

Carpathian Expo Carpathian Convention COP7

Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe
(SWiPE Project)

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Photo by Stefan Rankovic

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eurac
research

WWF Romania



WWF Romania's mission is to protect biodiversity and natural habitats and create solutions for a future where people live in harmony with nature.



Aim and scope of SWiPE

- The project was launched to discourage and ultimately reduce wildlife crimes by improving compliance with EU environmental law, and to contribute to a more successful prosecution of wildlife crimes.



Sept. 2020– Aug. 2023

 **SWiPE** Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe.



The SWiPE project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

PARTNERS



TRAFFIC
The wildlife trade monitoring network

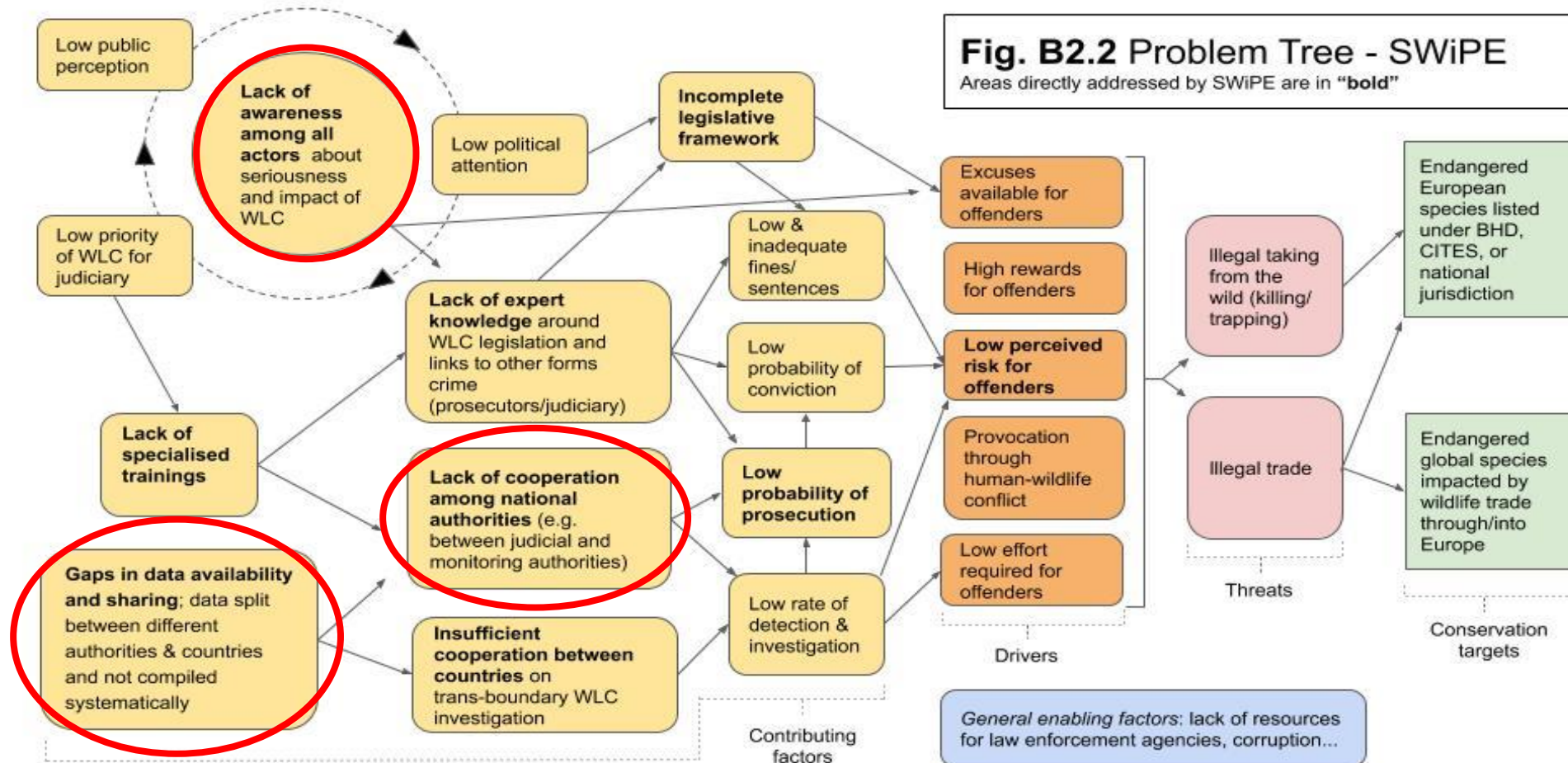
Pravosudna akademija



Bosnia and Herzegovina ● Bulgaria ● Croatia ● Hungary ● Italy ● Poland ● Romania ● Serbia ● Slovakia
● Spain ● Ukraine



Areas covered by SWiPE



Key Outcomes of SWiPE

THE INVESTIGATION



The LIFE SWiPE project has produced **the most comprehensive picture to date about wildlife crimes in Europe**, with national reports for 11 European countries.



