



Action Plan to eradicate the illegal use of poison in the countryside

September 2013





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1. INTRODUCTION

The present document has been drawn up under the *Life* + *VENENO* (LIFE08 NAT/E/000062) by the technical team of SEO/BirdLife with collaboration of all the key stakeholders in the fight against poison in Spain. The Action Plan has been developed within the framework defined in the “National Strategy against the illegal use of poisoned bait in the countryside” (*Estrategia Nacional contra el Uso ilegal de Cebos Envenenados en el Medio Natural en España*) approved by the National Commission for the Protection of Nature on 23 September 2004.

It has been demonstrated that in those regions where there is a legal document which provides the basis for an action plan against wildlife poisoning, the number of poisoning incidents is reduced. These plans indicate by what means this serious wildlife threat can be avoided. The associated protocols guarantee greater effectiveness in the task of pursuing those who carry out wildlife poisoning. In the first half of the *Life*+ *VENENO* project, draft action plans and protocols have been developed in 9 Spanish Autonomous Region (*Comunidad Autónoma*) as well as studying the need to modify those documents already in existence. The Action Plan described below is the basic document that has served for the development of those 9 regional action plans, having been adapted to the circumstances of each region.

The planting of poisoned bait in the countryside is one of today’s most harmful practices to ecosystems in general and certain species of threatened fauna in particular. The fight against this problem calls for specialist procedures and techniques. Positive results in this struggle depend on all the following: setting the right objectives beforehand, carrying out activities effectively; bringing the right human and material resources to bear on the problem and ensuring proper coordination and liaison among all the agents and government authorities with responsibilities on this matter.

To achieve eradicate illegal use of poison in the countryside it is necessary to extend and improve available information, work towards the prevention, deterrence and surveillance of the illegal use of poisoned bait, boost prosecution efficacy, control the sale of toxic substances likely to be used for preparing poisoned bait and improve liaison and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the fight against the use of poison in the countryside. All these factors have therefore been taken up as the objectives of this action plan.

It is also necessary to draw up suitable procedural protocols and measures to improve the efficacy of the fight against the use of poison by all stakeholders involved in its prosecution. Four protocols have therefore been drawn up, dealing with surveillance and control, the collection of samples involving the presumed use of poison, toxicological analysis of these samples and the legal action to be taken in each case.



2. DIAGNOSIS

According to the characteristics and particular set of problems within each Spanish Autonomous Region it has been analysed the following aspects:

- Causes and origin of poisoning cases
- Analysis and substances used
- Territorial distribution
- Species affected
- Administrative and/or criminal proceedings

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK. LEGAL GROUNDS

The use of poison is a large-scale, non-selective way of eliminating predators, defined as criminal action under article 336 of the Spanish Criminal Code (*Código Penal*) of 1995. Under the provisions of this code anyone caught fishing or hunting using poison is liable to a prison sentence of two to four years and disqualification from fishing or hunting for a period of one to three years.

At a European level the use of poison or any other large-scale or non-selective predator-control method is expressly forbidden under Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (Article 8) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Article 15) and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the Spanish state is signatory.

Community law forbidding the use of poison for capturing or killing animals has been implemented into Spanish law by the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Act 42/2007 (*Ley de Patrimonio Natural y Biodiversidad*), article 62.3 of which forbids the tenure, use and marketing of all large-scale or non-selective means for capturing or killing animals; Annex VII then lists poison as one of these forbidden means.

At national level 2004 saw approval by a broad consensus of the National Strategy against Illegal Use of Poisoned bait in the Countryside in Spain, which lays down guideline criteria for putting an end to this problem. It is broken down into three main objectives: firstly, information and improvement of knowledge; secondly, prevention and deterrence and thirdly prosecution of the crime. For each objective a series of guideline criteria are established for working towards the eradication of the illegal use of poisoned bait.



4. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to eradicate the use of poisoned bait in the countryside of the region and to adopt measures for reducing the effects of this illegal practice.

