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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

32nd meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

**Implementation of Recommendation No. 128 (2007)
on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity**

REPORTS BY THE PARTIES

*Memorandum drawn up by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity
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CONTENTS / SOMMAIRE

1. Albania / Albanie.....
2. Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan.....
3. European Commission / Commission européenne.....
4. France / France.....
5. Georgia / Géorgie.....
6. Malta / Malte.....
7. Monaco / Monaco.....

ALBANIA / ALBANIE



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND WATER ADMINISTRATION
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POLICIES
Biodiversity Directorate**

Address: Rruga e Durrësit, Nr.27, Tiranë, Tel: 270 624, Fax: 270 624, www.moe.gov.al

Tirana, on 13.10.2012

Contribution of Albania to the implementation of Recommendation no. 128 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

The European charter on hunting and biodiversity approved in December 2007 was very appropriate for Albania as it was the time when a separate law dedicated only to hunting was being drafted in the country. At that time Albania also started the process of the integration to the EU after the ratification of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, therefore the transposition of the EU legislation was a priority.

In this context the new Law "On hunting" no. 10253, of 11.3.2010 was elaborated. In this law the principles of the European charter on hunting and biodiversity have been applied as major principles upon which the management of a sustainable hunting activity is carried out in practice in the ground. Since April 2010 when the law entered into force, several by-laws are also approved to make it implementable in practice. To be mentioned are: the Government Decree of July 2010 on the list of huntable species in Albania, Government Decree also of July 2010 on the hunting season in the Republic of Albania. Both decrees respect the hunting charter as well as the Birds Directive (2009/147/EEC) principles.

After that, based on the criteria established by the new law to ensure a sustainable hunting activity, new hunting areas were defined for the Albania. As the result 252 hunting areas were approved after studies and mapping for each area defined.

This year a couple of Guidelines of the Minister of Environment, Forests and water Administration on hunting were approved, such as the Guideline on the appointment of managers for each hunting area and the order of the Minister of the Environment on the hunting calendar detailed for each of the 17 species subject to hunting in Albania.

On the ground national legal framework implementation and enforcement needs to be improved although the situation has improved in terms of illegal hunting penalization and the number of fines being imposed for hunters not respecting legal provisions. However more efforts are needed for a better control in respect to the illegal hunting especially of migratory species in the coastal areas of the country.

Biodiversity Directorate
General Directorate of Policies
Ministry of Environment, Forests
and Water Administration
Tirana (Albania)

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

INFORMATION ON HUNTING

Hunting is regulated by legislation in Azerbaijan. Hunting Law, dated 20 April, 2004 plays important role.

There are some areas where hunting is forbidden in Azerbaijan: Aghdam, Khanlar, Goranboy, Dashkesen, Gedebey, Terter regions, islands of Caspian Sea, green zones, specially protected areas and 1 km from city and resorts.

Hunting is permitted in special hunting days of hunting season. During hunting season from mammals East Caucasian Tur(goat), wild boar, rabbit, jackal, raccoon and nutria are permitted to hunt. Special days and areas are determined for hunting. For example:

1. East Caucasian Tur (goat) – in Zagatala, Shaki, Gax, Oghuz, Guba regions (June – October).
2. Wild boar – in Lankaran, Astara, Lerik, Gax, Jalilabad, Zagatala, Imishli, Guba, Xachmaz, Neftchala, Yardimli, Shaki, Ismayilli regions (September – December).
3. Rabbit – in Shabran, Kurdemir, Salian, Neftchala, Jalilabad, Bilesuvar, Yevlakh, Lankaran, Zagatala, Masalli, Davachi, Akhstafa, Gazakh, Zardab, Guba, Xachmaz, Imishli regions (November – January).
4. Coupu or Nutria – permitted for keeping in aviary for nutria farm organizations (October – February).

Hunting jackal and raccoon are permitted in every season because their names are in harmful list and the number of these animals is increasing. Hunting of another animals and birds are forbidden except abovementioned. One reason is that their names are in Red Book of Azerbaijan Republic and the second reason is concerned with trying increasing the number of these species.

Bird hunting in Azerbaijan is temporally prohibited due to bird flu (H5N1). State Commission works on bird flu illnesses prophylaxis. If Commission decides that state of position is normal then bird hunting can be announced open.

Foreign tourists also may hunt in Azerbaijan. It is regulated by Azerbaijan legislation, with law № 176 dated 6 November, 2004. After payment foreign tourists have to submit required documents. As foreign tourists don't know Azerbaijan well, local companies (contracting with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic) help them on these processes. Foreign tourists mainly hunt East Caucasian Tur (goat), wild boar and other animals.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Nature, Biodiversity and Land Use
ENV.B.2 –Biodiversity

Brussels, 27-06-2012
ENV/B2/MK/fb Ares(2012)
Ms Ivana d'Alessandro
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Biological Diversity Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex
By email: Ivana.DALESSANDRO@coe.int

Re: Follow-up of Recommendation No. 128 (2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

Dear Ms d'Alessandro,

The EU Birds and Habitats directives (Directive 2009/147/EC and Directive 92/43/EEC) fully recognise the legitimacy of hunting as a form of sustainable use. They do limit this activity to certain species and provide rules governing their exploitation. This includes a requirement that migratory bird species not be hunted during their return migration to their breeding grounds. The directives only allow for exceptions to the general protection regime and hunting provisions for a number of reasons and under strict conditions specified in Article 9 of the Bird Directive and Article 16 of the Habitats Directive.

Member States are fully responsible for the practical application of hunting regulations. In line with the principle of subsidiarity it is the Member States who fix the hunting dates in accordance with the biological principles of the directives (cf. [Key Concepts document on Period of Reproduction and pre-nuptial Migration of huntable bird Species in the EU](#)).

HABITATS DIRECTIVE: there is no list of huntable species under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) but its Annex V contains a list of species (e.g. Castor fiber, Estonian population of Lynx Lynx, Lepus timidus...) which may be exploited as long as their exploitation is compatible with the species being maintained at a favourable conservation status. The Habitats Directive does not contain any specific provision on hunting or on monitoring game populations.

BIRDS DIRECTIVE: Within the concept of sustainable hunting the Birds Directive allows for certain species, listed in Annex II, to be hunted. There is no specific reporting obligation regarding Annex II (huntable) species of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), but Member States have to report on the implementation of national provisions taken under the Birds Directive. The Commission and Member States have agreed on a NEW reporting format to be completed every six years. It will provide information on distribution, population status, trends, and threats of all wild bird species (huntable or not) present on the territory of each Member States. Bird monitoring is a Member States responsibility. Though there exist internationally co-ordinated bird monitoring schemes (annual count of waterbirds, Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme...) which are also relevant for huntable species.

[Management plans](#) for 13 huntable bird species which are considered to be in an unfavourable conservation status, have been established.

In the context of the Birds Directive a 'Sustainable Hunting Initiative' was launched by the Commission in 2001 aiming at improved understanding of the legal and technical aspects of the Directive's provisions on hunting as well as developing a programme of scientific conservation and awareness raising measures to promote sustainable hunting. The first outcome of the EU Sustainable Hunting initiative was the publication in 2004 by the Commission of a Guide to Sustainable Hunting under the Birds Directive, which provides clear guidance on how Member States should be reflecting the principles laid down in the directive in their national measures for regulating hunting. It is strongly based on scientific principles and data and faithful to the overall aims of the directive. In particular it looks at the issue of the timing of recreational hunting under the Birds Directive and identifies the possibilities and limitations for flexibility in fixing hunting seasons.

In 2007 the Guide was updated in light of recent important judgments of the Court of Justice relevant to hunting under the Birds Directive (Cases C-79/03, C-344/03, C-135/04, C-60/05). It can be found on the web:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/hunting_guide_en.pdf.

Yours sincerely,

Marta Kaczynska
Policy Officer

FRANCE / FRANCE

APPLICATION EN FRANCE DES PRINCIPES DE LA CHARTE EUROPEENNE RELATIVE A LA CHASSE ET LA BIODIVERSITE DEVELOPPEE SOUS L'EGIDE DE LA CONVENTION DE BERNE

novembre 2012

La recommandation n° 128 (2007) sur la Charte européenne relative à la chasse et la biodiversité, adoptée par le Comité permanent le 29 novembre 2007 « recommande aux Parties contractantes à la convention et invite les organisations et les Etats observateurs à tenir compte de la charte européenne de la chasse et de la biodiversité et à appliquer ses principes en élaborant et en mettant en œuvre leurs politiques de la chasse, afin de s'assurer que la chasse se pratique dans un souci de durabilité ».

Pour chacun des 12 principes énoncés, les autorités françaises proposent une présentation de quelques points particulièrement illustratifs.

Principe 1 : privilégier une gouvernance à plusieurs niveaux afin d'obtenir un maximum d'avantages pour la conservation de la nature et pour la société

3.1.2.1 b) :

Un travail collégial regroupant les acteurs de la chasse, de la protection de la nature et des territoires ruraux s'est déroulé de 2008 à 2010 au sein de la « table ronde sur la chasse », mise en place à l'initiative du Président de la République et animée par Jérôme Bignon, alors député de la Somme.

Les avancées ont été réelles et substantielles avec la signature de deux accords importants pour le monde de la chasse, celui du 26 juillet 2008 et celui du 14 janvier 2010, qui le complète. Une des avancées importantes concerne la mise en place d'un outil de gouvernance scientifique le « Groupe d'experts sur les oiseaux et leur chasse » (GEOC) qui est chargé de l'analyse des données scientifiques sur lesquelles s'appuient les décisions en matière de chasse.

Le ministre chargé de la chasse arrête les dates d'ouverture et de fermeture de la chasse au gibier d'eau conformément à la directive européenne 2009/147 du 30 novembre 2009 sur la conservation des oiseaux sauvages et au guide interprétatif publié par la commission européenne début 2009.

Il apparaît que sur quelques territoires, les observations effectuées conduisent certains partenaires à s'interroger sur le bien fondé de la date d'ouverture actuellement en vigueur pour le gibier d'eau.

Le GEOC est notamment chargé d'assurer l'analyse et la synthèse des données, des études et des recherches portant sur les oiseaux qui sont présentées à l'appui des demandes de modifications de dates d'ouverture de la chasse.

