



# THE FACE ANNUAL REPORT

## 2013





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**2013**



FACE is the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation.

Established in 1977, it represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making non-governmental organisation (INGO).

This makes FACE the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world and is probably one of the largest European civil society organisations.

FACE is made up of its Members: national hunters' associations from 36 European countries including the EU-28. FACE also has 4 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use, has been a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987, and more recently of Wetlands International. FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-related issues, from international conservation agreements to local implementations with the aim of sustaining hunting across Europe.

This annual report covers January 2012 - March 2013 and outlines the background and key activities of our main working themes.

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## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



It is a great honour for me to write a few words of introduction for this FACE Annual Report which highlights the immense range of work done by FACE, its Team in Brussels, its Member Associations across Europe and its partners both local and international. The spirit of collaboration has driven FACE forwards and is integral to the future of hunting and conservation. Having been elected as FACE President for a fourth mandate in 2012, I have seen FACE evolve through the 10 years I have been privileged to hold this position.

Our 35th Anniversary Celebrations conveyed the breadth and depth of FACE's collaborative ethos (p.18-19), and also the credibility it has built up for hunters within the EU. The presence of Environment Commissioner Potočnik at FACE's 2012 General Assembly, and his positive words on a range of subjects are testament to the recognition of the intrinsic role and place of hunters in European nature, wildlife conservation and society.

I hope you find this Report interesting and useful in understanding more about the role and place of hunters in Europe, but also the role and place of FACE within the hunting community.

It is with a refreshed outlook that our newly elected Board and I look to drive FACE forwards in the 2012-15 mandate, to a bright future for European hunters. Whether it be a Nordic hunter, waking at dawn and heading out with his dog in freezing conditions or a Mediterranean hunter who waits all summer for the passing of the birds – this shared passion holds within it precious knowledge and culture, garnered through hunting and an honest relationship with the natural world.

GILBERT DE TURCKHEIM, *President*

# THE SECRETARIAT

The FACE Team is based in Brussels and makes up the Secretariat, representing the interests of its Members and 7 million hunters every day.

The team combines a passion for hunting and nature with expertise in a range of key areas so as to best ensure hunting is facilitated and sustainable, right across Europe.





**ANGUS MIDDLETON**, *Secretary General*

Angus has over 15 years of management experience in a very wide range of conservation issues and policies, in Europe and southern Africa. He has a particular interest in the conservation of birds, stemming from his great passion for falconry and raptor conservation. He also has a strong interest in large carnivores, which embody the social, ecological and economic challenges of conservation. He is a longstanding member of BirdLife Zimbabwe, an avid angler, hunter, falconer and with all that a conservationist.

FACE celebrated its 35th Anniversary in its usual style of getting on with the job in hand. Whilst ceremony is important and has its place, the European and international policy arena is highly dynamic and fast moving, requiring a lot of work, attention to small details and little time for ceremony. The highly dedicated team at the Secretariat continues to ensure that the interest of FACE Members and ultimately the collective interest of Europe's 7 million hunters are well represented. This Annual Report serves in part as a testament to the hard work undertaken by this team and our partners, from all sectors.

In the course of this reporting period we have further enhanced the delivery of our thematic work and our means of communicating this. Our website has been completely overhauled and is once again fit for purpose. It is particularly useful in helping make available some of the wide-ranging and yet comprehensive institutional knowledge that we possess. This Annual Report further highlights the scope and quality of the work undertaken by the FACE Secretariat in collaboration with our Members and Partners. In 2011 we said 'work with us' and many have taken up this challenge.

Probably the greatest endorsement of our work is the fact that FACE is increasingly sought after as the Partner for conservation and hunting-related issues. This bodes well for hunting and for the conservation of the nature which we are all so passionate about.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Middleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# FACE SECRETARIAT

## POLICY

### CY GRIFFIN

*Wildlife Policy Manager*

Cy is a FACE technical expert providing a unique awareness and understanding of both the biology of game species with their related legislation. His involvement in wildlife management began with research on Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in Scotland, but during his years at FACE has focused on implementation of the EU Birds Directive.

### JOHAN SVALBY

*Legal Advisor*

Johan combines his legal training with a thorough knowledge of EU and international legislation, subjects and processes, providing essential legislative monitoring and advice with astute interpretation of the laws affecting hunters in Europe. He coordinates FACE's Legal Affairs Working Group as well as our work on Animal Welfare and Health, the Bern Convention and CITES.

### MANUEL ESPARRAGO

*Head of Political Affairs*

Manolo joined the FACE Team in September 2012, having previously worked at FACE from 2004-08. Manolo coordinates FACE public affairs activities, is the FACE contact for our work with the EU Institutions and in particular the European Parliament, as well as being the technical expert on firearms and ammunition.

### CHRISTINE RUPPRECHTER-RÖDLACH

*Public Affairs Director – on maternity leave*

Christine plays a key role in our relations with the EU Institutions, especially in the European Parliament where she maintains contacts with various MEPs, assistants and officials, providing them with reliable information on a range of topics.

### Maternity cover January-July 2012:

ADRIANA ISAZA, *Public Affairs Advisor*

### GABOR VON BETHLENFALVY

*Nature Policy Manager*

Gabor manages a range of nature conservation dossiers and strategies related to biodiversity, protected areas and land use, as well as large carnivores. He also provides the management for European research and conservation projects and is dealing with applications for funding and grants.

### CHARLOTTE SIMON

*Project Assistant Trainee*

Working with Gabor, Charlotte is involved in different nature conservation projects as well as The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto and finding funding opportunities for us and our Members.

### YVES LECOCQ

*Senior Policy Advisor*

Yves brings over 30 years of experience at FACE to the team. His unique combination of institutional knowledge of international environmental policy with his scientific and biological expertise. His considerable experience sees him providing keen advice to the rest of the Team as well as FACE Members, policy-makers and partners, regularly speaking at high-level events as well as technically complex meetings. Yves is President of the International Union of Game Biologists 2011-2013.

### Secondment:

#### LAURA KAMMONEN

*Wildlife Conservation Internship*

November 2012-May 2013

### Intern:

#### MARIA HEYMANS

*Wildlife Conservation Internship*

August 2012

## ADMINISTRATION

### CHARLOTTE NYFFELS

*Office Manager*

Charlotte manages the operations of the FACE Secretariat, from finances to human resources, whilst coordinating the administrative and logistical needs of the FACE Members and the organisation of Governance Meetings. She is also in charge of the French translations.

### CHLOÉ GERBER

*Office Assistant*

Chloé assists Charlotte with general administration and reception services, facilities management, as well as meetings organisation. She also provides personal assistance to the Secretary General.

### NICOLE BERNARD

*Accounts Assistant (part-time)*

Nicole assists the Office Manager with accounting and banking processes.

### SABINE BORGERS-GUSE

*Translator & Accounts Administrator (part-time)*

Sabine provides top quality German translations and efficient accounting support.

### PATRICIA NTUMBA KALUBI

*Administrative Assistant*

November 2011-November 2012

## COMMUNICATIONS

### MARILISE SAGHBINI

*Communications Manager*

Marilise provides expertise to the FACE Team for specific dossier communication campaigns, as well as ensuring FACE Members, partners, EU decision-makers and the rest of the world are kept informed of what European hunters and FACE are all about.

### YASMIN HAMMERSCHMIDT

*Communications Officer*

Yasmin joined FACE in July 2012 and works with Marilise in coordinating communications for FACE, especially with FACE Members and the wider hunting community.

### Interns:

#### LAURA BERLAND

*Communications Internship, May-June 2012*

#### ALEXANDRE COMA

*Communications Internship, July-August 2012*

*Some members of the FACE Secretariat taking a rare break during a 2-day planning session in Germany, December 2012*



# CONNECTING HUNTERS ACROSS EUROPE

FACE builds the bridge between European legislative bodies and the representatives of civil society who stand for sustainable hunting and conservation in Europe, working towards our aim: to sustain hunting across Europe.

FACE works with its Members, its Partners and the EU Institutions to facilitate understanding, action and exchange through regular meetings in Member States, as well as in the European Parliament and Commission.

# FACE MEMBERS

FACE is nothing without its Members.

FACE Members encompass the expertise, knowledge, structures and influence that make up European hunting.

FACE Members are national hunting associations from 36 countries including all the EU Member States as well as other Council of Europe countries.

# CELEBRATIONS

In 2012, the Lithuanian Hunters' and Anglers' Association and the Finnish Hunters' Association each celebrated 90 years. The Estonian Hunters' Society saw 45 years and the Nordic Hunters' Cooperation had their 60th Anniversary. 2013 heralds 90 years for 3 FACE Members: the Turkish Shooting and Hunting Federation, the Czech Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Association and the Polish Hunting Association; as well as 115 years for the Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria. These celebrations further underline the fact that hunting associations are amongst the oldest conservation NGOs in Europe.



## FULL MEMBERS

Federata e Gjuetarëve të Shqipërisë	Latvijas Mednieku Asociācija
Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände	Lietuvos Medžiotojų ir Žvejų Draugija
Royal Saint Hubert Club de Belgique / Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen vzw	Fédération Saint-Hubert des Chasseurs du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg asbl
Lovački Savez Herceg-Bosne (LSHB)	Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti
Lovački Savez Republike Srpska (LRRS)	Lovački Savez Crne Gore
Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)	Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagers Vereniging
Съюз на ловците и риболовците в България	Norges Jeger- og Fiskerforbund
Hrvatski Lovački Savez	Polski Związek Łowiecki
Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Κυνηγίου και Διατήρησης Άγριος Ζώης	Confederação Nacional dos Caçadores Portugueses (CNCP)
Ceskomoravská myslivecká jednota	Federação Portuguesa de Caça (FENCAÇA)
Danmarks Jægerforbund	Asociația Generală a Vanatorilor și Pescarilor Sportivi din România (AGVPS)
Eesti Jahimeeste Selts	Lovački savez Srbije
Suomen Metsästäjälitto / Finlands Jägarförbund	Slovenská poľovnícka komora
Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs	Slovenský Poľovnícky Zväz
Deutscher Jagdverband e.V.	Lovska zveza Slovenije
Κυνηγική Συνομοσπονδία Ελλάδος	Real Federación Española de Caza (RFEC)
Országos Magyar Vadászkamara	Svenska Jägareförbundet
Országos Magyar Vadászati Védegylet	JagdSchweiz / ChasseSuisse / CacciaSvizzera / CatschaSvizra
Skotveiðifélag Íslands	Türkiye Atıcılık ve Avcılık Federasyonu
FACE-Ireland c/o National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC)	FACE UK: British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) & Countryside Alliance
FACE Italia	

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

European Association of the Civil Commerce of Weapons (AECAC)  
Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM)  
World Council of Sport Federations for Hunting and Shooting (FEDECAT)  
Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)

7 MILLION  
HUNTERS

FACE MEMBERS



FACE OFFICERS

G. de TURCKHEIM, *President* ● ○

J. SWIFT, *Treasurer General\** ● ○

A. MIDDLETON, *Secretary General\** ● ○ ●

THE BIG FIVE

G. BANA, *Vice-President, Italy* ●

J. BORCHERT, *Vice-President, Germany* ●

Y. BUTEL, *Vice-President, France* ●

A. GUTIERREZ LARA, *Vice-President, Spain* ●

B. WHITE-SPUNNER, *Vice-President, United Kingdom* ●

THE REGIONS

D. CROFTON, *Vice-President, Atlantic* ●

A. KELEMEN, *Vice-President, South-East* ●

L. KONTRO, *Vice-President, Nordic* ● ○

N. PAPADODIMAS, *Vice-President, Mediterranean* ● ○

E. ŠVĚDE, *Vice-President, Baltic* ●

S. ŽERJAV, *Vice-President, Central* ●

FACE BOARD

BUREAU

SECRETARIAT

\* Non-voting members



The FACE Members meet regularly, through regional gatherings as well as at the annual Spring FACE Members' Meeting and Autumn General Assembly. The Board and Bureau meet even more frequently.

These meetings centre around a fully-packed agenda where Members discuss and agree on actions to be taken regarding the different topics to be addressed – the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity are always present.

## SPRING IN ATHENS: THE 2012 FACE MEMBERS' MEETING

### THE ATHENS DECLARATION

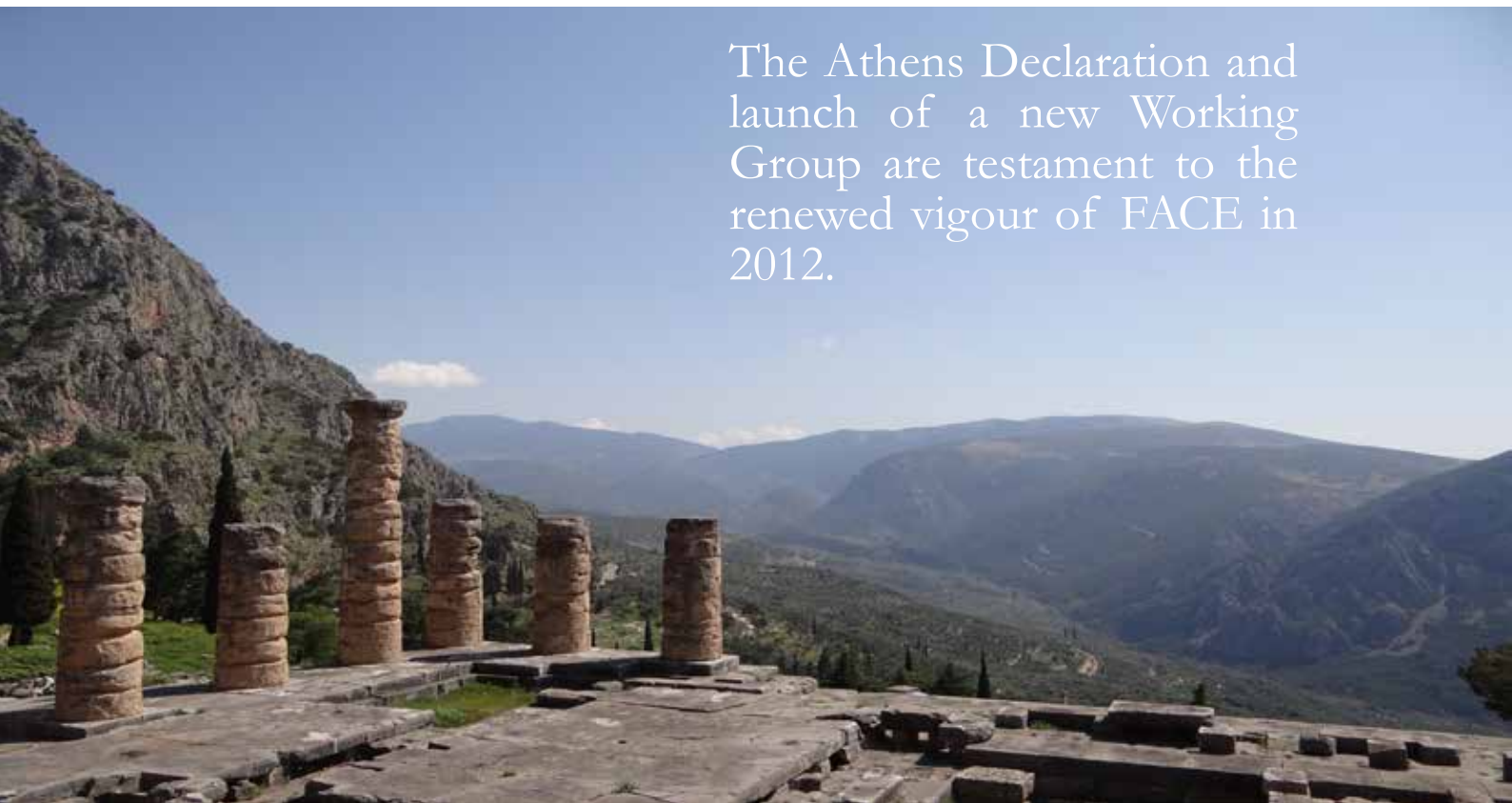
Hosted by the Hellenic Hunters' Confederation and their President Nicolas Papadodimas, the Members' Meeting focused on EU policy implementation and enhanced exchange between FACE Members. The 2-day meeting covered a range of topics impacting on hunting in Europe and was attended by representatives of the hunting world from **22 countries**.

Results of various projects on wildlife and its habitats in Greece undertaken by the Hellenic Hunters' Confederation were revealed. The outstanding quality of these studies was fully recognised by participants. They underlined the relevance and reliability of biological data and knowledge for the sustainable management and wise use of wild species and their habitats.

The gathered representatives unanimously adopted a Declaration, urging the Greek authorities to take the data presented into account in national and regional legislative, policy and administrative measures concerning hunting and biodiversity. This includes the designation and concerted management of Natura 2000 sites and the preparation of Red Lists of threatened species. This Declaration is deeply relevant in many other countries; particularly in urging authorities to engage hunters in the management of Natura 2000 sites.

On the second day, FACE Members discussed the future implementation and interpretation of the two EU Nature Directives, identifying points and aspects for which sustainable hunting should be better enabled to play its role for the conservation of biodiversity. To elaborate concrete proposals, an ad hoc Working Group was set up which reports back to the FACE Board and Members.

The Athens Declaration and launch of a new Working Group are testament to the renewed vigour of FACE in 2012.



## SPRING IN IRELAND: THE 2013 FACE MEMBERS' MEETING



Hosted by FACE-Ireland and FACE Vice-President, Des Crofton (Director of the Irish National Association of Regional Game Councils - NARGC) along with FACE-Ireland Chairman Oliver Russell and NARGC Chairman, Sean Doris, the 2013 Members' Meeting followed up on the FACE Nature Directives Working Group established in Athens. This included thorough and engaging overviews of the status of large carnivores across Europe (p.50-53), the highly complex context of lead in ammunition (p.82-83), as well as FACE's key progress with The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (p.32-33). Two additional in-depth sessions explored personal hunting insurances and a collective assessment of the socio-cultural place of hunters and hunting in Europe respectively.

Ireland's Minister for Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD, whose Department covers hunting in Ireland, gave an inspiring keynote outlining the collaborative work of the NARGC and hunters in Ireland for conservation in the country. Mr Deenihan noted the successful conservation of two iconic game birds: the Irish Red Grouse through the Boleybrack Mountain Habitat Management Project and the Irish Grey Partridge in partnership with the Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust. Additionally, the excellent work of Irish hunters in helping to combat invasive alien species, one of the key threats against biodiversity as outlined by the EU, the positive actions of Irish hunters such as wild animal health monitoring, their consultation in the national Report to the European Commission for Article 12 of the Birds Directive, their proactivity in the phasing out of lead shot in wetlands and their support in tackling illegal killing were also detailed by the Minister.

“With the level of cooperation and genuine partnership which I and my officials enjoy with the Irish hunting community; and I wish to express my gratitude to all the hunters who are members of FACE-Ireland and to my own officials for this productive collaboration for the benefit of biodiversity.”

- **Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD**,  
*Irish Minister for Arts, Heritage and  
The Gaeltacht*

## AUTUMN IN BRUSSELS: THE FACE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The representatives of the European hunting world from **25 countries** gathered in Brussels for the annual FACE General Assembly on 6 September 2012. The intensive meeting covered a broad range of topics impacting on hunting in Europe, with FACE Members discussing its activities in FACE's 12 work areas, each crucial to hunters and highlighted in this Report. **The wide variety of issues discussed is representative of the importance and breadth of the EU's influence.**

### FACE LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

FACE is the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world, with elections for its President, representative Board and Bureau taking place every 3 years. Each country represented within FACE receives one vote. The Board is composed of the 5 biggest hunting countries as well as 6 representatives covering each of Europe's regions (p.27-29).

Gilbert de Turckheim was unanimously re-elected by the FACE membership as FACE President. As FACE President during the past 9 years, Gilbert has chaired FACE's main gatherings and led the organisation through a time of great change. His success in the role has made him by far the longest-serving President FACE has ever had.

FACE's longstanding Secretary General Yves Lecocq officially stepped down after 28 years in the role, and FACE's Angus Middleton who has led the FACE Secretariat in Brussels as Chief Executive for the past 4 years was unanimously named FACE's Secretary General.

