



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

INTRODUCTION

KEEPING THE FLYWAYS SAFE

The BirdLife Partnership presents this review based on the first ever comprehensive scientific study to quantify the scale and scope of illegal killing across the Mediterranean region. The results are gruesome. Despite legal protection, illegal bird killing is taking place at quite extraordinary and unsustainable levels. While many turn a blind eye, an estimated 25 million birds are being illegally massacred annually.

In some countries such as Cyprus, Syria and Egypt, more than two million birds are illegally shot, glued or trapped each year. The report identifies three individual locations – the Famagusta area in Cyprus, the Menbej-Tishreen Dam area in Syria and the El Manzala area in Egypt – where, staggeringly, more than half a million birds are being illegally slaughtered each year.

Populations of 40 different migratory songbird species that were once abundant in Europe are declining and some are now in free-fall. Many have already disappeared from much of their former range.

European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) has declined by 30% throughout Europe since the start of the millennium and in some countries by as much as 90% in the same period. Yet more than one million are still illegally killed each year.

Our birds deserve safer flyways. To tackle these threats, our conservation efforts need to be scaled up at the worst locations we have identified, coupled with effective and well-coordinated local, regional and national advocacy.

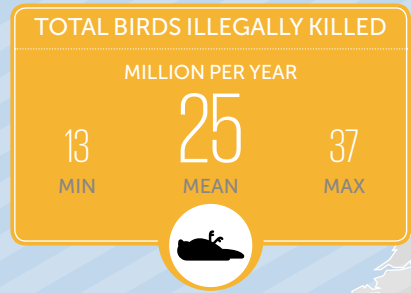
We invite you to share the information in this review so we can all prevent the future of these birds ending in nets, glued to branches or illegally shot for fun. The BirdLife Partnership is committed to making the Mediterranean a safer place for birds, biodiversity and people. Join the cause!

Patricia Zurita
BirdLife International, CEO

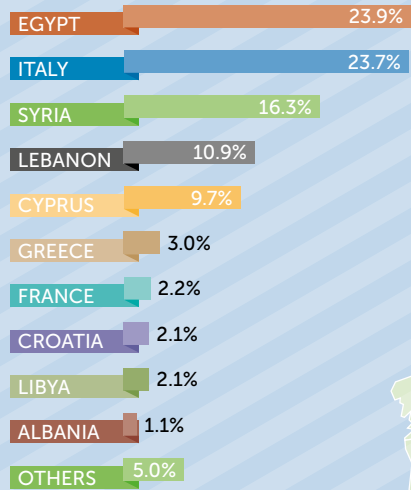
Find out how you can help at
www.birdlife.org/illegal-killing

The data presented in this report were gathered by BirdLife Partners and experts in 26 Mediterranean countries during the period 2014-2015. The numbers presented represent the best estimates based on available data, and the associated uncertainty is quantified in a scientific paper underpinning this report, soon available online. Here, we discuss in more detail the situation in the 10 countries with the highest numbers of illegally killed birds. On the country maps, we highlighted the 3 worst locations for the top 5 countries.