3.1.2.1 d) :

Sur ce point il convient de se reporter au rapport de Monsieur Sainteny sur les taxes et subventions dommageables à l'environnement

Principe 2 : Veiller à ce que la réglementation soit compréhensible et respectée

3.2.2.1. a) b) c) d) e) :

Le cadre juridique a été successivement remanié par les lois chasse du 26 juillet 2000, du 30 juillet 2003, par la loi du 23 février 2005 sur le développement des territoires ruraux qui comportait plusieurs articles sur la chasse, la loi du 31 décembre 2008 pour l'amélioration et la simplification du droit de la chasse, la loi du 12 mai 2009 sur l'allègement des procédures administratives et enfin la loi du 7 mars 2012 portant diverses dispositions d'ordre cynégétique .

Le nouveau corpus législatif et les textes réglementaires d'application qui en sont issus, permettent de satisfaire nombre de demandes des chasseurs.

Au niveau national, le Conseil national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (CNCFS) a été créé par le décret n° 72-334 du 27 avril 1972 modifié. Il succède au Conseil supérieur de la chasse. Il comprend 28 membres titulaires (et 22 membres suppléants) :

- le directeur chargé de la chasse
- le directeur chargé de la forêt
- le directeur général de l'ONCFS
- le directeur général de l'ONF
- le président de la FNC
- 6 présidents de Fédérations départementales de la chasse (FDC) proposés par la Fédération nationale de la chasse (FNC)
- 3 présidents d'associations nationales de chasse proposées par la FNC
- le président de l'association nationale des lieutenants de louveterie
- 4 personnes qualifiées en raison de leurs compétences cynégétiques
- 1 représentant des collectivités territoriales proposées par le ministre de l'intérieur
- 4 représentants des organisations professionnelles représentatives de l'agriculture et de la forêt
- 4 représentants des organismes scientifiques ou de protection de la nature compétents dans le domaine de la chasse ou de la protection de la nature

Le CNCFS doit se réunir au moins deux fois par an (R 421-4 du CE). Dans la pratique , il se réunit plus souvent en fonction de l'actualité réglementaire.

Il est chargé de deux missions principales :

- Il est chargé de donner au ministre chargé de la chasse son avis sur les moyens propres à :
 - préserver la faune sauvage
 - développer le capital cynégétique dans le respect des équilibres biologiques
 - améliorer les conditions d'exercice de la chasse
- Il est consulté sur les projets de loi et décret modifiant les dispositions législatives et réglementaires relatifs à la chasse.

Il est également consulté pour avis sur les dates d'ouverture et de fermeture de la chasse aux oiseaux de passage et au gibier d'eau (article R 424-9 du CE)

3.2.2.2 c) :

Le schéma départemental de gestion cynégétique a été conçu par le législateur dans la loi n° 2000-698 du 26 juillet 2000 sur la chasse comme un document d'orientation des actions à conduire pour organiser la gestion, notamment par le moyen de la chasse, des populations des espèces de la faune sauvage dans l'objectif d'assurer un juste équilibre entre la préservation des populations de ces espèces et les activités agricoles et forestières.

L'article L. 425-1 du code de l'environnement précise que le schéma de gestion cynégétique est élaboré par la fédération départementale des chasseurs en concertation avec la chambre d'agriculture, les représentants de la propriété privée rurale et les représentants des intérêts forestiers. Il doit notamment prendre en compte les orientations régionales de gestion et de conservation de la faune sauvage et de ses habitats. Il est approuvé, après avis de la CDCFS, par le préfet qui vérifie notamment sa compatibilité avec les principes de gestion durable (prélèvement raisonnable) et d'équilibre agro-sylvo-cynégétique

L'article L. 425-2 du code de l'environnement précise le contenu du schéma départemental de gestion cynégétique en indiquant que celui-ci comprend notamment les plans de chasse et les plans de gestion ainsi les prélèvements maximum autorisés. Il comprend aussi des mesures

relatives à la sécurité des chasseurs et des non chasseurs ainsi que des mesures relatives aux lâchers de gibier, à l'agrainage et à l'affouragement. Ces mesures donnent lieu à sanctions en cas de non respect.

Les premiers schémas ont été mis en place en 2006 et sont en cours de renouvellement. La FNC prévoit qu'à court terme, chaque département soit doté d'un tel document.

3.2.2.2 d) :

Les Fédérations départementales des chasseurs ont la possibilité de recruter des agents de développement (de l'ordre de 500 agents) qui sont en quelque sorte des gardes chasses particuliers professionnels dotés de certaines compétences. La principale étant de pouvoir intervenir au titre de la police de la chasse sur les territoires ayant signé une convention avec la FDC. Cela s'assimile un peu à une garderie particulière des territoires ou une agence de gardiennage.

Principe 3 : Veiller à la durabilité écologique des prélèvements

3.3.2.1 b) :

Parmi les 6 espèces de limicoles qui se trouvent dans un état de conservation préoccupant, le Courlis corlieu, la Barge rousse, le Chevalier gambette et le Bécasseau maubèche doivent faire l'objet d'un plan de gestion et d'un suivi donnant lieu à une évaluation annuelle, ainsi que le prévoyait l'accord du 26 juillet 2008 de la table ronde chasse pour ces limicoles. Cette démarche inclut le Courlis cendré et la Barge à queue noire, espèces gibier mais actuellement soumises à un moratoire (hors DPM pour le courlis cendré), ainsi que les 3 espèces de canards plongeurs devant bénéficier d'un plan de gestion (Nette rousse, Fuligule milouinan, Macreuse brune).

Le GEOC a été saisi pour l'examen des 3 plans de gestion relatifs au Chevalier gambette, au Courlis corlieu et au Courlis cendré, ainsi que sur le plan type ayant servi de cadre d'élaboration de ces deux premiers plans.

En 2012 et 2013, l'ONCFS sera en mesure de terminer la rédaction des plans suivants qui seront soumis au GEOC : Nette rousse, Fuligule milouinan, Barge à queue noire, Barge rousse et Macreuse brune. La question posée au GEOC porte sur l'adéquation entre les mesures proposées et la connaissance scientifique de la biologie de ces espèces et de leur état de conservation.

En 2009, le ministre chargé de la chasse a saisi le GEOC au sujet de l'Oie cendrée dans les termes suivants :

« Les Pays-Bas procèdent à la destruction d'Oie cendrée sur leur territoire afin de réduire les dégâts aux cultures et à la biodiversité (limicoles nicheurs notamment). Une mission composée de membres de la table ronde chasse s'est rendue sur place et a débattu avec les autorités néerlandaises ainsi qu'avec certains scientifiques et associations. Il est demandé au GEOC de déterminer dans quelle mesure la France pourrait favoriser l'implantation de sites favorables au stationnement voire à la reproduction de populations d'oies, de préciser les périodes de migration, le pourcentage réel d'oies sédentaires ou provenant de la France dans les oies nicheuses aux Pays-Bas et enfin si la chasse aux oies en France pourrait permettre de réduire les dégâts occasionnés aux Pays-Bas sans hypothéquer l'avenir des populations d'oies non concernées ».

L'avis du GEOC a été rendu le 3 novembre 2009. Il conclut en particulier qu'«il est très peu probable qu'un prélèvement accru en France diminuerait sensiblement les dégâts aux Pays-Bas. Cette mesure pourrait, par ailleurs, affecter négativement la partie norvégienne de la population d'Europe du Nord-Ouest. Il n'apparaît pas judicieux de favoriser activement la colonisation de l'espèce en France mais la capacité d'accueil des sites d'escale migratoire et de stationnement hivernal pourrait être améliorée. Il est fortement recommandé d'améliorer les connaissances sur les effectifs hivernant en Espagne et sur l'origine biogéographique des oiseaux hivernant en Camargue qui semblent plutôt provenir d'Europe centrale ».

Le large débat conduit sur les oies a mis en évidence la complexité de leurs flux migratoires et la nécessité de promouvoir des investigations complémentaires approfondies. Elles sont structurées par un programme d'études reposant sur un protocole scientifique réalisé par l'ONCFS et qui a été validé par le GEOC. Le Conseil national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage réuni le 3 février 2012 a

approuvé un arrêté relatif au prélèvement d'oisies à des fins scientifiques. Il a été précisé à l'occasion de ce Conseil que le programme de prélèvement d'oisies à des fins scientifiques sur 13 départements venait utilement compléter le protocole de recherche précité mis en place en juillet 2011 par l'ONCFS et validé par le GEOC dans son avis en date du 19 mai 2011.

3.3.2.1 f) :

La France, en tant que Partie contractante à l'AEWA, a une politique de coopération très active avec les pays européens voisins (et donc avec les pouvoirs administratifs), ainsi qu'avec les autres pays de la voie de migration du paléarctique occidental.

3.3.2.2 a) :

Il existe un certain nombre de réseaux de surveillance sur le territoire en lien avec des stratégies de protection d'espèces et de connaissance du territoire. On peut citer en particulier des réseaux nationaux qui associent l'ONCFS, la FNC et les FDC :

- ACT (Alaudidés Colombidés Turdidés)
- Bécasse des bois (bague, ...)
- Bécassines (idem)
- **Colombidés (Idem)**
- Petite faune sédentaire de plaine
- Cervidés-sangliers
- Prédateurs déprédateurs
- SAGIR
- Oiseaux d'eau – Zones humides

Il convient de noter également des publications (ex : un atlas paru en 2011 intitulé « tout le gibier de France », de nombreuses publications scientifiques de l'ONCFS...).

3.3.2.2 c) :

La FNC a lancé en 2012 un projet appelé « Medialoup » qui vise plusieurs objectifs :

- réaliser une synthèse d'expériences sur l'interaction entre le monde cynégétique, l'activité chasse et les populations de loups dans des contextes socio-économiques différents à travers l'Europe ;
- proposer des orientations de pistes de gestion des populations de loups qui soient adaptées sur les plans biologique, social et économique et qui soient le fruit d'une construction collective ;
- mener une série d'actions de communication et de sensibilisation, adaptés au monde cynégétique et rural, validé par le comité de suivi du projet.

Ce projet est en cours de réalisation, plusieurs déplacements ont été organisés dans différents pays européens.

