: Letter of cancellation of CABS/SPA cooperation with the Anti-Poaching Squad of Cyprus Police

ANNEX 2: Reply from the Cyprus Ministry of Justice regarding the cancellation of cooperation

ANNEX 3: CABS/SPA reply to the Cyprus Ministry of Justice

1 ANNEX 1



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Τρίτη, 02 Μαΐου 2017

Αγαπητέ κ. Νικολάου,

Δυστυχώς σας γράφουμε κατά τη διάρκεια των κοινών μας επιχειρήσεων με την του Ουλαμό Πάταξης της Λαθροθηρίας της Κυπριακής Αστυνομίας για να σας εκθέσουμε ακόμα μια καταγγελία, αλλά μετά από 2 εβδομάδες δυσκολιών και χωρίς βελτίωση της κατάστασης, αναγκάζομαστε να ζητήσουμε τη βοήθειά σας για να βρούμε μια λύση σχετικά με για μια απόφαση που μπορεί να ληφθεί μόνο στο υψηλότερο επίπεδο.

Η αλλαγή που συνέβη πρόσφατα στην ηγεσία του Ουλαμού έχει προκαλέσει ένα καταφανές βήμα προς τα πίσω όσον αφορά τον επαγγελματισμό και την αποτελεσματικότητα της μονάδας, η οποία ουσιαστικά ακυρώνει κάθε προσπάθεια στις κοινές μας επιχειρήσεις για αυτή την άνοιξη και θέτει σε κίνδυνο όλη την δουλειά που πραγματοποιήθηκε τα τελευταία 5 χρόνια.

Χάρη στις κοινές μας προσπάθειες και την συνεργασία μας, ο Ουλαμός έχει γίνει ένα από τα πιο επαγγελματικά, ειδικά εξειδικευμένα τμήματα στην Ευρώπη, ικανά να αντιμετωπίσουν την παγίδευση και την λαθροθηρία στην πρώτη γραμμή. Τα αποτελέσματα είναι εμφανή σε όλους και είναι η άμεση συνέπεια μιας συγκεκριμένης προσέγγισης που αναπτύχθηκε μαζί, προσαρμόζοντας τις μεθοδολογίες μας και μαθαίνοντας ο ένας από τον άλλο.

Με την άφιξη της νέας ηγεσίας στον Ουλαμό, παρατηρήσαμε ένα τεράστιο βήμα προς τα πίσω. Η νέα προσέγγιση που εισήγαγε ο λοχίας μας παίρνει πίσω 5 χρόνια. Βασικά οι κοινές μας επιχειρήσεις δεν έχουν κανένα αποτέλεσμα: καλές και σημαντικές υποθέσεις καταστρέφονται, μερικές δεν ακολουθούνται καθόλου, αναβάλλονται χωρίς λόγο, ακόμη και με μεγάλο αριθμό παγίδων. Με την ανάληψη των ηνίων από τον καινούργιο λοχία, μία εβδομάδα μετά την έναρξη της συνεργασίας, και μέχρι στιγμής, δεν έχουμε διώξεις και πολλές υποθέσεις παραμένουν αδιερεύνητες, γεγονός που αντιβαίνει στην κοινή μας συμφωνία με το Υπουργείο σας πριν από την έναρξη κάθε εκστρατείας.

Με βάση τα πιο πάνω, σπαταλάμε το χρόνο μας και μένουμε μόνοι για να αντιμετωπίσουμε την παράνομη παγίδευση των πτηνών. Μέχρι στιγμής έχουμε εντοπίσει περί τα 1500 ξόβεργα, εκ των οποίων μόνο 200 έχουν κατασχεθεί από τον Ουλαμό.

Δεν μπορούμε και δεν θέλουμε να συζητήσουμε τις στρατηγικές του Αρχηγείου της Αστυνομίας, αλλά πιστεύουμε ότι πρέπει να τηρηθούν ορισμένα πρότυπα και δεν μπορούμε να πισωγυρίζουμε, χάνοντας όλη την εμπειρία που συγκεντρώθηκε αυτά τα χρόνια.