5. SPHERE OF APPLICATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action plan for eradication of the illegal use of poison will be applicable throughout the whole region (*Comunidad Autónoma*).

As for responsibilities, it will be up to the environment portfolio-holding body to draw up, execute and coordinate this plan, except insofar as actions fall within the remit of criminal jurisdiction or the criminal investigation police. In this case the environment-portfolio-holding body will establish the necessary liaison and cooperation arrangements.

6. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC ACTION LINES

To fulfil the purpose of this plan the following objectives are established, all of them associated with corresponding strategic lines and actions for their practical application¹:

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase and improve available information on the illegal use of poisoned bait and its consequences

The Strategic Lines (SL) and actions in pursuit of this particular objective aim to cull information on poisoning cases within the *Comunidad Autónoma*, swap information between the various stakeholders and delve into the causes behind the illegal use of poison.

SL. 1.1 Create a database and hazard map

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
1.1.1 The database will contain all poisoning cases of species of fauna, specifying with precision all available data: location, how found, results of the necropsies and toxicological analyses, etc.	High	1	Continuous
1.1.2 The database will contain all information on the registered hunting grounds (<i>cotos de caza</i>) and crop- and livestock-farms, especially their tenure, leases, the contents of the technical hunting plans, requests for predator control, damages claims, wildlife attacks on livestock and however much relevant information is to hand thereon.	High	1	Continuous

¹ The actions laid down herein have been rated according to their priority (low, medium, high) in the fight against poison, with a corresponding deadline in years for bringing them into operation as from implementation of the plan and an execution period (Low: 3 months; Medium: 6 months; Long term: 12 months).



1.1.3 The database will be updated and upgraded on a permanent basis, constituting in itself a hazard map to serve as a guide for search, surveillance and investigation work.	High	1	Continuous
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SL. 1.2 Coordinate the transmission of information. Arrangements will be made to guarantee swift information exchange between all plan stakeholders

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
1.2.1 Identify all the actors involved in the cases to ensure direct access to all of them and a swift exchange of information between them.	High	1	Short-term
1.2.2 Collaborate with veterinary clinics to inform the regional plan coordinator and law enforcement officials of possible cases of poisoning.	High	1	Continuous
1.2.3 Pass on information quickly from the wildlife rescue centre to the regional coordinator, provincial plan coordinators and environment/forestry officers to ensure immediate adoption of the necessary measures.	High	1	Continuous
1.2.4 Pass on quickly the necropsy and toxicological-analysis results to ensure measures are taken in time, without having to wait for the definitive report for broadcasting results.	High	1	Continuous
1.2.5 Set up fluid exchange of information with the Public Prosecutors' Office (<i>Fiscalía</i>), the Nature Protection Service (<i>Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza</i> : SEPRONA) of the <i>Guardia Civil</i> and, where necessary, with other government authorities and NGOs to coordinate joint action.	High	1	Continuous
1.2.6 Furnish all nature conservation associations (especially those forming part of the Antidote Programme [<i>Programa Antídoto</i>]) and the public at large with all information on poisoning cases in the region and the actions taken to eradicate it.	High	1	Continuous

SL. 1.3 Enhance knowledge of the origin and effects of poison

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
1.3.1 Enhance knowledge of the reasons or causes for using poisoned bait.	High	2	Long-term
1.3.2 Study in depth the impact of illegal poison use on threatened species.	High	1	Long-term

OBJECTIVE 2

Work towards the prevention, deterrence and surveillance of the illegal use of poisoned bait

The aim of the strategic lines (SL) and actions described below is to avoid the illegal use of poison in the countryside; they are based on prevention, deterrence and surveillance of poisoning cases as well as raising public awareness, especially among those social groups or sectors where the use of poisons is most widespread.