Principe 4 : Maintenir les populations sauvages d'espèces indigènes avec un réservoir génétique suffisant pour permettre les adaptations.

3.4.2. b) :

Les chasseurs ont souhaité être impliqués dans la gestion de la Bernache du Canada classée comme espèce exotique envahissante.

La Bernache du Canada est une espèce caractérisée par une forte dynamique de croissance de sa population et qui présente une importante adaptabilité aux conditions du milieu. Les impacts de la Bernache du Canada sur les écosystèmes naturels ou artificiels sont avérés dans la littérature scientifique européenne. Le rapport réalisé par l'Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage en 2011 conclut à la nécessité de mise en place d'un plan de lutte visant à l'éradication de l'espèce et nécessitant la mise en œuvre de plusieurs mesures.

La Bernache du Canada a été rendu chassable à titre expérimental jusqu'en 2015 et nuisible.

Au terme d'une période de 3 ans, une évaluation permettant de vérifier l'impact de la chasse sur la population de bernache du Canada sera réalisée.

L'Ouette d'Egypte pourrait faire également l'objet de mesures similaires dès 2013.

3.4.2.2 c) :

Projet FNC Médialoup (voir point 3.2.2.2 c)

3.4.2.2 c) :

Un projet est en cours avec la FNC, l'ONCFS, le laboratoire européen Antagène et les éleveurs pour l'élimination du gène Choukar dans les populations de perdrix rouge en France.

Principe 5 : Maintenir des environnements susceptibles d'entretenir des populations saines et solides d'espèces exploitables

3.5.2.1 c) :

SAGIR est un réseau de surveillance épidémiologique des oiseaux et des mammifères sauvages terrestres en France. Cette surveillance, fondée sur un partenariat constant entre les Fédérations des chasseurs et l'Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, s'exerce depuis 1955, s'est consolidée en 1972 et a pris la dimension actuelle en 1986 sous le nom de SAGIR.

Objectifs du réseau SAGIR :

Ses objectifs sont essentiellement au nombre de trois :

- 1- détecter précocement l'apparition de maladies nouvelles pour la faune sauvage ;
- 2- surveiller les effets aigus non intentionnels de l'utilisation agricole des produits phyto-pharmaceutiques sur les oiseaux et mammifères sauvages ;
- 3- caractériser dans le temps et dans l'espace les maladies des oiseaux et des mammifères sauvages à enjeu pour la santé des populations.

Cette surveillance générale et sur le long terme participe également à la connaissance des agents pathogènes transmissibles à l'homme et/ou partagés par la faune sauvage et les animaux domestiques. L'acquisition de ces données est fondamentale pour les gestionnaires cynégétiques ainsi que pour les évaluateurs et les gestionnaires du risque.

Pour assurer cette surveillance épidémiologique, le réseau SAGIR s'appuie sur la détection de la mortalité des oiseaux et des mammifères sauvages et la détermination de son étiologie.

Un réseau national de surveillance de la santé de la faune :

La surveillance repose sur un réseau d'observateurs de terrain, principalement des chasseurs, des techniciens des Fédérations départementales des chasseurs et des agents de l'ONCFS. Ces observateurs sont coordonnés par deux interlocuteurs techniques spécialisés dans chaque département, l'un de la Fédération départementale des chasseurs et l'autre de l'ONCFS.

Les animaux sauvages trouvés morts ou malades sont transportés par des personnes qui disposent d'une autorisation spéciale du ministère en charge de l'environnement jusqu'au laboratoire départemental d'analyses vétérinaires où est réalisé le diagnostic. Certaines analyses particulières sont effectuées par des laboratoires spécialisés qui viennent en appui aux laboratoires de proximité. L'ensemble des résultats est intégré dans une base de données nationale.

Les coûts du réseau SAGIR incombent principalement aux Fédérations départementales des chasseurs et à l'ONCFS.

3.5.2.2 a) :

En matière de biodiversité, les services rendus par l'agriculture reposent en priorité sur la conservation, la bonne gestion et la restauration des infrastructures agro-écologiques. C'est sur ce constat qu'a été créé le réseau Agrifaune.

Un accord entre l'ONCFS, l'APCA, la FNC et la FNSEA le 30 mai 2006 a donné lieu à la signature d'une convention dénommée « Agrifaune ». Cette convention pose les bases d'un partenariat entre les différents acteurs des mondes agricole et cynégétique qui s'engagent à créer un réseau interactif d'échange, d'expérimentation et de démonstration.

Près de 70 départements et autant de fédérations départementales des chasseurs et de chambres d'agriculture ont intégré le réseau et travaillent sur des problématiques variées.

Sur le terrain Agrifaune mobilise 200 ingénieurs et techniciens (issus des fédérations de chasseurs, de chambre d'agriculture, ingénieurs de l'ONCFS, et organismes comme PNR, syndicats de rivière...

Principe 6 : Encourager l'utilisation afin de créer des motivations économiques en faveur de la conservation de la nature

3.6.2.2 a) :

Les chasseurs contribuent à la sauvegarde d'espèces sauvages et de leurs habitats. Plusieurs exemples permettent de l'illustrer :

En matière de protection des zones humides, la chasse joue un rôle important évitant dans certains cas la transformation de zones humides par d'autres usages (culture de maïs, urbanisation, popiculture...) Des paysages originaux sont ainsi préservés avec une richesse faunistique et floristique remarquable et où perdurent des traditions humaines pluriséculaires.

Environ 2,5 millions d'oiseaux d'eau sont présents en France métropolitaine chaque année à la mi-janvier, dont 900 000 anatidés et 700 000 limicoles. Du littoral atlantique aux lagunes méditerranéennes en passant par les grandes zones continentales, un réseau de sites protégés vise à assurer la quiétude des oiseaux d'eau hivernants, ainsi que la pérennité des habitats qu'ils fréquentent. Les réserves de chasse et de faune sauvage sont les éléments les plus nombreux et les plus anciens de ce réseau. Leur statut réglementaire a été défini en 1934 sur des objectifs qui ont évolué jusqu'à intégrer la dimension « faune sauvage » dans sa globalité en 2011.

Un autre exemple est la stratégie nationale en faveur de la conservation du Grand tétras, approuvée en 2011, elle reconnaît la réalisation par les chasseurs d'actions en faveur du Grand tétras qui portent principalement sur la mise en œuvre d'actions favorables à l'habitat, la réduction de la mortalité par collision, la veille contre le braconnage, la vigilance contre les projets susceptibles d'être le suivi des populations, défavorables à l'espèce.

Le choix de maintenir une pression de chasse mesurée et raisonnée sur les seuls mâles maillés des populations pyrénéennes répond à la volonté de conserver le caractère démocratique de cette chasse, de prendre en compte la panoplie d'indicateurs de suivi mis en place par les Fédérations départementales pour la définition des quotas de prélèvements par unité de gestion, et de présenter un bilan annuel par département sur les actions menées et/ou les contributions apportées en faveur de la préservation du Grand tétras.

Principe 7 : veiller à la bonne utilisation des animaux prélevés et éviter les gaspillages

3.7.2.1 b) :

Le règlement Hygiène de la Commission européenne est mis en œuvre.

Une formation des chasseurs à l'examen sanitaire de premier niveau est mise en œuvre sur le terrain.

Une filière de valorisation de la venaison et de la marque « gibier de France » sont en cours de développement par la FNC.

Principe 8 : renforcer les capacités des parties prenantes locales et les responsabiliser

3.8.2.1. b) :

Se reporter au 3.2.2.2 c) sur les schémas départementaux de gestion cynégétique

3.8.2.2 a) :

De nombreuses formations sont assurées par les FDC

3.8.2.2 c) :

Les concertations préalables à l'élaboration des schémas départementaux de gestion cynégétiques prévues par la réglementation doivent permettre la recherche de meilleures solutions.

Principe 9 : Les utilisateurs des ressources sauvages devraient être à la fois compétents et responsables

3.9.2.2 b) :

La connaissance suffisante en matière d'identification, d'habitudes et d'écologie des espèces de gibier ainsi que des espèces non chassables est assurée notamment dans le cadre de la formation au permis de chasser.

3.9.2.2 e) :

Le permis de chasser accompagné constitue une bonne formation pour les nouveaux chasseurs.

Principe 10 : Eviter au maximum les souffrances infligées aux animaux

3.10.2.2 d) :

Dans les schémas départementaux de gestion cynégétique, le recours à la recherche du gibier blessé (avec des conducteurs de chiens de sang) est systématiquement encouragé .

Principe 11 : Encourager la coopération entre toutes les parties prenantes dans la gestion des espèces exploitées, des espèces qui leur sont associées et de leurs habitats

La coopération entre toutes les parties prenantes en France pour ce qui est de la gestion des espèces exploitées, des espèces qui leur sont associées et de leurs habitats est largement assurée dans le cadre des différents forum et organes de concertation institués en France pour la gestion de la chasse et des habitats tant au niveau national que local.

Principe 12 : Encourager la société à accepter les utilisations consommatrices durables comme des outils de sauvegarde de la nature

3.12.2.1 b) :

La mise en oeuvre du plan national de maîtrise du sanglier est une priorité qui vise à la régulation des populations de sangliers afin de faire baisser les dégâts d'une manière significative. Ce plan incarne la volonté de réformer en profondeur les pratiques et d'instaurer une coopération pérenne entre tous les acteurs, dans un cadre réglementaire existant. Le plan comporte 3 étapes :

- I. 1) réaliser un diagnostic départemental précis et zoné et identifier les points noirs ;
- II. 2) fixer des objectifs par secteur accompagnés d'indicateurs simples pour en assurer le suivi ;
- III. 3) effectuer un bilan des mesures mises en oeuvre.

Les 2 premières étapes ont été réalisées grâce au travail important déjà accompli, notamment par les fédérations de chasseurs et les DDT avec les autres acteurs concernés.

Un bilan national est établi chaque année, à partir de l'agrégation des remontées départementales permet de porter un diagnostic sur la pertinence des différentes mesures proposées et, ce faisant, de préconiser d'éventuelles inflexions pour les prochaines campagnes de chasse.

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

General review of hunting process in Georgia

Hunting in Georgia is available only on the basis of the license. According to the Law of Georgia on Wildlife, hunting was permitted only inside of the specially separated territories – inside of hunting farms (except hunting on migratory birds), natural reserves and within the zones of other categories of protected areas specially separated for hunting.