BY COUNTRY



BY FAMILY

PIGEONS, DOVES 0.7 MILLION



SONGBIRDS 20.1 MILLION



RAPTORS 0.1 MILLION



WATERBIRDS 1 MILLION



OTHERS 1.8 MILLION

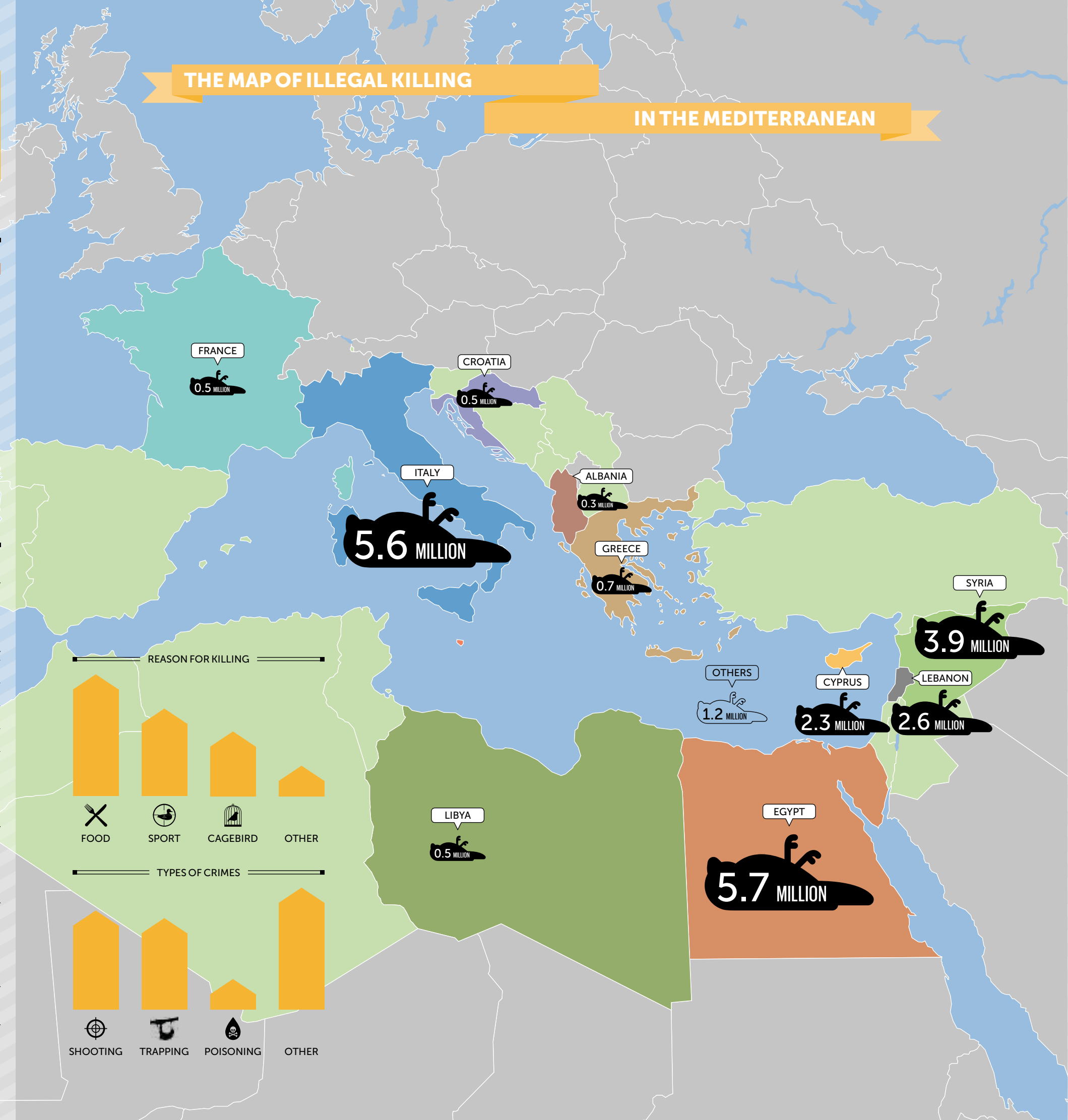
UNIT OF MEASURE



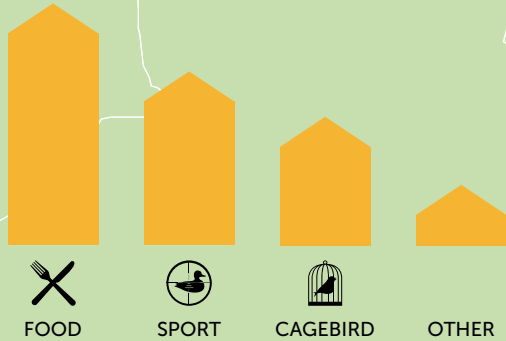