87 different regional and national institutions were contacted, showing the lack of a centralised database on wildlife crimes across Europe.

Key Outcomes of SWiPE

WILDLIFE CRIME IS DEVASTATING FOR EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY AND POSES A GROWING RISK TO OUR ECONOMIES AND SECURITY



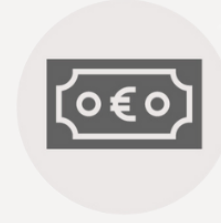
Illegal killing/
hunting



Poisoning



Prohibited hunting
methods/equipment



Illegal wildlife
trade

The most common wildlife crimes across Europe (2016-2020)



Co-funded by
the European Union

stopwildlifecrime.eu/report

Key Outcomes of SWiPE

Wildlife crime is not a petty crime. It is devastating for biodiversity in Europe and beyond. **We have lost 69% of the populations of vertebrate wild animals since 1970.** It poses a growing risk to the economic development and security of our societies.



Illegal killing/
hunting.

27%



Poisoning.

16%



Use of prohibited
hunting methods
or equipment.

14%

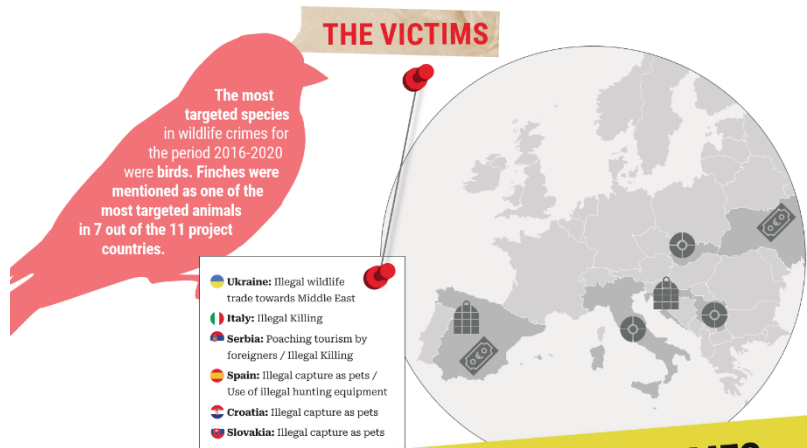


Illegal wildlife
trade/smuggling/
CITES violation.

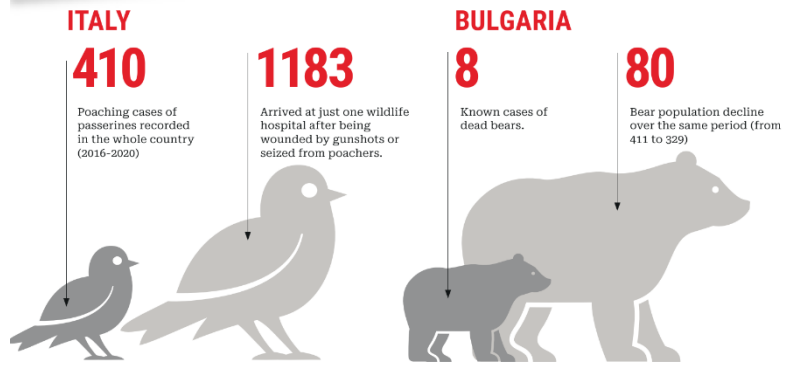
13%

But there is **no official definition of wildlife crime** applied by institutions at a national or European level. **That prevents organizations and researchers from exploring the phenomenon and assessing its actual scope.**