As a result of alterations made in the Law of Georgia on wildlife on July 6, 2010, hunting was permitted on the specially separated territories – inside of hunting farms (except hunting on migratory birds), natural reserves, within the zones of other categories of protected areas specially separated for hunting and also on the territory subordinated to the legal entity of public law – Forestry Agency, under the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia. This alteration should have been put into force on August 1st, 2010. According to this alteration, the Forestry Agency was authorized to organize hunting through issuing one-time (expendable) document outside hunting farm. For that, appropriate alteration was made in the “Forest Code of Georgia”. However, this type of hunting has not been executed, as the alteration in “Forest Code of Georgia” required the appropriate changes in the legislation related to the establishing of quotas and other matters. After changes of competences between the Ministries, as a result of the alterations in “Forest Code” on November 8th, 2011, hunting can be performed (all hunting species, except of migratory birds) based on the document issued by the Agency of Natural Resources, which is under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Hunting quotas, hunting objects, hunting rules and terms are adopted by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. According to these legislative changes hunting on Red List species is also allowed, although this kind of hunting is still not available because of necessity of scientific research. As of now, research is ongoing and before the conclusion of scientists this kind of hunting is not exercised. Before the changes, the abovementioned rules have been defined by the Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources. According to the law, this type of hunting, as well as hunting on migratory birds doesn't require permit or license, however, arranging of hunting farm still requires license as mentioned above.

Hunting farm represents managed territory, where main goal is to provide protection of ecosystems and fauna, including sustainable use of resource (in this case the animals for hunting) - hunting. Establishing of hunting farm is available based on the special license on hunting farm. The license conditions are defined by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources and are presented in the resolution of Government of Georgia # 132 “on adoption of the statute about rule and conditions of license issuance in forest use” August 11th, 2005. Most of license conditions cover obligations on protection and restoration of animals, including endangered species. Following requirements are defined as the license conditions:

The license holder is obliged to conduct annual inventory/records of animal species in order to determine hunting quotas and submit them for approval. In the first year of license issuance hunting quotas are not determined. Until the change of competencies, license holder was submitting above mentioned information to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The Ministry was sending the documentation to the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, which was discussing it and giving conclusion about allowable quotas by animal species back to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The latter, by administrative-legal act/order was establishing annual animal extraction quotas by species. Inventory rule for the wild specimens within hunting farms was establishing the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources. At present, licensee shall submit the inventory materials to the Agency, which is establishing the quotas. The rule for inventory of wild specimens within hunting farms and the rule for adoption of quotas are approved by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.

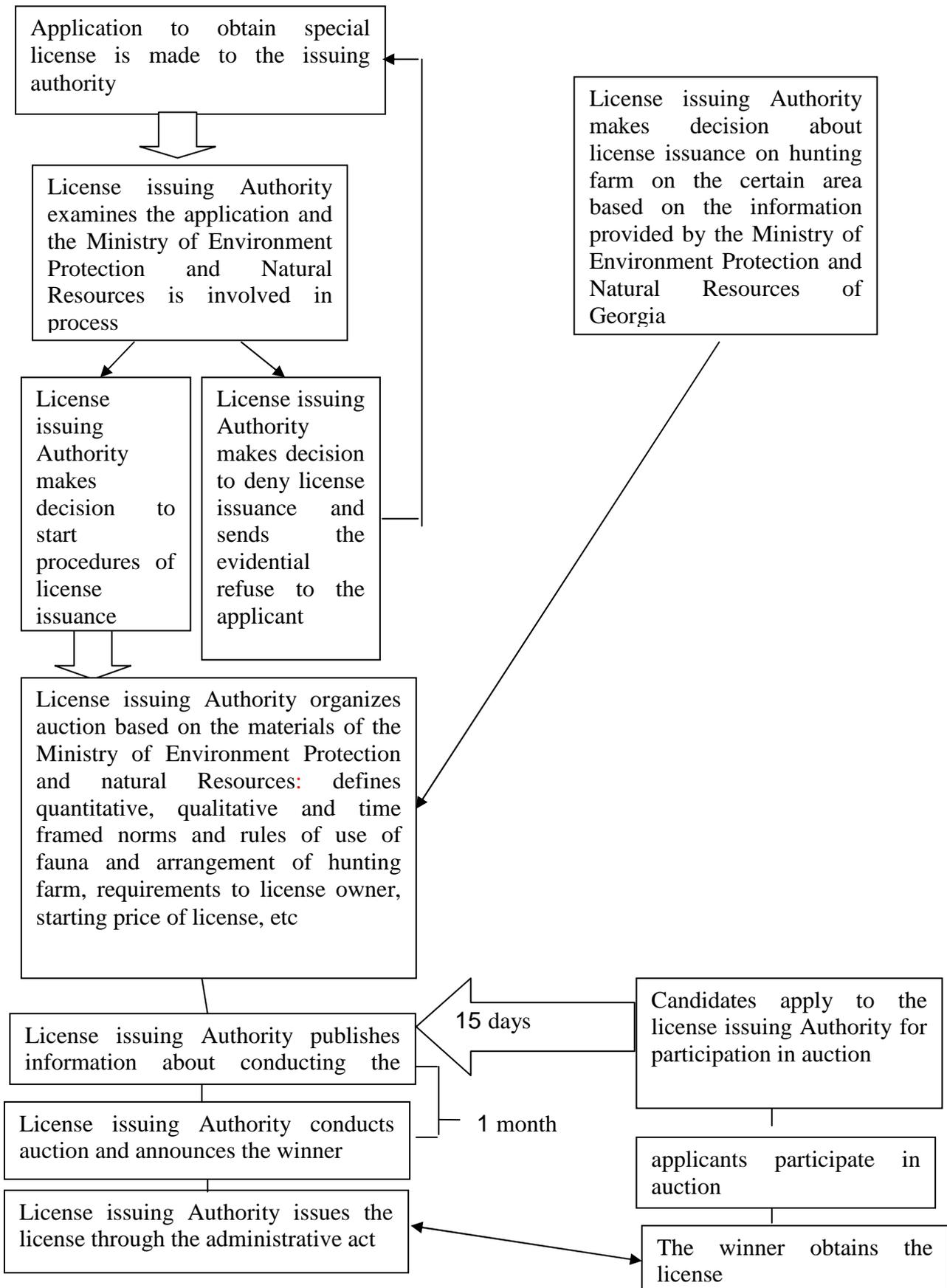
License holder is obliged to develop and submit hunting farm management plan for approval within one year after license obtaining. Structure of the plan and it's approval rule, as well as plans themselves were adopted by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources. At present, approval of above mentioned rule is under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources,

while approval of management plans itself is the competency of the Agency of Natural Resources, under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Rule of approval is already adopted by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources in April 2010 and by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, it has not been re-approved yet.

As already said, hunting on migratory species does not require license. Hunters are only required to pay hunting fee and have weapon permit. There are no quotas for this kind of hunting, although daily limits for all species are defined.

Annex 1: scheme of issuance of special license on hunting farm before redistribution of competences between the Ministries.

The scheme of issuance of special license on hunting harm before redistribution of competences



MALTA / MALTE

ANNEX 4 - EUROPEAN CHARTER ON HUNTING AND BIODIVERSITY	
3.1 Principle 1 – Favour multi-level governance that maximises benefit for biodiversity conservation and society	
3.1.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
<p>a) Take into consideration the international, national, regional and local – as appropriate - conservation status of fauna and flora;</p>	<p>The national Policy Guidelines for Hunting and Trapping of Birds in Malta (issued by the Government in August 2011) take due consideration of the applicable national, EU and international policy instruments concerning conservation of wild birds and their habitats. Government decisions concerning hunting and live-capturing activities are guided by these policy guidelines, as well as by the applicable national legislative framework, in particular the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (LN79/06 as amended) which transpose the relevant EU legislation. These decisions also take into consideration recommendations made by the Malta Ornis Committee. Moreover, Regulations currently in force provide for the application of hunting/live-capturing derogations to be allowed in Malta only following due consideration of the conservation status of the species concerned and the maintenance of the population of these species at a satisfactory level.</p> <p>Moreover, Regulation 3 of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations provides that, when necessary, special conservation measures may be adopted for the conservation of bird species which are listed in Schedule I (which corresponds to Annex I of the EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC) as well as for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Schedule I. Consideration would be given, in particular to i) those species in danger of extinction, ii) species vulnerable to specific changes in their habitats, iii) species considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution and iv) other species requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of their habitat.</p> <p>In addition within protected areas, measures to achieve or maintain favourable conservation status are set by establishing conservation objectives which are achieved through implementing conservation measures according to management plans.</p>
<p>b) Encourage the creation of policies and structures that reduce conflicts and create synergies between hunting and other conservation interests, reward best practices (e.g. with subsidies or privileges), and regulate against malpractice;</p>	<p>The establishment of the Malta Ornis Committee aims at promoting dialogue between hunting and avifauna conservation interests. The functions of this Committee (established by virtue of LN79/06, as amended and composed of members of organisations representing hunters, as well as members of organisations working for the protection of avifauna, and independent experts) include making recommendations to the Government on the establishment of policies and conditions in relation to hunting and the enforcement of avifauna regulations and the management of protected areas.</p> <p>The principle of creating synergies is also addressed through the National Environment Policy (NEP) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), where the latter includes a measure for outreach to farming, fisheries and aquaculture cooperatives, as well as hunting associations, to help foster new partnerships and new projects or other collaborative work in support of biodiversity.</p> <p>In relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Malta has incorporated the provisions of this global treaty in the Convention on Biological Diversity (Incorporation) Regulations (Legal Notice 160 of</p>

