

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity - Bern Convention -



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Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

- Main biodiversity treaty in Europe (Bern, 1979):
- 49 Parties (incl. EC, 27 EU-MS, 17 other European countries, and 4 African States)
- Aims to conserve wild flora, fauna, their natural habitats, and promote co-operation among States
- Places a particular emphasis on endangered and vulnerable species, including migratory and endemic species

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

➤ The background:

- Recommendation 1689 (2004) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE;
- Welcomed by the Bureau of the Convention
- Standing Committee agreed to include it in its programme of activities for 2006
- Mandate: “Elaborate, in collaboration with concerned stakeholders, a European Charter on Hunting dealing with all relevant aspects of hunting and wildlife conservation”.

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

- **Collaborative and integrated work:**
- **Applies the principles of**
 - Addis Ababa (sustainable use) and
 - Malawi (ecosystem approach)
- **Integrates EU/international policy on hunting, biodiversity and eco-tourism**
- **Discussed by a Working Group (Parties + Observers) over two years.**
- **Adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in November 2007**

The European Charter

- **Non-binding guidelines for governments and stakeholders on common principles and good practices for the sustainable use of wildlife in Europe, in a way that promotes conservation of biodiversity**
- **3 sections:**
 - Sustainable Hunting
 - Hunting Tourism
 - Standards for European hunters

Principles and Guidelines

- **The Charter includes:**
 - Background, terms, objectives and context
- **12 principles, overarching:**
 - 47 guidelines: for regulators and managers
 - 59 guidelines: for "users" (hunters and hunting tour operators)
- **Three publications of the Charter (produced in 2008): by CIC, FACE and the Council of Europe**

Recommendation 128 (2007)

- Considers the Charter as guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders
- Recommends Contracting Parties (and observer states and organisations) to:
 - Take the Charter into consideration; and
 - Apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their hunting policies ..
 - ... so as to ensure that hunting is carried out in a sustainable way.

Main conclusions:

1. Important role of international/regional tools (vital, but can't work in isolation from "the ground")
2. Crucial to consult, co-ordinate, be open, and integrate all sectors involved (Governments, IUCN, FACE, CIC, BLI..)
 - A good "process" increases the chances of a good and useful "product"
3. Necessary to address biodiversity conservation AND sustainable use together

Thank you
for
your attention

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