Γνωρίζουμε όλοι το γεγονός ότι η Κύπρος βρίσκεται ήδη υπό την εποπτεία της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής και των διεθνών συμβάσεων για το συνεχιζόμενο πρόβλημα της παγίδευσης πτηνών. Τα αποτελέσματα που έφερε ο Ουλαμός σε συνεργασία με τη CABS είναι μια απόδειξη που μπορεί να χρησιμοποιήσει η Δημοκρατία για να αποδείξει ότι υπάρχει σοβαρή επιβολή του Νόμου κατά της παγίδευσης. Αλλά αν δεν αλλάξει η νέα κατάσταση, τα αποτελέσματα αυτά θα εξαφανιστούν και η Δημοκρατία θα κατηγορηθεί για άλλη μια φορά ότι δεν εφάρμοσε σωστά το νόμο, γεγονός που θα μπορούσε να οδηγήσει σε μια πολύ ανεπιθύμητη διαδικασία με την Επιτροπή.



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Για τους λόγους αυτούς - προς όφελος της Δημοκρατίας, της αστυνομίας και της συνεργασίας μας - ζητούμε να συνεχίσει ο Ουλαμός να ακολουθεί τα πρότυπα και τις επιτυχημένες εμπειρίες που έχουν επιτευχθεί τα τελευταία χρόνια και ότι ο αρχηγός της ομάδας να επιλέγεται μεταξύ αστυνομικών με κατάλληλες δεξιότητες και κατάρτιση για την καθοδήγηση αυτής της μονάδας.

Διαφορετικά, χωρίς διώξεις και με λίγες κοινές επιχειρήσεις, η αστυνομία ουσιαστικά διακόπτει την κοινή δουλειά μας και μας αφήνει μόνους μας σε αυτό το δύσκολο και επικίνδυνο έργο της πάταξης της παράνομης παγίδευσης πουλιών. Ελπίζουμε ειλικρινά ότι αυτό δεν θα συμβεί ποτέ.

Με βάση τα πιο πάνω, είμαστε αναγκασμένοι να ακυρώσουμε τις κοινές μας επιχειρήσεις για το υπόλοιπο αυτής της περιόδου παγίδευσης. Επιπλέον, είμαστε αναγκασμένοι επίσης να αναφέρουμε τα προαναφερθέντα γεγονότα και την αδράνεια της Αστυνομίας στις πρεσβείες των εθελοντών μας.

Με εκτίμηση,



Alexander Heyd
General Secretary
Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS)

Επείγον – μέσω φάξ

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Κοινοποίηση:

- Γενικό Διευθυντή Υπουργείου Δικαιοσύνης και Δημοσίας Τάξεως, κ Ανδρέα Μυλωνά
- Αρχηγό της Αστυνομίας, κ Ζαχαρία Χρυσοστόμου
- Υπαρχηγό της Αστυνομίας, κ. Αντρέα Κυριάκου
- Βοηθό Αρχηγό της Αστυνομίας (Υ), κ Κύπρου Μιχαηλίδη
- Βοηθό Αρχηγό της Αστυνομίας (Ε), κ Χρηστάκη Μαυρή
- Διοικητή της Μηχανοκίνητης Μονάδας Άμεσου Δράσης της Αστυνομίας, κ. Πανίκο Αντωνίου



2 ANNEX 2

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ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ ΤΑΞΕΩΣ

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Φαξ: + 357 22518349

e-mail: perm.sec@mjpa.gov.cy

6 Ιουλίου, 2017.

ΕΠΕΙΓΟΥΣΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΕ ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΙΟΤΥΠΟ

Κύριο Alexander Heyd,
General Secretary
Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS),

Κύριο Roland Tischbier
Chairman of the Board,
Foundation Pro Biodiversity (SPA),

**Θέμα: Επιστολή των Οργανώσεων CABS και SPA
Ημερομηνίας 2 Μαΐου 2017.**

Αναφέρομαι στην πιο πάνω επιστολή σας και, σε συνέχεια της σχετικής επιστολής του Αρχηγού Αστυνομίας, σας πληροφορώ τα πιο κάτω:

- α. Ο Υπεύθυνος του Κλιμακίου Πάταξης Λαθροθηρίας της ΜΜΑΔ, ο οποίος ανέλαβε τα καθήκοντα του στις 3.4.2017, αφού αξιολόγησε τον υφιστάμενο τρόπο λειτουργίας του Κλιμακίου, έκρινε αναγκαίο να τροποποιήσει ορισμένες διαδικασίες και πρακτικές.
- β. Από τη γραπτή ενημέρωση προκύπτει ότι, από τις 3.4.2017 μέχρι 2.5.2017 το Κλιμάκιο Πάταξης Λαθροθηρίας της ΜΜΑΔ είχε περίπου 20 τηλεφωνικές συνομιλίες με μέλη της Οργάνωσης CABS, για σκοπούς συντονισμού και διεκπεραίωσης αποστολών για πάταξη της λαθροθηρίας.
- γ. Περαιτέρω, στα στατιστικά στοιχεία που διατηρεί το Αρχηγείο Αστυνομίας καταγράφεται ότι έχουν κατασχεθεί 275 ξόβεργα, 252 άγρια πτηνά, και μία μηχανή που εκπέμπει μιμητικές φωνές πουλιών. Γίνεται επίσης αναφορά σε 4 καταγγελίες εκ των οποίων οι δύο έχουν ήδη διεκπεραιωθεί.

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δ. Αξιολογώντας το περιεχόμενο της επιστολής σας και εκείνης του Αρχηγού Αστυνομίας, προκύπτει ότι η δυσλειτουργία που ενδεχομένως δημιουργήθηκε μεταξύ των Οργανώσεων σας και του Κλιμακίου Πάταξης της Λαθροθηρίας της ΜΜΑΔ του Αρχηγείου Αστυνομίας κατά την τελευταία περιοδεία Προστασίας Πτηνών στην Κύπρο, προέκυψε λόγω έλλειψης πλαισίου επαρκούς συνεργασίας μεταξύ των δύο πλευρών.

2. Ως εκ τούτου, ο Υπουργός Δικαιοσύνης και Δημοσίας Τάξεως, με επιστολή του προς τον Αρχηγό Αστυνομίας ζητεί να ετοιμαστεί προκαταρκτικό σχέδιο συνεργασίας με τις Οργανώσεις σας, CABS και SPA, το οποίο θα σας υποβληθεί για να μας υποβάλετε τις θέσεις σας με σκοπό την υιοθέτηση ενός κοινά αποδεκτού και λειτουργικού σχεδίου συνεργασίας, με κοινό σκοπό την πάταξη της λαθροθηρίας.


(Ανδρέας Μυλωνάς)
Γενικός Διευθυντής

3 ANNEX 3



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by fax

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- Υπαρχηγός της Αστυνομίας, κ Κύπρο Μιχαηλίδη
- Αρχηγό της Μηχανοκίνητης Μονάδας Άμεσου Δράσης της Αστυνομίας, κ. Πάνικο Αντωνίου

Cc:

- Mr. Peter Reinhardt, Ambassador of Switzerland in Cyprus:
00357-22-766008, peter.reinhardt@eda.admin.ch
- Mr. Nikolai von Schoepff, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in Cyprus:
00357-22-665694, L@niko.diplo.de
- Mr. Guido Cerboni, Ambassador of Italy in Cyprus:
00357-22-357617, guido.cerboni@esteri.it

11 Ιουλίου 2017

Αξιότιμε κ. Νικολάου,

Θέμα: Επιστολή των Οργανώσεων CABS και SPA ημερομηνίας 2 Μαΐου 2017

Σας ευχαριστούμε για την απαντητική επιστολή σας στο πιο πάνω θέμα. Ωστόσο, θα θέλαμε εν συντομία να σας παρουσιάσουμε τις απόψεις μας, για αποφυγή τυχόν παρεξηγήσεων. Εξακολουθούμε να έχουμε σε μεγάλη εκτίμηση την Αστυνομία Κύπρου και είμαστε σίγουροι ότι θα βρούμε τη σωστή λύση για να ξεπεράσουμε τα πρόσφατα προβλήματα που αντιμετωπίσαμε.