0.5 MILLION

THE MAP OF ILLEGAL KILLING

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



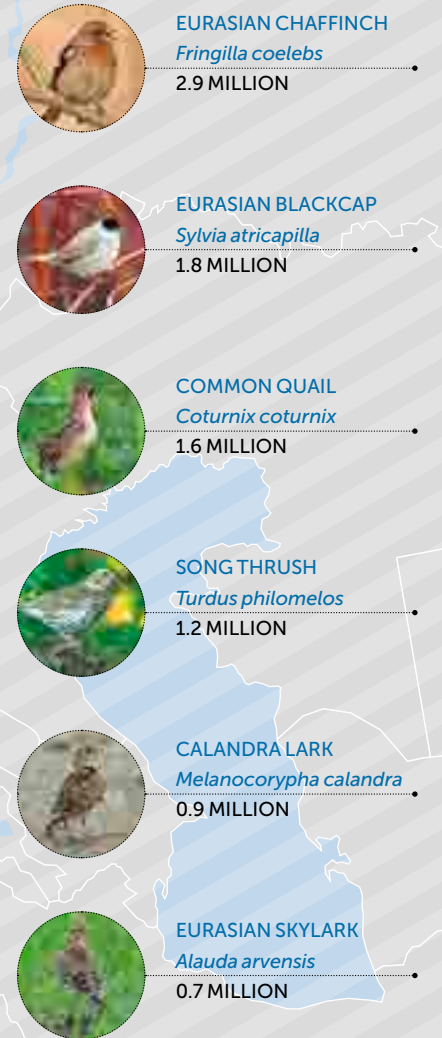
REASON FOR KILLING



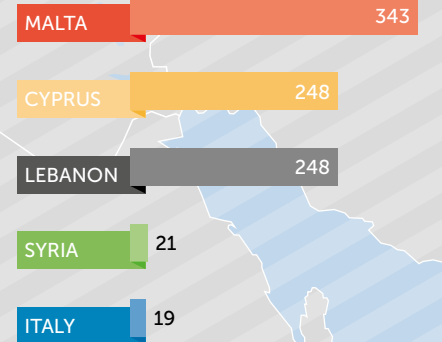
TYPES OF CRIMES



MOST AFFECTED SPECIES