	<p>2002). The main tool for Parties to implement this Convention at a national level is by establishing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in accordance with Article 6 of the CBD. Malta's NBSAP entitled "Working Hand-in-Hand with Nature" was adopted following Cabinet's approval in November 2012. The NBSAP covers the illegal capture and killing of protected species, including birds. Relevant provisions of the NBSAP include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strict protection regime is in place, in line with requirements of the EU Nature Directives, and which incorporates measures to address the <u>illegal and the incidental capture and killing of protected species</u>, including those that are migratory. - The <u>regulation of capture and killing of protected species</u> builds on sustainability principles and is in line with provisions of national law and the EU Nature Directives. This is ensured via the better regulation initiative and also in light of conservation status assessments. - Outreach to farming, fisheries and aquaculture cooperatives, as well as hunting associations, helps to foster new partnerships and new projects or other collaborative work in support of biodiversity. - Environmental illegalities such as, but not limited to, the illegal alteration of water flows that is detrimental to freshwater-dependent biodiversity, illegal land conversion, as well as the illegal capture and killing of species, are addressed through strengthened enforcement and corrective action.
<p>c) Ensure that the policies and structures accommodate local cultural demands (i.e. multiple use) and ecological conditions as well as higher-level policy;</p>	<p>National policy and regulations in relation to conservation of wild birds take due account of local socio-cultural and ecological conditions.</p> <p><i>Socio-Culture Conditions</i></p> <p>The Government believes that the local countryside belongs to everyone and this principle is reflected in the national Policy Guidelines for Hunting and Trapping of Birds in Malta which state that "<i>The Maltese countryside belongs to everyone and measures should ensure its rightful enjoyment by families and children. The time schedules of hunting and trapping seasons should reflect this principle. In particular, hunting and trapping activities on Sunday and public holidays will continue to be strictly limited. Account may also be taken of school holidays.</i>" In line with such principles hunting activities are generally prohibited on Sundays and public holidays after one o'clock in the afternoon whilst no hunting activity is allowed on Sundays and public holidays during derogation periods.</p> <p><i>Ecological Conditions</i></p> <p>Concerning the accommodation of policies for ecological conditions, the same Guidelines mentioned above also provide that "<i>Hunting is allowed for the species listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive as long as it is ensured that hunting does not jeopardise conservation efforts in the distribution of the species concerned.</i>" and that moreover "<i>The duration and daily time-table for any open season must ensure the safe-passage of protected bird species. In this context, account must be taken of the fact that the peak raptor migrations over Malta normally occur in the month of May and in the second half of September (15- 30 September)</i>"</p> <p>The latter provision is implemented through legislation governing the duration and other conditions of the autumn hunting season, published prior to the opening of the autumn hunting season each year, which prohibits hunting activities between 15th and 30th September after three</p>

	<p>o'clock in the afternoon in order to safeguard the passage of migrating birds of protected species.</p> <p>In case of limited hunting in spring, which is only permitted through a derogation from the EU Birds Directive under strictly supervised conditions specified in the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for Allowing Derogation for the Opening of Spring Hunting Season for Turtle Dove and Quail) Regulations (LN221/10) migration of birds is monitored through an independent ornithological study that covers the period during and immediately following such derogation.</p> <p>In addition, areas which are deemed to be essential for the conservation of birds have been protected and declared as bird sanctuaries and no hunting (or trapping) is allowed within such sites.</p> <p>Additionally, as part of protected area management, the management planning process ensures that stakeholder participation is achieved to establish and discuss issues that may pertain to the protected area or to the measures that are proposed to be implemented.</p>
<p>d) Audit for regulatory or other incentives that are detrimental for conservation of biodiversity, and remove, neutralise or compensate for them.</p>	<p>Regulatory measures having impact on biodiversity conservation objectives are subject to regular reviews. Such review mechanisms are in-built within Malta's national plans and policies dealing with the protection of the environment in general and biodiversity conservation in particular. In 2012 a Cabinet sub-committee on the environment has been established specifically to monitor and periodically review the implementation of the National Environment Policy at the highest level. A Parliamentary Environment Committee is also active in reviewing the effectiveness of existing environmental regulatory mechanisms.</p> <p>Review mechanisms are also embedded within Malta's NBSAP. Furthermore, an ambitious management planning exercise is presently underway to ensure 100% management planning coverage for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites by the end of 2013. This project involves a comprehensive review of the present situation, including regulatory measures in relation to biodiversity, and the development of measures specifically designed to address any deficiencies. All management plans and other management instruments that will be developed as a result of this exercise will also incorporate audit and review mechanisms.</p>
<p>3.1.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:</p>	
<p>a) Assist authorities at all levels to develop and promote incentives for conserving biodiversity through sustainable use;</p> <p>b) Strive at all levels to attain maximum conservation benefit through hunting.</p>	<p>In accordance with Maltese legislation, in particular under the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations no person may hunt or take birds without a valid licence issued by the Maltese authorities. The licence is renewable on a yearly basis and the holder must be a member of recognised local hunting organisation in order to obtain such renewal. This ensures that each hunter must be properly insured against any accident and must abide by further conditions which the hunting organisation concerned might impose to further complement the hunting regulations.</p> <p>The hunting organisations/associations in Malta have their own disciplinary regulations. They promote programmes to prevent accidents and generally promote self-regulation and discipline. They also actively encourage responsible behaviour while members are engaged in hunting/trapping activities. One of the more important provisions in these self-discipline regulations of the main officially recognised hunting organisations/associations is that if a member is found guilty by the Courts of Law of having acted illegally or of criminal or unruly behaviour while hunting/trapping such member's</p>

	<p>membership is immediately suspended (or in serious cases terminated). In the case of termination of membership, the relevant members are deprived of all the privileges of membership, including the important right of seeking renewal of the yearly hunting/trapping licence.</p>
<p>3.2 Principle 2 – Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected</p>	
<p>3.2.2.1 Regulators and managers:</p>	
<p>a) Formulate simple, flexible, and logical regulations which address biological principles, (inter)national policy, the socio-economic context, as well as reasonable stakeholder concerns and expectations;</p>	<p>The main legislation aimed at protecting avifauna in Malta is the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations which, apart from transposing the Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, also implement the Bern Convention and integrate the local Policy Guidelines for Hunting and Trapping of birds in Malta.</p> <p>National regulators endeavour to ensure that stakeholders fully understand local regulations through diverse means, such as through the information leaflets sent to new applicants of hunting licences or the issuance of press releases concerning new legislation.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, Malta also has a national Ornithology Malta Committee (which includes amongst others, members of hunting organisations, as well as members of organisations representing persons working for the protection of avifauna, apart from independent experts on avifauna and hunting) which acts as a platform to help address the various stakeholder concerns. Moreover, its members include representatives of the most relevant stakeholder organisations, who subsequently update the other members of these organisations accordingly.</p> <p>All legitimate stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the management planning process within protected areas.</p>
<p>b) Impose only those restrictions on methods and means which can be justified from the standpoint of conservation and that will be easily understood by stakeholders;</p>	<p>Hunting and live-capturing activities in Malta are subject to a number of control measures provided for in legislation, particularly in the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (as amended). The Maltese legal framework imposes <i>inter alia</i> restrictions on the types of methods and equipment that may be utilised under strict supervision during any live-capturing derogations, as well as a range of restrictions applicable to hunting. For example, the limited hunting derogation in spring is only applied subject to a number of restrictions being met, including restrictions on time and place where hunting can take place, the requirement for hunters to apply for special spring hunting licence, the requirement for licensed hunters to wear special identification arm bands, individual daily and seasonal bag limits, the monitoring of the uptake of the bag via an SMS system and through <i>Carnet de Chasse</i> reporting, legal provision related to enforcement and the presence of enforcement personnel in the field, as well as an independent ornithological monitoring of bird migration. These restrictions and requirements are enshrined in legislation through the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for Allowing a Derogation Opening Spring Hunting Season for turtle Dove and Quail) Regulations (Legal Notice 221 of 2010 as amended). In the case of live-capturing activities additional restrictions concerning permitted methods and place restrictions also apply, such as the prohibition of live-capturing activity on <i>garigue</i> habitats within Natura 2000 sites. The above restrictions have been developed following extensive consultation with stakeholders, including with the European Commission, as well as with the representatives of hunting organisations and bird watching associations. Legal parameters which any derogation allowed for autumn trapping must adhere to are enshrined in legislation through the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for Allowing Derogation Opening an Autumn Live-Capturing Season for Song Thrush and Golden Plover) Regulations (Legal Notice 303 of 2012). The restrictions and conditions are communicated to the members of the</p>

	<p>hunting community via seminars organised by hunting associations, as well as through the publication of press releases and written information supplied to each hunter by the competent authority together with the <i>Carnet de Chasse</i> and any special licence where applicable.</p>
<p>c) Have transparent regulatory processes that allow for the active participation of hunters and other stakeholders;</p>	<p>The national Malta Ornis Committee established by LN79/06 (as amended) provides a transparent platform for exchange of legal, scientific and technical information amongst a variety of stakeholders represented on this Committee. The Committee is instrumental in the assessment and due consideration of a variety of technical, policy and legal issues pertaining to the conservation of wild birds. The Committee also fulfils the important role of making recommendations to the Government on a wide array of issues ranging from conservation status of particular species to conditions of hunting seasons as well as recommendations on enforcement or legislative proposals. The decision-making processes of the Committee are governed by the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations.</p> <p>In addition to the work of the Malta Ornis Committee, the Government maintains ongoing dialogue with a range of environmental organisations as well as with the hunting associations. Regular meetings are held with these NGOs, whereby a variety of policy issues and proposals are discussed.</p>
<p>d) Favour forensic law enforcement technologies that motivate minimal-effort compliance;</p> <p>e) Create regulations that can be adapted to local governance and enforcement needs.</p>	<p>The Administrative Law Enforcement Police (ALE Unit) in conjunction with officers from other sections in the Police Force are instructed to concentrate on enforcing bird related legislation during the hunting/trapping seasons. Another important duty of the Police is to prevent any illegalities during the season, thus giving importance to preventive measures. As at November 2012, this Unit consisted of 18 field officers on patrol, 4 officers in administration in Malta and 4 field officers on patrol in Gozo. These officers receive specialised training and are adequately equipped to monitor hunting/trapping seasons and prosecute any individuals contravening the law. Amongst other equipment, the ALE has 11 patrol vehicles and 10 patrol boats at their disposal. The ALE officers are further assisted by district police units, which are also involved in the monitoring of hunting activities and conducting field inspections. During the periods of spring hunting derogations, the capacity of the ALE is further boosted up to a 43-strong complement. In fact it is estimated that at times almost 10% of all on-duty police officers in Malta are in some manner involved in enforcing hunting or live-capturing regulations. The officers are deployed in uniform and in marked vehicles so as to make them easily recognisable in order to give, as already stated, importance to the preventative aspect of enforcement measures. In addition, officers and vehicles are provided with all means of modern communication systems to allow for quick transmission of information between officers, Head Quarters, and patrols on land and sea.</p>
<p><i>Hunters and hunting tour operators:</i></p>	
<p>a) Assist in development and acceptance of effective regulations;</p>	<p>In accordance with Maltese legislation, in particular under the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations no person may hunt or take birds without a valid licence issued by the Maltese authorities. The licence is renewable on a yearly basis and the holder must be a member of recognised local hunting organisation in order to obtain such renewal. This ensures that each hunter must be properly insured against any accident and must abide by further conditions which the hunting organisation concerned might impose to further complement the hunting regulations.</p> <p>The hunting organisations / associations in Malta have their own disciplinary regulations. They promote programmes to prevent accidents and generally promote self-regulation and discipline. They also actively encourage responsible behaviour while members are</p>
<p>b) Follow and encourage respect for all rules and regulations pertaining to hunting, conservation measures (including protected areas), and private property;</p>	
<p>c) Embrace self-regulation where possible;</p>	
<p>d) Assist in preventing and reporting poaching.</p>	

