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### Declining water birds are still on the list of game species in Eastern Europe

In Europe hunting has contributed to the disappearance of many rare bird species (Mitrus & Zbyryt, 2015, *Ornis Polonica*, 56, 309–327). In Poland even formerly widely distributed and common species such as the Least Concern coot *Fulica atra*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and Eurasian teal *Anas crecca*, and the Vulnerable common pochard *Aythya ferina*, have declined dramatically (Wylegala & Lawicki, 2019, *Common Pochard, Tufted ducks, Eurasian Teal, Coot—State of Population and Impact of Hunting*, Salamandra, Poznan, Poland).

In July 2019 the Polish National IUCN Committee appealed to the Ministry of the Environment, requesting the removal of these four species from the list of game species and the granting of strict protection. In addition, changes have been proposed to the Hunting Law that would support these species, including: (1) delaying of hunting dates for water birds, to avoid the breeding season, (2) prohibiting hunting of water birds after sunset, when it is difficult to distinguish species, (3) introducing the obligation to base hunting plans for migratory water birds on results from monitoring, (4) obliging hunters to help eradicate invasive species from wetlands, and (5) prohibiting the use of lead shot for hunting within 500 m of wetlands (Wylegala & Lawicki, 2019, op cit).

The proposal related to lead shot deserves special attention. Poland is one of the few EU countries where the use of lead ammunition is allowed in all habitats (Kitowski, 2018, *Oryx*, 52, 611–611). This is despite Poland's ratification of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and that the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Quito in 2014 adopted a resolution on preventing poisoning of migratory birds and recommended introduction of a ban on lead ammunition (Lamare, 2015, *Proceedings of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*, Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, Bonn, Germany). However, to date, this resolution has been ignored in Poland despite evidence of the accumulation of high levels of lead in water birds (Kitowski et al., 2017, *Ambio*, 46, 825–841).

Unfortunately, in August 2019 the Ministry of Environment, in response to the IUCN appeal, indicated there

would be no changes to the list of game birds or to the Hunting Law (*Redakcja*, 10 October 2019, [zycierolnika.pl/index.php/aktualnosci/item/4374-resort-rolnictwa-przeciwny-wstrzymaniu-polowan-na-ptaki-lowne](http://zycierolnika.pl/index.php/aktualnosci/item/4374-resort-rolnictwa-przeciwny-wstrzymaniu-polowan-na-ptaki-lowne)).

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### Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development cooperation—highlights from an ALTER-NET-EKLIPSE workshop

On 18 June 2019 a workshop dedicated to the role of development cooperation in biodiversity conservation in the global South was held in Ghent, Belgium, during the ALTER-NET-EKLIPSE conference 'The European Union Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020'. ALTER-NET is a network of biodiversity research institutes, and EKLIPSE is an EU networking project on ecosystem services. Mainstreaming biodiversity refers here to the inclusion of biodiversity across sectors—a necessity given the pervasiveness of impacts on biodiversity by different economic sectors and the role of biodiversity in provision of ecosystem services.

A range of European academics, Belgian and European Commission officials, and NGO representatives working at the biodiversity–development interface were invited to formulate an aid deliverer's perspective focused on two interlinked questions: (1) Should the EU biodiversity strategy guide the programmes of member states? (2) Has biodiversity mainstreaming been a priority or not?

Regarding the link between the supranational European and national levels, the current lack of harmonization between the EU and national governments, and the lack of biodiversity mainstreaming, were both highlighted. The unambitious, mainly project-based improvements in integrating biodiversity in European-funded agricultural projects in Africa were acknowledged, and it was noted that capacity building programmes and education for young scientists in the South are often perceived as already being sufficient, although they are not meeting demands at all career stages. The workshop recommended that capacity building needs to be continuously improved through collaborative North–South and South–South programmes. Opinions diverged regarding the desirability of translating elements of European biodiversity policies (e.g. the Natura 2000 network) to the global South, but all agreed that citizen science could be promoted as a tool for data collection and awareness raising. Supporting biodiversity mainstreaming was considered even more important than addressing the lack of formally protected areas, especially in highly biodiverse agricultural landscapes. An additional recommendation