SL. 2.1 Adopt preventive measures

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
2.1.1 Apply rural development measures and direct aid to crop- and livestock-farms that promote measures to prevent harm to wildlife.	Medium	2	Medium term
2.1.2 Set up compensation arrangements for wildlife-caused damage and ensure they are swift and effective.	High	1	Short-term
2.1.3 Grant the accolade of environmental excellence to those municipalities and areas that carry out sound environmental practices; this necessarily implies no illegal use of toxic products and minimisation of their legal use.	Medium	3	Long-term

SL. 2.2 Adopt deterrent measures

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
2.2.1 Encourage the rejection of poison both by potential users and the local population, whether by conviction that its use is unnecessary, awareness of its grave environmental effects or the deterrent effects of fines and penalties.	High	1	Continuous
2.2.2 Include in technical hunting plans (<i>planes técnicos de caza</i>) or time-limited hunting arrangements (<i>ordenación cinegética</i>), clauses conditional on environmental performance to safeguard the enclosed hunting ground from the presence or appearance of poison.	High	2	Medium term
2.2.3 When assessing eligibility for hunting or farming grants, give priority to those hunting grounds or farms that have never recorded any poisoning episodes.	High	1	Short-term

SL. 2.3 Adopt training and awareness-raising measures

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
2.3.1 Inform involved sectors of the surveillance arrangements and the penalties and sentences related to the use of poisoned bait.	High	1	Continuous
2.3.2 Inform involved sectors of the crucial ecological function fulfilled by predators in any ecosystem.	High	2	Medium term
2.3.3 Promote the training of legal and technical personnel and the environment/forestry officers of the departments participating in the procedures, as well as the personnel of other government authorities related to this matter.	High	1	Medium term
2.3.4 Inform and raise awareness specifically of hunting and farming groups by tapping into the official government channels of communication with them (sending out Hunting Regulation Orders, circulars, authorisations, permits, meetings, etc.) and also any participation arrangements, including information on current law and also the consequences of using poisoned bait for human health and the environment.	High	1	Continuous
2.3.5 Make crop- and livestock-farms better aware of the	High	1	Continuous



obligatory conditions laid down by the Common Agricultural Policy in terms of the use of poison, involving farming unions and professional associations to bring this information to wider notice.			
2.3.6 Investigate the predation effect on hunting grounds and livestock farms and encourage, if need be, the use of predation control measures that do not focus on the eradication of a particular predator species.	High	2	Long-term
2.3.7 Conduct an awareness-raising campaign at points of sale of products used for preparing bait, to give information on the risks posed to human health and the environment by improper use.	Medium	2	Long-term
2.3.8 Encourage cooperation and coordination between the various sectors involved, including experts of the Regional Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Territorial Policy (<i>Consejería de Turismo, Medio ambiente y Política Territorial</i>), public prosecutors, lawyers, environment/forestry officers, environmental NGOs, hunting associations, farming associations and the media, doing so by organising technical conferences, periodical meetings or the creation of forums, etc.	High	1	Continuous
2.3.9 Promote environmental education campaigns on a regional scale for hunting/livestock farming groups and associations or groups related with the eradication of poison. These campaigns will stress the action plan against poison, the impact of poison on threatened species and concomitant health risks, plus the penalties for misuse thereof.	High	2	Continuous
2.3.10. Raise the general public's awareness of the problem, especially the school population, doing so by means of media campaigns.	High	2	Continuous

SL. 2.4 Adopt surveillance measures

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
2.4.1 Facilitate the search, collection and analysis of poisoned bait and of specimens of wild, tamed or domestic animals found dead in the countryside and suspected of having been victims of poison.	High	1	Continuous
2.4.2 Improve investigation procedures and try out new bait-locating and toxin-detecting methods in bait and carcasses.	High	2	Continuous
2.4.3 Establish annual surveillance plans with a suitable effort level and feedback of results. Ground searches and surveillance would then be carried out on the bases of these surveillance plans and the Procedural protocol for law enforcement officials in charge of surveillance and preventive action against use of poison in the countryside (Annex I).	High	1	Continuous
2.4.4 Promote specialist training of environment or forestry officers in surveillance tasks and also provide them with sufficient material resources within a well organised time schedule.	High	1	Continuous