	<p>engaged in hunting/trapping activities. One of the more important provisions in these self-discipline regulations of the main officially recognised hunting organisations/associations is that if a member is found guilty by the Courts of Law of having acted illegally or of criminal or unruly behaviour while hunting/trapping such member's membership is immediately suspended (or in serious cases terminated). In the case of termination of membership, the relevant members are deprived of all the privileges of membership, including the important right of seeking renewal of the yearly hunting/trapping licence.</p> <p>The Maltese authorities hold regular meetings with FKNK (Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti), the federation of Maltese hunters, to discuss measures which would ensure the acceptance and implementation of the regulations established and to encourage self-regulation.</p>
3.3 Principle 3 – Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable	
3.3.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
<p>a) Implement adaptive management strategies for sustainable harvest and maintaining populations at optimal levels relative to ecological and socio-economic carrying capacity and objectives;</p>	<p>In accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Hunting and Trapping <i>“Hunting is allowed for the species listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive as long as it is ensured that hunting does not jeopardise conservation efforts in the distribution of the species concerned.”</i></p> <p>The judgment delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Case C-76/08 <i>Commission vs Malta</i> recognises that the autumn hunting season does not provide a satisfactory solution to spring hunting for Quail and Turtle Dove in Malta: <i>‘Having regard to those very specific circumstances, hunting for quails and turtle doves during the autumn hunting season cannot be regarded as constituting, in Malta, another satisfactory solution, so that the condition that there be no other satisfactory solution, laid down in Article 9(1) of the Directive, should, in principle, be considered met’</i> (paragraph 63).</p> <p>The judgment envisages the possibility of limited hunting of Turtle Dove and Quail under strictly supervised conditions in view of the specific circumstances prevalent in Malta.</p> <p>The Government has therefore allowed a derogation in terms of the provisions of the EU Birds Directive for the spring hunting of a limited number of Turtle dove and Quail, under strictly supervised conditions, in 2010, 2011 and 2012.</p> <p>A spring hunting season in Malta is subject to various measures and strict controls aimed at ensuring that the conservation status of the relevant species is not affected. The Regulations currently in force state that if during any particular autumn hunting season, the number of bagged Turtle Doves and Quails reaches a specific limit, then Malta would not apply a derogation to allow hunting during the following Spring season.</p> <p>The Regulations also state that if a spring hunting season is declared open, a national spring hunting limits is set for each species. This limit is calculated taking into consideration the 1% overall annual mortality of the individual bird species concerned (Turtle Dove or Quail) with a view to ensure that the conservation status of the species concerned and their population is maintained at a satisfactory level.</p> <p>The measures related to a spring hunting season are provided for in the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for allowing a derogation opening a spring hunting season for the Turtle Dove and Quail) Regulations (Legal Notice 221 of 2010, as amended). These Regulations ensure that any spring hunting season derogation in Malta</p>

	<p>fully respects the spirit and provisions of the EU Birds Directive and the judgment of the CJEU, whilst establishing adequate measures to ensure strict control and enforcement during any such season.</p> <p>Similarly, the national bag limits for the live-capturing of the Golden Plover and Song Thrush, which is only permitted subject to strict conditions under a derogation from the EU Birds Directive are calculated taking into consideration the 1% overall annual mortality of the individual bird species concerned to ensure that the conservation status of the species concerned and their population is maintained at a satisfactory level. These and related measures are established in the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for allowing a derogation opening an Autumn live-capturing season for Song Thrush and Golden Plover) Regulations (LN303/12).</p>
<p>b) Ensure that management plans and/or measures have clear objectives that take into account the behaviour and ecology (including predation and seasonal effects) and the long-term conservation status of wild species. These plans and/or measures should also consider the possible effects of harvest strategies and other measures on ecosystems, species populations and society. Management plans and/or measures need provisions to ensure proper implementation, monitoring and updating.</p>	<p>A number of sites have been designated as Special Protection Areas under the EU Wild Birds Directive in view of their importance to locally breeding species such as <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Hydrobates pelagius</i>. Such designated sites afford the protection to a significant percentage of the Maltese populations of these species.</p> <p>Moreover, some sites have been declared as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by virtue of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations. The Management planning exercise for Special Protected Areas and SCIs / SACs is currently on-going and all terrestrial sites that have been declared as Natura 2000 sites should have conservation objectives and conservation measures through the setting up of legal provisions and/or management plans by 2014.</p>
<p>c) Seek to avoid and mitigate negative impacts on species and/or habitats where possible, and optimise management of ecosystem components to the benefit of biodiversity and society;</p>	<p>Another function of the Ornithological Committee is to make recommendations on the diverse issues which may negatively impact avifauna; such as the adverse chemical pollution on population levels and the introduction of any species of birds which do not naturally occur in the European territory of the Member States.</p> <p>Moreover, in general, for plans or projects which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the SAC's but which are likely to have a significant effect on the habitats or species for which the SACs/SCIs have been designated, an appropriate assessment would need to be carried out.</p> <p>Furthermore, the management planning process for protected areas is based on the ecosystems based management principle and encourages stakeholder participation.</p> <p>At present, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority is undertaking a significant management planning exercise that involves delivering 100% management planning coverage for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in Malta. A €3.4 million EU-funded project is intended to deliver a comprehensive management framework compiled with participation of all stakeholders by the end of 2013.</p>
<p>d) Ensure that harvest by resident hunters and hunting tourists is addressed in management plans;</p> <p>e) Cooperate with hunters to develop and apply methods for simple and effective monitoring and management of populations, habitats and ecosystem services;</p>	<p>Stakeholder involvement is considered a key issue in the management of sites and is a key component of the ongoing management planning process. Biodiversity monitoring is implemented through a range of national studies and projects. These amongst other include spring migration studies for Turtle Dove and Quail, as well as specific studies concerning particular species such as Yelkouan Shearwater.</p> <p>Malta notes that it does not have any hunting tourism and that such tourism is not envisaged by any national policy.</p>
<p>f) Cooperate with neighbouring and</p>	<p>Two Special Protected Areas are managed by BirdLife Malta, who also</p>

flyway administrative authorities to properly manage and conserve transboundary populations where appropriate;	carries out monitoring of birds which have been ringed outside of Malta as well as carrying out ringing of birds in Malta.
g) Develop and implement standardised systems for collecting harvest data for use in adaptive management of populations at all appropriate scales;	<p>The harvest/catch data in Malta is primarily collated through the <i>Carnet de Chasse</i> permit. This booklet helps to collect information on the hunting dates, location used, hunting effort, the species bagged and their quantity. It is to be noted, moreover, that no person can renew a hunting licence unless such person has duly filled in his <i>Carnet de Chasse</i> of the previous year.</p> <p>Moreover, hunters / trappers who have been granted a special licence in accordance with derogation conditions for hunting in spring or live-capturing in autumn are required to also submit an SMS, in real time, declaring their catches.</p> <p>In addition, every hunter may also be required to participate in any other study or survey organised by the Malta Ornithology Committee.</p>
h) Recognise that natural and human-induced change is inevitable.	
3.3.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
a) Assist in population monitoring and research;	<p>Hunting associations have over the past years carried out a number of studies under their own initiative as well as collaborated with Government and other stakeholders in bird migration monitoring exercises carried out in spring since 2008.</p> <p>Hunting associations have also been proactive in disseminating regulatory information and in conducting educational initiatives amongst their members to promote compliance with applicable legal and policy restrictions. Hunting associations have also, undertaken concrete conservation activities and afforestation projects in a number of sites particularly in recent years.</p>
b) Work to integrate their activities into the adaptive management of populations and habitats of target game species;	
c) Understand and recognise the biological role and impact of indigenous predators on game species and take this into account when participating in their conservation and management;	
d) Ensure that populations of target game species are kept at optimal levels relative to their habitats, species communities and any biodiversity restoration targets;	
e) Ensure that harvests are demographically sustainable and non-detrimental to ecosystem services	
3.4 Principle 4 – Maintain wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools	
3.4.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Deter the release of new alien species that could become invasive and/or negatively effect native fauna or flora;	<p>In accordance with Maltese legislation the Malta Ornithology Committee can recommend measures to the Government to control and monitor the introduction of any species of birds which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States of the European Union (so called alien species). This measure is aimed at preventing negative impact on Maltese flora and fauna by such introductions. Moreover, relevant competent authorities in Malta may also prohibit the importation and/or keeping of any species of flora and fauna, if in their opinion, this importation and/or keeping could harm or lead to the endangering of biodiversity in Malta. Moreover, the Maltese Authorities may also take all necessary measures to prevent, control, and monitor the introduction into the environment of organisms belonging to alien species with the potential to establish populations, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (LN311/06 as amended).</p> <p>In this respect, there are various cases of control or removal of alien invasive species in Malta with respect to both flora and fauna,</p>