The intensive meeting was followed by a special evening Reception in the heart of the Brussels EU Quarter where FACE Member Delegates celebrated FACE's 35 years with key officials from the European Commission and Parliament, long-standing FACE personalities, partner conservation organisations and industry representatives.

## FACE CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Member of the European Parliament & President of the European Parliament Sustainable Hunting Intergroup Véronique Mathieu Houillon opened FACE's 35 Years Celebration Day by expressing her deep support for FACE and its aims in a speech where she also paid homage to FACE President Gilbert de Turckheim following his re-election to the role.

### EU SUPPORT FOR HUNTERS

*"Let me start by thanking you for your contribution and constructive role in supporting Member States' and the European Commission's efforts to preserve Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats."*

EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik gave the day's keynote address, congratulating FACE on its achievements and also provided points of consideration as well as a perspective on specific issues such as large carnivores, Natura 2000 and invasive alien species. The Commissioner took questions from FACE Members and provided an opportunity for open dialogue between the European hunting representatives and the leader of European environmental policy.

*"We can look back at the last 35 years with some satisfaction."*

- **Janez Potočnik**, EU Environment Commissioner

The Commissioner appreciated FACE's contribution and constructive role in the conservation of Europe's nature. He emphasised the positive impact FACE and its members have made since 1977 and its exemplary dialogue and collaboration with other conservationist stakeholders. He especially mentioned the Sustainable Hunting Initiative as a "very good example of constructive dialogue between all different parties involved" and "shows how much can be achieved through proactive involvement and cooperation." Commissioner Potočnik concluded his speech "by thanking you once again for your involvement and support, your constructiveness and readiness to help and cooperate."



FACE President Gilbert de Turckheim with EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik taking questions from FACE Members.



### 35 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Yves Lecocq, FACE's longstanding Secretary General of 28 years, charted the history of hunting in Europe with a dynamic session, reflecting on the great milestones for hunters and other conservationists in Europe since 1977. The presentation included interventions by FACE founding fathers, personalities and longstanding partners. This Celebration Day was more than the chance to reflect on the past, but rather to draw on the 35 years of knowledge and experience in the evolution of hunting and conservation in Europe so as to best inform our shared future.

### THE OUTLOOK FOR HUNTING

Building on this invaluable experience gained through FACE's Members and partners, the European hunting community engaged in an interactive thought-provoking panel discussion featuring high-profile speakers including eminent wildlife biologist John Linnell, key officials from the European Commission Nick Hanley and Eric Peters. The session was moderated by Dr. Michl Ebner, a longstanding Member of the European Parliament and now Honorary Member of FACE. In contrast to the Members' General Assembly the day before where FACE's work was discussed in technical detail, this session looked at the greater picture of hunting in Europe and raised the big questions surrounding our future. The panelists agreed on the great challenges that await hunting and hunters in Europe, to be shaped by political and economic factors, the future of the

EU, our ever-changing society and the impact of mass urbanisation: in these challenges lie great opportunities.

Judge Nicholas Forwood, EU Court of Justice provided the verdict of the day, commending FACE's great success in finding the common ground with seemingly opposing groups over 35 years. The critical impact of perceptions of issues was underlined, and how best to manage the public perception of hunters and hunting in an ever-changing and rapidly urbanising world whilst continuing to provide a solid scientific base for the activity. Forwood gave his judgment by recalling Véronique Mathieu Houillon's opening words: FACE has shown over its last 35 years that it is indeed "a reliable partner with great added value". Forwood judged that "the added value is still going to be necessary, even more so than in the past, and I personally hope as I'm sure everyone in this room does that we will see that contribute to a revaluation of the hunter in the eyes of the average European citizen."

The high-profile nature of the speakers, panelists and participants reflect the impact and recognition FACE has achieved in the last 35 years - the benefits of which are felt not only in Brussels but in every hunter's experience in Europe. As FACE steps forward for European hunters, to address an increasing number of challenges, it does so with a breadth and depth of shared experience, and a deep appreciation of its Members, the individual hunters they represent, of Europe, of nature, of people and of politics.

# YVES LECOQCQ

## FACE SECRETARY GENERAL 1984-2012

FACE's longstanding Secretary General Yves Lecocq officially stepped down after 28 years.

Yves has become a pillar of the international hunting community over this time, playing a key role in building FACE through people, partnerships and politics. He continues to work with FACE as Senior Policy Adviser, and took on the Presidency of the International Union of Game Biologists for the 2011-13 mandate, culminating in the IUGB Congress in August 2013 in Brussels:

### MY 30 YEARS AT FACE

For FACE - just as for any other organisation - it is instructive, whilst planning future activities and policies, to have from time to time a look 'into the past' so as to benefit from 'lessons learned' and perhaps to better understand why and how FACE is what it is today in 2013. For me personally such retrospection makes me realise now how much FACE has been part of my own life and professional career. The fact that I have been very much part of FACE's history is likely to influence my perception or interpretation of what has happened or what was done in the past, or even of what did not happen or what was not done. The advantage however of having been personally involved with an organisation's history is that it gives me a privileged position as witness and "living memory".

FACE is first of all a truly **European** structure; without Europe and its various political institutions, there would not have been an EU-wide federation of national hunters' associations.

FACE is also very much about **people**; when its founding fathers had to come up with a name and *raison d'être* for this new confederation of national organisations, associations or federations, they decided, in their wisdom, to call it the Federation of associations of hunters in the EEC, not of *hunting* associations. Even though this denomination was later amended to better reflect the commitment of FACE to nature conservation, the link with hunters - these 7 million men and women practising their passion for nature, wildlife and the countryside throughout Europe - has remained real and clearly visible. There are of course many hundreds or even thousands of other people who have contributed in one way or another to the shaping of FACE as it is today; it would be an impossible task for me to name them all, there are simply too many. Their efforts have been invaluable, from MEPs, Commission officials, to FACE Member Delegates and Presidents, partners and Secretariat staff. Over the years FACE has of course also developed a wide network of external contacts, partners, political allies and sometimes even opponents.

From all the EU institutions, the European Commission was, and continues to be, the one with which FACE has the most regular and most frequent contacts. Initially it was not always easy to have our voice heard and we had to work hard to become recognised by Commission officials as a representative and responsible NGO promoting sustainable hunting, wildlife management, habitat protection and biodiversity conservation. The 35 Years Celebration Day detailed on the previous pages is testament to how far we have come.

Today, although there are many challenges on the road ahead, there are many opportunities. For better or for worse, FACE is fortunate to encompass 36 years of experience *for* hunters, *by* hunters in hunting-related policy developments in Europe and beyond. I for one am proud to have dedicated my time to such a cause, and will continue to share my advice and experience for the future.







## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GAME BIOLOGISTS - IUGB CONGRESS 2013

The International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB) - whose current President is FACE Senior Policy Advisor Yves Lecocq - is holding its 2013 Congress in Brussels during 27-29 August 2013. The overall theme selected for the 2013 IUGB Congress is Diversity in Wildlife Management - Objectives & Tools.

Although IUGB is not a hunters' or hunting organisation, it has always adopted a constructive position towards sustainable hunting, based on sound science, facts and figures.

FACE is organising a number of workshops at the IUGB 2013 on diverse topics such as the Harvest Management of Waterbirds; and the Role of Traps and Trapping in Wildlife Conservation and Management.

FACE is encouraging hunters and representatives of national, regional and local hunting structures to join the Congress, see [www.iugb2013.be](http://www.iugb2013.be)



## THE FACE OF EUROPE

FACE regularly holds events in the European Parliament, provides opportunities for hunters and EU policy-makers to meet directly, participates in various official expert and advisory groups within the European Commission where EU policy proposals originate and their implementation brought forward. This wide variety of activities is representative of the importance and breadth of the EU's influence.

The FACE Secretariat responds to this by ensuring an integrated approach, working closely with the FACE Members to make sure **the right information is reaching the right decision-makers at the right time – all for the future of hunting.**

### FACE & THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

With the European Commission, FACE works on various levels. There are regular bilateral and multilateral meetings with Commission officials for exchanges of views and information updates. The most important of these are DG Environment, DG Health & Consumers, DG Agriculture & Rural Development, DG Trade, DG Justice, DG Home Affairs, DG Enterprise & Industry which cover policy fields that affect hunting. There are of course an increasing number of cross-cutting issues and other initiatives which have to be followed and which are laid down in other Directorates.

FACE participates in many consultations, expert and advisory groups of the Commission. Participating in these by providing accurate information and feedback to the Commission for its legislative proposals and their implementation is essential.

This year has seen particular involvement in official Commission groups on ongoing and upcoming issues, including the Coordination Group for Biodiversity & Nature, the Working Group on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services - MAES (p.43),

the No Net Loss of Ecosystems and their Services Working Group, the Sub-Group for Management of Farmland in Natura 2000 (p.36-37), the 2 respective Advisory Groups on Agriculture & Environment and Rural Development (p.36-37), the Expert Group on Reporting (p.57), the Animal Health Advisory Committee (p.87) and the consultation groups for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES (p.74-77).

Furthermore, Trine Bergholtz of the Danish Hunters' Association (*Danmarks Jægerforbund*), FACE Member, is Chair of the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery Sectoral Reference Group looking into describing the skills, competences and qualifications for the professional occupation of hunting within the framework of the Commission's European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy (ESCO).

FACE consults its Members for insights and expertise on the policy fields, communicating with both Members and the Commission on developments and collating relevant, accurate information to feed into meetings and events at the right time.

### FACE & THE EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

FACE is fully signed up to the EU Transparency Register (Reg No 75899541198-85) which has been set up and is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

FACE operates by the Code of Conduct in all our relations with the EU Institutions and their Members, officials and other staff.

For more details on the register see [http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm)



## FACE & THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The only directly elected body of the EU Institutions, the European Parliament (EP) is currently made up of 766 Members (MEPs) from all EU Member States, most of whom work in 7 Political Groups. These MEPs are important decision-makers for shaping EU policy, especially following the Lisbon Treaty and the Parliament's role as co-legislator.

This is why it is central for FACE to maintain an excellent network and regular contact with the Parliament, its Members and officials by updating them about hunting-related dossiers, promoting hunters' interests and ensuring discussions on ongoing work are well informed.

FACE simultaneously reports activities and developments back to FACE Member, and thereby Europe's 7 million hunters can be kept informed of relevant EU developments.

FACE has been in constant contact with the Parliament, to enlarge the network, deepen existing contacts as well as facilitating visiting FACE Members' Delegations, especially as we lead up to the European Parliament elections in May 2014.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE HUNTING, BIODIVERSITY, COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES & FORESTRY

Known as the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup, FACE has provided the Secretariat for this key official Parliamentary platform since 1985 and has been more recently co-supported by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO).

Its objectives are to promote the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of wild species for biodiversity, wildlife management, rural development and forestry issues and to discuss current subjects whilst building the bridge between civil society and decision-makers. With over 120 formally supporting MEPs making up its Membership, the Intergroup is one of the largest in the Parliament. Described as the First Lady of Hunting in Europe, MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon provides leadership on hunting issues in the Parliament, enabling hunters to reflect and engage in EU policy developments.

Through the European Parliament's Sustainable Hunting Intergroup, **FACE held 6 key events** in this centre of decision-making throughout the reporting period. These events are featured under their related sections in this Report – as varied as the topics are; they all bring together different interest groups, both from the EU decision-making scene as well as civil society. 2012 kicked off with a seminar on Invasive Alien Species (p.55) in January; followed by sessions addressing the future of Europe's Waters in April (p.67), Rural Development in June (p.35), Wild boar in July (p.49) and Falconry in November (p.91). The first Intergroup session of 2013 focused on lead in ammunition (p.83).



# CONNECTING HUNTERS WITH THE EU

The visits of nationals to FACE in Brussels help to communicate the immense relevance of the EU and its implications for local hunters. This is a great challenge, which becomes more critical as the EU gains in importance. FACE addresses this by encouraging initiatives that allow hunters and related stakeholders to interact directly; providing coordination or visiting hunters in their field:

## FRENCH HUNTERS VISIT FACE

In November 2012, through the *Académie des cadres cynégétiques européens* (Academy of European Hunting), set up by Sustainable Hunting Intergroup President MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon, FACE welcomed a delegation of hunters from France's Nord-Pas-De-Calais and Picardie in Brussels for a special hunters' perspective on EU affairs.

The FACE Team engaged the delegation, made of up local and regional Presidents, Directors and Administrators of the local hunting federations (FDCs, *Fédérations Départementales de Chasseurs*), in a lively discussion on key dossiers. FACE Vice-President Yves Butel then accompanied the delegation to a visit in the European Parliament, where they were received by MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon.

More of these *Académie* visits are expected, and hopefully other Members of the European Parliament will adopt this action-orientated model.

## NORDIC HUNTERS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 5 June 2012 a delegation of the Nordic Hunters' Cooperation, encompassing FACE Members from the region, met Members of the European Parliament in Brussels.

Torsten Mörner, outgoing President of the Swedish Hunters' Association (*Svenska Jägareförbundet*) gave a presentation on the management of large carnivores, focused on wolves and the very real need to create local acceptance through participatory management. Swedish MEPs Christofer Fjellner, Marit Paulsen and Carl Schlyter, from diverse political affiliations, engaged in an open dialogue with the delegation on this hot topic. For more on large carnivores see p.50-53.

Other topics for discussion included animal welfare and hunting in Natura 2000 areas. Vice-President of the Finnish Hunters' Association (*Suomen Metsästäjälitto/Finlands Jägarförbund*) Arto Purmonen presented a move by the Finnish Parliament to restrict as a general rule hunting in large areas of government-owned land. FACE clarified to MEPs present at the meeting that this purely national initiative is in no way required under EU rules. On the contrary, the European Commission's approach has long since been one of accepting the concept of participatory management of protected areas. In this approach hunting is as a general rule allowed and moreover in many instances contributes to enhancing biodiversity conservation. For more on hunting in Natura 2000 and Finland see p.39.

## EU HUNTING DIRECTORS' MEETING

The 2nd informal meeting of the EU Hunting Directors took place in Finland in October 2012 and included representatives from 14 countries, FACE Secretary General Angus Middleton, the European Commission's Advisor to the Nature and Biodiversity Director Andras Demeter, and a few invited experts as Observers.

The discussion on large carnivores was chaired by Ovidiu Ionescu and included presentations on Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) management in Slovenia, Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) management in Finland. The Commission presentation included an extract from Commissioner Potočnik's address at the FACE 35 Years Celebration Day (p.18-19). It was agreed that more needs to be done to ensure sensible management of large carnivores, including transboundary collaboration and a better understanding of the social carrying capacity. **In all cases it was recognised that hunters have a central role.** For more on large carnivores see p.50-53.

The session on Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) focused on the need to develop a management plan for the hunting of this particular population. It was agreed that under the coordination of Finland the process will begin without delay to initiate the development of a management plan. This is a very positive step in ensuring that hunters can find solutions to the issues.

It was decided that future meetings will take place once a year through a voluntary hosting system. FACE will also provide assistance, particularly in identifying the suitable authorities to involve.

# Enabling hunters to understand the workings of the EU, and for the EU officials to hear from their citizens.

## FRANCE: MOUNTAIN HUNTERS MEET IN THE PYRENEES

The General Assembly of the French Association of Mountain Hunters (ANCM) – whose President Alain Esclopé is one of the two FACE Delegates of the French Hunters' Federation (FNC, *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*) - took place in the Eastern Pyrenees on 30 June 2012.

Hunter associations' Presidents and other delegates from all mountainous regions in France (Alps, Pyrenees, Central Massif, Vosges) discussed administrative, legal and conservation aspects of management and hunting of mountain game species, such as Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), Ibex (*Capra ibex*) and Grouse (*Tetraonidae*) game birds, as well as the impact of predation by Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and other large carnivores.

FACE Senior Policy Advisor Yves Lecocq, gave a presentation on the challenges and opportunities of the European legal framework, highlighting the potential of EU LIFE co-financing for species conservation projects and Natura 2000 protection of mountain habitats for mountain hunters. This resulted in an interesting discussion amongst the participants and considerable interest for the work undertaken by FACE.

# HUNT CONFERENCE

Hunters are part of the ecosystem, and therefore social, economic and cultural aspects need to be integrated when shaping and implementing sustainable practices and policies in the field of hunting and nature conservation.



This important acknowledgment forms the basis of the HUNT project. HUNT is an interdisciplinary international research project, financed by the EU's 7th Framework Programme, looking into the wider meaning of hunting in the 21st century.

The final Conference of HUNT, entitled: 'International Conference on Hunting for Sustainability: Ecology, Economics and Society' was organised in March 2012 in Ciudad Real, Spain. The Conference explored the potential for sustainable use of biodiversity by focusing on an assessment of the interaction between social, cultural, economic and ecological values and impacts of hunting. The Conference gathered 150 scientists from over 30 countries and 5 continents. A total of 43 oral presentations were given and 38 posters presented on various topics, such as understanding and bridging potential differences in motivations and behaviours of hunters and other stakeholders in relation to nature, including looking at ways to reconcile conflicts between people over hunting practices.

The FACE Secretariat was represented by its Secretary General Angus Middleton, who talked about Sustainable Hunting; and Legal Advisor Johan Svalby, who addressed the topic of "Policies, hunting and sustainability: needs, barriers, solutions" and participated in the final roundtable discussion on policy and ecological tools for sustainable hunting. FACE stressed the need for a direction towards more inclusive policies, collaboration, establishment of long-

term trust and truly adaptive conservation as opposed to mere protectionism. Angus and Johan highlighted how hunters can maximise services to society and the positive actions hunters are already undertaking in this regard, from habitat restoration, wildlife diseases monitoring to road safety.

The policy session also saw the participation of the European Commission, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the Secretary General of FACE Member the Spanish Royal Hunting Federation (RFEC), to mention a few. FACE Member representatives from France, Germany, Greece, Ireland and Poland were also present.

The Conference enabled academics, land managers and practitioners (such as hunters, farmers, foresters, etc.) and decision-makers to go outside their normal field of work and thinking and adopt an inter-disciplinarian approach integrating different fields of research in relation to hunting. Positive collaboration as well as conflicts and disagreements are between people and could evolve as a result of a variety of reasons: ecology, values, perceptions, decision-making and inter-personal differences.

The HUNT Conference represents a welcome step towards an inter-disciplinary approach for hunting issues.

## Hunting is more than ecological interactions.

The diversity of hunting practices and landscapes in Europe is unparalleled.

Just as FACE Members gain great strength in their united pan-European state, so they gain great value by working closely with their neighbours who often share the same specific issues, whether it is the impact of rapid development on the Mediterranean coastline on migrating birds, or the management of large carnivores in the North.

The **Nordic Hunters' Cooperation** Board Meetings in Copenhagen, Denmark on 19 March 2012, and at the newly established national hunting and fishing centre (*Jakt- og Fiskesenteret*) of the Norwegian hunters in Flå, Norway on 29 August 2012 were attended by FACE. The aim during these meetings was to brief Board members from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden on EU-relevant hunting subjects, such as large carnivores and birds, answering questions and taking note of the ideas presented.

The Nordic Members of FACE connected with FACE Members from different parts of Europe, both through their visit to the Mediterranean region in June 2012 and by receiving a delegation of Baltic Members from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in Sweden in October 2012.

The Czech Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Association hosted the 13th session of the **CIC Coordination Forum for Central & Eastern Europe** on 26 October 2012 in Bunč, Czech Republic. The session's theme was "Agricultural Policy 2014-2020 vs. Small game and Game management". Representatives from 6 countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Hungary) reported on the status of small game and agriculture in their countries. FACE Communications Officer Yasmin Hammerschmidt provided an outline on the upcoming Common Agricultural Policy (CAP, p.36-37) Reform and its implications for FACE Members. The presentations and discussions resulted in a resolution concerning the CAP Reform 2014.

### FACE BALKANS MEETING

The FACE Team and Members from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia met in Dolenjske Toplice, Slovenia in June 2012 to discuss emerging issues and how best to ensure closer cooperation. In recent years there have been moves to align national nature and hunting legislation in the region with that of the Council of Europe's Bern Convention and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, especially with Croatia's accession to the European Union in July 2013. The meeting was a very important occasion to exchange information on European nature policy and its application at national level.