2.4.5 Create at least one regional Canine Team to help in the tasks of finding poisoned bait in the countryside.	High	2	Long-term
2.4.6 Establish organisational instruments and liaison arrangements with the <i>Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza</i> of the <i>Guardia Civil</i> in the search for and investigation of poison, especially in the following circumstances: a) When the presumed author might also operate outside the particular <i>comunidad autónoma</i> . b) When there are suspicions of the existence of illegal distribution or marketing networks of the substances used to make the poisoned bait.	High	1	Continuous
2.4.7 Establish channels for funnelling information and encouraging public collaboration with law enforcement officials in poison-detection and -prevention tasks, with special consideration for the NGOs of the <i>Programa Antídoto</i> and others working in the fight against poison, foundations and other private organisations.	High	1	Continuous
2.4.8 Guarantee a fluid exchange of information between the patrols and other actors involved in investigating the cases, such as the personnel carrying out the pathologic-anatomic and toxicological studies, legal studies and the public prosecutors' office.	High	1	Continuous

OBJECTIVE 3
Increase prosecution efficacy

Unauthorised use of poison in the countryside is a crime under article 336 of the *Código Penal*, public authorities being bound to prosecute this illegal practice. For that reason, and to increase surveillance and control to avoid impunity of those who carry out this illegal activity, measures are proposed below to optimise the efficacy of the fight against poison in the regional authority and for coordination thereof with criminal proceedings.

SL. 3.1 Create a specialist patrol of environment/forestry officers

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
3.1.1 As an overarching measure within this line of action, at least one specialist patrol will be set up. This/these patrol(s) will carry out overall work in the fight against poison and will take on responsibility specifically for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating and carrying out the tasks of surveillance and detection of the illegal use of poison. • Coordinate, supervise and, where applicable, carry out the work of removing and keeping carcasses and baits. In any case guarantee the suitable collection and preservation of evidence and conservation of the custody chain. • Coordinate and carry out the tasks of investigating cases of illegal poison use. 	High	2	Medium term



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the solving of wildlife conflicts. • Carry out inspections to control the sale of products used for preparing poisoned bait. • Carry out the tasks of informing and raising the awareness of the general public. <p>The tasks of these patrols will be coordinated with the rest of the region's environment/forestry officers. They will be given specialist training and suitable material for carrying out their duties.</p>			
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SL. 3.2 Ensure proper collection and custody of evidence and carcasses

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
3.2.1 Evidence and carcasses will be collected and kept in all cases by law enforcement officials with criminal-investigation powers (environment/forestry officers or officers of the <i>Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza</i> of the <i>Guardia Civil</i>), in due accordance with the Procedural protocol for law enforcement officials in charge of collecting presumably poisoned fauna or bait and the preliminary investigation (Annex II).	High	1	Continuous
3.2.2 Improve and promote the training of all law enforcement officials and personnel who might intervene in the collection and custody of evidence in poisoning cases.	High	1	Continuous
3.2.3 Equip all involved agents with the necessary material for collection of evidence and maintenance of the custody chain.	High	1	Continuous

SL. 3.3 Ensure legal validity of toxicological analyses and expert appraisals

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
3.3.1 The expert appraisals and toxicological analyses will be carried out in due accordance with the Procedural protocol for dealing with cases of poisoning in wildlife rescue centres (<i>centros de recuperación</i>) and toxicology laboratories (Annex IV), to ensure they all have legal validity.	High	1	Continuous
3.3.2 Ensure sufficient human and material resources are assigned to the tasks of keeping samples and the carrying out of expert appraisals and toxicological analyses.	High	1	Continuous
3.3.3 Ensure close collaboration between the expert appraisers and the judicial authorities and/or the Public Prosecutor in investigation of the cases.	High	2	Continuous

OBJECTIVE 4

Draw up proper procedural protocols and measures to boost efficiency in the fight against poison