	<p>including <i>Acacia saligna</i>, <i>Arundo donax</i>, <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>, <i>Aptenia</i> spp. <i>Opuntia</i> spp. <i>Kalanchoe daigremontiana</i>, <i>Rattus</i> spp. etc.</p>
<p>b) Engage hunters in programmes to remove invasive alien species;</p>	<p>Hunters have not been targeted specifically in the programme to remove invasive alien species. However, it should be noted that the Malta Environment and Planning Authority has issued a policy guidance document aimed for site managers and users and addresses the need of managing non-native plant invaders and restoring native plant communities in Malta. This guidance document was issued last year for public consultation by the Environment Protection Directorate within MEPA and may be viewed through the following link: http://www.mepa.org.mt/lpgdocuments/LEG.pdf</p> <p>Moreover, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations the Competent Authority may, when necessary, develop eradication or control plans and related programmes aimed at monitoring, preventing and controlling the introduction into the environment of established alien species, invasive species and those alien species with the potential of establishing populations and become invasive.</p>
<p>c) Facilitate the reestablishment of originally indigenous species of fauna and flora in accordance with IUCN guidelines¹ and have clear management plans that define their recovery;</p> <p>d) Incorporate genetic considerations into management plans;</p> <p>e) Seek transboundary cooperation to ensure genetic adaptability of populations;</p> <p>f) Monitor the genetic characteristics of species populations of special concern.</p>	<p>In terms of policy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) which Malta adopted this year aims to explore opportunities for species re-introduction or reinforcement, where feasible and where deemed of added value. Such endeavours would be designed in accordance with IUCN and should also be supported by secured resources and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>In addition to this the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations stipulate that prior to the re-introduction of species listed in Schedules II and III therein (species of Community/National interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation) the Competent Authority may, deem it necessary to commission a study in order to establish whether such re-introduction would contribute effectively to the re-establishment of such species at a favourable conservation status.</p> <p>In practice, promotion on the use of indigenous species is ongoing, through publication of guidelines for landscaping and a photographic guide to assist landscapers and the general public.</p> <p>Additionally a Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants has been published. It mainly addresses the horticultural sector and those entities engaged in landscaping and afforestation and aims at enlisting their cooperation to adopt good practices in raising awareness on this topic, preventing the introduction of potentially invasive plants into Malta and the spread of Invasive Alien Plants already present in Malta.</p> <p>In relation to genetic aspects, although such considerations are recognised, particularly with respect to terrestrial species, there seem to be no major issues in relation to birds, since most of the species breeding in Malta are migratory and there are no indications of genetic concerns at present.</p>

¹ IUCN/SSC Guidelines For Re-Introductions: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/publications/policy/reinte.htm>

3.4.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
<p>a) Accept the return through natural recolonisation of wild species that were once indigenous to an area, taking into account the socio-economic context;</p> <p>b) Favour re-stocking from appropriate sources but only introduce or reintroduce species in accordance with IUCN guidelines;</p> <p>c) Avoid exclusive selection for specific phenotypic or behavioural traits of individuals which are not representative of the wild species population and can consequently be detrimental;</p> <p>d) Aid scientists and managers in monitoring genetic characteristics of populations</p>	<p>Several proposed species re-introduction initiatives are being discussed by the Malta Ornithology Committee. These, include a project to re-introduce the Barn Owl as well as a possible captive breeding programmes for various bird species.</p>
3.5 Principle 5 – Maintain environments that support healthy and robust populations of harvestable species	
3.5.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
<p>a) Develop mutually agreed systems that motivate hunters to help conserve habitats and landscapes with their associated fauna;</p> <p>b) Develop and implement standardised systems for monitoring the health and condition of game animals, populations, habitats and ecosystems;</p> <p>c) Account for possible negative impacts of hunting on other ecosystem services and minimise and mitigate these.</p>	<p>The management planning exercise for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands which is currently on-going. Hunters have been identified as key stakeholders in the management of some sites and discussions are ongoing in this respect. The project is expected to be concluded in 2014.</p> <p>Moreover, one of the functions of the Ornithology Committee is to draw up lists, as necessary, concerning data on the population levels of migratory species as shown by bird ringing initiatives and make recommendations thereon. Moreover, the Committee can also, draw up (as necessary) national lists of species in danger of extinction or particularly endangered species, whilst taking account of their geographical distribution.</p> <p>The application of hunting and live-capturing derogations is subject to detailed review and reporting to the European Commission. These reports, amongst other elements account for all significant impacts of hunting and live-capturing activities on ecosystems.</p> <p>It is noted that by limiting the season duration, times when practise of the activity is allowed and areas where hunting is can take place Malta endeavours to strike an adequate balance between the needs of hunters and other stakeholders. For instance, the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations contains provisions restricting time and place of hunting and taking activities.</p> <p>Malta has also commissioned independent scientific studies on the migration of turtle dove and quail in Malta in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012. Malta has also worked on the implementation of the EU Management Plans for the Turtle Dove and Quail. Malta has implemented various activities of both management plans, some of which have also been reported in selected parts of Malta's Birds Directive Article 12 report for the period 2005-2008. A summary of</p>

	<p>such activities in relation to the Management Plans' measures is included below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public awareness: awareness on these species is regular, due to press articles, press releases as well as related activities linked with the LIFE+ Gawdihom Hielsa project.• Habitats Protection: various existing legal provisions of the Environment and Development Planning Act are in place, declaring various important sites in Malta as Nature Reserves, Bird Sanctuaries (BSs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Tree Protection Areas (TPAs), Areas of Ecological Importance (AEIs) and Sites of Scientific Importance (SSIs). The Ramsar sites (which are also SACs, SPAs and BSs) are both managed on the basis of a management agreement with BirdLife Malta. The development of management plans for other Natura 2000 sites and relevant publicity is also being addressed through EU funding.• Annual Bag Statistics and Bag Limits: <i>Carnet de Chasse</i> (annual bag statistics) reports are public, and are available on the MEPA website. Bag limits in relation to a spring hunting season are inversely proportional to the autumn hunting bag numbers and also calculated by taking into account the principle of 1% of natural mortality of the species concerned. An SMS service is in place to assist in the enforcement of bag limits. Control measures are further reinforced by additional Police officers/hunting marshals deployed to supervise derogation periods.• Ringing: ringing is subject to regular annual permits. This is carried out regularly through BirdLife Malta (BLM) as part of EURing. Information is published by BLM and reports are submitted annually by Malta to the Commission in its Article 9 derogation reports.• Annual estimates of breeding success through national research activities on breeding grounds: In 2007 Malta commissioned a study on farmland birds, which was conducted by BirdLife Malta. This study produced a breeding bird atlas, published in 2009 as Raine <i>et al.</i> (2009). Both Turtle Dove and Common Quail were included in the assessment. Sultana <i>et al.</i> (2011) published by BirdLife Malta, provides the latest information.• Research on Migration Patterns: Malta has commissioned independent scientific studies on the migration of turtle dove and common quail in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012.• Investigation of the potential competition with Collared Dove: the collared dove is a relatively recent regular breeder in Malta, known from breeding stations in the north east of Malta and the central parts of Gozo, and was introduced in Comino. Its numbers have been increasing annually since 2004, as indicated by studies, e.g. Raine <i>et al.</i> (2009) and Sultana <i>et al.</i> (2011). No specific interspecific competition assessments have been carried out between the collared and turtle doves, also because turtle dove does not breed in Malta. However, it has been noted that the collared dove is a highly adaptable breeder, preferring suburban human habitation areas with gardens and small cultivated holdings, with scattered individual or small groves, such as at Santa Marija Estate in Mellieha, the Government Nursery and Villa Rundle, the latter two at Rabat Victoria (Gozo).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control on the Alien Japanese Quail (<i>C.c .japonica</i>) and its various hybrids (<i>C.c.coturnix</i> x <i>C.c. japonica</i>): Japanese and hybrid quails are not an issue in Malta, and no specialised breeding centres occur. However, provisions on the introduction of invasive alien species have been legally set up through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations.
3.5.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
a) Actively contribute to the conservation and restoration of habitats at appropriate scales where feasible;	The ongoing management planning exercise identifies hunters as key stakeholders in the management of some sites and discussions are ongoing in this respect. The project is expected to be concluded in 2014. Furthermore hunting associations actively pursue conservation initiatives and regularly carry out conservation activities including afforestation, clean up and habitat restoration projects, control of alien species and other own initiatives.
b) Work to ensure that their activities do not adversely impact local environments and habitats;	
c) Use only native flora for habitat restoration.	
3.6 Principle 6 – Encourage use to provide economic incentives for conservation	
3.6.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Understand that suppliers of harvest opportunities expect fair compensation for the services and opportunities they provide;	This is not considered applicable to the Maltese scenario, since hunting tourism does not occur in Malta. There are no hunting tour operators which operate locally nor are there any suppliers of harvest opportunities. Hunting is solely practised by Maltese nationals.
b) Encourage harvest models that provide socio-economic benefits to local stakeholders and communities;	In Malta general hunting licence fees for hunting on land are currently set at €27.95 annually, whilst for hunting at sea these have been set at €69.88. Such fees do not represent barriers to local participation. Nonetheless, in addition to such fees, the hunter is also obliged to pay insurance coverage against third party risks to persons or damage to property and the membership fee of a hunting organisation.
c) Set official fees or taxes at reasonable levels so that these do not represent barriers to local participation;	Such fees, however, only cover general hunting licences. Special licences for hunting in Spring, or for live-capturing in autumn on the other hand, would require an additional fee of up to €50, as well as additional fees for services such as provision of approved bird ringing tags for use on live decoys during live-capturing activity. These requirements are provided for in the Conservation of Wild Birds (Framework for Allowing Derogation for the Opening of Autumn Live-Capturing Season for Song Thrush and Golden Plover) Regulations.
d) Provide local stakeholders and communities with incentives to uphold or improve the diversity of species and habitats.	
3.6.2.2 Hunters:	
a) Are willing to make reasonable contributions for access and hunting opportunity, as well as the conservation and management of game and their habitats;	The ongoing management planning exercise identifies hunters as key stakeholders in the management of some sites and discussions are ongoing in this respect. The project is expected to be concluded in 2014 and as a result hunters are expected to be fully involved in the management of Natura 2000 sites which account for over 13.6% of the national territory. Furthermore hunting associations actively pursue conservation initiatives and regularly carry out conservation activities including afforestation, clean up and habitat restoration projects, control of alien species and other own initiatives.
b) Accept contributory and management structures that favour a fair and appropriate balance for access between resident and non-resident hunters.	
3.6.2.3 Hunting tour operators:	
a) Acknowledge and accept that their activities should benefit local economies and stakeholders and thereby enhance conservation efforts;	Not Applicable
b) Accept that their access can be limited, and/or that they can be subjected to higher fees than local resident hunters.	Not Applicable