In many of the countries in the region, there is a growing influence of protectionist organisations that regularly push their agenda using the premise that alignment with EU legislation requires stricter environmental and wildlife protection measures. In many instances this is not the case: for example Natura 2000 is not a system of strictly protected areas but an integrated system of areas that are important for conservation and in which hunting and other activities can take place, provided they do not conflict with the reason for the designation (see p.38-39).

This region remains rich in both hunting and nature. It was agreed by all that closer collaboration is needed to ensure that hunters are not adversely affected by changes made within the framework of potential EU accession. In this regard all agreed that regular meetings should take place, and Nikola Marković, President of the Hunting Association of Montenegro (*Lovački Savez Crne Gore*) offered to hold the next meeting in his country.



# FACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

## JANUARY IN LARNACA, CYPRUS

Hosted by the Cyprus Federation for Hunting & Wildlife Conservation the first FACE-Mediterranean Meeting (FACE-MED) of 2012 covered a full agenda including national reports, expert insights from The Cyprus Game Fund, the European Institute for Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO), the European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT) as well as FACE. Co-chaired by FACE Vice-Presidents Giovanni Bana and Nicolas Papadodimas, 20 experts gathered for the intensive meeting, including representatives from 5 FACE-MED countries: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Malta who exchanged information and updates on their local and national affairs.

Antonis Kakoullis, President of the Cyprus Federation for Hunting & Wildlife Conservation welcomed the participants, and with his excellent team as well as key partner, The Cyprus Game Fund, set the tone for a purposeful meeting. A good overview of hunting in Cyprus was provided, with eye-opening presentations on the release of game birds in Cyprus as well as the effects of rapid development on the island – with 6000km of road in 1980 doubling in 20 years.

These presentations created much discussion on the plight of habitat loss in the Mediterranean, leading the participants to spontaneously and sincerely prepare a Declaration addressing the extreme habitat disturbance and fragmentation in the region.

Technical knowledge on traditional hunting methods and the EU Birds Directive was shared by Massimo Marracci, Secretary General of the European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT) whilst Micali Giuseppe of the European Foundation *Il Nibbio* (FEIN) presented findings from an in-depth study on Song Thrush Wings. FACE's Senior Policy Advisor Yves Lecocq presented a pertinent view of the Council of Europe's recent work around illegal bird killing and how it relates to hunters and FACE-MED Members.

The Cyprus Federation for Hunting & Wildlife Conservation generously closed the event with an official dinner and awards ceremony, attended by various high-level guests, including the Minister of the Interior Neocles Silikiotis who was very supportive of the meeting, the Member of European Parliament for Cyprus Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, the Mayors of both Larnaca and Strovolos Town and the previous Presidents of the Cyprus Game Fund. The Cyprus Game Fund Director, Pantelis Hadjigerou noted the collective appreciation of the advice garnered from FACE at the time of Cyprus' EU accession.

FACE-MED Members return to their respective countries with a refreshed outlook on the future of hunting in the Mediterranean, looking forwards to both their next gathering with the Nordic Hunters in the south of France in

June and of course the Cypriot EU Presidency of July-December 2012.



*Left to right:*

FACE Vice-President (Mediterranean) Nicolas Papadodimas; Cyprus Federation for Hunting & Wildlife Conservation Executive Secretary Andreas Pantelas; Cypriot Minister of the Interior Neocles Silikiotis



## JUNE IN PROVENCE, FRANCE NORDIC REGION VISITS FACE-MED IN FRANCE

Since 2010 the Nordic region (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland) and FACE Mediterranean Members (FACE-MED) have visited each other 3 times - in Italy, Sweden and 22-24 June 2012 in Avignon, France.

In Avignon the Nordic Delegation visited the Local Hunters' Federation of Vaucluse (FDC 84, *Fédération Départementale de Chasseurs de Vaucluse*) for a very friendly reception. A formal meeting was held at the 'House of Hunting and Environment' where the Regional Hunters' Federation President Bernard Mathieu, gave a presentation on hunting in the Mediterranean part of France and its characteristics.

The Nordic visitors were indeed impressed to learn how much time, energy and love for nature is put into for instance the French and Spanish 'parany' where trees and hedges are sculpted to perfect the capture of a few birds, and where even the glue-making seems to be an art. A number of excellent presentations on traditional hunting in the Mediterranean area stressed the fact that the selective capture of small quantities of birds is adapted to European legislation and there is stimulating work being done to recognise the deep cultural knowledge encompassed in the art of birdsong imitation by the Association of Birdsong Imitation (AICO) in Provence.

Following a visit to the summit of the legendary Mount Ventoux, offering the Nordic visitors a unique view on this Mediterranean region, the participants were invited to attend the regional championship of birdsong imitation in the village of Lascours - an inspiring experience.

See p.95 for more details of this local Mediterranean hunting culture.



The nature conservation issues dealt with by FACE cover the ongoing implementation of the EU Nature Directives and new policy developments related to nature and biodiversity.

These issues are of importance to FACE as they influence national hunting legislation and in particular **habitats** and **site protection regimes**.

FACE ensures that the role of sustainable use and incentive-driven conservation is recognised in the creation and implementation of nature policies.

FACE works together with its Members to share and promote expertise for environmental policy development and implementation to benefit hunting and conservation. This expertise is supported by a knowledge base gained through monitoring research developments and maintaining close ties with our strategic partners.

# NATURE CONSERVATION

# BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity loss is an enormous challenge in Europe and worldwide. To tackle this, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted in 2012 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the EU adopted its Biodiversity Strategy 2020. The CBD CoP11 (8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India) urged Parties and other Governments to adapt their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the CBD Strategic Plan. The CBD highlighted the need for Parties to include all stakeholders including local communities in planning and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This is where hunters have a role to play.

Hunters share a passion for nature and biodiversity, their primary concern being more than their future ability to hunt, but the ability for generations to come to appreciate nature in the raw. This is why hunters work every day right across Europe to conserve nature and biodiversity.

## THE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO

The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto reflects the rigorous and active commitment made by FACE, our Members and the 7 million European hunters we represent, to ensure that hunting is sustainable and contributes positively to biodiversity conservation.

The Manifesto aligns itself with the CBD Strategic Plan and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. It provides a framework in which national hunters' associations can demonstrate and coordinate their efforts in line with international and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Manifesto's 34 action points address a host of EU biodiversity priorities and promote cooperation with other sectors and stakeholders such as farmers, foresters and landowners, conservation NGOs and public authorities.

Since the adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the European Commission has worked on revising its internal governance structure in order to implement the Strategy effectively. So far this has resulted in the creation of some new Working Groups and initiatives. To ensure that the Manifesto and the EU Biodiversity Strategy remain aligned, FACE monitored and contributed to these related Working Groups and initiatives such as Green Infrastructure (p.42) and the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES, p.43).

**This is our  
commitment.**

THE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO



## THE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

At the end of 2012, FACE and Members from the Mediterranean region embarked on a project to contribute towards the implementation of the main objectives of The Biodiversity Manifesto in the Mediterranean region. The project is co-financed by the MAVA Foundation.

FACE developed a database to collect and classify what hunters do to help biodiversity; recording what, how and when. This includes strategies, programmes, initiatives, projects and a selection of local level actions. The database summarises the types of activities, their funding sources and who was involved, as well as the main achievements and results.

Through this work national Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans will be identified and the involvement of hunters assessed. FACE Members from the Mediterranean will exchange expertise on relevant biodiversity measures and discuss tools to communicate these to hunters, policy-makers and the public through a special workshop. An initial output will be a review of good practice by hunters in the Mediterranean which will demonstrate how this group helps the EU and governments to deliver on biodiversity conservation targets.

National  
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To ensure that the Manifesto and the EU Biodiversity Strategy remain aligned, FACE monitored and contributed to the related Commission Working Groups and initiatives such as Green Infrastructure and the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES).

# INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE - IUCN

2012 WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS: 6-15 SEPTEMBER, JEJU, KOREA

FACE has been a Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature since 1987.

IUCN's European mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies in Europe to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every 4 years, it aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The 2012 World Conservation Congress involved some 5,000 conservation experts from governments and NGOs, 153 countries and around 600 events. The Congress is composed of 2 main parts. The Forum where IUCN Members and partners discuss cutting-edge ideas, thinking and practice. The Forum leads into the Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs, where voting takes place on Motions for Resolution, the IUCN Work Programme, and Elections of the new IUCN President and Council: Mr Zhang Xinsheng (China) will lead IUCN for the next 4 years.

FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton and Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin represented European hunters' interests at this important event, supporting the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation's (CIC) global position and in particular following those Motions for Resolution concerned with sustainable use:



## 3 KEY RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Respecting ecologically sustainable use of abundant biological resources (Recommendation 179, sponsored by The Fur Institute of Canada):**

The motion, 'Sustainable use of abundant biological resources' attracted a great deal of opposition from those with more protectionist views on nature conservation, but after numerous discussions and some amendments it was voted through with strong support (98% Yes) from both governments and NGOs. In the end reason won the day: some successful species can tolerate harvesting without risks to the viability of their populations. This recommendation simply asks that when States take measures concerning the use of such species, they consult other States concerned to avoid negative impacts on local/indigenous communities which depend on their use.

### **Collaborative partnership on wildlife (Resolution 119 sponsored by the CIC):**

This calls for the establishment of a Collaborative Partnership for Sustainable Wildlife Management, with initial focus on bushmeat issues, dealt with under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Again amendments were requested to the text, but thankfully the emphasis and operative content were largely preserved.

FACE was also successful in amending the text of the motion originally titled 'Combating the illegal or abusive hunting of migratory birds in the Mediterranean', but now reads '**Combating the illegal or unsustainable capture, trade or killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean**' (Resolution 29) thanks to cooperation with the sponsor SEO (Spanish BirdLife Partner). This brought the text closer in line with the Larnaca Declaration from the Council of Europe Bern Convention Conference in Cyprus of July 2011.

## SUSTAINABLE USE BACK ON THE AGENDA

The Congress witnessed the launch of the IUCN **Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi)** which gives new direction to the previous Sustainable Use Specialist Group.

The concept of this new Group was seeded at the last Congress in Barcelona, with the adoption of a resolution which called for the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to work on the conservation, social, cultural and economic benefits of sustainable use.

The work of SULi will include highlighting the importance of wild species in providing community benefits, promoting best practice and innovation in adaptive responses to the challenges of sustainable use. It will also develop practical tools and approaches to support sustainability and resilience in resource use. This expansion of subject area will certainly widen interest and will help to put conservation through sustainable use back on the IUCN agenda.

The Congress and future events with IUCN enable us to address The Biodiversity Manifesto actions.

*FACE and its Members urge other conservation NGOs and civil society groups to join with hunters and other wildlife users and their organisations in a constructive dialogue to focus on enhancing their contribution towards nature conservation through sustainable use.*

**- On Sustainable Use,  
The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**

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### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- CIC held their annual General Assembly on the economics of wildlife conservation, in Cape Town, South Africa during 8-11 May 2012. FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton was honoured to make a short address at the opening ceremony on the collaboration between FACE and the CIC. The occasion was, as ever, a fantastic venue to be updated on emerging trends in global wildlife management and to meet interesting personalities. It was also a useful venue to meet FACE Members, of which there were many at the event. This provided an opportunity to catch up on a number of less formal but equally relevant issues, which are not always covered in the FACE Meetings. This General Assembly provided further basis to explore greater cooperation with the CIC, especially in promoting sustainable use policies within the various International Agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and global events such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012.



# AGRICULTURE

The European landscape is predominantly semi-anthropogenic, principally managed under agricultural and forestry uses. Hunters have a long tradition of working with farmers and foresters to conserve wildlife at local levels, not to mention many being farmers and foresters themselves.

In some cases this collaboration is effective at national levels. There is generally a need to scale this collaboration up, especially to the EU level.

FACE works to build bridges between all the main countryside stakeholders, particularly for agricultural and rural policies.

## COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AFTER 2013 - CAP

Following the vote by the European Parliament in March 2013 and the agreement amongst EU Agriculture Ministers, the final phase of CAP negotiations began in the form of triologue meetings between the EU Institutions. These dialogues gather representatives of the European Parliament, Commission, Council to discuss the Commission's legislative proposals on direct payments, rural development, market organisation and horizontal aspects, with a view to reach a political agreement.

FACE and its Members are focusing on the implementation aspects of the new CAP, particularly to ensure that as many wildlife-friendly measures as possible are negotiated and implanted by Member States.

The CAP is of vital importance for hunters for many reasons – from wild game and land management to hunting rights connected to landownership and the implications of rural development for biodiversity.

*FACE and its Members will develop strategies and policies to address habitat provisioning within the Common Agricultural Policy.*

**- On Habitats,**

**The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**

## THE RURAL COALITION

The Rural Coalition consists of FACE, the Confederation of Farmers and Agri-cooperatives Unions (Copa-Cogeca), the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA), the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) and the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV). The Rural Coalition collaborates on a wide range of rural affairs for a common purpose. The Coalition seeks to strengthen the voice of Europe's rural population and to increase the competitiveness of the EU agricultural sector whilst building up an effective network of stakeholders in the countryside.

The Rural Coalition prepared for meetings of Advisory Groups of the European Commission related to Agriculture and Rural Development, coordinated its joint statements and continued working towards a joint position on the future CAP, in particular on Rural Development.

In April 2012, the Rural Coalition issued a position paper on the Rural Development Policy post-2013, which was widely distributed amongst EU decision-makers. The Coalition stressed the need for adequate resources to maintain rural areas as economically viable and competitive, preserve cultural landscapes and enhance the provision of ecosystem services. It can already be ascertained that the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will preserve its key role in EU nature and biodiversity financing. The Commission EAFRD proposal provides a number of measures with direct or indirect benefits to biodiversity conservation.

The European Council adopted its conclusions on the EU's 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework on 8 February 2013 and agreed to cap EU budget at 1.04% of EU Gross National Income. The Rural Coalition sent a strong message welcoming the Council's ability to find consensus; conversely, expressing disappointment on the failure to provide enough resources to finance the EU Rural Development Policy in accordance with the Coalition's objectives.



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY: GETTING IT RIGHT

Through the European Parliament's Sustainable Hunting Intergroup, a special roundtable debate took place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg in June 2012 to discuss the future Rural Development Policy. Under the patronage and chair of MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon and MEP Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, MEPs from 7 countries gathered with European landowners, farmers, hunters and other conservationists to share perspectives on the European Commission's Proposal for Rural Development Regulation's 6 priorities. Specifically, the priorities relating to competitiveness, ecosystems and resource efficiency were discussed, with British MEP Robert Sturdy making a number of contributions. FACE President Gilbert de Turckheim was present with Goddert von Wülfig, FACE Delegate from the German Hunters' Association and FACE's Nature Policy Manager Gabor von Bethlenfalvy.

With MEP Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos being the Rapporteur for the reports on direct payments and rural development for the European Parliament's Agricultural Committee, this roundtable gave a unique insight and interpretation of the draft reports presented the week before. These reports provided the first official indication of the thinking in the European Parliament on the Commission's CAP post-2013 legislative proposals.

“Non-agricultural activities which can be another source of income to farmers, such as hunting activities and tourism should be eligible under Rural Development.”

- **MEP Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos**,  
*Vice-President of the European Parliament*  
*Sustainable Hunting Intergroup*

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### DENMARK:

#### CONFERENCE ON SMALL GAME AND WILDLIFE IN MODERN AGRICULTURE

The Danish Hunters' Association (*Danmarks Jægerforbund*) held the second of two conferences on small game on 27-28 September 2012, attended by the Danish Minister of Agriculture and Food Mette Gjerskov.

Due to changes in land use and agricultural intensification, small game has declined throughout Europe. This conference provided a unique opportunity to bring together an incredible set of expertise to produce potential solutions.

FACE provided the concluding intervention of the conference through a video presentation given by FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton, adding an EU-level perspective. Concerning the CAP, Angus outlined the future potential of **securing 3 important elements**:

- If hunters could work with farm advisory services at national, regional and local levels, incorporating game management options into their advice, the majority of farmers could be reached. This can impact greatly on the way in which environmental aspects that are important for good wildlife management are taken into account.
- It would be essential to secure some form and level of ecological focus areas as part of the direct payments.
- Hunting associations and other conservation NGOs should work with farmers and their governments towards a better understanding of which measures may be most applicable and productive to them in terms of delivering food and a healthy environment.

*FACE and its Members will continue to collaborate with both farmers and conservation organisations to maintain and restore farmland biodiversity through local actions.*

- **On Habitats**,  
**The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**

The Danish Hunters' Association presented a model for concrete action - a concrete management concept that can be used nationwide. This model is based on the successful experience of establishing and running small game management sites that make a positive difference for Partridges and Hares.

# PROTECTED AREAS

In Europe, protected areas in the first half of the 20th century were predominantly strictly protected national parks, traditionally run by central governments and designated as set-asides for nature conservation due to their intrinsic values. They were generally managed without regard for local community opinions.

Despite Europe being the most densely populated continent, the surface area designated as protected areas has been growing exponentially since the 1970s. This expansion precipitated the evolution of their management, increasingly run with and by local communities and stakeholders, integrating social, economic and environmental needs. Today some areas rely fully on the local people and their knowledge.

The EU's Natura 2000 network and the Council of Europe's Emerald Network were developed in the mind-set of this evolution in approach. The success of these areas requires the support of land users. In fact, many of our valuable habitats are the result of traditional land use and some of the most important wildlife sites in Europe have survived the pressures of development and destruction due to the interest of wildlife recreational uses, such as hunting.

## EU BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The EU Biodiversity and Nature Directors' Meetings take place twice a year, organised by the country holding the EU Presidency at the time. Attended by the Biodiversity and Nature Directors of national Ministries and their equivalent from the European Commission, the meetings provide guidance and orientations to more specific Commission Working Groups relating to policy and implementation of legislation.

In 2012, the Biodiversity and Nature Directors' Meeting under the Danish EU Presidency was held in Horsens, Denmark in May and the second under the Cypriot EU Presidency in Paphos, Cyprus in September.

The Natura 2000 User Forum presented their views on related subjects through joint interventions, which were coordinated by FACE at both meetings. These emphasised amongst other points the need for better involvement of local actors in the management of Natura 2000, less bureaucracy on the ground and consistency between EU policies. The interventions were welcomed by the European Commission and national delegations, and it was highlighted as a positive achievement to additionally have the users' perspective besides the green NGO perspective in this forum.

## NATURA 2000 & HUNTING - EUROPEAN COMMISSION BROCHURES

2012 marked the 20 Years of the EU Habitats Directive. FACE took the opportunity to better profile the benefits of hunters' involvement in Natura 2000, and thereby capitalise on the Commission's renewed efforts to communicate clearly to Member States that there is a place for hunters in Natura 2000; something which is too often lost in translation between EU policy and local implementation.

FACE ensured that in the European Commission's Celebratory Brochure, a case study entitled "Hunters in Natura 2000: a force for good" was featured. This feature outlines a concrete example from the local French Hunting Federation of Haute-Vienne (FDC87) in France and sends an important message widely, as this Brochure was produced in 5 languages and distributed across the EU. The Commission used positive messages in this publication and in its official press release: "Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves but is based on a much wider principle of sustainable land and water use management."

FACE also provided content for a European Commission factsheet publication on *Sustainable Hunting and the Natura 2000 Network* which is to be published in 2013. The factsheet will include a case study from those provided by FACE.

## BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROCESS

The European Commission launched the new biogeographic process to exchange and analyse measures to achieve favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest, with special attention to the management and coherence of the Natura 2000 network. For each biogeographic region, events are planned with participants including national delegations from each country concerned and an EU-level delegation.

FACE informed its Members from the Boreal, Atlantic, Alpine and Mediterranean regions, and where possible, coordinated engagement of the hunting community as part of the national delegations. This engagement ensures that discussions on land management include the actual managers on the ground.