The various regional ministries (*consejerías*) of the *Comunidad Autónoma* involved in the fight against poison will act in due accordance with the following protocols to be approved together with this plan:

- 4.1 Procedural protocol for law enforcement officials in charge of surveillance and preventive action against use of poison in the countryside (Annex I)
- 4.2 Procedural protocol for law enforcement officials in charge of collecting presumably poisoned fauna or bait and the preliminary investigation (Annex II)
- 4.3 General legal protocol for administrative action and liaison with criminal proceedings deriving from the use of poisoned bait in the countryside (Annex III)
- 4.4 Procedural protocol for dealing with cases of poisoning in wildlife rescue centres (*centros de recuperación*) and toxicology laboratories (Annex IV)

OBJECTIVE 5

Control the sale of toxic substances likely to be used for preparing poisoned bait

The products used to prepare poisoned bait are mainly highly toxic commercial brands for farming use. Such products are at the moment readily available; there is therefore a pressing need for sale-control measures².

SL. 5.1 Increase control over substances used as poison and make them less readily available

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
5.1.1 Improve control over the storage and marketing of biocides and other substances that might be used for preparing poisoned bait, improving if need be the regional legislation on this matter.	Medium	1	Long-term
5.1.2 Promote, as a final objective for controlling the marketing of these products, the setting up of a system of obligatory prescription at the point of sale with express indication of the amount to be purchased for subsequent application.	Medium	3	Long-term
5.1.3 Monitor the type of products used for preparing poisoned bait with the purpose of detecting new substances and taking suitable measures to head off their illegal use.	High	1	Continuous
5.1.4 Promote investigation into the possible effects of the illegal use of chemical substances on wildlife.	Medium	2	Long-term

SL. 5.2 Create a catalogue of toxic substances used as poisoned bait

² These measures could be rounded out or updated by the recommendations made in the study of substances used as poison as part of the *Life+ VENENO* project



Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
<p>The creation of the Catalogue of Toxic Substances used in poisoned bait would involve breaking down these substances into the following categories:</p> <p>— Non essential: where there are other lower-toxicity substances on the market that fulfil the same ends or there are alternatives to their use.</p> <p>— Essential: when there are no market alternatives fulfilling the same purposes and their use is necessary for the protection of crops or animal health.</p> <p>Inclusion in the non-essential category would entail prohibition of their tenure, transport and use within the region.</p> <p>Inclusion in the category of essential would involve:</p> <p>a) Obligatory inclusion of a special label explaining the possible committing of a crime in the case of improper use. b) the need of keeping a nominal sale register. c) the need for authorised points of sale to be entered in a registry. d) inspection and check of the books recording product movements in points of marketing and use by law enforcement officials and plague service technicians.</p>	Low	3	Long-term

OBJECTIVE 6

Improve coordination and liaison between all stakeholders involved in the fight against the use of poison in the countryside

The actions described below have the aim of joining forces in the fight against poison, trying to coordinate all actions taken by the various stakeholders (regional and judicial authorities, *Guardia Civil*, NGOs, veterinary surgeons, etc.).

SL. 6.1 Adopt administrative measures and ensure proper liaison and coordination with criminal proceedings

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
6.1.1 Administrative proceedings and liaison and coordination with criminal proceedings will be carried out according to the General legal protocol for administrative action and liaison with criminal proceedings deriving from the use of poisoned bait in the countryside (Annex III)	High	1	Continuous
6.1.2 Any reporting of the use of poison received in the regional environment services will trigger actions to establish liability as the first step towards bringing administrative sanctioning proceedings. This step will be taken after accreditation of the existence of poison by means of the corresponding anatomical pathology and toxicology reports, these proceedings then being suspended thereafter upon signs that the acts involved might	High	1	Continuous



constitute a criminal offence.			
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SL. 6.1 Adopt administrative measures and ensure proper liaison and coordination with criminal proceedings