Key Outcomes of SWiPE



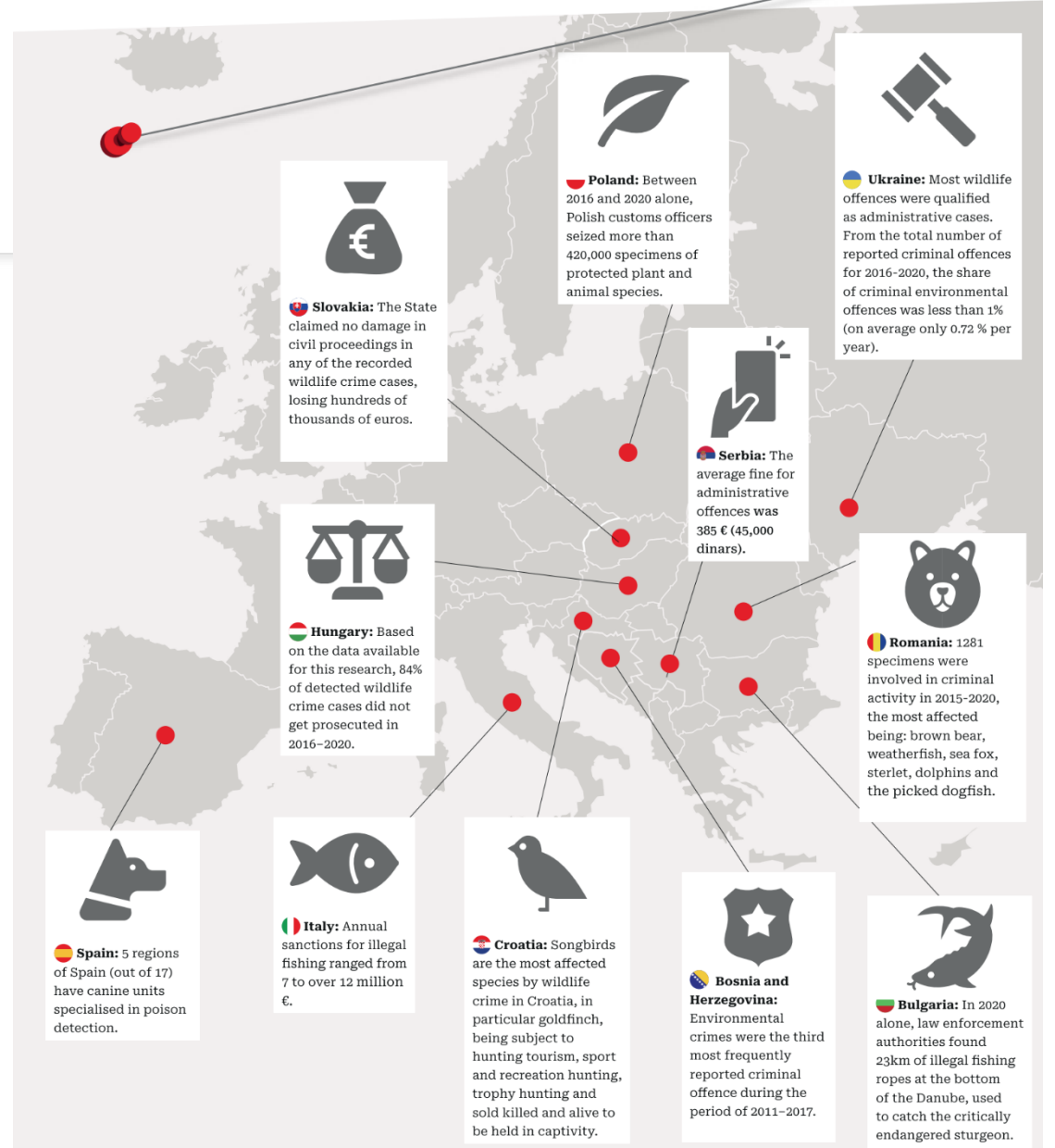
WILDLIFE CRIMES ARE INVISIBLE CRIMES



MOST WILDLIFE CRIMES GO UNREPORTED OR UNDETECTED.