At the EU Biodiversity and Nature Directors' Meeting in Cyprus FACE directly addressed the Member States representatives on behalf of the Natura 2000 User Forum: "We strongly recommend national authorities to actively seek the expertise of our national and local Members and to give them an opportunity to join the national delegations. This includes communicating to them well in advance in order to mobilise and give them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the process."

FACE added that **local support is even more important in times of financial crisis, as nature conservation will rely more than ever on local people with private incentives.**

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## THE NATURA 2000 USERS' FORUM

The Natura 2000 Users' Forum brings hunters through FACE together with landowners (European Landowners' Organization, ELO), foresters (the Confederation of European Forest Owners, CEPEF), farmers (Copa-Cogeca) and anglers (European Anglers' Alliance, EAA). Together the Forum represents over 45 million EU citizens which own, manage and use land and renewable natural resources.

The Forum helps policy-makers in policy development and implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, especially concerning Natura 2000 and understanding local socio-economic situations. It has proven to be a good platform to address EU policy-makers with joint messages, in particular within the frame of the EU Biodiversity and Nature Directors' Meetings.

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## THE CASE OF FINLAND

Finland has adopted a new law that allows the environmental authority to establish horizontal bans of certain activities, such as hunting, in nature protection areas on government-owned land in the south of the country.

FACE joined the April 2012 Hunting Intergroup Meeting of the Finnish Parliament, attended by Member of Parliament and President of the Hunting Intergroup Eero Reijonen and the President of the Finnish Hunters' Association, FACE Vice-President Lauri Kontro. FACE's Nature Policy Manager Gabor von Bethlenfalvy gave an overview of hunting in protected areas in Europe. In the presence of a representative of the Finnish Ministry of Environment, Gabor highlighted that experiences around the EU suggest that bottom-up approaches, taking into account the human and cultural dimension seem to be most successful for putting in place realistic management of these sites and avoiding conflicts. It remains important to remind decision-makers that it has cost Europe a great deal of effort to have come such a long way in accepting the concept of a participatory approach for the management of protected areas. It is important to continue to build on this and not go back to excluding local people.

# IN THE FORESTS...

## NATURA 2000 AND FORESTS

### 50% of the Natura 2000 network are forests.

The European Commission's DG Environment and DG Agriculture and Rural Development jointly initiated the drafting of a new Guidance Document on Forest Management in Natura 2000. This Guidance Document aims to (a) contribute to the improvement of the conservation status of habitats and species in forests, (b) clarify the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, and (c) promote a more integrated management of forests in Natura 2000 areas, by strengthening partnership / involvement of stakeholders and the forest sector in the management of the Natura 2000 network.

FACE coordinated and submitted a first round of comments with supporting scientific documentation, to which the Natura 2000 national correspondents - experts from the FACE Membership - made extremely valuable contributions.

FACE addressed two main concerns in particular:

- Game management and the associated role of hunters were not mentioned;
- “non-intervention” management (including the banning of human activities) was promoted without specifications under which conditions this should apply.

Hunting remains a necessary tool in forest management. Large game species have ecological impacts on forests. Depending on the population densities and the carrying capacity of the forests, these may be favourable or unfavourable to biodiversity and habitats. The negative impacts can prevent forests designated as Natura 2000 sites from meeting their conservation objectives, and are also often connected with economic losses by the forestry sector and forest owners (and hunters in the case where they need to compensate for game damages).

Furthermore, hunting is associated with many socio-economic benefits within the Natura 2000 network and often represents an attractive source of income for landowners and an incentive to manage forests sustainably, in line with Natura 2000 conservation objectives.

A concern with the non-intervention concept is the lack of consideration for management needs of land uses outside non-intervention areas (e.g. damages in surrounding agricultural fields by Wild boar and the control of generalist predator species). There is evidence that a non-intervention regime or strict protection can also have negative effects on biodiversity and habitats (e.g. those with a long history of sustainable management). When activities (such as forestry, hunting, etc.) have no negative impact on the conservation objectives, they should not be banned. Bans can only be based on scientific evidence and need to be evaluated on a site-by-site basis (due to local differences and different conservation objectives). Conflicts arising from unnecessary bans can cause additional challenges in achieving the conservation objectives.

*FACE and its Members  
will continue to promote  
hunters' engagement in the  
management of protected  
areas in collaboration with  
the relevant competent  
authorities and other  
stakeholders especially in  
regards to Natura 2000.*

**- On Protected Areas,  
The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**



## INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE ON THE KOSOVO FOREST SECTOR

In October 2012 FACE participated in a 2-day conference in Pristina on the development of the Kosovo forest sector. As part of a twinning project funded by the EU, the conference gathered experts from all over Europe representing the forest sector, national Ministries and the wildlife management community. Their task was to look at how the forest sector can be strengthened in Kosovo and contribute to sustainability and to economic development in rural areas. Through the twinning project, best practices from Austria, Bulgaria and Italy were studied and harmonisation of the legal framework in Kosovo with the *Acquis Communautaire* of the EU is supported.

Attending the conference in a joint delegation with the Secretary General of the Federation of Hunters of Albania Themis Perri, FACE's Legal Advisor Johan Svalby gave a keynote speech on the European approach, through legislation and other policies, to the development of wildlife management and conservation. Johan emphasised that successful strategies for sustainable wildlife management need to be long-term, inclusive and collaborative in nature and allow for national hunting regimes benefitting local hunters. Forests are multinational assets and citizens should be part of them. It is ultimately through individual actions and the long-term engagement of local and national hunters that a difference can be made on the ground: something European hunters successfully prove on a daily basis all across our continent.



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the EU, many ecosystems have been degraded, largely as a result of land fragmentation. With the Council of the EU endorsing the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, the EU and its Member States are committed to maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services and restoring degraded ecosystems by incorporating a concept of Green Infrastructure in spatial planning. Some Green Infrastructure concepts already exist at different scales, however there is no coherence and no commonly agreed approaches throughout Europe as to how to bring about the necessary results.

The concept of Green Infrastructure is relevant to hunters. Any future Green Infrastructure projects may have an influence in the areas where hunting activities are carried out. Therefore Green Infrastructure needs to work with us and not against us. Hunters can provide expertise on coordinated management schemes (e.g. Game Management Units) and on individual local level actions (e.g. planting hedgerows and wild flower strips) which maintain a fundamental Green Infrastructure for the conservation of nature at a landscape level, thus strengthening and restoring ecosystems, increasing landscape connectivity and its capacity to respond to environmental change (e.g. climate change).

After the European Commission Working Group on Green Infrastructure provided opinions and recommendations for the Green Infrastructure Strategy - to which FACE contributed significantly in 2011 - the Commission remained silent in 2012 to shape their Strategy internally. FACE however issued a statement in 2012 and urged the Commission and Member States to consider the role of hunters for Green Infrastructure. Furthermore, FACE joined Wetlands International in a submission on river restoration as part of ensuring Green Infrastructure.

FACE considers that an EU Green Infrastructure Strategy needs to respect the subsidiarity of Member States (the EU has no direct competence in spatial planning) and remain a more general enabling framework taking into account regional specificities, as opposed to being specific and restrictive.

Nevertheless, some coordination at EU level is required to implement Green Infrastructure more effectively. The EU could facilitate the integration of Green Infrastructure into projects funded through the appropriate funding mechanisms (such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Regional Development Fund, LIFE, etc), as well as bring coherence into existing EU policies with an impact on land use, nature and biodiversity; mainstreaming the Green Infrastructure concept into these.

A Green Infrastructure Strategy needs to emphasise the multifunctionality of rural areas, the need for active stakeholder involvement and take into account the 'ordinary' biodiversity as opposed to priority and protected biodiversity only, covered by Natura 2000.



Economics is a crucial aspect of policy formulation and decision-making, especially during our current time of austerity.

Unfortunately the data on the economics of hunting is dispersed and extremely varied across Europe. There is a need to develop a Framework that can capture and place the various data sets without necessarily developing new or common methodologies.

For this reason, FACE has collaborated with MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon to develop **a Framework to Evaluate the Economics of Hunting**, which should be finalised with assistance from the University of Stirling in Scotland in 2013. The Framework is not an analytical one but rather a conceptual one. It places the various values associated with hunting into 3 broad categories: socio-cultural, environmental and monetary. Any number of methods could be used to evaluate the various values and it may not be possible to monetise all of them. For example, how do you value the enjoyment of a solitary evening waiting for a Roebeuck that eventually evades you? These sorts of values are difficult to express in monetary terms, but they are important values and add to individual and social wellbeing: it is very important to recognise them.

FACE has collaborated with MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon to develop a Framework to Evaluate the Economics of Hunting.

In the meantime a number of other processes and initiatives have emerged. In particular, the **German Hunters' Association** (*Deutscher Jagdverband*, DJV) has been looking into initiating a project in Germany on the economics of hunting. The DJV invited FACE, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the German CIC Delegation to a meeting in Berlin.

FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton presented the concept of the Framework and the fact that part of this work is designed to feed into the **EU's Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES)**. The CIC - who FACE had previously provided with an overview of the data available in Europe - has been exploring the possibility of linking to the United Nations Environment Programme's **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)** process. However, this connection would involve more of a Total Wildlife Value Approach, whilst the DJV and CIC German Delegation are looking for a suitable methodology to evaluate the economics of hunting in Germany. Although there were differences of opinion in how to proceed, with the CIC generally favouring a standardised and centralised approach focusing on wildlife and FACE favouring an integrated approach focusing on hunting, it was agreed that we would continue to collaborate and share information, which the DJV kindly agreed to coordinate.

## MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (MAES)

FACE has been involved with the European Commission's DG Environment MAES process. Nature Policy Manager Gabor von Bethlenfalvy attended the first Open Stakeholders Workshop on 22 November 2012, where he outlined some of the work that FACE is doing. As the MAES process is being formulated, there is a real opportunity to have hunting values incorporated into the ecosystem assessments that should in due course be aggregated up at a European level.

The wildlife conservation issues dealt with by FACE cover the ongoing implementation of the EU Nature Directives in relation to species listing and new policy developments.

FACE's wildlife conservation activities are very closely connected to our engagement in International Agreements (p.58) which provide the frameworks for our species actions.

These issues are of importance to FACE as they influence national hunting legislation and affect wildlife management.

There are many barriers between the different processes in wildlife conservation: observations, science, policy, planning, through to decisions for management options. The role of networks such as FACE and its Members is to bridge these processes and create connections. With so many stakeholders and conflicting views this is no easy task; one reason why good dialogue and communications are essential, for without them the chances of real benefits to wildlife is limited.

FACE works to ensure the role of sustainable use and incentive-driven conservation is recognised in the creation and implementation of wildlife-related policies.

FACE works together with its Members to share expertise for environmental policy development and implementation to benefit hunting and conservation. This expertise is supported by a knowledge base gained through monitoring research developments and maintaining close ties with our strategic partners.

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

## SPECIES ACTION

Different species or species groups require different approaches in their conservation. Some individual species in poor status require action targeted to their specific needs, i.e. single species action plans, whilst others require a broader framework, such as for invasive alien species (p.54-55), large carnivores (p.50-53) or Wild boar (p.49).

Whilst hunters take action on the ground to conserve and monitor particular species or populations, FACE works within the Species Specialist Groups of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, p.34) and Wetlands International (p.47) for international collaboration and effective conservation. Much of this engagement crosses over with our work under International Agreements such as the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (p.61-65) and on Wetlands (p.66-69).

### ARTEMIS:

#### THE INFORMATION PORTAL FOR HUNTABLE SPECIES IN EUROPE

Lack of information on hunting bag statistics has been identified as a failing on the part of the hunting community: “there is a need for sound, scientifically-based monitoring mechanisms to ensure that any use is maintained at levels which can be sustained by the wild populations without adversely affecting the species’ role in the ecosystem or the ecosystem itself. This should include information on bag statistics, which is at present lacking or poorly developed for most species throughout the European Union” – *European Commission Guide to Sustainable Hunting under the Birds Directive*.

FACE has sought to redress this through the creation of the Artemis Information Portal on Hutable Species, launched in November 2012.



Gaining  
greater understanding  
of our species:  
[www.face-artemis.eu](http://www.face-artemis.eu)

This website features existing information gathered by FACE, contains details of existing bag data collection schemes throughout the EU and information on the distribution and ecology of hutable species. The portal allows a greater understanding of our species and provides a new tool for managers and researchers.

The Artemis Portal will continue to develop with information being added and updated progressively so as to enhance the sharing of hunters’ knowledge.

## DUCK SPECIALIST GROUP

In November 2012, FACE became the first sponsoring organisation of the Duck Specialist Group (DSG) through a small contribution. The DSG is a global network of duck specialists working on the monitoring, research, conservation and management of wild duck populations. The aim of the Group is to facilitate effective communication and transfer of knowledge and best practice between members and others with an interest in duck management and conservation. The DSG is part of the specialist group network of Wetlands International and the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

The idea for this support began at the 3rd Pan-European Ducks Symposium (PEDS3) held in Jindrichuz Hradec, Czech Republic in April 2012 and attended by FACE. Many duck populations have maintained healthy population levels from the late 1940s to the 1990s. More recently however there are signs of demographic troubles ahead for several duck species such as sea ducks in the Baltic region.

The concern is that the current monitoring framework is not fit for purpose in a changing world. We are unable to distinguish whether declines at site level are due to shifting distribution and movements or a result of true population decline. The continued lack of availability of hunting bag data was also highlighted as one of the failings.

FACE's Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin acknowledged the problem and stressed that more thought needs to be given to how hunting bag data will be used once collected. Perhaps in the past too much stress has been put on the need for totals, rather than seeking other population data gathered by hunters such as trends and demographics of hunting bags, distribution and movements.

FACE believes the DSG will foster a better exchange of information on duck populations by bringing together various interest groups - hunting and non-hunting alike - with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

## GOOSE SPECIALIST GROUP

The Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International seeks to strengthen contacts between all researchers on migratory goose populations in the northern hemisphere. During their annual meetings, latest developments on the knowledge of geese populations is shared and debated. This year the meeting was organised in Arcachon, France in January 2013 by the ONCFS (French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency) with additional financial support from the OMPO Research Institute, the French National Hunters' Federation (FNC, *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*), the regional FDC33 (*Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs de Gironde*), the *Maison de la Chasse*, the local and regional authorities, and FACE - represented by Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin.

Given the list of organisations supporting the meeting, it might have been expected that hunting would be one of the key issues. On the contrary, the main topic of the meeting was the Brent Geese (*Branta b. bernicla*) and Eelgrass (*Zostera*), an important food source for many wildfowl: hunters are not only interested in huntable species. This was well illustrated in a presentation by the local hunting federation of Gironde (FDC33) who reported on their monitoring of wintering Brent Geese in the Bassin d'Arcachon, which they have been conducting since 1986. Each participant also received a monograph of the famous Bay of Arcachon by Teddy Auly and Jésus Veiga from the FDC33, detailing the history and ecology of this important wetland.

The presence of FACE was much appreciated, with closer ties between hunters' organisations and research bodies seen as a step in the right direction to gain greater understanding of our wildfowl.

# SPECIES ACTION

## SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CORMORANTS, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Under the framework of the EU 'CorMan Project' (Sustainable Management of Cormorant Populations), the Stakeholder Liaison Group, which FACE is part of, met for the third time in Spring 2012 to steer the work on the project and ensure the range of concerns with this species are taken into consideration.

There are two main deliverables for the contract:

- To develop an online information platform on the European Commission's DG Environment website with general information on Cormorants along with best practice solutions to reduce the impact of Great Cormorants on fisheries, fish stocks and aquaculture.
- To coordinate a pan-European census of breeding colonies 2012 and pan-European census of wintering birds in 2013.

Other actions relevant to Cormorants also discussed included the European Commission Guidelines on the use of Article 9 derogations under the EU Birds Directive for Cormorants.



FACE has been providing input and advice on the practical implementation of the EU Birds Directive, and how to manage human-wildlife conflict situations.

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**OMPO: MIGRATORY BIRDS OF THE WESTERN PALEARCTIC** is a research institute and international NGO committed to the scientific study of Palearctic migratory birds on their overall distribution range in Africa-Eurasia, and providing knowledge for their management and sustainable use.

The OMPO 2012 General Assembly took place in Brussels on 18 October and was attended by FACE Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin. As ever, OMPO remains active in research throughout flyways of migratory birds of the Western Palearctic, from the breeding conditions of thrushes at study sites in the Leningrad region to the monitoring of waterbirds in the Senegal delta. The question of how to assess bag statistics was discussed; in particular how to compare data collected using different methodologies. One conclusion was that trying to do too much at once should be avoided, but rather work on a more limited scope and expand once experience is gained. FACE and OMPO are looking to collaborate on this longstanding priority.



## WILD BOAR MANAGEMENT, *Sus scrofa*

The Sustainable Hunting Intergroup and the European Landowners' Organization organised a meeting in July 2012 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the “demographic explosion” of wild boar populations in Europe.

In his presentation, FACE Senior Policy Advisor Yves Lecocq identified climate change and its consequences for ecosystems and human activities (in particular farming) as the main cause for this “population explosion” of a very adaptable wild species - a phenomenon which started back in the 1970s and is not restricted to Europe. Yves further listed the sometimes disastrous consequences of high wild boar numbers: considerable damage to crops, higher risks for traffic collisions, serious safety problems near and inside urban areas, transmission of diseases to domestic animals as well as to people and, last but not least, a negative impact on biodiversity (e.g. ground-breeding birds). The situation being highly complex, he warned against simplistic or ideological solutions or a standardised European strategy.

The only realistic way forward is to encourage and motivate hunters to increase their wild boar harvest. This requires a suitable legal framework to enable hunters to do this, without unreasonable restrictions (such as too short seasons or other hunting bans). For FACE it is clear that hunters need to recognise their responsibility - and they are more than willing to do so - and other sectors of society (other conservation NGOs, farmers, local authorities) should do likewise. These ideas were confirmed by Benoit Guibert from the French National Hunters' Federation (FNC, *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*), who presented the situation in his country. Intergroup President Véronique Mathieu Houillon and other participating MEPs supported these conclusions and promised to follow up this topic closely, and to explore how the EU could contribute to solving the problem.



**EUROPEAN LANDOWNERS' ORGANIZATION - ELO** is a unique federation of 67 national associations across the EU-27 which represents the interests of landowners, rural managers and entrepreneurs at the European level. As the Co-Secretariat of the Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities & Forestry Intergroup of the European Parliament, FACE and ELO together provide services to its Members, offer information and insights where required, and organise the planned events. Through many years of good cooperation and through our shared interests and stakeholders, the collaboration with ELO will continue, with mutual enrichment.

## LARGE CARNIVORES

“Hunters are one of the main stakeholders in the conservation and management of large carnivores in Europe: they are - and need - to be part of the solution.”

- Pia Bucella, European Commission

Large carnivores occur in a great diversity of ecological, conservation, socio-cultural and political situations in Europe. This can help to explain the different attitudes towards large carnivores which sometimes divide society. In Europe’s densely populated multi-functional landscapes, humans and large carnivores need to find a way to coexist. This coexistence gives rise to challenges as well as opportunities.

**Recent data indicates that most large carnivore populations in Europe are stable or increasing.** Whilst this trend provides a reason to celebrate on the one hand, many conflicts arise on the other. This evokes a number of questions; for instance about current management and damage compensation schemes, as well as legal status, notably under the EU Habitats Directive and the Council of Europe’s Bern Convention (p.70-71).

The European hunting community is a very active player in large carnivore conservation, directly contributing to their monitoring as well as to the management of their habitats and prey across our continent.



FACE Members encompass a great amount of knowledge and expertise for a better future for Europe’s large carnivores.

FACE ensures this rich insight is integrated into large carnivore policies and approaches within the EU.

*FACE will contribute to policy formulation for large carnivore conservation.*

- On Species, The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

#### THE MEDIALOUP PROJECT

The wolf populations in Western Europe are experiencing a demographic and spatial expansion.

France's hunting community viewed this with concern, as the previous French government's Wolf Action Plan 2008-2012 gave little guidance on the coexistence of the wolf with the hunting community.