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
6.1.3 If there is no evidence for assigning criminal liability in the planting or use of poison, administrative sanctioning proceedings will then be initiated for failure to prevent the planting or existence of poisoned bait against those liable for this administrative fault.	High	1	Short-term
6.1.4 Make due arrangements for appearance by the government authority as accusing party within the judicial proceedings pertaining to the criminal use of poisoned bait, claiming where applicable the reparation of ecosystem damage for the purpose of reinitiating administrative proceedings as soon as the criminal proceedings are over.	High	1	Continuous
6.1.5 Encourage private organisations involved in the fight against the illegal use of poison also to bring charges in criminal proceedings initiated for this reason and in administrative sanctioning proceedings.	High	1	Continuous
6.1.6 Take measures to ensure, in any case, reparation of any biological damage caused by use of poison, pursuant to article 75 of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Act 42/2007 of 13 December (<i>Ley del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad</i> : LPNB; BOE 299 of 14-12-2007). To this end measures will be taken at any moment to restore the ecological balance that has been disturbed by the use of poison, regardless of whether or not criminal proceedings have been brought in the particular case.	High	1	Continuous
6.1.7 As a specific remedial measure, proceed, whenever there is evidence of the planting of poison, to the temporary suspension of hunting activity or revocation of its status as a registered and enclosed hunting ground, to ensure recovery of the environment and the species affected.	High	1	Continuous
6.1.8 Seek professional disqualification of any wardens who have used poison for predator control.	Low	2	Continuous

SL. 6.2 Promote or improve cooperation and collaboration with other government authorities and units intervening in the fight against poison by the organisation responsible for drawing up the plan

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
6.2.1 Hold periodic liaison and coordination meetings involving heads of the provincial service, provincial and regional plan coordinators, coordinators of the environment or forestry officers and experts in the fields of	High	1	Continuous



hunting, crop- and animal-farming.			
6.2.2 Encourage the formalisation of collaboration agreements or cooperation systems between the responsible body and other authorities in pursuit of the objectives of this plan, especially the <i>Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza</i> of the <i>Guardia Civil</i> and the environment public prosecutors' office.	High	2	Medium-term
6.2.3 Establish a collaboration system with other sectors of civil society involved in this problem, such as the hunting and farming sector or the associations for the defence of nature, doing so through the Interdisciplinary Monitoring Committee (<i>Comisión de Seguimiento Interdisciplinar</i>) created under the Plan.	High	2	Medium-term
6.2.4 Establish cooperation and coordination arrangements with the other regional ministries (<i>Consejerías</i>) with remits related to the problems deriving from the use of poison.	High	1	Short-term
6.2.5 To ensure and facilitate compliance with the guidelines laid down in this plan, set up liaison and coordination channels with other government authorities with remits in hunting, farming and biodiversity.	High	1	Continuous

SL. 6.3 Set up a system of regional plan coordinators

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
<p>The head of the Environment and Biodiversity Department (<i>Departamento de Medio Natural y Biodiversidad</i>) will designate a Regional Coordinator within a deadline of three months from the coming into force of this plan. His or her main duties will be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage, coordinate, direct and supervise all the actions provided for herein, with the support of provincial coordinators. • Propose such revisions or corrections to the plan and procedural protocols as may prove necessary as the plan itself develops to meet set goals. • Draw up an annual assessment report, hazard map and detailed database of the results of the year just ended and as many reports as may be required regarding the illegal use of poisoned bait. • Draw up a prioritised timetable of the actions to be carried out the following year. • These documents will be sent up to the plan managers and the corresponding participation organisation, who will all be entitled to propose new measures. • Representation of the responsible department in the National Ecotoxicology Working Group (<i>Grupo de Trabajo Nacional de Ecotoxicología</i>) set up in the Wild Flora and Fauna Committee (<i>Comité de Flora y Fauna Silvestres</i>) of the National Nature Protection Committee (<i>Comisión Nacional de</i> 	High	1	Continuous



<i>Protección de la Naturaleza</i>) of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (<i>Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino</i>).			
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SL. 6.4 Set up a system of provincial plan coordinators