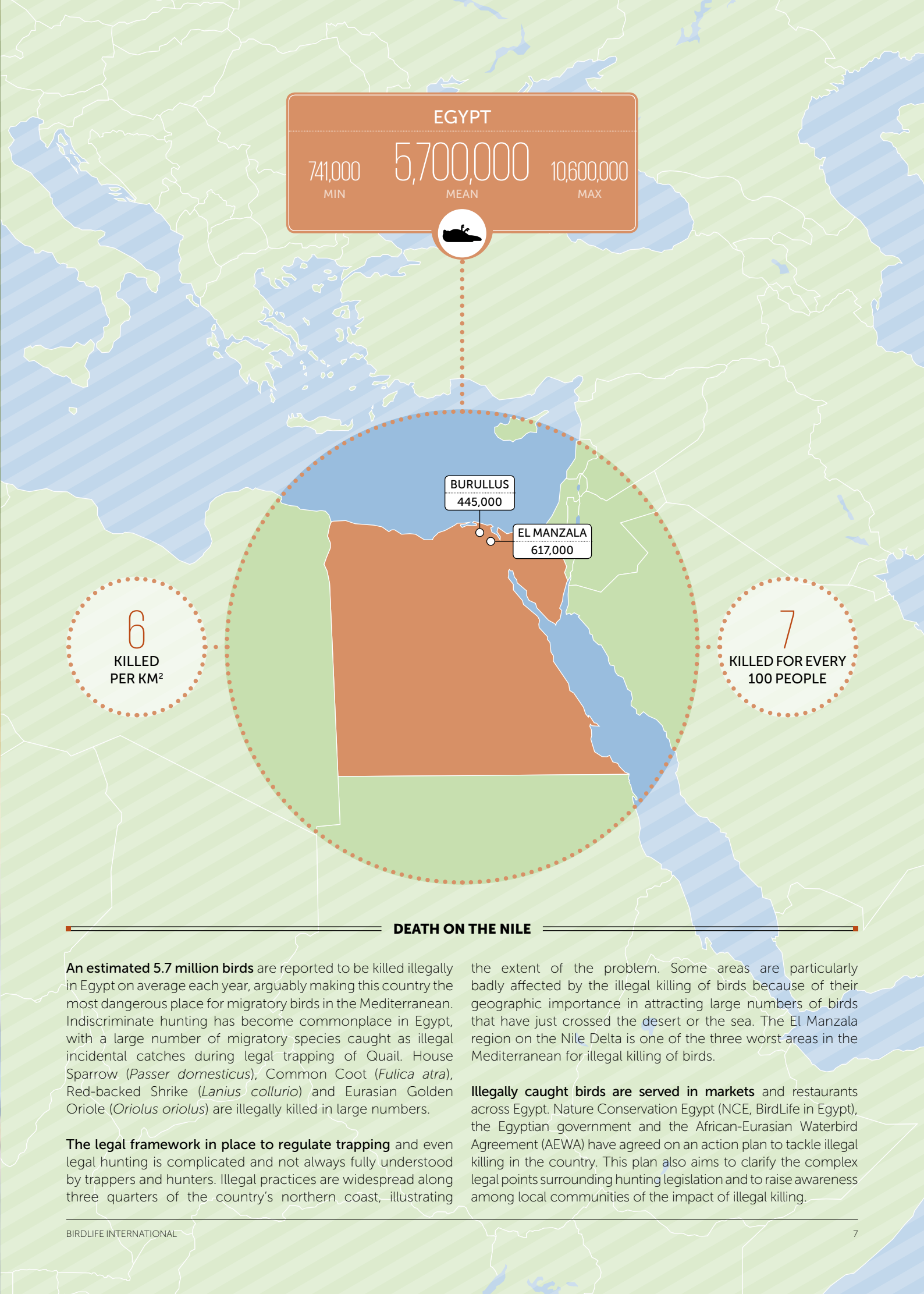


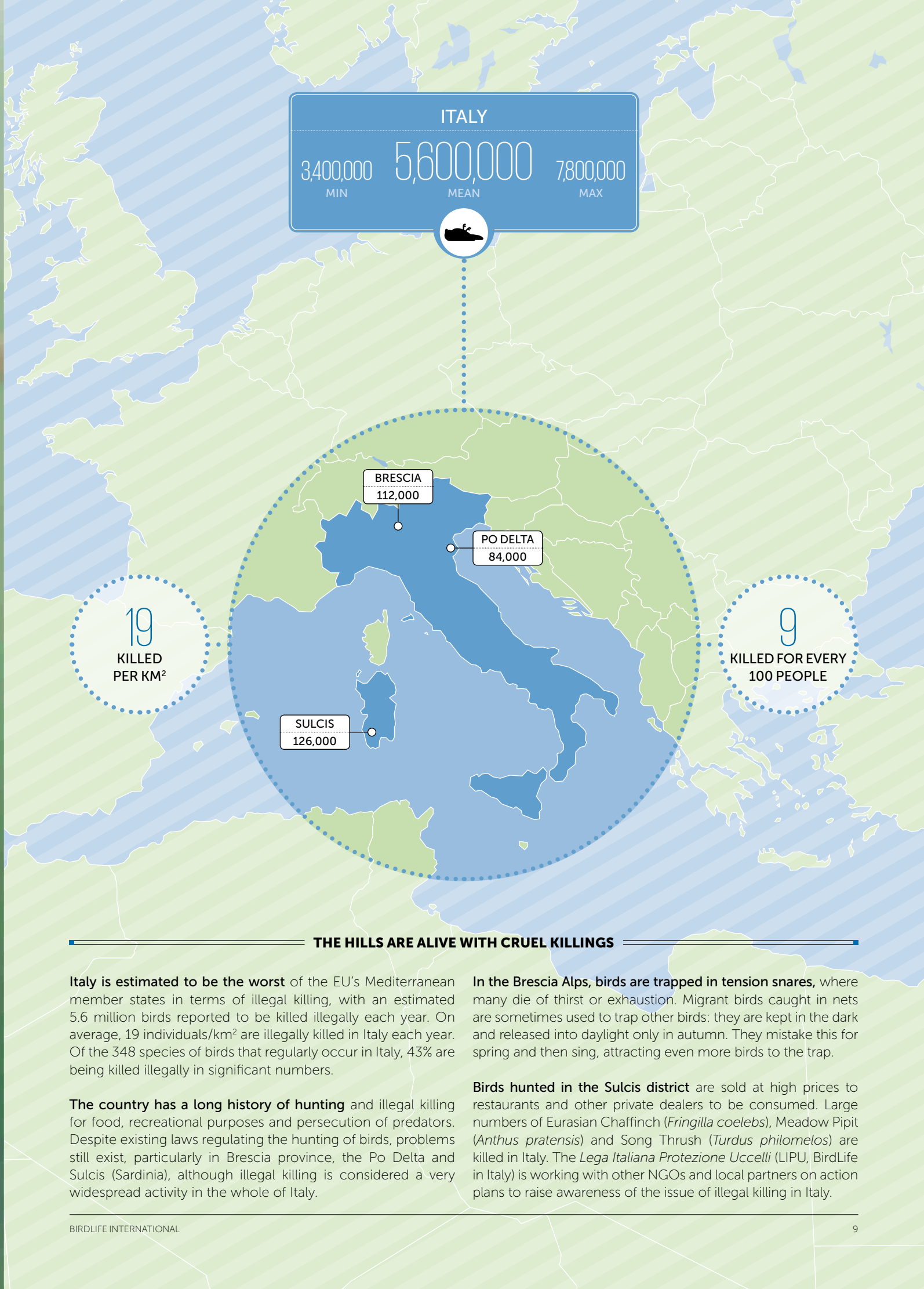
BY INTENSITY *

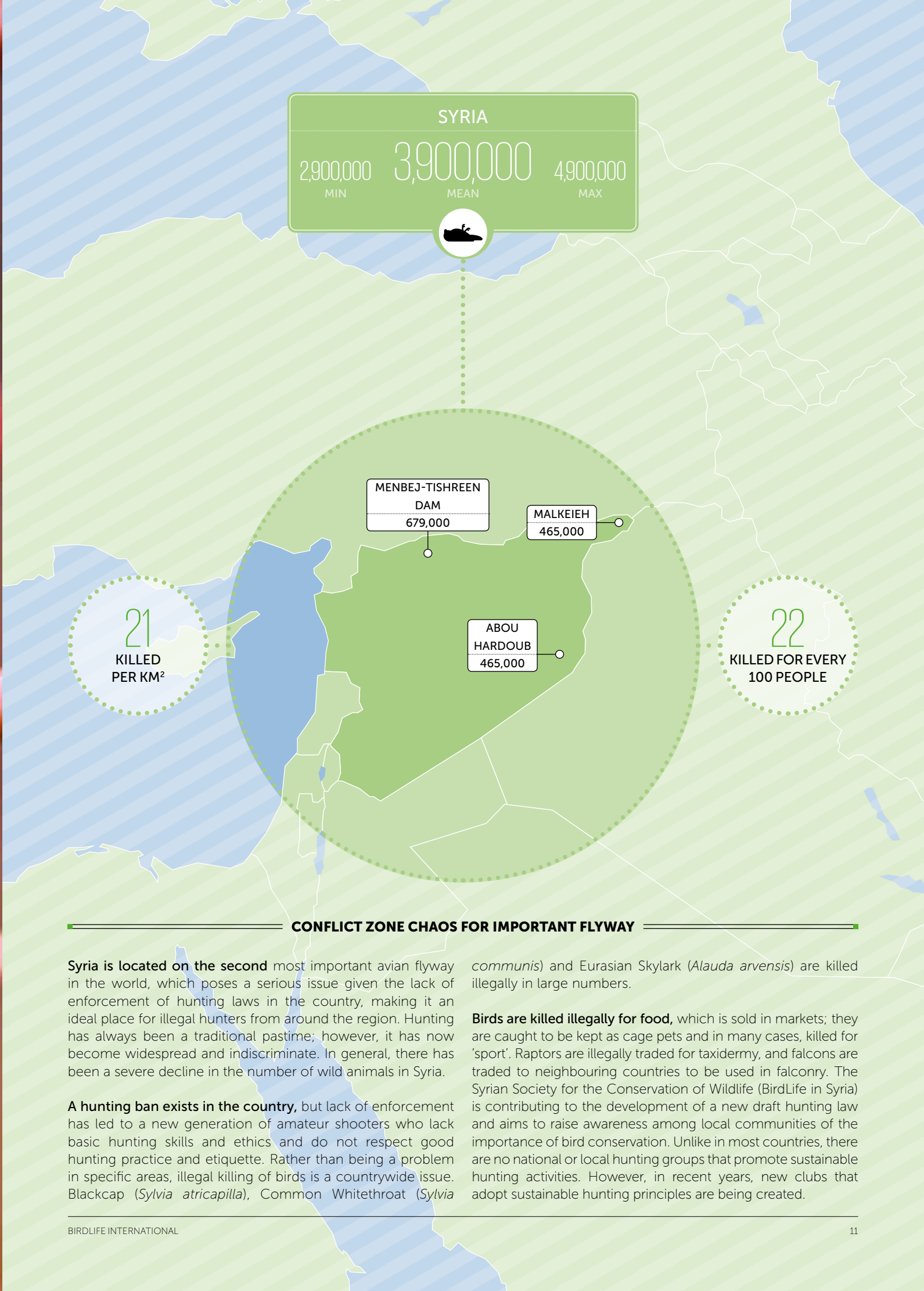


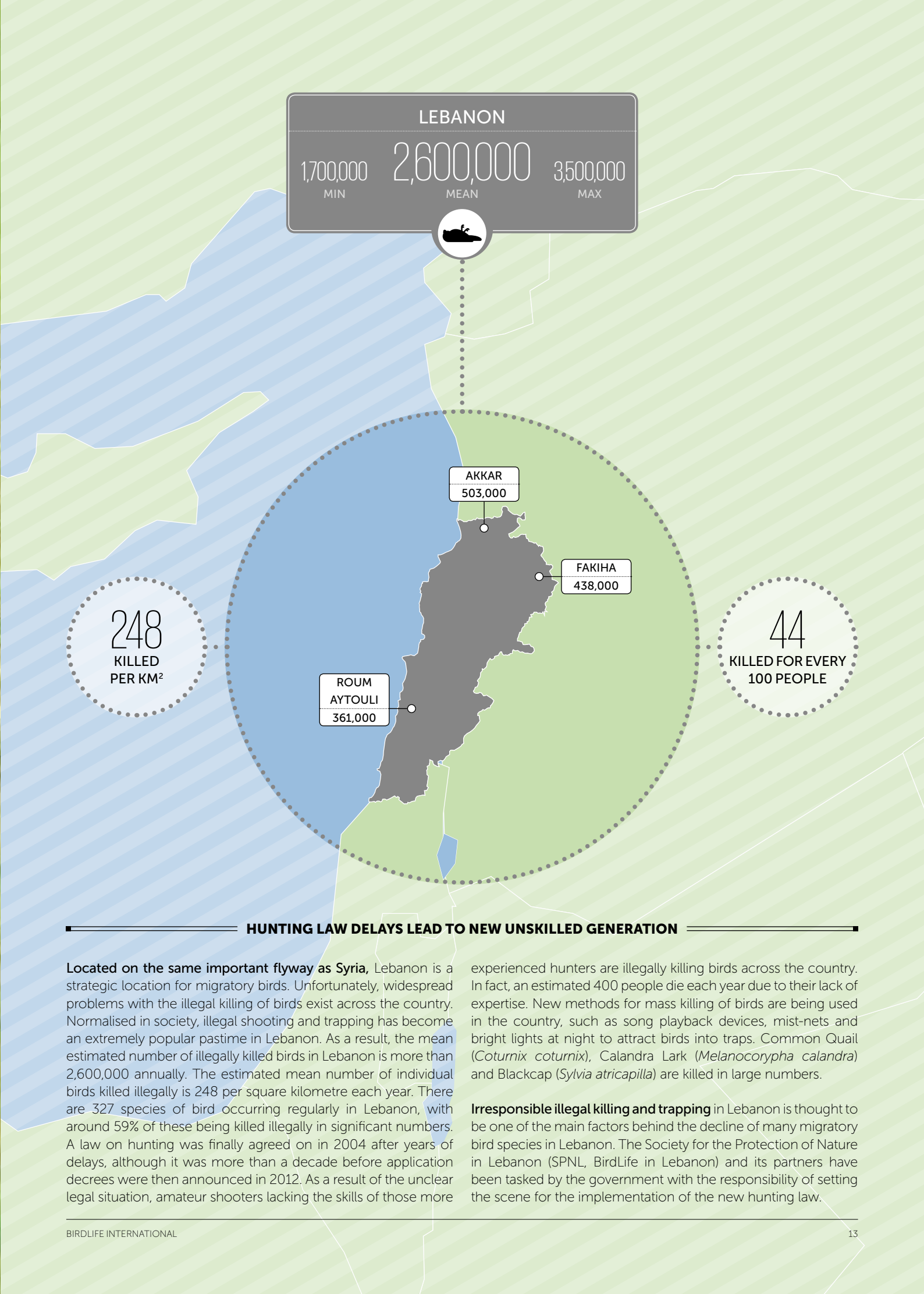
* Mean estimated number of birds illegally killed per km² every year.