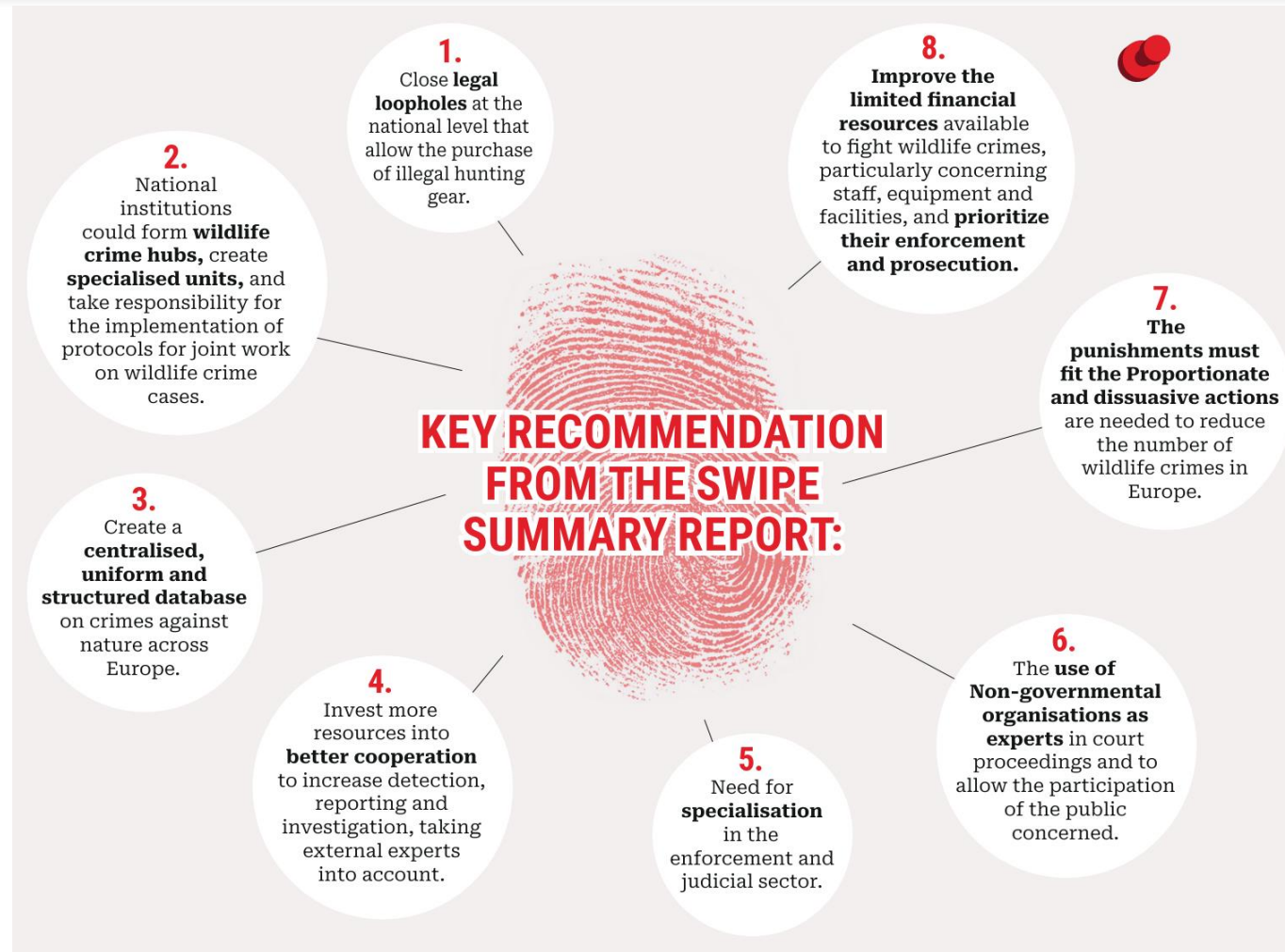
EUROPE IS A KEY CROSSROADS FOR THE TRAFFICKING OF PROTECTED SPECIES.

But Wildlife crimes also happen within the EU borders and threaten European species.



Wildlife crimes in Europe - national facts

Key recommendations of SWiPE



Continuation through NatureFirst Horizon 2020 Project



NATUREFIRST

WP 2: Creating Impact

2.1 Identify & Engage Relevant Stakeholders

2.2 Communication and Dissemination

2.3 Training of Involved Stakeholders

2.4 Exploitation & Development of Subscription Models

2.5 Evaluation

WP 1: Project Coordination

WP 3: State of Play

3.1 Inventory of Conservation Objectives, Illegal Activities & Best Conservation Practices

3.2 Inventory of Conservation Status Evaluation Criteria and Compliance / Law Enforcement Efforts

3.3 Inventory of Monitoring and Evaluation Methods and Data Sources *In-Use*

3.4 Inventory of Gaps To Assess Conservation Status to Address Threats

WP 4: Development of Proactive Methods & Technologies

4.1 Access-Preparations of Environmental Observations

4.2 Construction of NATURE-FIRST Knowledge Graph

4.3 Development of Descriptive Ecosystem Base-Mapping Models

4.4 Development of (Near) Real-Time M&E System

4.5 Development of Predictive Digital Twins

↑ FEEDBACK

A
Taxonomy Harmonisation Methods

B
Ecosystem base-maps

C
Fast Risk Identification & Alerting Routines

D
Proactive NATURE-FIRST Models

↓ DELIVERY

WP 5: Operationalisation

5.1 Field Sites demonstration & testing

5.2 Operational Support

5.3 Policy Lab