In 2012, FACE's French Member, the National Federation of Hunters (FNC, *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*) and other partners in France created the MediaLoup project. Co-financed by the French Ministry for the Environment and the *Foundation Maison de la Chasse et de la Nature*, MediaLoup delivered concrete suggestions for France's Wolf Action Plan 2013-2017, informed by best experience and practice from different parts of Europe.

FACE was part of the Steering Committee and coordinated 3 workshops with FACE's Members in Sweden, Italy and Spain respectively. The workshops gathered speakers from all relevant groups to address the French delegation: farmers, green NGOs, hunters, scientists and public administrations. The French delegation included representatives from hunting associations at the local level (FDC - *Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs*) and national FNC level, the French Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders, who exchanged experiences and gained broader insight into the diverse approaches to wolf management in Europe.

FACE's role in the MediaLoup project and increasing focus on large carnivore management and conservation has provided a solid contribution to FACE's expertise in this complex area of iconic species conservation.

# LARGE CARNIVORES

## THE EU ACTION ON LARGE CARNIVORES: THE STAKEHOLDERS' PLATFORM

In 2012, the European Commission initiated a dialogue process with and between the different stakeholders who have an interest in large carnivores. The overall objective of this process - *The EU Action on Large Carnivores* - is to identify practical approaches to ensure the maintenance or achievement of the favourable conservation status of European large carnivores, and to securing their coexistence with humans by reducing conflicts.

FACE has become an active member of a newly-established small EU-level **Contact Group** for the Commission to assist in designing this process. This Contact Group consists of farmer (including sheep and reindeer herders), landowner, environmental and hunter organisations.

In addition, the Commission launched a **contract** to support the process from a technical and scientific aspect. Contract tasks included reviewing the conservation status of large carnivore populations in Europe, as well as identifying the human-large carnivore conflicts and possible areas of cooperation between stakeholders. FACE and its Working Group on Large Carnivores provided input to some of the draft reports for this.

Both of these Commission steps fed directly into an **EU Workshop** held in Brussels in January 2013, attended by relevant EU, national and local stakeholder groups. FACE coordinated the attendance of its experts and the International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC) as well as preparing and delivering a joint presentation, showcasing the hunters' perspective on large carnivores.

The involvement of FACE and its Working Group on Large Carnivores resulted in a genuine recognition for hunters from the Commission, as highlighted by Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik's address at the FACE 35 Years celebrations in September 2012 (p.18-19), and as highlighted by the Commission's Advisor to Directorate Natural Capital András Demeter at the 2nd informal meeting of the EU Hunting Directors, October 2012, Finland.

FACE will remain engaged with this dialogue platform and continue to advocate the population level management of large carnivores with more scope for local level influence, where hunting has its vital role to play. Principles of the EU-wide large carnivore policies must be based on transparency and the full involvement of the relevant stakeholders.

The involvement of FACE and its Working Group on Large Carnivores resulted in a **genuine recognition of hunters** from the Commission.



## THE FACE LARGE CARNIVORES WORKING GROUP

At the end of 2012 FACE re-established the Large Carnivores Working Group, made up of experts assigned from 16 countries within the FACE Membership. With Prof. Henryk Okarma of the Polish Hunting Association (PZL, *Polski Związek Łowiecki*) as Chairman, this Group played an important role in the EU Action on Large Carnivores.

The Group will build and review the FACE large carnivore knowledge base for Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) following the impetus of the MediaLoup project.

Chaired by Martin Højsgaard, Secretary General of the Nordic Hunters' Cooperation, the Group's first meeting took place in January 2013. The Group's FACE Member experts were joined by a delegation of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), further underpinning a joint commitment to collaborate on key issues. The meeting provided an informed understanding of the large carnivore situation around Europe in preparation for the Commission Workshop for the EU Action on Large Carnivores. This understanding is two-fold: (a) hunters' involvement in the management and monitoring; and (b) conflicts and potential solutions.

## DEVELOPING OUR KNOWLEDGE DATABASE SECONDMENT FOR LARGE CARNIVORES

In November 2012, the Finnish Hunters' Association (*Suomen Metsästäjälitto/Finlands Jägarförbund*) seconded their Trainee Biologist Laura Kammonen to FACE for 6 months to work principally on building a Large Carnivores Knowledge Database. This involved gathering information on population data and trends, bag data and trends, and an overview of management plans. Laura also collected data including legal and socio-economic aspects, creating a robust foundation for this repository of quality intelligence from hunters for large carnivores in Europe. The secondment was funded by the Nordic Hunters' Cooperation and has been a great asset to FACE and our work for large carnivores.

FACE will continue to work for large carnivore conservation in Europe and of course promote the role of hunters in line with our *Biodiversity Manifesto*. We do not want large carnivores to be viewed as either highly protected or a menace, rather we would like to have large carnivores integrated into our landscapes as respected game species.

## FACE & WOLVES IN THE MEDIA

An increase in the amount of positive press coverage generated by FACE for European hunters is confirmation of the compelling role of hunters in effective wildlife conservation and management. This reached an apex at the very end of 2012 through a 4-page spread in *The Economist* on wolves which clearly acknowledged that hunters are part of the solution for wolf conservation: a message coming from an influential and credible news source and reaching an estimated 1.6 million direct readers.

# INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

The range of problems related to invasive alien species, not least their threat to biodiversity, has long been recognised, both internationally through the Convention on Biological Diversity and within the EU, yet we are far from tackling the issue in a coordinated manner. Now with the advent of a new EU legislative instrument it is paramount that it receives political and public support, and that the implementation follows swiftly and effectively.

## WHAT IS AN IAS?

For a non-native or alien species to become invasive it must first be introduced by a human-mediated process. If it survives, escapes, and begins reproducing without human intervention it is considered established. If it then spreads widely and causes measurable environmental, economic, or health impacts, it is referred to as invasive (Keller et al. 2011). To summarise, “for an alien species to become invasive, it must arrive, survive and thrive.” - **Convention on Biological Diversity**

The extent of public understanding and stakeholder involvement will play an important role in ensuring that the right management options are employed. Communication messages are also important to avoid unnecessary polarisation between stakeholder groups: invasive alien species should not be demonised, and any priorities which are set should be done so using transparent criteria and be based on sound scientific evidence.

As stakeholders, hunters and hunting have a positive role in identifying and managing invasive alien species. Hunters can be part of the solution mainly through early warning systems as is being demonstrated through the LIFE+ Project, coordinated by the Swedish Hunters' Association, to manage the Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in Nordic countries.

It is important to remember that not all alien species are invasive and a significant number of alien species contribute to our wellbeing, not least the humble potato. We must acknowledge that in the past through animal collectors and hunting interests, a number of species were brought into Europe and later released or escaped, some of which are now in at least part of their range considered invasive. For this reason we take our responsibilities seriously and have committed to do so:

*FACE will contribute to policy formulation for issues such as the control of invasive alien species.*

### **- On Species, The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**

FACE is already turning words and targets into actions through its Biodiversity Manifesto: **FACE and its Members will communicate to hunters the necessity to identify, control and avoid the introduction of alien animal and plant species.** Further to this hunters can be deployed as agents of management for established invasive alien species, with benefits including their practical knowledge, experience and the economic advantages of their voluntary aid for this key aspect of nature conservation.

**With the new EU policy FACE asks that priority species are identified in a manner that recognises the positive role of non-invasive alien species.** We do not consider that hunting is any longer a high-risk pathway and are working with the Council of Europe to develop a Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Species, which will reinforce national and international legislation.

# INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: THE SOLUTIONS SEMINAR

“We must rely on the eyes and ears of those on the ground. In particular, actors with privileged access to nature, such as hunters.”

- **Valentina Bastino, European Commission**

FACE and the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup coordinated a special interactive seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels in January 2012 to discuss the management of invasive alien species in the EU - today and in the future.

MEPs joined European hunters, anglers, landowners and other conservationists to share ideas and knowledge and together find the concrete actions that we can take in order to achieve the related targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

Chaired by MEP Robert Sturdy (UK), some 50 participants gathered, including various Commission representatives as well as MEPs Véronique Mathieu Houillon (France), Markus Pieper (Germany), and Ioan Enciu (Romania). Speakers from the European Anglers' Alliance (EAA), the European Squirrel Initiative (ESI), the Australian Embassy, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and FACE shared their positions briefly and joined the European Commission's Valentina Bastino and the MEPs in driving the discussion.

This exceptional exchange was prompted by the fundamental decisions taking place in the EU for invasive alien species.

FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton highlighted that “hunters are not simply killers and it takes a lot of clear communication to try to get hunters to eradicate a species, which they would instinctively aim to conserve. With regards to prevention FACE wants to avoid that lists become exceedingly prohibitive as the majority of alien species are not invasive and many are of significant economic importance.”

The European Commission's Valentina Bastino noted that “we must rely on the eyes and ears of those on the ground. In particular, actors with privileged access to nature, such as hunters” – particularly as coordination efforts are key. Bastino pointed out that of all the non-native species registered in Europe, 10-15% are invasive and alluded to the stronger measures introduced in third countries such as Australia.

The range of recommendations and interests ensured a rigorous overview of a complex area of European nature policy which will require, above all, collaborative coordination for the betterment of biodiversity.



# THE EU BIRDS DIRECTIVE

FACE was formally founded in 1977 as a result of national hunting associations engaging with the process which resulted in the adoption in 1979 of the EU Birds Directive.

Today FACE continues to enhance the implementation of the Birds Directive and the challenges faced by EU enlargement and changing population status of Europe's wild birds - this work remains at the heart of FACE.

In line with Target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, FACE is focusing on Action 3 - *Increasing stakeholder awareness and involvement and improved enforcement*, and Action 4 - *Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting*, which complements FACE's broader engagements on the conservation of migratory birds (see International Agreements p.58).

## ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS

Through their rural roots and conservation ethics, hunters and hunting organisations are in a unique position to assist the relevant authorities in reducing the practice of illegal killing of birds – on the ground and in policy.

As a follow-up to the Bern Convention Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, a small Working Group with representatives of the European Commission, Bern Convention, BirdLife International and FACE had a series of meetings in 2012 to identify actions to be taken at EU or Member State level with a view to increase effectiveness in measures aimed at tackling illegal killing of birds. The outcome of this dialogue was the production of a “Roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds”.

FACE is committed to ensure progress is made and action is taken to exchange information and raise awareness. In dealing with wildlife crime, efforts are needed to understand and define the problem in order to set priorities and objectives. Priorities should also be set on the basis of threats to conservation and scale of illegal activity.

FACE has a  
longstanding policy  
of zero-tolerance  
towards  
illegal killing.

Communication plays an important role in action towards illegal killing of birds and FACE follows the Bern Convention Recommendation, which sets out the following principles: (i.) this is about illegal killing of birds, not legal hunting; (ii.) zero tolerance of illegal killing of wild birds; (iii.) recognition of legal hunting and sustainable use.

2013 will involve greater engagement from FACE in addressing illegal killing issues, including participation in the 2nd Conference of the Council of Europe on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, held in Tunisia in 2013.

Illegal killing is not hunting.



# An important step in involving hunters and their expertise in the conservation of wild birds.

## NEW REPORTING UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

The European Commission finalised a new Article 12 reporting format for Member States to use when submitting their next reports due at the end of 2013 (for the period 2008-2012). Previously reports were required every 3 years but from now on they are to be submitted every 6 years. This follows extensive work conducted within the framework of the Expert Group on Reporting, with which FACE has been involved since its conception in 2008. Now this major task is complete the Expert Group will continue to provide technical and scientific support for delivery of reporting requirements.

The European Commission is keen that consensus on data is reached at national level before it is submitted, and encourages Member States to set up national panels of experts with focal points for communication with the Commission. Following FACE's engagement at the Kick-Off Meeting for the reporting process in Brussels in October 2011, the following remark is recorded in the summary report: "Although the Member States have the full freedom to set up the networks and panels for the Article 12 reporting, the Chairman emphasised the importance to involve at least the national BirdLife Partners (to ensure good links with Birds in Europe 3) and **relevant national hunters' organisations.**"

FACE advised and assisted its Members to participate in national panels of experts and submit data where possible. In some cases where existing national structures are being used, FACE Members are part of the process (e.g. France and Sweden). This is an important step in involving hunters and their expertise in the conservation of wild birds.

## BIRDS IN EUROPE 3 A PARALLEL PROCESS

In a parallel process to the reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive, BirdLife International is heading a consortium to produce a third edition of their atlas, Birds in Europe in 2014. This will follow on from previous volumes produced in 1994 and 2004, which give details of population estimates and trends for all bird species in Europe.

To launch this process a meeting was held in Mikulov, Czech Republic during 8-10 February 2012, in which FACE's Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin participated. The meeting gathered around 100 people from 40 countries consisting of Birdlife Partners and other ornithological organisations.

As the different bird monitoring and assessment schemes are drawing closer together than ever before, more efforts are needed to improve collaboration with hunting structures. For some game species, especially the Grouse and Partridges, hunters are often involved in the monitoring of their populations. While the motivation for these actions is to ensure any hunting is sustainable - e.g. via the setting of self-imposed restrictions in times of poor breeding success - valuable data is collected. The challenge is how to incorporate this information in more conventional census programmes.

With the transboundary nature of many of the world's environmental problems, an increasing number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements exist with implications for national and regional policies. These Agreements inform the global agenda, establish conservation principles and provide tools for cooperation.

As the EU often forms an influential block at these meetings, it is vital that FACE follows and contributes to these meetings to represent the interests and insights of European hunters. This ensures FACE is informed of international conservation trends, learns about other conservation experiences, stands up for the interests of hunters, raises the profile of hunters as conservationists, as well as finding ways of working with other conservationists.

FACE with its Members cover and actively participate in key International Agreements, providing relevant expertise, coordination, synergies and awareness.

Much of our work on International Agreements is done in collaboration with our partners. This work links directly to our Nature and Wildlife Conservation work. It is applied to our European policy work and by FACE Members at national level.

# INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

FACE WORKS INTERNATIONALLY FOR LOCAL OUTCOMES

# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES - CMS

## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Hunters in Europe have long since been involved with the positive management and monitoring of migrating waterbirds – from the local level right through to Multilateral International Agreements such as AEWA. The annual World Migratory Bird Day celebrations in May provide the opportunity for FACE to showcase some of the activities undertaken, such as the UK's Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust Woodcock Watch – an exciting project that allows you to track 12 woodcock as they migrate from their British winter homes across Europe into Russia and their breeding grounds.

At the policy level, FACE has been providing expertise and technical insight since the start. FACE Members were integral in the establishment of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in the 1990s.

The extensive involvement in the conservation of migratory birds detailed throughout this Report reflects the sincere commitment hunters make to safeguard the future of these species. This is demonstrated across Europe, every day, and World Migratory Bird Day provides the platform to celebrate this dedication.



The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes. CMS complements and co-operates with a number of other international organisations, NGOs and partners and in many cases acts as a framework Convention. Agreements under CMS may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions. The development of models tailored according to the conservation needs throughout the migratory range is a unique capacity to CMS.

Of the resolutions passed at the CoP10 of 2011 in Norway, two important ones are being progressed: the establishment of the Working Group on Landbirds, and the Poisoning Working Group. Regrettably no hunting organisations were invited to participate in the Landbirds Working Group, which had its first meeting immediately after the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Technical Committee Meeting in Ghana, August 2012. The Poisoning Working Group has been established and both FACE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) have been invited to participate in this Group.

Overall FACE has increased its involvement with the CMS and seeks to enhance more conservation-orientated objectives in which environmentalists and hunters can join forces in more meaningful ways.



*Spot the hunters:* the official poster



# AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS - AEWA

AEWA covers 255 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many important game species.

Unlike many other Agreements, AEWA has a built-in recognition of the need for conservation, including the sustainable use of migratory species. AEWA has developed the tools to progress conservation and not just protection. For this reason it remains a very important agreement for European hunters to cooperate in managing shared populations of migratory birds.

## AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: DRIVING THE AGREEMENT AUGUST 2012

The Technical Committee is the AEWA body that provides scientific and technical advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to the signatory countries of AEWA. It makes recommendations concerning the AEWA Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and identifies priorities for further research to be carried out.

From the hunting community FACE's Angus Middleton, Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval (French National Hunting & Wildlife Agency, ONCFS), Arto Marjakangas (the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, CIC), John Harradine (British Association for Shooting & Conservation, BASC) and Patrick Triplet (the OMPO Research Institute) were present and collaborated well.

Much of the hunting-related work focuses on a complete revision of the AEWA Sustainable Harvest Guideline to reflect the different modes and motivations for hunting. It is essential that hunting be better understood and divided into different forms. This is important because too often any form of killing (including at times poisoning) is simply referred to as hunting. In the case of Europe, recreational hunting is mostly well regulated and does not pose major threats to waterbirds. A further process will also look into methods to improve knowledge on the harvest of waterbirds in the Agreement Area. The Sustainable Harvest Guideline(s) will also have to deal with specific issues such as look-alike species, provisions for the release of birds and guidance on terms such as "limits on taking". The latter is of course not simply setting bag limits, as this can be an inappropriate method.

AEWA presents a very good opportunity to develop and promote sensible management plans for wildfowl that are important to hunters throughout Europe. These include both abundant species and those in a less favourable conservation status. Perhaps most importantly FACE has the opportunity to develop management plans with other stakeholders that cater to hunters' needs and aspirations: to be successful we must engage actively with the process.



AEWA SPECIAL REPORT >>>>>>>>>>

# AEWA - MoP 5

## AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS - MEETING OF THE PARTIES

The **AEWA Meeting of Parties (MoP5)** took place in La Rochelle, France, during 14-18 May 2012.

**This was a great occasion for hunters to stand up for migratory bird conservation,** particularly with the meeting being held in France which has extraordinarily rich traditions of waterbird hunting and conservation; especially with the theme being 'Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands'.

### PRE-MoP MEETING

In the pre-MoP session devoted to the African Parties, FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton, together with colleagues from the ONCFS (French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency) and the OMPO Research Institute, worked together to promote initiatives in Africa devoted to the conservation of waterbirds. FACE helped facilitate the proposals on sustainable use. This has resulted in a greater emphasis on the concept of sustainable use (consumptive and non-consumptive) and community-based natural resource management of waterbirds and their wetlands. Importantly, it places an emphasis on understanding the different harvest regimes and their drivers, which could be for livelihoods, commercial purposes, management, and in respect of European hunting - recreation.

Too often the term 'hunting' is used to include a very wide range of harvesting motivations and even illegal killing. A better understanding of harvest motivations should help to reduce the blanket use of the term hunting as a threat. This also opens up a very useful avenue for colleagues in the CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) to re-engage with AEWA on issues of harvesting in Africa, with linkages to the bushmeat debate and of course the proposed CIC Collaborative Wildlife Management Platform.

FACE will continue to collaborate on these issues with the aim of putting Europe's well-regulated recreational hunting into context and exploring options for more flexible harvest regimes within Europe.

### AT MoP5

Together with representatives from FACE Members the British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC), the National Federation of French Hunters (FNC, *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*), and the CIC, FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton and Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin had a busy week ensuring that prior preparations did not go to waste. Much of this work was done through sustained involvement in the AEWA Technical Committee.

Recalling that at the AEWA MoP4 in Madagascar, a large number of hunting-related tasks were delegated to the Technical Committee, it was helpful that many of these were delivered in a pragmatic and constructive manner. In a number of cases more flexible terms have been adopted including systematic references to adaptive management plans and a positive emphasis on sustainable use. Overall, hunters and hunting were positively incorporated in the discussions and resolutions. This puts a good framework in place for collaborative conservation which should deliver meaningful results during the next inter-sessional period for both huntable and protected species.

In the AEWA Strategic Plan Progress Report, of the 18 goals and targets, only 6 are classed as making 'good progress': site networks, harvest data (31% of Contracting Parties have comprehensive bag data schemes), lead shot phase-out, illegal taking of birds, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and small grants fund. Other important goals such as restoring species to a favourable status were classed as - 'not achieved/no progress'. Whilst FACE welcomes the progress on lead shot and harvest data, perhaps we need to re-think how to deliver real results for the status of migratory waterbirds.