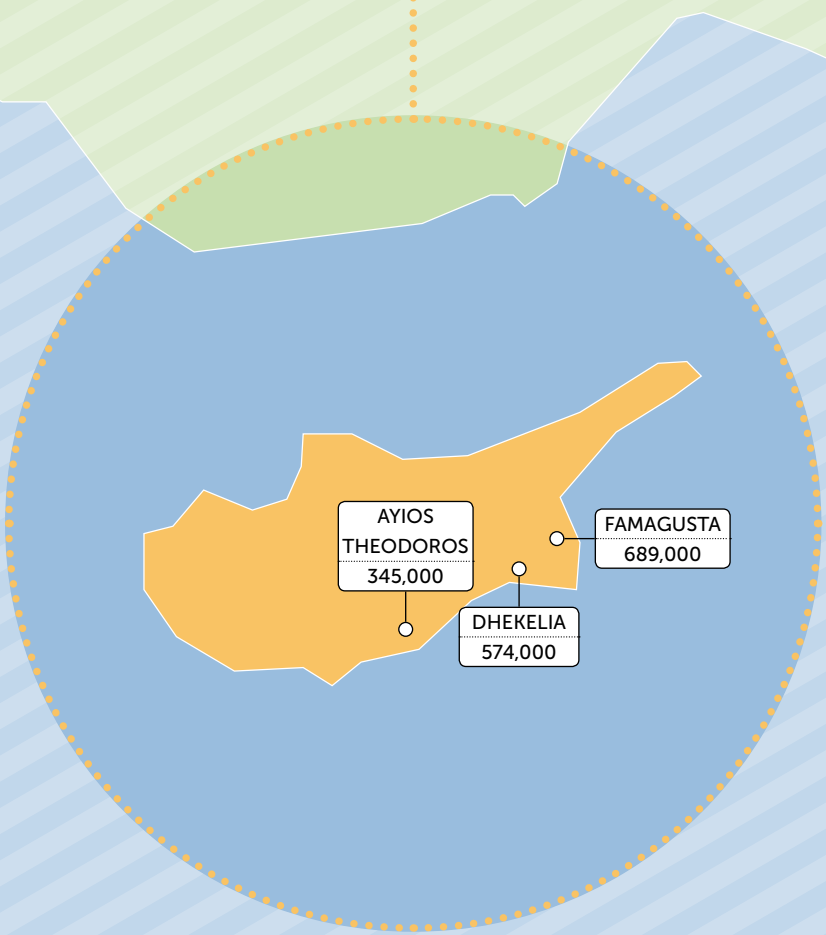
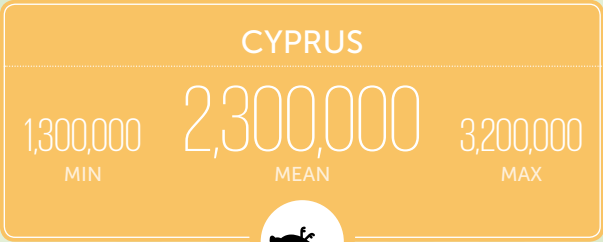
NOTE All numbers in the map are mean best estimates, for further details and minimum/maximum estimates, see the scientific paper: Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean (Brochet et al., in revision).