Είμαστε πάντα πρόθυμοι να δεχθούμε αλλαγές στις διαδικασίες που αποσκοπούν στη βελτίωση της επίδοσης του Ουλαμού και των κοινών μας επιχειρήσεων. Γνωρίζουμε ότι ορισμένες διαδικασίες μπορούν να βελτιωθούν αλλά, από την άλλη πλευρά, οι αριθμοί δείχνουν ότι τα τελευταία 3 χρόνια η μεθοδολογία που αναπτύξαμε με τον Ουλαμό οδήγησε στο υψηλότερο επίπεδο επιτυχίας όσον αφορά τον αριθμό των διώξεων και την αποτροπή της εγκληματικής δραστηριότητας.

Οι τροποποιήσεις που εισήχθησαν τον περασμένο Απρίλιο, έστω και αν έγιναν με καλή θέληση, προκάλεσαν το αντίθετο αποτέλεσμα, δηλαδή σοβαρή πτώση του αριθμού των διώξεων. Στην πραγματικότητα τα αποτελέσματα που αναφέρθηκαν στην επιστολή σας επιτεύχθηκαν κατά τις δύο πρώτες ημέρες συνεργασίας μετά την ανάληψη καθηκόντων από τον νέο λοχία, και επιτεύχθηκαν ακολουθώντας τον συνήθη τρόπο λειτουργίας μας.



Στις ημέρες συνεργασίας που ακολούθησαν, δεν επιτεύχθηκαν πλέον αποτελέσματα και ο τελικός αριθμός (4 διώξεις) δεν είναι τόσο ικανοποιητικός, δεδομένου ότι το ποσοστό αυτό είναι μόλις το 40% αυτών που επιτεύχθηκαν την προηγούμενη άνοιξη και το 30% περίπου της άνοιξης του 2015. Εξ όσων γνωρίζουμε, 3 μήνες αργότερα, η μονάδα έχει μηδενικές διώξεις για λαθροθηρία με τη χρήση της τροποποιημένης μεθοδολογίας που εισήχθη, ενώ έως και 20 ποινικές διώξεις επιτυγχάνονταν κατά την ίδια περίοδο τα προηγούμενα χρόνια. Βάσει των παραπάνω, συνιστούμε στην ηγεσία της Αστυνομίας να λάβει σοβαρά υπόψη αυτά τα στοιχεία προκειμένου να αξιολογήσει αν η μονάδα είναι έτοιμη για το σημαντικό έργο το ερχόμενο φθινόπωρο.

Με τις νέες τροπολογίες της Νομοθεσίας που ενέκρινε το Κοινοβούλιο, ο Ουλαμός καλείται να αποτελέσει το φρούριο για την εφαρμογή του Νόμου και είμαστε έτοιμοι να τον υποστηρίξουμε στην νέα αυτή πρόκληση.

Σας καλούμε να τοποθετήσετε τη Μονάδα και μας σε καλύτερη θέση για να εκτελέσουμε τη δουλειά μας, τόσο από την άποψη της προσωπικής ασφάλειας όσο και των αποτελεσμάτων. Τις επόμενες μέρες θα σας αποστείλουμε το συνήθη αίτημά μας με τις ημερομηνίες συνεργασίας για το ερχόμενο φθινόπωρο. Είμαστε βέβαιοι ότι η μεθοδολογία που αναπτύχθηκε με τον Ουλαμό κατά τη διάρκεια των ετών συνεργασίας και η εμπειρία που αποκτήθηκε από αυτή τη σκληρή δουλειά θα γίνουν σεβαστά, δεδομένου ότι τα στατιστικά στοιχεία αποδεικνύουν την αξία της. Ωστόσο, θα χαρούμε να αναπτύξουμε μαζί σας ένα σχέδιο συνεργασίας, με την ελπίδα ότι θα συμβάλει στην επίτευξη των καλύτερων δυνατών αποτελεσμάτων στην καταπολέμηση της λαθροθηρίας στην Κύπρο. Ας ελπίσουμε ότι αυτό θα βελτιώσει την τρέχουσα κατάσταση και θα βοηθήσει στην αποκατάσταση της συνεργασίας που είχαμε αυτά τα χρόνια.

Με εκτίμηση,

Alexander Heyd
General Secretary
Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS)

Roland Tischbier
Chairman of the Board
Foundation Pro Biodiversity (SPA)