



Promoting Natura 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use



Conference at the DG Environment
Room 0/S1 - Avenue de Beaulieu 25, 1160 Brussels
17th - 18th November 2009

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS in brief

- Natura 2000 is one of the major environmental policy achievements of the EU and contributes to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It needs to be adequately financed and those managing on site level need to be receivers.
- With the effort, money and time invested European wildlife users (including 7 million hunters and 25 million anglers) contribute directly to Europe's biodiversity and habitat management within and outside the Natura 2000 network. For instance over 65% of the EU's countryside is managed in a collaborative manner for hunting and conservation. The potential of these user groups has not yet been fully utilised for habitat conservation and species monitoring.
- The role of wildlife users and their potential is fully recognised by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and amongst international conservation NGOs represented at the conference.
- The Sustainable Hunting Initiative was very successful at EU level and led to joint statements and projects between FACE and BirdLife International. A new initiative to complement the Sustainable Hunting Initiative to include mammals and fish under the Habitats Directive had positive feedback from the audience, and will be followed up by the European Commission.
- Targeted funding for site managers and the rewarding of best practices and partnerships has not been sufficiently explored on EU and National level.



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Recommendations - EU level:

- The European Commission needs to continuously communicate the importance of sustainable wildlife use for conservation during their working groups (eg. “expert group on the management of Natura 2000” and “Nature Directors meetings”) and to mainstream sustainable use principles as promoted by the Addis Ababa Principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity of the Council of Europe.
- Conservation and wildlife user organisations on EU level need to engage with each other and the European Commission for creating a platform for dialogue to complement the Sustainable Hunting Initiative to include mammals and fish under the Habitats Directive.
- Key stakeholders on EU level, such as those within the Sustainable Hunting Initiative (European Commission, FACE and BirdLife) need to better translate and communicate their successful experiences to the national and local level. In a coordinated manner, they need to follow up the recommendations given in the Assessment Report of the Sustainable Hunting Initiative.

Recommendations - national and local level:

- Wildlife users on national and local levels need to increasingly coordinate and focus their great potential for habitat conservation and species monitoring and take responsibility. They need to communicate this potential to the local hunters in their own words.
- National and local stakeholders (conservationists, wildlife users and managers) need to form robust partnerships in order lobby national parliaments and ministries more successful on joint objectives. Sustainable use needs to be more widely accepted as a tool for conservation and wildlife users as Natura 2000 managers.
- Member States need to communicate the importance and facilitate the involvement of wildlife users for the management of the Natura 2000 network and beyond. They need to show political will and where possible financial incentives for their involvement.
- Wildlife users, other conservationists and Member States need to be encouraged to follow up the recommendations given for the national and local level in the Assessment Report of the Sustainable Hunting Initiative.