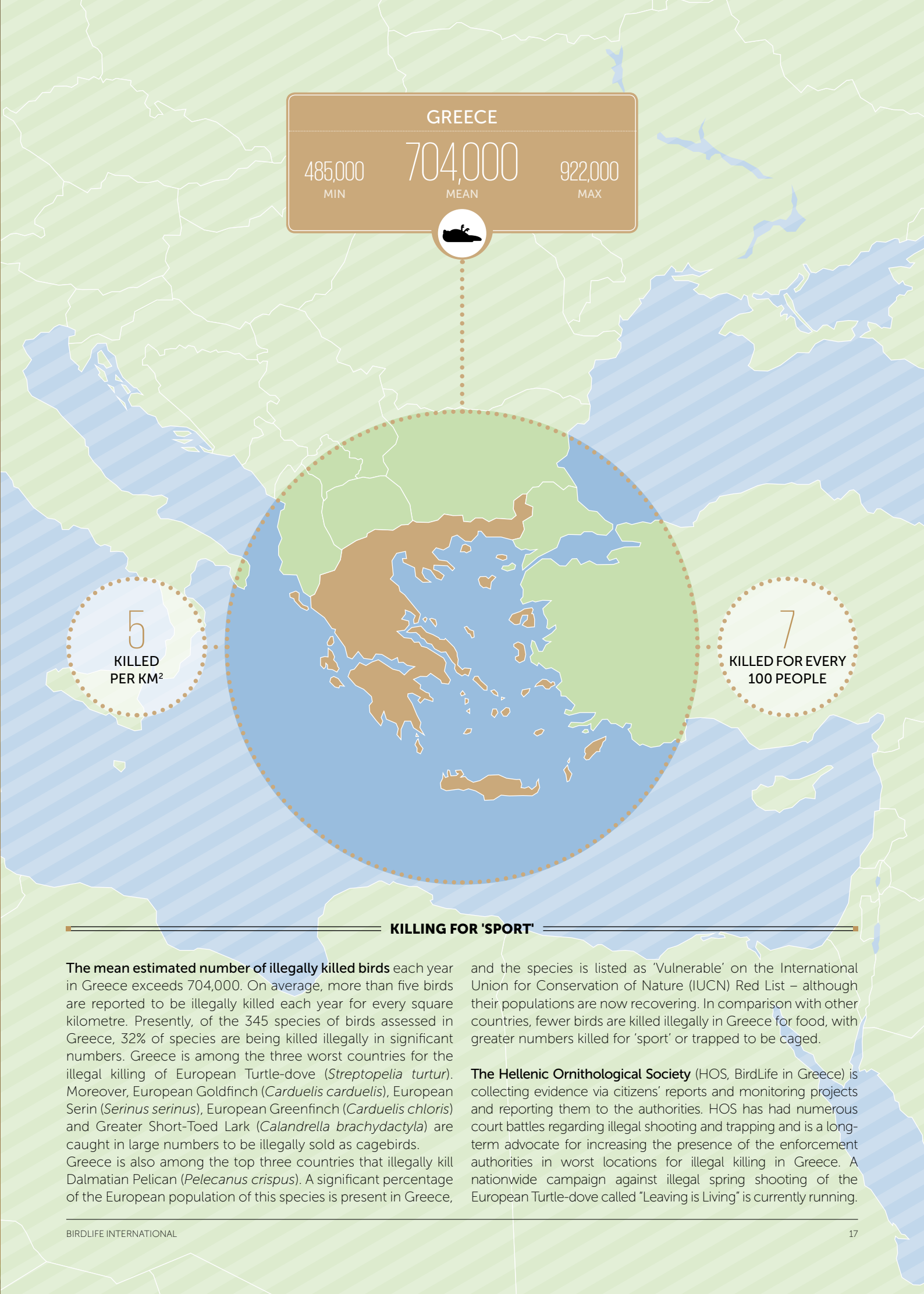
A TRAPPER'S TREASURE ISLAND

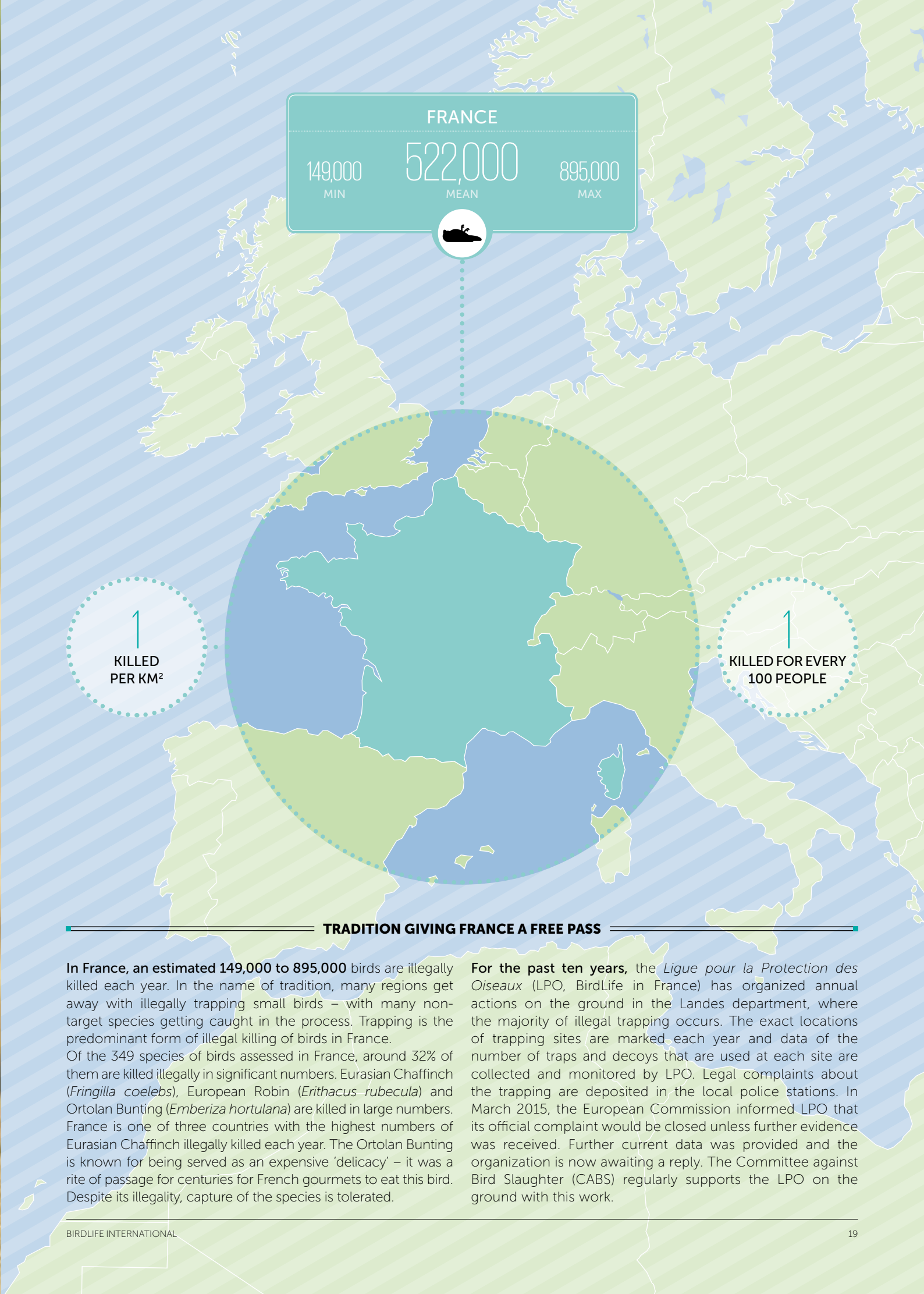
The Famagusta district of Cyprus is seen as the worst in the Mediterranean area for the mean estimated number of illegally killed birds each year. Geographically, Cyprus is a key stopover location for many migratory birds on their route across the sea. Unfortunately, birds tend to concentrate in particular parts of the island when leaving or arriving on migration – thus making things easier for those engaged in illegal killing.