3.7 Principle 7 – Ensure that harvest is properly utilised and wastage avoided	
3.7.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Encourage the proper handling and processing of harvested wildlife;	Not applicable. Bagged game is usually either skinned and kept as a hunting trophy or used for the individual’s consumption. Nonetheless it is to be noted that the taxidermy of such game birds would require a relevant licence.
b) Ensure that game products comply with standards for health and hygiene before sale and/ or commercial consumption.	Not applicable in view of the fact that in Malta the number of birds bagged is limited and captured birds are not sold or traded for commercial consumption.
3.7.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
a) Properly care for meat in order to prevent wastage and contamination;	Not applicable due to the specific nature of hunting activities in Malta and due to the absence of the commercial market for local game.
b) Fully utilise fur and hides where possible;	
c) Utilise harvested wildlife in other ways where possible and desirable;	
d) Observe rules of proper hygiene to ensure game meat quality and guard against detrimental health effects for consumers;	
e) Ensure that unutilised game products are made available to local inhabitants.	
3.8 Principle 8 – Empower local stakeholders and hold them accountable	
3.8.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Where appropriate, promote and facilitate decentralised management of species with healthy populations that are stable or increasing at local or regional levels;	The currently ongoing management planning exercise covering all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands is the principal vehicle addressing the management of species and their habitats. A significant proportion of this project’s resources are being channelled towards mobilising a range of local stakeholders including hunters and other land users in this process.
b) Facilitate the empowerment and accountability of local stakeholders, especially hunters, in this decentralised process;	
c) Promote models that ensure equitable sharing of benefits among user groups.	The Policy Guidelines for Hunting and Trapping in Malta recognise that <i>“The Maltese countryside belongs to everyone and measures should ensure its rightful enjoyment by families and children. The time schedules of hunting and trapping seasons should reflect this principle. In particular, hunting and trapping activities on Sundays and public holidays will continue to be strictly limited. Account may also be taken of school holidays.”</i>
3.8.2.2 Hunters:	
a) Have knowledge regarding wildlife ecology and conservation practices;	Hunting licence in Malta is subject to passing examination which includes identification of species. Hunting associations in Malta have traditionally been proactive in the management of countryside and in undertaking conservation initiatives. The Maltese Authorities, particularly through the platform of the Malta Ornis Committee maintain ongoing liaison with hunting organisations for the purpose of discussing a variety of policy proposals and their implementation. Hunters are regularly involved as stakeholders in the management process and are recognised as a good source of information in relation to birds and their status in Malta.
b) Recognise their role as resource stewards and actively participate in practical management and conservation measures;	
c) Interact with other interests and local authorities to find the best solutions.	

3.8.2.3 Hunting tour operators	
a) Recognise the cultures	Not applicable
b) Work closely with local hunters	Not applicable
3.9 Principle 9 – Competence and responsibility are desirable among users of wild resources	
3.9.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Encourage and facilitate education and training programmes for hunters;	<p>Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE) is promoting education and training programmes for hunters in general. Moreover, MEPA produces various education awareness material on hunting and biodiversity.</p> <p>Applicants for hunting licences are provided with information leaflets which besides from providing a summary of the relevant local legislation also contain pictorial illustrations of the avifauna species which are allowed to be hunted on land and/or at sea. Moreover, such persons would be asked to sit for an examination to determine their knowledge on the safe carrying of fire-arms, their ability to identify birds and their knowledge of the regulations concerning the conservation of wild birds.</p> <p>In addition, Malta has undertaken a number of initiatives to enhance public awareness regarding the value of species and habitats found around Malta. Initiatives, have varied from articles in local newspapers, information panels, dissemination of information through television programmes and the organisation of educational tours.</p> <p>FKNK (the largest hunters' organisation in Malta) has carried out training for hunters when the new bag statistics programme (<i>Carnet De Chasse</i>) was developed in 2008. Such CDC was developed in consultation with the Malta Ornis Committee and FKNK.</p>
b) Cooperate with organisations that coordinate hunters to engage with all participants, including recruitment from both sexes, all ages and backgrounds.	The majority of Maltese hunters are men however certain organisations are actively encouraging women to join their organisations by having a membership tailor-made to the wives and female relatives of hunters.
3.9.2.2 Hunters:	
a) Are proficient in the proper and safe handling and use of tools and implements that can legally be used for hunting;	<p>Obtaining a hunting licence in Malta is subject to passing examination which includes an exercise on the identification of species. Hunting associations in Malta have traditionally been proactive in the management of countryside and in undertaking conservation initiatives. These associations also organise regular information sessions for their members explaining various legal and regulatory issues applicable to hunting. The Authorities, particularly through the platform of the Malta Ornis Committee maintain ongoing liaison with hunting organisations for the purpose of discussing a variety of policy proposals and their implementation.</p>
b) Have sufficient knowledge on the identification, habits and ecology of game species as well as of non-game species;	
c) Train regularly to maintain or improve proficiency;	
d) Know the laws and regulations governing hunting and the conservation of wildlife where they hunt;	
e) Teach new hunters the skills and knowledge they require to be competent and responsible.	
3.9.2.3 Hunting tour operators	
a) Provide their clients with the information and knowledge they need for a sustainable and responsible hunt.	Not applicable

3.10 Principle 10 – Minimise avoidable suffering by animals	
3.10.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
<p>a) Adopt rules, regulations and incentives that promote methods and equipment that minimise avoidable suffering for animals;</p> <p>b) Communicate to hunters the need to treat game animals with respect;</p> <p>c) Recognise and promote best practices.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Conservation of Wild Birds (LN79/06 as amended) strictly state that no person is allowed to hunt or take any birds using the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) snares, limes including birdlime, poisonous or stupefying bait, hooks or any similar substances or methods ii) any electrocuting devises iii) any gas, or electric or electronic device iv) decoys of live birds which are blind or mutilated v) decoys of live birds held by any means except those held by cotton string and swivel vi) explosives vii) semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition. <p>Moreover, these Regulations stipulate that no person shall sell, offer for sale, carry, be in possession of, hunt or use, import or manufacture any cartridge loaded with lead shots of any size greater than 3.3mm in diameter.</p>
3.10.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
<p>a) Show respect for game animals and strive to reduce or eliminate avoidable suffering where possible;</p> <p>b) Learn about animal physiology and the most efficient way to kill game while inflicting minimal suffering;</p> <p>c) Promote measures which ensure proficiency in the use of hunting techniques and implements;</p> <p>d) Strive to efficiently track down and dispatch wounded game;</p> <p>e) Do not use capture methods that cause high levels of stress or pain, and/or are unselective or involve mass-capture;</p> <p>f) Take care not to disturb species in ways that can have significant and detrimental impacts.</p>	<p>Hunting associations work to promote compliance with the above regulations amongst their members.</p>
3.11 Principle 11 – Encourage cooperation between all stakeholders in management of harvested species, associated species and their habitats	
3.11.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
<p>a) Create institutional structures that are inclusive of all stakeholder interests;</p> <p>b) Encourage public understanding of conservation, economic, and/or cultural benefits which can be derived from responsible and sustainable harvest;</p> <p>c) Seek opportunities and provide incentives for cooperation between different interests;</p>	<p>As previously noted Malta has a Malta Ornis Committee (which is composed amongst others, of members of hunting organisations, members of organisations representing persons working for the protection of avifauna, as well as other independent experts on avifauna and/or hunting).</p>

d) Use all possible measures to avoid and resolve conflicts.	
3.11.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
a) Seek opportunities to benefit human and wildlife populations (including non-game species) and their habitats;	As above
b) Actively seek alliances with other local stakeholders.	As above
3.12 Principle 12 – Encourage acceptance by society of sustainable, consumptive use as a conservation tool	
3.12.2.1 Regulators and managers:	
a) Provide a framework which ensures the long-term acceptance by society of the conservation benefits derived from harvesting wild species;	Refer to the comments made in the earlier sections of this report concerning public awareness, management planning and policy-making.
b) Ensure that populations of game species are kept at levels that are compatible with the interests of other socio-economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, etc.);	It is to be noted that as part of Malta's obligations under the Rural Development Programme, Malta is required to put in place a breeding bird monitoring scheme to chart population changes for the country's Farmland Bird Index (FB Index). The FB Index is one of the indicators used by the European Commission to assess the overall health of the rural environment. Such index includes selected game birds such as the Turtle Dove, the Lapwing, Skylark, Starling and the Grey Partridge. A breeding bird atlas was published in 2009 by Raine <i>et al.</i> (2009). This work was recently updated by Sultana <i>et al.</i> (2011) and published by BirdLife Malta.
c) Preserve legitimate cultural, historical and aesthetic values related to wildlife and hunting.	National regulations concerning hunting and live-capturing refer to traditional methods of hunting and capture which have evolved over generations. Hunting associations regularly organise activities and issue publications aimed at promoting the aesthetic values related to wildlife and hunting.
3.12.2.2 Hunters and hunting tour operators:	
a) Are sensitive and respectful to local interests and cultures;	Local hunting associations are actively engaged in a number of educational and awareness raising activities aimed at promoting sustainable traditional hunting practices and the need for pro-active management of the country side and the conservation of habitats and species. Information on the specific initiatives is available on the website http://www.huntinginmalta.org.mt/index.pl/home
b) Strive to be ambassadors for hunting through proper behaviour and practices;	
c) Respect private property and local restrictions, including conservation measures;	
d) Educate and inform other interests about the benefits of sustainable hunting and conservation;	
e) Understand the need for local involvement in all hunting activity, including hunting tourism operations.	

MONACO / MONACO

Suivi de la Recommandation n° 128 (2007) sur la Charte européenne relative à la chasse et la biodiversité

La chasse terrestre est interdite en Principauté depuis 1880, de ce fait, cette recommandation ne s'applique pas sur le territoire monégasque.