# AEWA - MoP 5

## AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS - MEETING OF THE PARTIES

### RESOLUTIONS

Of a total 28 draft resolutions, several had references to hunting. In contrast to MoP4, most were fairly neutral or even favourable to FACE's concerns, including one resolution on clarification of the **definition of disturbance**. This resolution recognises that many measures are already taken to limit any negative impacts of hunting and requests the Technical Committee to examine other activities which may cause disturbance. Funding permitting, it also requests a synthesis of scientific knowledge of disturbance, and if possible to produce simple guidance for land managers.

Another resolution of importance to FACE was the establishment of long-term funding for the International Waterbird Census. Whilst not securing the desired support, this resolution reached a compromise whereby the issue will be revisited at MoP6 and Parties are urged to consider voluntary contributions.

Alongside other NGOs and governmental agencies, FACE held a stand to disseminate The FACE Annual Report, The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (p.32) and announced the launch of The Information Portal of Hunttable Species in Europe (p.46).

A number of side events took place covering issues such as the phasing out of lead shot in wetlands and temporary hunting bans during cold weather, where the British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) and FACE gave presentations. The French National Hunters' Federation (FNC) also organised an event on the latest research concerning response of birds to disturbance and its potential impacts on the state of populations.

FACE was active in the sidelines ensuring favourable outcomes on the resolutions, but also making good contacts with experts and national officials. Talks took place with the Russian delegation to discuss Taiga Bean Goose conservation (*Anser fabalis fabalis*), game management and the possible role of the Russian Federation as a Contracting Party of the Agreement.

FACE will continue to collaborate with the aim of putting Europe's well-regulated recreational hunting into context and exploring options for more flexible harvest regimes within Europe.

## LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE WORKING GROUP

*Anser erythropus*

The AEW A Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group held its second meeting during 9-11 November 2012 at Lake Kerkini, Greece to assess the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan for the species. The meeting was held within the framework of the EU LIFE+ project "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyway" [LIFE10NAT/GR/638] and was attended by FACE Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin.

Almost all range states for the species are part of the Working Group and as part of the work programme are required to provide national reports every two years. The meeting in Greece was the first occasion to review the national reports. One observation was that a significant part of the national reports covered aspects of hunting, but those responsible for completing the reporting format were not necessarily best placed to provide such information. FACE raised concern on this weakness, and offered its assistance to provide more accurate information. This offer was well received.

**The good news to come out of the reports is that it appears that the rapid decline of the species has halted or slowed down in both the Fennoscandian and the Western main breeding areas of Lesser White-fronted Goose. Although the number of birds breeding in the Fennoscandian area remains critically low (80 breeding pairs).**

Both hunting and illegal killing have been identified as the major threat to the species throughout its range, particularly on the eastern flyway. It should be noted that in years of poor breeding success the Fennoscandian breeding birds fly eastwards to moulting grounds before flying south. This situation may intensify an already poor breeding season by exposing adult birds to hunting. In the Action Plan it is proposed that goose hunting is banned at all key sites where the Lesser White-fronted Goose is likely to be present. The mood at the meeting and from the AEW A Secretariat is that this goal is unrealistic and sometimes unnecessary as protection of the geese can be achieved through more cooperative approaches. As Observer to this Working Group FACE will help to ensure this approach is brought forward when the Action Plan is revised in 2013.

Following MoP5, our work under AEW A continued and the general tone this triennium is positive towards hunters and hunting. In particular there is an increased focus on game management rather than simply just focusing on protection. This is already beginning to offer useful tools for hunting and conservation.





## PINK-FOOTED GEESE: SHOWING THE WAY

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

The most concrete tool for hunting from AEWA has been the formalisation of the Pink-footed Goose Adaptive Management Plan, which was adopted at the MoP5. This was followed by the first meeting on the implementation of the AEWA International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose, held in Svalbard, Norway during 4-8 August 2012.

24 participants convened from the national delegations from the 4 range states (Belgium, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands), representatives from government authorities along with international experts and invited national hunting and conservation organisations. The observers included FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton with Niels Henrik Simonsen and Niels-Erik Jørgensen from the Danish Hunters' Association.

Over the past decades the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose has increased considerably and reached an estimated population size of 69,000 individuals. But the increasing population of the Pink-footed Goose has progressively brought them into conflict with agricultural interests. Furthermore, there is concern about degradation of vulnerable tundra vegetation in Svalbard due to increasing goose grazing pressure.

The main focus of the meeting was to consider measures on how to reduce these conflicts whilst maintaining the population at a favourable conservation status. To achieve an adaptive management of the Pink-footed Goose, different harvest management strategies, the latest information on population growth and hunting practices were discussed and evaluated by meeting participants.

Hunting was well accepted as a management component, with Norway and Denmark looking into optimising hunting strategies without objection from the Netherlands and Belgium where the species is protected. The ideas being put forward, which include careful management of zones, hunting times and opportunities, offer interesting models that could be adapted for other situations.

This management plan and the way in which it has been developed offer a very useful starting point for further management plans in relation to AEWA. This is under way for the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*).

Hunting was well accepted as a management component.



## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR WETLANDS

Wetlands are one of the most important habitats on the planet. They provide multiple ecosystem services and are important resource areas for wildlife, not least for migratory waterfowl.

*FACE and its Members will continue efforts at the local level to maintain and restore wetlands, as well as collating and communicating best practice examples of wetlands conservation.*

**- On Habitats,**

**The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**

Hunters were amongst those who set up the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the International Waterbird Research Bureau, today better known as Wetlands International. Many hunters, particularly wildfowlers, make enormous contributions to wetland conservation. In part inspired by the 75th anniversary of Ducks Unlimited, FACE focused - and continues to do so - on collaborating with a wide range of partners for the conservation of wetlands and the wise use of their birds.

This focus on birds is so integral to FACE's work that it overlaps with a number of International Agreements such as the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA, p.61-65) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, p.60). Specialised work on particular ducks and geese are detailed under Species Action, p.47.

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### IN SUPPORT OF WATERBIRD MANAGEMENT

In addition to the work on AEWA, FACE's Angus Middleton and Cy Griffin are currently active in establishing improved contacts with the relevant Wetlands Specialist Groups (SGs). These include the most relevant Species Specialist Groups (Wetlands and IUCN), such as the Duck SG, Goose SG (p.47) and the Woodcock & Snipe SG, with plans to improve contacts with the Wader SG.

FACE is also at the heart reviving the Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group. Further to this, FACE is involved in the Wetlands International coordinated Waterbird Monitoring Partnership which seeks to improve knowledge on waterbirds in Europe and beyond. This will be an important component in providing some of the population science base for hunting of waterbirds.

But that is not all: FACE is also working closely with the OMPO Research Institute to support them in building up hunting-related science for the harvest of waterbirds. In particular this involves assisting with the collation of bag statistics. The initial focus is on geese species but will be progressively expanded.

**WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL** is dedicated to maintaining and restoring wetlands - for their environmental values as well as for the services they provide to people. They work through their network of 20 offices, partners and experts to achieve their goals.

The importance of Wetlands International for waterbirds - at least equal to BirdLife - and their good standing as a conservation NGO led FACE to explore a more strategic relationship with this organisation.

Following a meeting of the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, FACE Secretary General Angus Middleton met with the Wetlands International CEO, Jane Madgwick in early 2012. Integrated engagement in Wetlands International Species Specialist Groups (p.47), collaboration at international meetings and at the European Parliament Meeting on the Future of Europe's Waters are just some of the highlights during the reporting period.

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#### THE FUTURE OF EUROPE'S WATERS: SEMINAR IN THE PARLIAMENT

Under the banner of the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup, MEP Giancarlo Scottà hosted a workshop on Europe's Waters on 11 April 2012 in the European Parliament, Brussels.

From the European Commission, Nicola Notaro, DG Environment and Martin Scheele, DG Agriculture informed participants of the latest water policy developments in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy Reform. Antoine Poupart from the French Farmers' Organisation (SAF, *Société d'Agriculteurs de France*), shared the lessons learned from a water farming project in France, providing a valuable local perspective.

FACE invited Jane Madgwick, CEO of Wetlands International, to address the question of Restoring Europe's rivers for a cleaner, safer and richer environment as well as presenting our shared message focused on habitats and wetlands as ecosystem services and critical for wildfowl. Jane's presentation provided essential insight into the need to coordinate actions on a large level so as to redress the situation of modification of rivers and the consequences this may cause.

This message was underpinned by the hunting community, represented by FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton who put forward the case of hunting NGOs in the USA putting efforts together and raising millions of funds to recover and prevent the deterioration of waterways.

This session in the European Parliament served to further strengthen the position of hunters as a key group to involve at both EU and local levels.

“At a time where the EU is pushing for resources efficiency, we should seek solutions at the local level engaging private actors: land managers, hunters and anglers.”

- **MEP Giancarlo Scottà**

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR WETLANDS

## RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS COP11

The 11th Conference of the Contracting Parties (CoP11) of The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands took place in Bucharest, Romania during 6-13 July 2012. The theme of CoP11 was “Wetlands: home and destination”, focusing on wetlands, tourism and recreation. Ramsar Contracting Parties, or Member States, gathered to assess the progress of the Convention and the sustainable use of wetlands to date, share knowledge and experience on technical issues, and plan their own and the Secretariat’s work for the next triennium.

At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the ‘wise use’ concept. The wise use of wetlands is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. Wise use therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of humankind – a principle that hunters strive for every day.

FACE’s Secretary General Angus Middleton attended the CoP11, to convey that hunters work hard, invest time and money in their endeavours to conserve wetlands at the local level and are constantly finding ways to work together with national and international stakeholders to recognise their multi-functional nature.

Much of the dialogue that Angus followed focused on integrated management in wetlands. The most important side event for FACE was the launch of the 5th Waterbird Population Estimates Report, by Wetlands International. This Report shows that waterbird populations show a slightly improved condition compared to their 2006 status, but there are still a number of populations relevant to European hunters that require due attention.

Ramsar offers great potential for FACE, as there are many synergies with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA p.61-65) and key strategic partners such as Wetlands International. It also covers some iconic wildlife areas such as the Danube Delta in which hunting should be seen not only as a management tool or economic interest but also as a socio-cultural and recreational interest.

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## WORLD WETLANDS DAY

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day, marking the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea - the Ramsar Convention. World Wetlands Day, coordinated by the Ramsar Secretariat puts the spotlight on the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through actions at all levels - local, national and global.

Hunters are involved in this all year round. FACE was happy to celebrate by profiling the collective efforts of hunters at the local level, right through to their international cooperation with key partners to ensure the future of wetlands and their wildlife.





# THE BERN CONVENTION

The Bern Convention is an international legal instrument, binding for its Contracting Parties, in the field of nature conservation, which covers most of the natural heritage of the European continent. The Convention places a particular importance on the need to protect endangered natural habitats and vulnerable species, including migratory species. Its Standing Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention at each of its meetings by reviewing reports, processing case-files and adopting recommendations.

The 32nd annual meeting of the **Standing Committee** to the Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) took place 27-30 November 2012 in Strasbourg, France. Participants were environment officials representing Contracting Parties as well as delegates from some 20 stakeholders' organisations, including FACE. The very busy agenda contained a number of hunting-relevant issues:

## LARGE CARNIVORES

The Group of Experts on Large Carnivores, where FACE is represented, had prepared two recommendations which were adopted by the Standing Committee with some amendments. The first, Recommendation No. 162 (2012), requests that certain specifically listed conservation actions be undertaken by range States.

The second, Recommendation No. 163 (2012), requests Parties to prepare themselves properly for the return and expansion of the wolf and other large carnivores, in particular in view of human, socio-cultural and economic needs. An amendment from the EU was inserted into the text, recognising that 'game resources' constitute an area of conflict associated with large carnivores.

For more on large carnivores see p.50-53.

## SWITZERLAND'S REQUEST TO AMEND ARTICLE 22

Following a failed attempt to obtain downlisting for its wolf population, the Swiss Government had requested an amendment to Article 22 of the Convention so as to enable any State to enter reservations at any time, after having signed or ratified the Convention, regarding certain species specified in Appendices I to III, "provided that the circumstances have radically changed in its territory since the entry into force of [the] Convention".

Currently reservations can only be made at the time of signing / ratification of the Convention – not afterwards. A majority of Parties rejected the Swiss request, holding that it would open up for any Party to make reservations at any time.

## ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS

As part of the initiative against the illegal taking and trading of birds in Europe, in which FACE has been actively involved through the Larnaca Conference, Parties were encouraged to give good feedback to two questionnaires on illegal killing of birds and bird protection and power lines.

A second European Conference on Illegal Killing of Birds will be organised at the end of May 2013 to which FACE is participating. FACE was commended by the Chair for its positive contributions on this topic.

## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

The Bern Convention continues its complementary work to that of the EU on invasive alien species and focuses on the voluntary approach, for example working closely with FACE to develop codes of conduct in relation to hunting. Reports were given by States on their contributions to the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palearctic.

The Secretariat concluded that the multinational eradication programme under the Bern Convention is unprecedented and has so far been successful. The same success could not be reported for the eradication of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in Italy. The Italian Ministry described how animal 'welfare' organisations have deliberately obstructed the eradication process in Italy, thereby ignoring the nature benefits of those measures.

For more on invasive alien species, see p.54-55.

## EUROPEAN CHARTER ON HUNTING AND BIODIVERSITY

A number of reports, from Albania, Azerbaijan, the European Commission, France, Georgia and Monaco, indicate that hunting is regulated by law almost everywhere and, in general terms, practiced in respect of the principles of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity.

In relation to the report from Albania, FACE raised some concerns over unsustainable hunting tourism practices, and urged the Minister to consider amongst other aspects applying a proposal for a 4-year moratorium on hunting tourism, in order to use these 4 years to create adequate structures to regulate hunting tourism in Albania and render it sustainable.



# THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANDOWNERSHIP AND HUNTING RIGHTS

In 2012 the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg clarified in two cases that the objections by a landowner to the compulsory inclusion of his or her land into a larger common hunting ground under the control of a hunting cooperative, will only be successful if the landowner in question is opposed to hunting on ethical grounds.

The cases are known as *Herrmann v. Germany* and *Chabauty v. France*. In the former case, experts in the FACE Legal Affairs Working Group had the opportunity to provide advice through the German Hunters' Association, (*DJV, Deutscher Jagdverband*) to the defending German Government.

21 FACE legal experts from across Europe gathered for the 7th Meeting of the FACE Legal Affairs Working Group in Brussels on 11 July 2012.

### FACE LEGAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

This FACE Working Group is made up of legal professionals who, as focal points in each Member State, have an active interest in both the environment and hunting. Meeting regularly, these experts analyse and explain European legal judgments and rulings and their implications for hunting, anticipating and reflecting on issues of public interest.

21 FACE legal experts from across Europe gathered for the 7th Meeting of the FACE Legal Affairs Working Group in Brussels on 11 July 2012.

Key points on the agenda included the application of derogations under the EU Birds Directive; the relationship between landownership and hunting rights under the European Convention on Human Rights, exemplified by these two cases; as well as the use of derogations for wolf management under the EU Habitats Directive.

The discussions on these topics served as an excellent example of FACE's development of a strong European network of national legal experts - an essential foundation for FACE to respond to arising issues on behalf of European hunters.



## THE CASE HERRMANN V. GERMANY

On 26 June 2012 the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg delivered final judgment in the Case Herrmann v. Germany. This case was initiated by a small landowner (who described himself as being ethically opposed to hunting) against the German legal system, whereby land parcels of less than 75ha must be part of a 'hunting cooperative'. In a first ruling by a Chamber of the ECHR on 20 January 2011, this arrangement had been considered in the public interest (prevention of game damage, etc.), and the Chamber moreover held that this interest, in the German context, did necessitate and justify interference with the applicant's right to the peaceful enjoyment of his private property. This was appealed and the Grand Chamber of the Court reached another conclusion in its final judgment from June 2012.

The Grand Chamber found that there had been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) of the Convention.

The case is expected to have limited consequences for hunting in Europe. The Grand Chamber has not ruled against hunting as such and does not call into question the benefits of hunting in the public interest. However, the Grand Chamber found that the obligation to tolerate hunting on his own private property imposed a disproportionate burden on the applicant who was opposed to hunting for ethical reasons. The Court is thereby following its findings in two previous judgments concerning hunting legislation in France and Luxembourg.



## THE CASE CHABAUTY V. FRANCE

On 4 October 2012 the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg delivered final judgment in the Chabauty v. France Case. The case, pertaining to the relationship between landownership and hunting rights, concerns the owner of land included in the hunting grounds of an approved municipal hunters' association ("ACCA") in France who complained that he was unable to remove it from the association's control in order to derive benefit from it by leasing it for hunting. Under French law a landowner whose land does not exceed a certain size can be compulsorily included in an ACCA's hunting ground, whereby a collective hunting right for the ACCA's members be created throughout the common area. The applicant invoked Article 14 - prohibition of discrimination - taken together with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 - protection of property - of the European Convention on Human Rights. Unlike with the Herrmann v. Germany Case, the applicant was not complaining on ethical grounds.

In its ruling (which is final and without appeal), the ECHR rejected the applicant's demand and unanimously held that there had been no discrimination on grounds of property under the Convention. The Court confirmed that the objectives sought by the French legislator of preventing the unregulated exercise of hunting and of promoting the rational use of game stocks, in the present case were in the general interest, and that the fact of obliging only small landowners to pool their hunting grounds was not in itself disproportionate to this aim of better management of game stocks. Since the applicant was not opposed to hunting on ethical grounds, this was an interference he had to tolerate. The Court is thereby following its reasoning in previous decisions concerning hunting legislation in France and Sweden.

This case could be considered as a closing to similar challenges by individuals not opposed to hunting on ethical grounds in France.

The judgment does not call into question national systems whereby the hunting right is strictly connected to the landownership.

# CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA - CITES

CITES is mainly relevant to hunters in relation to the import/export of hunting trophies, but also as one of a number of key International Agreements setting the global conservation agenda, establishing conservation principles and providing the tools and means for cooperation.

CITES currently has 178 Parties, including all the EU Member States which during CoPs, held every 3 years, are expected to speak with one voice and to vote as a block.

## PREPARATIONS FOR COP16

During 2012 and early 2013 FACE built its influence with the EU Institutions and national delegations on a series of issues related to the preparations of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in March 2013. FACE's Legal Advisor Johan Svalby attended a number of meetings, including the European Commission's Stakeholder Meeting on 12 June 2012 on the preparation of the EU position at the 62nd CITES Standing Committee taking place in Geneva during 23-27 July 2012, and the European Commission CoP16 Stakeholders' Hearing on 8 November in Brussels. When taking the floor Johan recalled that the objective of CITES is to *regulate* international trade in wildlife specimens to ensure that this trade does not threaten species' survival. **Decisions should be science-based and not be used to ban trade on ideological grounds.** In light of this he set out the hunters' priorities on key issues, which are described under 'Positive Conclusions'. The Commission took note of our points and FACE continued to build its position in the run-up to the CITES CoP16.



CITES seeks to regulate international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants at sustainable levels to ensure that this trade does not threaten their survival.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON TROPHY HUNTING

In 2012 the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) issued Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentive.

IUCN, of which FACE is a longstanding member, recognises that trophy hunting is a form of wildlife use that - when well managed - may assist in furthering conservation objectives by creating the revenue and economic incentives for the management and conservation of the target species and its habitat, as well as supporting local livelihoods.

The new Guiding Principles are drafted for decision-makers, managers and others to use when designing, implementing or reviewing trophy hunting programmes. An important recognition in the document is that some species that are rare or threatened may be included in trophy hunting as part of site-specific conservation strategies. As a positive illustration of the latter, the Guiding document mentions the successful trophy-hunting programme for the wild Straight-horned Markhor (*Capra falconeri megaceros*) in Pakistan.