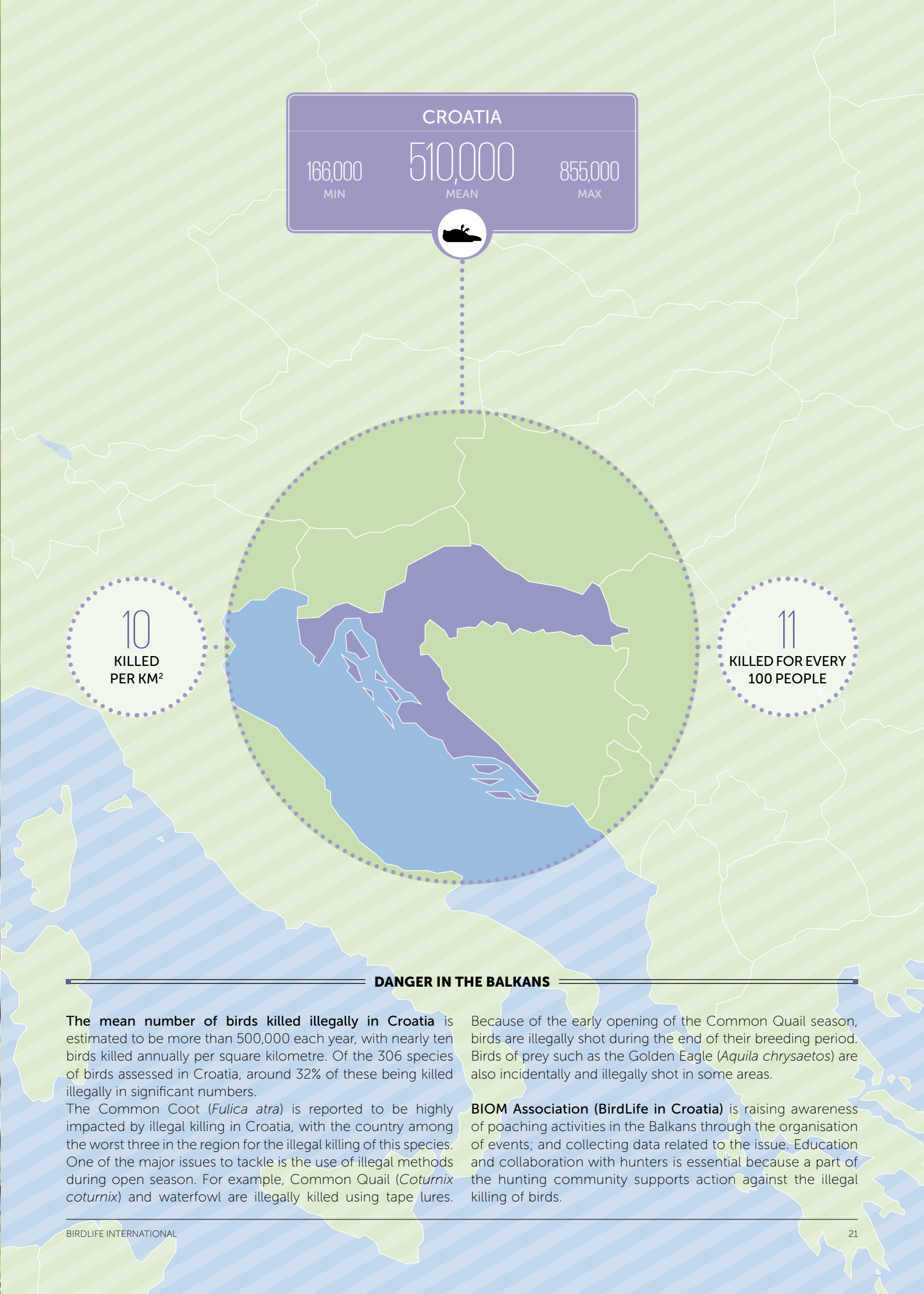
Laws forbidding trapping have been in place since 1974, but these are frequently flouted. Audio equipment is used, illegally, to broadcast birdsong and attract birds to trapping locations. Many birds are illegally sold as 'delicacies' for consumption – in particular, Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) and

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). Species that are not wanted are caught in the same traps, and are incidentally injured, discarded or killed.

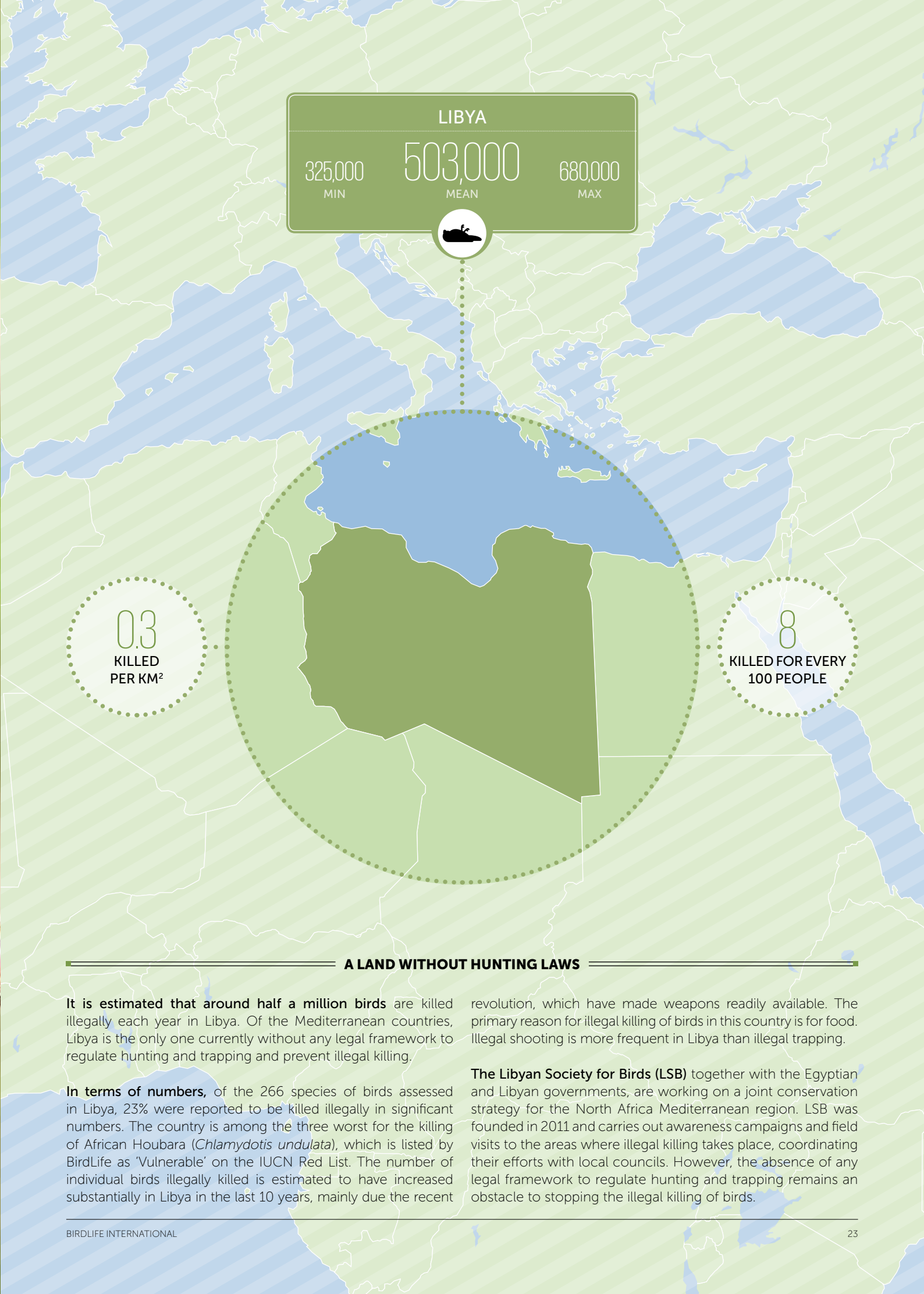
Cyprus is an island with ongoing political sensitivities, with the northern half (where the majority of the Famagusta district is located) mostly in the control of the unofficial Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Akrotiri and Dhekelia areas are controlled as British military bases by the UK. BirdLife Cyprus finalised a National Strategic Action Plan to tackle the illegal killing of birds, which was also adopted by the British Sovereign Base Areas. Awareness campaigns have been launched by BirdLife Cyprus in schools and universities, particularly focussing on illegal serving of birds in restaurants.