Actions	Priority	Start deadline	Execution deadline
<p>In the interests of coordinating all action taken, a provincial plan coordinator will be designated within each Regional Environment Territorial Service (<i>Servicio Territorial de Medio Ambiente</i>). His or her main duties will be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan surveillance with the provincial coordinator of environment/forestry officers. • Compile, process and keep all information generated during actions taken and send up this information to the regional coordinator. • Draw up such technical reports as may be required by the judicial authority or investigating judge. • Coordinate actions with the provincial command of the <i>Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza</i> of the <i>Guardia Civil</i> or other authorities or institutions at provincial or lower level in sending on the corresponding reports for initiating previous measures and in the actions and reports for the initiation of sanctioning proceedings and suspension of hunting or revocation of its status as a registered hunting ground. 	High	1	Continuous

7. FINANCING

The organisations responsible for carrying out the plan will be provided with all necessary human and material resources and the corresponding budgetary allocations.

Additional financing will also be accepted from other public or private organisations interested in collaborating in the fight against the illegal use of poison and supportive of the objectives of this plan.

In any case proper provision of economic and human resources for enforcing this plan will be ensured.

8. PLAN ASSESSMENT

Assessing a plan like the one in question here, involving as it does several different departments of the regional government, organisations, associations and law enforcement



officials, is a difficult task calling for application of systematic and rigorous information-collecting and -analysis procedures.

Assessment of the fulfilment of set objectives, of the suitability and efficacy of the actions taken and results obtained involves the establishment of some quantitative and qualitative indicators. The quantitative indicators tell us the actions taken and the qualitative enable us to check actual results against objectives. Setting up these indicators involves the following procedures:

1. ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK REPORT

At the end of each yearly period of the plan, the regional plan coordinator will draw up an assessment and feedback report on the actions taken during the year to eradicate the illegal use of poisoned bait in the countryside, bearing in mind the plan objectives. The report shall contain information on:

a) Existing resources in the region to combat the illegal use of poisoned bait and to palliate its effects on the countryside, including the technical resources assigned to this effort (laboratories, monitoring equipment, etc.), the specialist patrols and the Canine Team. The specific aspects analysed will be:

- Actions taken to raise awareness and prevent the use of poison. These will be broken down into those targeted at children; television or radio broadcasts or press reports; awareness-raising campaigns, information brochures; training activities for technical personnel and training activities for involved sectors (livestock farmers, hunters, etc).
- Action taken for detection of poisoned bait and surveillance of its use, including the number of controls or surveillance activities programmed and carried out; programmed activities not carried out, unprogrammed activities carried out and the number of samples taken.
- Action taken in favour of prosecution of the offence in criminal and administrative proceedings, including the number of administrative or criminal sanctioning proceedings initiated for cases of the use of poisoned bait and their current state or final outcome.

b) The number of species affected by the use of poison and specification of the substances used.

c) Information on the coordination and liaison activities carried out with and between the various stakeholders (farming and hunting sectors, councils and other regional departments, judicial authority, law enforcement officials and other institutions).

d) Documents, procedures, programmes, plans or protocols related to this action plan.



e) Other administrative measures taken: suspension of hunting in hunting grounds with cases of poisoning, number of aid packages affected by the conditions laid down in the CAP; number of specific remedial measures; other measures.

2. CREATION OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MONITORING COMMITTEE

An Interdisciplinary Monitoring Committee (*Comisión de Seguimiento Interdisciplinar*) will be set up, comprising representatives of the regional departments involved, law enforcement officials, associations, organisations and judicial bodies. The remit of this committee will be to guarantee the effective enforcement and monitoring of the plan and as many additional actions as may be carried out in the region for preventing and eradicating the illegal use of poisoned bait.

9. VALIDITY TERM AND REVISIONS

This action plan is set up for an open-ended term in pursuit of the established objectives. Each year the plan may be revised and may also be modified in a shorter period if any significant parameters should change substantially enough to affect fulfilment of its objectives.

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