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL - SCI, with members in 107 countries is a leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. They work closely together with their sister organisation the SCI-Foundation (SCI-F) who fund and manage worldwide programmes dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education. Both organisations are key partners and FACE continues to enjoy cooperating with both on a very wide number of issues, ranging from purely hunting-related to global conservation issues. During the reporting period, FACE attended the SCI Conventions, collaborated closely in preparation for the CITES CoP16, visited SCI in Washington DC and joined the SCI European Chapters Meeting in December 2012.

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The social and economic benefits derived from sustainable use, including revenues from trophy hunting, provide sustainable incentives for local people to conserve wildlife.

## POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS

When the world's largest wildlife trade summit concluded on 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, hunters could rejoice over a number of victories for real conservation.

During two weeks, representatives from 149 national delegations to this 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) gathered to take decisions on many issues of relevance to international wildlife trade, including exports/imports of hunting trophies.

FACE's Head of Delegation Johan Svalby and Head of Political Affairs Manuel Esparrago, in close collaboration with FACE's partner organisations, Safari Club International (SCI) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), participated as observers to ensure that hunters' interests were properly taken into account in decisions by the Parties.

A special FACE Conservation Guide on species proposals was distributed to all Parties, see Endnotes for link.

CITES SPECIAL REPORT >>>>>>>>>>

# CITES - CoP16

## CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA - CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

### POLAR BEARS

A first victory for conservation through sustainable use was the rejection by delegates of the US proposal to ban trade in products from the Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). An EU compromise proposal, which was less restrictive than the US proposal but still entailed unjustified interventions in the national polar bear management regime in Canada, was also rejected. FACE criticised both proposals as politically driven - rather than based on scientific and biological needs - and was therefore pleased to see that the majority of Parties and the large conservation-orientated organisations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), TRAFFIC, WWF and the CITES Secretariat joined FACE in opposing stricter trade measures for the polar bear. Such stricter measures could have been detrimental to the species' conservation by directly hitting Inuit subsistence-based livelihoods and thereby removing their incentives to continue managing this important resource as they have done for centuries.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Some Parties and anti-use NGOs attempted to foist upon CITES new speculative climate change criteria for the scientific assessments of species combined with the introduction of an extreme precautionary approach. This would ultimately have led to more restrictions or even outright bans on perfectly legitimate and sustainable trade. It was therefore important that a majority of Parties rejected such a fundamental shift in CITES and instead adopted a document clarifying that the current provisions of CITES are already sufficiently comprehensive and flexible to take climate change science into account in decision-making.

### LIVELIHOODS

Parties adopted a text recognising that the implementation of CITES is better achieved with the engagement of rural communities, especially those which are traditionally dependent on CITES-listed species for their livelihoods. FACE has long since advocated that it is precisely in the inclusion of local communities' needs in CITES

that conservation success lies. The adoption of this text is another important step in gaining recognition for livelihoods in CITES decisions. Parties are now encouraged to act in accordance with these needs.

### RHINOCEROS

FACE welcomed Kenya's withdrawal of its proposal to impose a moratorium on trophy hunting exports from the White rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) from South Africa and Swaziland. FACE, joined by organisations like WWF, TRAFFIC, IUCN and the CITES Secretariat, came out in defence of the significant role played by trophy hunting in the conservation and recovery of rhino populations in South Africa, the country holding more than 95% of the population. The economic returns from sustainable trophy hunting are instrumental in encouraging private landowners to conserve the rhino and contributing resources to fighting illegal poaching.

It is important to recognise that there is an increasing and worrying poaching of rhinoceros and illegal trade in the species, in particular driven by demand in Vietnam. Parties at CoP16 therefore adopted new decisions on enhanced enforcement based on intelligence-sharing with particular emphasis on Vietnam. These decisions should help to end the rhino poaching without punishing hunters and without harming rhino conservation by eliminating the important revenues derived from legitimate rhino trophy hunting.

### ELEPHANTS

Burkina Faso and Kenya withdrew their heavily criticised proposal to prevent any further ivory sales from the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) until after November 2017. FACE welcomed this withdrawal, as it would have undermined the agreement on a moratorium on sales reached at CoP14, which explicitly relates only to Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the proposal would unjustifiably have penalised African range States having been successful in their elephant management and some of which are now faced with management problems of how to sustain



the increased populations. Although an increase in elephant poaching has occurred in Africa over the last couple of years, with Kenya identified as a major transit point for illegal ivory shipments, a number of scientific studies presented showed that elephant populations in southern African countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana are in good shape and are well managed.

### STRICTER DOMESTIC MEASURES

Parties decided to continue the investigation of stricter national measures, a process that was launched at CoP14. For FACE this decision was a success. Countries like the US and the European Union too often adhere to stricter domestic measures, either suspending legitimate and important trade (such as the black rhino and cheetah trophies in the US) or put unjustified bureaucracy in place, implying a general lack of trust in exporting countries (such as the stricter EU measures on import permits and some suspension listings). Stricter measures could indeed in some cases be justified, but too often they are merely a result of political/ideological pressure and a lack of understanding in the Western world for the importance of sustainable use in third-world countries.

### NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

CITES requires that before a permit can be issued to export a CITES-listed animal or plant, a Scientific Authority in each exporting country must make a finding that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. CoP16 adopted a resolution on non-binding guidelines for these “non-detriment findings” (NDFs). For FACE it is satisfactory that the adopted document is actually a set of guidelines and not a set of mandates or rules that could have grown into unjustified bureaucratic requirements imposed on exporting countries.

### PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES: FELIDAE

Parties accepted to extend the validity of the review of the Lion (*Panthera leo*) until CoP17. Namibia and Kenya will make the periodic review report on lions to the next Animals Committee meeting, one year from CoP16. Hunters’ organisations like FACE and major lion

range states, have favoured this review as part of preventing any premature, ideologically-driven proposal to uplist the lion to Appendix I at this time.

### ABRUZZO CHAMOIS

A proposal from Denmark on behalf of the 27 EU Member States to downlist the Abruzzo chamois (*Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata*) from Appendix I to Appendix II was unanimously accepted by the Parties. The species has seen an increase in both the population trend and the geographical range thanks to active management. The species is not currently huntable.

### WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Based on a proposal from the host country Thailand, Parties decided to declare 3 March each year to be World Wildlife Day, the CITES Convention having been adopted on 3 March 1973.

### POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE THROUGH HUNTING

FACE is pleased to see that its recommendations have been followed for practically all of our key issues as outlined in our Conservation Guide. This confirms that conservation through sustainable use and the important role of hunters are still at the core of CITES.

So what lies ahead of us? The conclusion of the lion review is scheduled for 2014. South Africa has indicated that it might consider legalising trade in rhino horn as a way of combating poaching and illegal trade. The question on how to handle the valuable stockpiles of elephant ivory from natural mortality and seizures of illegal ivory shipments is still an open question. The money they could bring in could be used to fund the combat against poaching and illegal ivory markets. Recent recognition of the importance of livelihoods issues in CITES requires further progress.

**FACE and its partners will be prepared for these discussions and ensure that the overall positive recognition of hunting and conservation taken by Parties during this CoP16 is reinforced during the next CoP17 scheduled to convene in 2016 in South Africa.**

FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions.

Many of these aspects are presently covered by EU law, either through full harmonisation or minimum rules.

Furthermore, FACE aims to facilitate processes to ensure that hunters have information on and access to ammunition which is available, affordable and safe to use for the purpose intended.

# **FIREARMS & AMMUNITION**

# FIREARMS

2012 was dominated by the formal adoption and publication of the Regulation on the transfer of civilian firearms and ammunition to and from countries outside of the EU and the Commission's report on the classification of firearms. 2013, however, started with several developments that point towards restrictions on legal firearms ownership within the EU.

## NEW EU REGULATION: TRANSFER OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TO AND FROM COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EU

On 30 March 2012 the new EU Regulation No 258/2012 on the transfer of firearms and ammunition for civilian use, including by hunters and sport shooters, to and from countries outside the EU was published in the Official Journal of the EU, L 94.

The 'simplified procedures', secured by FACE and its partners in 2011, for the temporary export or re-export of firearms and ammunition for hunters and sport shooters are now laid down in Article 9 of the new Regulation. These provide an exemption for hunters from the standard procedures envisaged in the proposal, which would otherwise subject them to export, import and transit licensing and other authorisation systems – which would be both costly and time-consuming.

The bulk of the new regulation - including the provisions of direct relevance to hunters and sport shooters - shall apply from 30 September 2013 in all Member States.

FACE encouraged its Members to carefully read their respective national language version of this publication in the Official Journal of the EU - in particular Article 9 - and check that it corresponds to either of the English, French or German versions of this publication.

## COMMISSION REPORT: NO NEED FOR STRICTER CLASSIFICATION OF FIREARMS

On 26 July 2012 the European Commission adopted a report to the European Parliament and the Council in which it concludes that there would be no clear benefit in a compulsory restriction of the classification at EU level to only two categories of civilian firearms, namely prohibited and subject to authorisation.

This report was provided for by the EU Firearms Directive, and its conclusion is in line with the recommendations by FACE.

It will be up to each Member State to continue to decide if other classifications for the acquisition and possession of certain specifically listed categories of firearms in the Directive be applied on its territory, provided that the minimum thresholds established by the Directive are respected.

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## WORLD FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF SPORT SHOOTING ACTIVITIES - WFSA

represents over 100 million sport shooters around the world and is recognised by the Economic and Social Council of the UN General Assembly. WFSA is present at every major UN conference affecting hunting or sport shooting. In June 2012, the WFSA hosted a two-day interactive workshop *Promoting Hunting in the 21st Century Through Effective Communications* in Rome, Italy in which FACE participated actively.



THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS OF SPORTING FIREARMS - ESFAM joined FACE as an Associate Member in 2012 and collaborates with FACE for the best enabling environment for hunters and their firearms and ammunition by working together through the ESSF and with other firearms and ammunition partners as well as with the EU Institutions. The Association's commitment to hunters goes one step further than support in firearms issues:

ESFAM's support of The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto underpins the integral relationship between hunters, biodiversity and the economy.

THE EUROPEAN SPORT SHOOTING FORUM - ESSF held its annual end-of-year meeting at the FACE House, Brussels in November 2012 and met again in March 2013 in Nuremberg, Germany.

The ESSF is an informal discussion platform of European representatives of civil firearms and ammunition-related sectors (manufacturers, retailers, users) and of which FACE was one of the co-founders. Together members of the ESSF collaborate in providing relevant expertise to the Commission expert groups and elsewhere in the EU decision-making process. This has proven valuable in terms of advocating hunters' interests, and will continue to do so, especially with the various initiatives unfolding for firearms policy.

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## 2013 INITIATIVES

Following a public statement made at the end of 2012 by EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström that "legally owned weapons in the EU continue to feed the illegal market", the Commission took a number of initiatives during the first months of 2013, including the tabling of a proposal to ratify the United Nations (UN) Firearms Protocol, the setting up of an EU firearms experts group and the launch of a public consultation on firearms, which - in FACE's opinion - was biased.

These initiatives, along with the adoption of the UN Arms Trade Treaty, seem to indicate that Commissioner Malmström is convinced that there is a strong link between legal and illegal firearms and thus that the Firearms Directive should be re-opened in order to render its provisions considerably more restrictive.

FACE strongly contests this unsubstantiated allegation and sees no justification to re-open a Directive that already works satisfactorily. FACE is following these developments closely, engaging the Commission and hunters as and when appropriate, including through regular contact with other stakeholders, namely the industry (manufacturers and dealers), the collectors and the sport-shooters, in order to coordinate actions and achieve common goals.

FACE strongly contests the Commission's unsubstantiated allegation and sees no justification to re-open a Directive that already works satisfactorily.

# AMMUNITION

FACE engages with a wide range of stakeholders to fully support the phase out of lead shot in wetlands on the one hand, and on the other, to prevent disproportionate or premature responses in relation to the wider use of lead in ammunition. This is reflected in the work outlined below as well as other aspects such as work on the EU Water Framework Directive, participation at the Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Ammunition (AFEMS) General Assembly and numerous interactions with FACE Members and other interested parties.

Lead has always been and still is the main substance used for bullets and shot. However, in more recent times, there is increasing awareness of the toxicity of lead, which can have both acute and chronic effects in wildlife and humans. In this context, there is an ongoing debate at international, European and national levels about the introduction of restrictions on the use of lead in ammunition, the extent and proportionality of such restrictions, the feasibility of managing risks and the availability of satisfactory alternatives to lead.

To ensure that hunters have information on and access to ammunition which is available, affordable and safe to use for the purpose intended.

## LEAD SHOT IN WETLANDS

### **FACE and its Members remain committed to phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands.**

This commitment is regularly reaffirmed at manifold levels. Internationally, FACE has advocated for this phase-out at the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement Meeting of the Parties (p.61-65).

FACE actively calls on national authorities to work with their hunting associations to ensure that these restrictions are implemented and effective.

## THE REACH PROCESS

The REACH Process is a new European Regulation for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHEMicals that seeks to improve protection of human health and the environment from the risks of chemicals. It covers all substances, including those used in ammunition.

Annex XV of the REACH Regulation lays down general principles for preparing Annex XV dossiers to propose and justify - amongst other items - restrictions on the manufacture, sale or use of a substance within the Union.

FACE assisted the European Chemicals Agency, through their consultants AMEC, in their investigations into the use of lead shot and the idea to initiate an Annex XV Restriction under the REACH Process.

Whilst the results of this are still pending, FACE considers that a full Annex XV Restriction on the manufacture and marketing of all lead shot would be a disproportionate response to the need to phase out lead shot in wetlands.

## WIDER USES OF LEAD

Considering that concerns over lead in ammunition now encompass a broader range of issues, including potential effects on human health and on wildlife outside of wetlands, the FACE Board agreed to establish a Working Group focusing on ammunition.

## IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: PIONEERING AN OPEN DISCUSSION IN THE EU

EU decision-makers, hunters, researchers, ammunition industry representatives and environmentalists gathered in the European Parliament for an interactive debate on the topical issue of lead in ammunition at the invitation of the Parliament's Sustainable Hunting Intergroup and coordinated by FACE.

President of the European Parliament's Sustainable Hunting Intergroup MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon was joined by 3 discerning panellists who shared the experience and knowledge from their respective fields, in terms of the realities of ammunition types, their various performances and impacts. Professor Javier Perez Trujillo presented the results of the research and development of an alternative product to lead, in collaboration with the Royal Spanish Hunting Federation. Mario Ge, Secretary General of the Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Ammunition (AFEMS) outlined the views of the European industry, pointing out that any materials must deliver performance and sustainability.

FACE's Secretary General Angus Middleton gave an overview of the wide range of issues surrounding the use of lead in ammunition, explaining a number of the complexities, from environmental and wildlife concerns to human health and safety, as well as economic and social considerations. Angus noted that in most cases, the research is not always conclusive and corrections for one aspect may have unintended consequences for other aspects. He also drew attention to the extensive work being carried out by and with national hunting associations, through the FACE Ammunition Working Group for example. Angus appealed to all stakeholders to engage in these processes and not to try to dictate predetermined outcomes so as to avoid unintended consequences.

FACE works closely with its Members in exchanging relevant information on the use of lead in ammunition in order to facilitate a better understanding of this complex issue.

**THE FACE AMMUNITION WORKING GROUP** aims to bring about a knowledge-driven process to assess the risks involved in the use of lead and non-lead ammunition for hunting in relation to conservation, animal welfare, human health (especially relating to game meat consumption) and safety concerns.

This process will take into account the needs of hunters, particularly in relation to the efficacy, availability and affordability of ammunition, as well as public perception and the reputation of hunters, ensuring that stricter measures are not imposed in advance of a more complete understanding of the issues at hand. The Group focuses on:

- Proposing measures to support the phase-out of the use of lead shot in wetlands in all FACE Member countries that have not done so, and more generally measures to ensure compliance.
- Collaborating with other stakeholders, primarily the industry, to develop criteria for the assessment of all ammunition types in line with new criteria being identified (e.g. human health, safety, environment etc.) by September 2013.
- Focusing on the issue of lead in game meat in relation to the work being carried out by the European Commission's DG Health & Consumers (SANCO), to assess the risks to human health and propose mitigation measures where required.
- Monitoring and advising on policy developments at national, EU and international levels, ensuring that stricter measures are not imposed in advance of a more complete understanding of the risks.

Hunters care.

They care about nature, they care about other people in the countryside and they care about animals: their dogs and other aides such as birds of prey for falconry of course, and also for wild animals.

Hunters are trained, motivated and committed to eliminate any avoidable suffering to animals - it is an essential part of hunting ethics and of all formal codes of conduct.



# **ANIMAL WELFARE & HEALTH**

# ANIMAL WELFARE

## EU STRATEGY FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS

In the EU and Council of Europe FACE acts as a guardian of the subsidiarity principle in relation to wild animal welfare and welfare of auxiliary animals, such as hunting dogs, by ensuring that these issues remain within the sole jurisdiction of Member States which are best placed to deal effectively with these issues.

### MAN & ANIMAL GROUP MEETING

The FACE Man & Animal Working Group is established to formulate policies on the relationship between hunting on the one hand, and the welfare of wild animals on the other.

The Group met on 18 April 2012 at the FACE Headquarters in Brussels with the view to develop appropriate strategies and policies in relation to the welfare of animals, associated directly or indirectly with sustainable hunting.

An important task of the Group has been to share experiences on best hunting practices in relation to animal welfare. Such codes of good conduct will feed into the task ahead of the Group in 2013: to offer the public at large as well as decision and policy-makers at all levels a comprehensive codification of the 'moral justification' of the sustainable use of animals by man for a wide range of purposes or motives, including recreational ones such as hunting, keeping pets, angling or horse riding but also eating meat.

The European Parliament voted in Plenary session on the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals and adopted the Report of Swedish Liberal MEP Marit Paulsen with a very large majority.

As Rapporteur for the Parliament's Committee on Agriculture, Paulsen had welcomed the Strategy proposed by the European Commission and advocated better enforcement rather than new legislation in the domain of animal welfare. The Parliament agreed with this position, preventing attempts by certain MEPs in the Environment Committee who are ideologically opposed to hunting to extend the competence of the EU to the welfare of wild animals with a view to imposing restrictions on certain hunting practices.

By sharing its science-based expertise and showcasing what hunters already do at national level, FACE and its Members convinced MEPs that Member States - not the EU - are best placed to deal effectively with wild animal welfare issues.

### FACE & EUROPEAN VETERINARIANS, NOVEMBER 2012

During the General Assembly of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) in Brussels, FACE Senior Policy Advisor Yves Lecocq - a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine - made a presentation on hunting and wildlife management in Europe and how these interact with veterinary expertise.

Initially scheduled to be given at the FVE Section 'Education, Research & Industry' only, his talk drew so much attention from the 3 other FVE Sections (namely Practitioners, Hygienists and Veterinary State Officers) that over 100 participants turned up.

Yves outlined the different aspects of hunting for which veterinarians could and should make a real contribution: game meat hygiene and public health of course, as well as wildlife diseases likely to affect domestic animals but also humans. Their expertise would also benefit domestic animal welfare (mainly hunting dogs and their training) and even wild animal welfare. It can be no coincidence that a significant proportion of veterinarians have an active interest in hunting, participating for instance in hunters' training and in running hunters' organisations at all levels.

Hunters monitor the health status of animals living in the wild (Swine Fever, Rabies, Avian Influenza amongst others) and so play a key role in protecting public health and that of domestic (farmed) animals. In this way they are partners of European (EU) and international (OIE) initiatives against transmissible diseases (zoonosis).

FACE informs EU policies to make them workable for hunters in the field and provides guidance back to hunters on how best to comply with administrative procedures linked to game meat, human and animal health.

The free movement of hunters and the associated practical aspects remain our focus in equal measure with ensuring the highest health safety for our animals and ourselves.

## ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AHAC, EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

Organised 3 times a year, the meetings of the European Commission's Animal Health Advisory Committee (AHAC) are an opportunity for the Services of DG Health & Consumers (SANCO) to consult relevant stakeholders and sectors (producers, animal transporters and processors, trade and consumers, animal welfare NGOs, etc.) about new developments and future work in the domain of animal health.