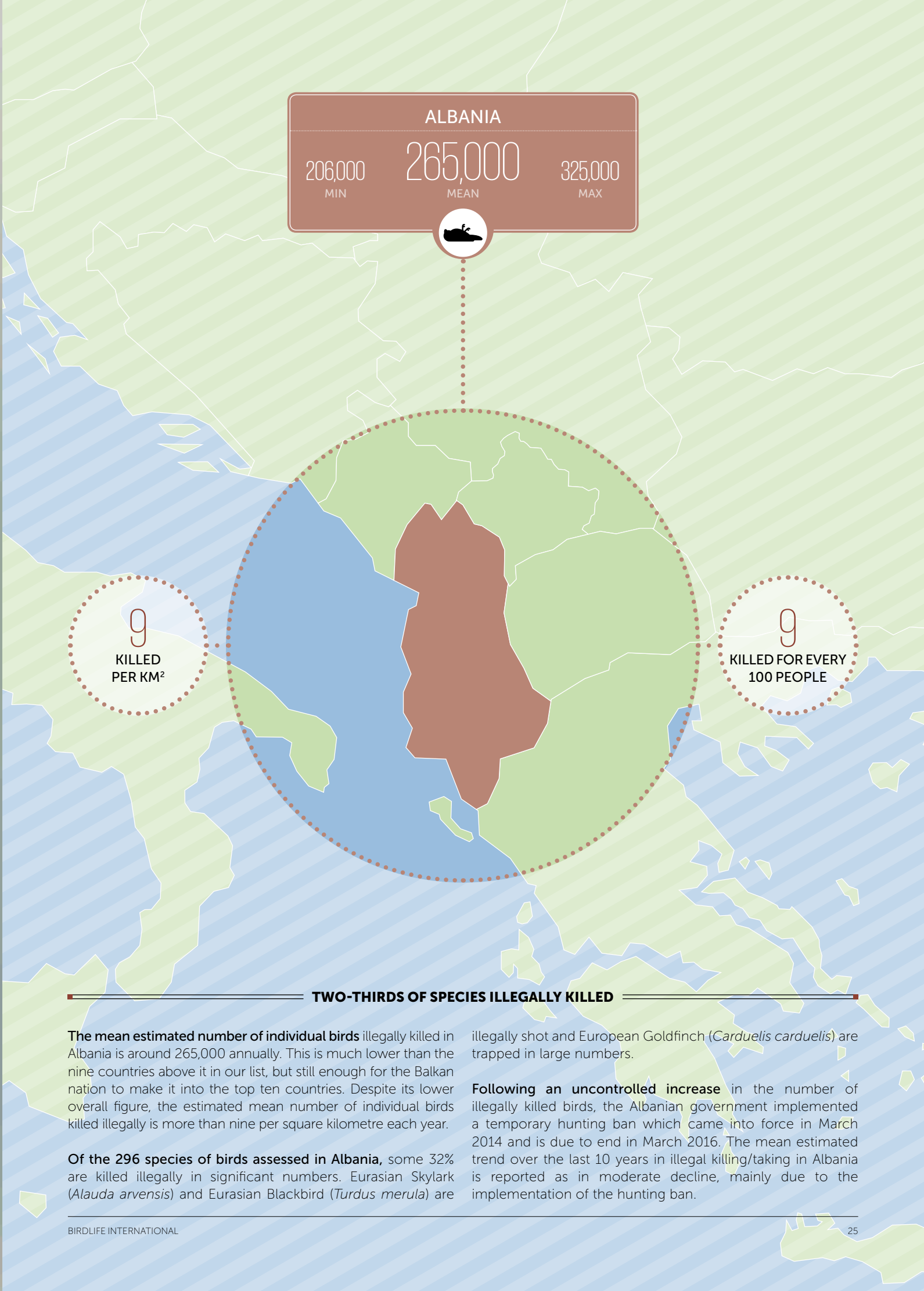






EUROPEAN TURTLE-DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*) • OLIVEIRA





CONTENTS

03 INTRODUCTION

04 THE MAP OF ILLEGAL KILLINGS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

07 EGYPT

09 ITALY

11 SYRIA

13 LEBANON

15 CYPRUS

17 GREECE

19 FRANCE

21 CROATIA

23 LIBYA

25 ALBANIA

THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF ILLEGAL KILLING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
WAS FUNDED BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR.
THE PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION OF THIS LEAFLET
WAS FUNDED BY THE MAVA FOUNDATION



COVER PHOTO
A LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) IS FATALLY STUCK
ON A LIME STICK BIRD TRAP IN PARALIMNI, CYPRUS
© COMMITTEE AGAINST BIRD SLAUGHTER (CABS)

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
ANDREA CANFORA
canfora.andrea@gmail.com

PUBLISHED
AUGUST 2015



Partnership for
nature and people