FACE Senior Policy Advisor Dr. Vet. Med. Yves Lecocq and Legal Advisor Johan Svalby covered the meetings for FACE, along with the deeply appreciated assistance of Prof. Ord. Em. Jean-Marie Giffroy.

A key topic in 2012 was the forthcoming Proposal for the **EU Animal Health Law (AHL)**, a major piece of legislation which will replace about 50 existing directives, regulations and other texts (e.g. on rabies, swine fever, etc.). FACE contributed to the drafting of this important proposal. Scheduled for adoption by the Commission in mid-2013 and subsequently subject to a first reading by the European Parliament and the Council as per the usual legislative procedure, this AHL lays down the general principles and specific rules for the

prevention and control of transmissible diseases in animals, including those that are transmissible to humans. It will apply to both wild and kept animals. FACE aimed to instil workable, non-bureaucratic rules for hunters whilst insisting on a high level of safety for potential health risks.

A special section in the new law will be dedicated to the movement of pets, including hunting dogs and ferrets, between Member States. FACE and its Members invested considerable time during 2012 with EU policy-makers to ensure that the veterinary requirements for such movements be straightforward and do not complicate the life of hunters unnecessarily, whilst at the same time ensuring effective rules against the spread of rabies, tapeworms, etc.

The free movement of hunters and the associated practical aspects remain our focus in equal measure with ensuring the highest health safety for our animals and ourselves.

FACE will continue to provide insight and expertise in the development of EU animal health policy, building on its existing input and substantial veterinary and practical knowledge from the field.

Europe is home to a rich diversity of hunting methods, traditions and cultures. These have grown naturally out of local adaptations to the environment and the species. The richness they offer is a part of our shared heritage. This can also have practical applications in retaining local knowledge and continuing to provide recreational benefits.

The diversity of these methods, traditions and cultures gives rise to varied applications through Europe. In recognising the principle of solidarity, **FACE supports the various legal hunting methods, traditions and cultures in Europe** whilst fully recognising the principle of subsidiarity which defers decisions on their application to national levels.

FACE works primarily **to support activities related to hunting methods, traditions and cultures**, this work often being carried out by other organisations, who we view as **important partners**.

These include the International Union of Hunting with Hounds, the European Bowhunters' Federation, the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey and the European Association of Traditional Hunters to name a few.

In addition, our work in support of angling recognises the fact that a number of our Members are hunting and angling associations and is also a form of solidarity with other recreational wildlife users, with whom we share many values.



# HUNTING METHODS & CULTURE

# FALCONRY

Following UNESCO's recognition of Falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010, FACE collaborates with the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) to promote the cultural aspects of hunting, as well as on relevant technical dossiers. Hosted by the Czech Moravian Falconers, part of FACE Member the Czech Moravian Hunting Union (*Ceskomoravská Myslivecká Jednota*), FACE Secretary General Angus Middleton attended the **45th Opočno Falconry Meeting** in the Czech Republic and gave an address at the closing ceremony. The meeting gathered falconers from all over Europe in a great spirit of camaraderie. The IAF and FACE have worked together on shared interest dossiers such as the Convention on Migratory Species (p.60) as well as on showcasing the magic of falconry in the heart of the EU.



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY - IAF** is dedicated to the preservation of the ancient art of falconry. Preserving falconry involves maintaining not only the traditional culture that builds practical skills of empathy with animals, but also the conservation of raptors and their prey through preservation of natural habitats. We therefore encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife. The IAF is made up of more than 70 associations in over 50 countries worldwide, totalling 30,500 Members.

At the IAF AGM in November 2012 held in the USA, President Frank Bond stepped down at the end of his mandate and the IAF elected their new President Adrian Lombard, as well as Tom Richter as new Vice-President for Europe. Frank Bond was instrumental in forging a very close working relationship between FACE & the IAF which was in evidence at the European Parliament Exhibition. Adrian brings new expertise and ideas that will continue to sustain this partnership.

## FALCONS IN THE PARLIAMENT

Falconers and fellow hunters from 19 countries gathered with EU decision-makers at the European Parliament in Brussels to launch a unique exhibition.

The IAF and FACE joined with European Parliament's Sustainable Hunting Intergroup President, MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon and MEP Bogdan Marcinkiewicz to host an internationally-themed visual display at the very heart of Europe.

Building on the 2011 celebrations following falconry's inscription to UNESCO as a Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the exhibition and activities surrounding the inaugural cocktail reception raised the profile of falconry in the EU – and the incredible culture it encompasses.

### THE EXHIBITION: 6-9 NOVEMBER 2012

This unique international exhibition brought together various displays of images, falconry equipment, tools, books and historical artifacts to convey the deep artistry at the heart of this global cultural heritage. Leading falconry experts from the IAF were on hand throughout the week to provide additional insights into this tradition that is **over 4000 years old** and practiced all over the world today.

The materials provided by the IAF Coordinating Team blended the old with the modern in such a way that the exhibition attracted a high footfall of some **200 people every day** throughout the week.

### THE INAUGURAL RECEPTION

A special photo opportunity for the MEPs and officials with falcons and hawks outside the main entrance of the European Parliament attracted great interest as passing EU officials and decision-makers were mesmerised by the unusual sight of these breathtaking birds.

This remarkable scene was heightened by the internationally renowned musical group of **traditional Jagdhorn players** from the Czech Falconers' Club - *Klub Sokolníků* – who called the guests into the inaugural cocktail reception.

Jac van Gerven, hoodmaker gave a demonstration of artisan hood-making and a short film Falconry our Intangible Living Heritage provided an outline of this UNESCO-recognised heritage of humanity.

French MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon and Polish MEP Bogdan Marcinkiewicz both gave welcoming inaugural addresses and were joined by the Parliament's President of the Culture & Education Committee, MEP Doris Pack.

FACE Vice-President Giovanni Bana and Secretary General Angus Middleton expressed the importance of culture in hunting, and Angus recognised the great contribution of outgoing IAF President Frank Bond who also addressed the assembly.

As part of the traditional November hunters' celebrations, **fine game meat from Poland** was generously provided by MEP Bogdan Marcinkiewicz, who was joined by a representative from the Polish Hunters' Federation (*Polski Związek Łowiecki*) who celebrate their 90th Anniversary in 2013.

With such a fine culinary addition, the reception was very well attended, with some **500 guests** lured by the eye-catching exhibition – made even more alluring by the presence of **falcons and hawks within the exhibition space**. The unprecedented permission of live animals within the Parliament was made possible thanks to the combined efforts and passion of the organisers and MEP Véronique Mathieu Houillon.

The presence of the birds attracted great attention – not only from officials and MEPs, but also from the Parliament press and communications team. Both the European Parliament Television and European Parliament's Group on the social media site Facebook featured the exhibition to its half a million members, providing a far greater reach than FACE could have achieved directly.

# TRAPPING

## **Traps are used worldwide in interactions with wildlife.**

This may be to minimise environmental damage or to assist conservation by helping to control over-abundant or alien invasive species, or for relocation.

It is an equally valuable research method, for example to fit individuals with markers or transmitters to follow their movements.

Since many mammals are predominantly nocturnal, or are present around buildings or settlements, trapping is often the safest method for restraint.

Regardless of the purpose for trapping or whether mechanical live-capture or killing devices are used, it is important that all efforts are made to ensure a high standard of welfare for the trapped animals and to ensure that any non-target captures are minimal.

FACE works with national and international bodies to promote cooperation and sharing of expertise with the view to achieving such goals.

In addition FACE supports the development in Europe of certification systems for trap-types based upon international standards within the framework of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS).

## **WHAT IS THE AIHTS?**

The AIHTS was negotiated between the EU, Canada and the Russian Federation (with a similar agreement with the USA) and concluded successfully in 1998. It covers 19 species of mammals, 11 of which occur in the EU.

The Agreement was approved by Council Decision 98/142/EC, but entered into force much later on 22 July 2008 following deposit of the ratification by the Russian Federation.

The EU and its Member States have an international obligation to comply with the standards set by AIHTS. According to the implementation schedule, Parties to the Agreement will have until 2013 (5 years after its entry into force) to test and certify trapping methods, and until 2016 to prohibit the use of traps not certified in accordance with the standards of the Agreement.

Its objectives are to establish international standards of humane trapping, improve communication and cooperation between the Parties for the implementation and development of those standards, and facilitate trade between the Parties to the Agreement. In addition it lays down harmonised technical standards offering a sufficient level of protection to the welfare of trapped animals and governs both the production and use of traps, facilitate trade in traps, and products manufactured from species covered by the Agreement.



## FRENCH TRAPPERS' UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The annual General Assembly of the French Trappers' Union (UNAPAF, *l'Union nationale des associations de piégeurs agréés de France*) took place in Paris on 10 March 2012. The timing of the meeting was particularly relevant as France was in the process of reviewing the list of species classed as 'pests' under national legislation and under which conditions some of them may be trapped. Not surprisingly this was one of the main agenda points.

FACE's Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin was pleased to be able to give an overview of the EU Trapping study contract 2007-2009 and the related consultation "Your attitude towards the regulation of trapping in the EU" which was finally released in October 2011. This was of interest as a large number of responses came from French citizens. To ensure a wider distribution of the results, UNAPAF have made the effort of translating the survey results into French.

During informal discussions, it was a welcome sign that trappers and trapping associations are moving towards greater collaboration at international level.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY USE OF TRAPS, GERMANY

In Germany trapping is very much part of hunting, and like other aspects of hunting the German Hunters' Association (DJV, *Deutscher Jagdverband*) wishes to see that this progresses with changing circumstances and advances in knowledge.

In order to prepare a new position paper on trapping, the DJV held a meeting in Berlin on 14 July 2012 - Interdisciplinary Working Group on contemporary use of traps - opened by Helmut Dammann-Tamke, who is responsible for trapping at the DJV Bureau, and chaired by Andreas Leppmann, DJV CEO. The meeting gathered representatives from DJV, professional hunters, veterinarians and academics dealing with animal welfare. To aid discussions, the participants split into 4 groups; 'Nature conservation, species protection & science', 'Trapping technology & methods', 'Hunting & expertise' and 'Animal welfare & pest control'. FACE Wildlife Policy Manager Cy Griffin participated in the first of these groups as well as advising on the AIHTS.

The outcome of this working group has been wider consultation on trapping in Germany and collaboration with Government agencies to improve standards for the benefit of nature conservation and welfare of trapped animals.

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# HUNTING WITH HOUNDS

## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF HUNTING WITH HOUNDS: ANNUAL MEETING

Union representatives from 7 countries gathered in Virginia, USA on 27 September at the heart of the American fox-hunting country. The meeting was hosted by the American Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) and covered a great deal of issues, from national reports on the status of hunting with hounds to a major focus on future developments for the Union, particularly regarding the creation of a web presence. FACE's Communications Manager Marilise Saghbini attended, and provided advice from a pan-European perspective on animal welfare and communications development.

Following detailed national reports from all Members, the Union's meeting also provided useful insights into animal welfare arguments, with many experts on the subject present.

The wealth of knowledge into animal welfare (particularly that of horses and hounds) encompassed within this group holds great potential in terms of demonstrating the role of hunters in animal welfare in a broader sense. Hunting with hounds remains a prominent point of focus for the animal rights' agenda – and it is mutually beneficial for FACE to be kept abreast of developments within this highly profiled hunting method as well as providing information on relevant EU developments such as the new EU legislative framework for animal welfare that is currently being developed.

# CULTURE

Hunting is deeply cultural. FACE and its Members promote the practice, tradition and heritage of hunting where it has existed for centuries. Hunting has long and deep traditions spanning over thousands of years. Hunting is diverse in its methods, such as hunting with hounds, falconry, stalking, calling etc. It is rich in the traditions associated with it: music, art, festive events, literature, knowledge of nature, gastronomy, artefacts.

FACE seeks to safeguard this rich, multifaceted intangible cultural heritage together with hunters' communities, by enabling hunting traditions and shared centuries-old knowledge built on a real relationship with nature to be passed on to future generations. As a Federation, our Members undertake to maintain aspects of their national hunting culture together with other rural stakeholders. FACE Members organise local and national exhibitions, contests and educational events related to their hunting culture.

Where regions share similar cultures (Anglo-Saxon, Nordic, Central European and Mediterranean) their Membership to FACE facilitates cooperation in promoting and safeguarding their hunting culture. This is done through various means, but in all cases through drawing on the expertise and knowledge from within our Membership, from local hunting communities, from local hunters who really know their nature and understand its wildlife.

## UNESCO: INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In June 2012 FACE was formally accredited by the General Assembly of the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage. The accreditation is given to 59 non-governmental organisations with recognised competence in the field of the intangible cultural heritage to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee.

In this capacity, FACE can be called upon by the Committee of the Convention to provide advice and assistance on intangible cultural heritage related to hunting, of which there is a lot. As part of this FACE Secretary General Angus Middleton attended part of the 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

During the meeting the recognition of Falconry as an intangible cultural heritage was extended to Austria and Hungary, further enhancing what is already the biggest multinational element on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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## BIRDSONG IN THE PARLIAMENT: AN ENCHANTING CULTURE OF PROVENCE



THE ASSOCIATION OF BIRDSONG IMITATION - AICO, visited in their locality of Provence, France by a delegation of FACE's Nordic Members in June 2012 (p.29), represents a rich and valuable local hunting culture. AICO aims to bring together birdsong imitators, ensuring that their intricate knowledge of the Thrush species and the inspiring skills required to imitate their songs are nurtured and transferred to future generations. The skills take many years to perfect, learnt from mentors who have shared their rare knowledge, transferring the centuries of experience and improvements in this practice that their forefathers and those before passed on to them. Their activities centre on the organisation of local, regional and international birdsong imitation competitions with their Mediterranean arc counterparts from Spain and Italy. These activities are supported by the Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT).

The meticulous planning, organisation, procedures and rules of the competitions authenticate the dedication of those involved in this devoted tradition - not just the ones who practice birdsong imitation, but those who support them, who recognise the richness of this tradition, and the need to pass on this rich hunting culture to future generations. It is with this in mind that the AICO set up *L'école du chilet*, offering invaluable lessons and courses to share this tradition and ensure it is passed on.

The efforts made to preserve this local cultural heritage in the Provence region runs in parallel to local endeavours in Italy and Spain. This awe-inspiring practice is testament to a knowledge and closeness to nature not many can claim to know, and furthermore it has evolved as a part of a local hunting tradition that has its roots in a time when man was closer to nature. The devotion to nature, to observing it, to learning how to interact with it, is a tribute to the incredible complexity and skill of the art of traditional hunting, developing simple, natural tools and shaping one's environment and voice to hunt a bird. The hunted bird encompasses the deepest knowledge of the birds themselves, of the local nature and a rich culture built on experience and a love of nature.

This honest relationship with nature is underpinned by an openness to share knowledge and values with other organisations, as well as strengthening a solid scientific basis to ensure the sustainability and increased knowledge of the species.

With this in mind, representatives from AICO joined the falconers in the European Parliament in November 2012 (p.91) to share their enchanting skill at the heart of the EU. Hundreds of guests fell silent when AICO's Jean-Paul Florentino, Lionel Long, and Jackie Theunis gave a remarkable demonstration of yet another cultural aspect of hunting, imitating Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) with astonishing authenticity.

**The personal dedication, the lifetimes of listening carefully to birds and practising their songs are distilled into a present day living cultural heritage that the birdsong imitators and those who listen to them are fortunate enough to be part of in 2013.**



## FACE FINANCES

FACE offers a very cost-effective support to its Members, when considering all of the work carried out by the FACE Secretariat and the fact that Membership subscriptions represent less than 10 cents per hunter.

It is in this ethos that we also offer cost-effective and transparent management of finances to our partners, generating maximum impact with limited expenditure.

### EXPENDITURE 2011

Premises	19 624.89 €
Consumables	7 129.52 €
Administration	46 426.77 €
Communications	81 164.80 €
SG-SPA Costs	857.80 €
President Costs	5 527.83 €
Staff Missions	64 618.73 €
Staff	591 630.78 €
Staff Training & Development	5 880.11 €
Financial Devaluation	474.00 €
Extraordinary Charges	25.35 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>823 360.58 €</b>

### INCOME 2011

Full Membership Fees	657 052.00 €
Associate Membership Fees	12 000.00 €
Projects	10 283.95 €
Subsidies & Gifts	36 000.00 €
Provision Final Payment Projects	27 921.45 €
Operational Support	9 881.96 €
Reimbursement Meeting Organisation	225.86 €
Financial Income	12 515.96 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>756 881.18 €</b>



FACE's core funding is provided by the FACE Members.

FACE is also supported by the European Commission Directorate General Environment through LIFE NGO funding.



For 2012, LIFE NGO Grants were awarded to 31 NGOs whose work contributes to helping the EU Environment. See the full list here: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/pdf/ngos2012.pdf>

#### EXPENDITURE 2012

Premises	18 221.92 €
Consumables	18 700.30 €
Administration	53 108.52 €
Communications	132 377.35 €
SG-SPA Costs	6 374.74 €
President Costs	4 121.06 €
Staff Missions	75 885.84 €
Staff	593 379.44 €
Staff Training & Development	6 047.04 €
Financial Extraordinary Loss	4 900.51 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>913 116.72 €</b>

#### INCOME 2012

Full Membership Fees	680 615.00 €
Associate Membership Fees	18 000.00 €
Projects	5 000.00 €
Grants	86 496.00 €
Subsidies & Gifts	36 000.00 €
Additional Subsidies	31 500.00 €
Provision Final Payment Grants	57 664.00 €
Operational Support	4 013.39 €
Reimbursement Meeting Organisation	105.32 €
Financial Income	9 800.52 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>929 194.23 €</b>

## ENDNOTES

### **Nature Conservation & Wildlife Conservation**

EU Nature & Biodiversity Policies: [www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature)

The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto: [www.face.eu/nature-conservation/biodiversity](http://www.face.eu/nature-conservation/biodiversity)

MAVA Foundation for Nature: <http://en.mava-foundation.org/>

Invasive alien species: Keller, R.P., Geist, J., Jeschke, J.M., Kühn, I.: Invasive species in Europe: ecology, status, and policy: Environmental Sciences Europe 2011, 23:23: [www.enveurope.com/content/23/1/23](http://www.enveurope.com/content/23/1/23) and [www.cbd.int/invasive/WhatareIAS.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/invasive/WhatareIAS.shtml)

EU Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES): <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/ecosystem-assessments/european-level>

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB): [www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)

### **International Agreements**

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds - AEWA: [www.unep-aewa.org](http://www.unep-aewa.org)

Convention on Migratory Species - CMS: [www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int)

Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

Council of Europe's Bern Convention: [www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern)

European Court of Human Rights: [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

FACE Conservation Guide for CITES COP16: [www.face.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/on-screen\\_version\\_face\\_cites\\_cop16\\_guide.pdf](http://www.face.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/on-screen_version_face_cites_cop16_guide.pdf)

### **The EU Institutions**

European Commission: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

European Parliament: [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)

Council of the EU: [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

### **Partners**

International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

Copa-Cogeca: [www.copa-cogeca.be](http://www.copa-cogeca.be)

European Landowners' Organization - ELO: [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

OMPO Institute: [www.ompo.org](http://www.ompo.org)

International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation - CIC: [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

Safari Club International - SCI: [www.scifirstforhunters.org](http://www.scifirstforhunters.org)

Safari Club International Foundation - SCI-F: [www.safariclubfoundation.org](http://www.safariclubfoundation.org)

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey: [www.iaf.org](http://www.iaf.org)

Wetlands International: [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

BirdLife International: [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

HUNT Conference: [www.huntconferencespain2012.com](http://www.huntconferencespain2012.com)

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe: [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust – Woodcock Watch: [www.woodcockwatch.com](http://www.woodcockwatch.com)

Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust: [www.greypartridge.ie](http://www.greypartridge.ie)

Boleybrack Mountain Habitat Management Project:  
[www.nargc.ie/habitat-conservation/boleybrack-grouse-project.aspx](http://www.nargc.ie/habitat-conservation/boleybrack-grouse-project.aspx)

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PHOTOS

p.49 & p.69 Eugène Reiter (FACE Delegate, Luxembourg)

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