



# **2016 REPORT OF THE FACE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO**









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## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



2016 was dominated by discussions about the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives, a process which set out to check whether these directives are 'fit for purpose'. In December 2016, the process was concluded with EU Commissioners announcing that an implantation action is to be developed. For this reason, FACE decided to focus the 2016 Biodiversity Manifesto report on hunters' contribution to the implementation of the nature directives.

Of the 221 projects outlined in this report, which hunters are involved in, 43 percent occur on Natura 2000 sites. This is important as Member States are obliged to ensure the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of EU interest under the nature directives. In this regard, the report shows that hunters are involved in a range of financing, monitoring, and restoration/conservation activities.

Many of the projects also engage and support other ongoing EU processes and objectives such as combatting invasive alien species, working with rural development programmes under the Common Agricultural Policy and tackling illegal killing.

Further, this report shows that the management practices adopted by hunters can benefit not only game species but also a range of other protected or endangered animals and plants.

In order to promote and defend hunting, FACE needs concrete numbers and figures to quantify what hunters and their organisations are doing for biodiversity conservation. Importantly, when we demonstrate this work to hunters and other stakeholders, we also promote more coordinated action for biodiversity conservation throughout Europe.

As a result of this report, the general public and decision-makers are now better informed about the positive contribution of hunting to nature conservation. This can only be beneficial to our shared natural and cultural heritage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michl Ebner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Michl Ebner

# INTRODUCTION

Hunting is a highly popular form of nature recreation, an activity enjoyed by 7 million people in Europe. It is one of the oldest forms of consumptive use of renewable natural resources and provides significant social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits in different regions of Europe.

The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) demonstrates the commitment of Europe's hunters to biodiversity conservation. By addressing 34 actions in 8 sections, the main objectives of the FACE BDM are:

- › To demonstrate the role and contribution of hunting to biodiversity conservation to policy-makers and the public, and
- › To promote the coordination and enhancement of this contribution in line with international conservation priorities.

The eight sections under the FACE BDM are:



Since 2013, FACE has been gathering evidence to evaluate progress under the Biodiversity Manifesto. This report draws on 221 projects involving European hunters from throughout Europe.

Last year, FACE published its first BDM report, which presented how 181 conservation projects involving hunters linked to the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The report demonstrated that 23 of the 34 BDM actions directly contributed to the EU's Strategy.

This year, the FACE BDM Working Group decided to focus on hunters' contribution to the **implementation of the EU Nature Directives**. This was because 2016 has been a year dominated with discussions about the **Fitness Check of EU nature legislation**.

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<sup>1</sup> This report only refers to the first seven sections of the FACE BDM. The eighth section refers to the way in which FACE reports on the BDM.



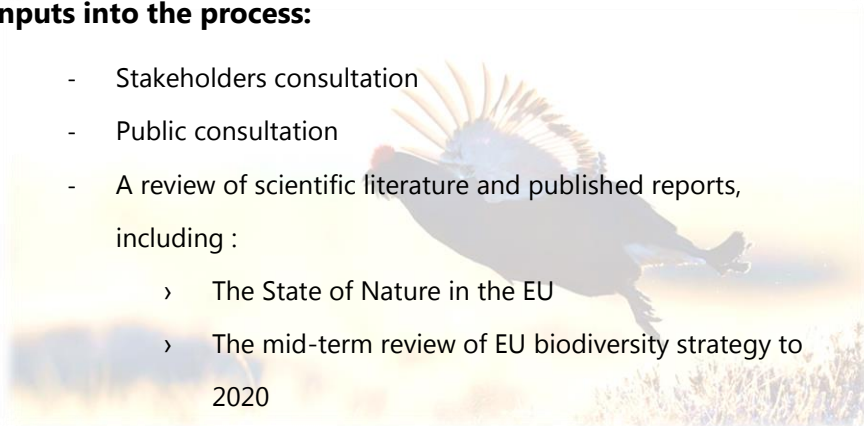
## **EU NATURE LEGISLATION AND THE FITNESS CHECK**

The EU Birds and Habitats Directives (often referred to as the nature directives) are widely recognised as the cornerstone of EU-wide efforts to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.

As part of its Smart Regulation policy, the Commission initiated the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme, a rolling programme to keep the entire stock of EU legislation under review. This process, which sets out to ensure that they are 'fit for purpose' is called the Fitness Check. In December 2016, the process was concluded with EU Commissioners announcing that an implantation action is to be developed.

### **Main inputs into the process:**

- Stakeholders consultation
- Public consultation
- A review of scientific literature and published reports, including :
  - › The State of Nature in the EU
  - › The mid-term review of EU biodiversity strategy to 2020



## **HUNTING AND EU NATURE LEGISLATION**

The EU Nature Directives fully recognise the legitimacy of hunting as a form of sustainable use. For example, the Birds Directive establishes a general system of protection for all wild birds in the EU. As an exception, Annex II species may be hunted and such hunting must comply with certain rules. The Habitats Directive sets different levels of protection for different lists of species (other than birds), but does not list huntable species.

## **THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK**

The Natura 2000 Network, which offers protection for Europe's most endangered species and habitats, is one of the most evident achievements of the EU Nature Directives. This Network benefits from the fact that it is based on the principles of conservation and sustainable use, ensuring lasting coexistence with human activities and biodiversity conservation, as such it is not in contradiction with hunting.



*Blanket Bog habitat*  
(Annex I habitat)



*Golden Plover*  
(Annex I and II species)

This evidence presented in this report shows that almost 100 projects are undertaken on Natura 2000 sites, which support previous recommendations<sup>1</sup> to enhance the mutual benefits between hunting and Natura 2000.

The evidence also shows that many Annex I birds and species protected by the Habitats Directive benefit from the actions of hunters<sup>2</sup>.




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<sup>1</sup> Source: European Commission, undated.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/factsheets/hunting.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1.

## **STRUCTURE OF REPORT**

This report focuses on the actions that contribute directly to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. In doing so, it presents the trends of the current knowledge base that FACE has gathered since January 2013.

It is important to point out that the 221 case studies used for presenting this overview cannot be considered as an exhaustive list of what is actually happening on the ground.

In the coming years, more examples will be gathered thereby improving our understanding of the conservation actions conducted by European hunters.

The remainder of this report presents an overview of the trends based on the case studies. It begins by discussing the main highlights. Thereafter, a more detailed assessment of the projects related to each of the seven sections of the Biodiversity Manifesto is presented<sup>3</sup>. Finally, best-practice examples are presented to illustrate in greater detail how hunting contributes to nature conservation.



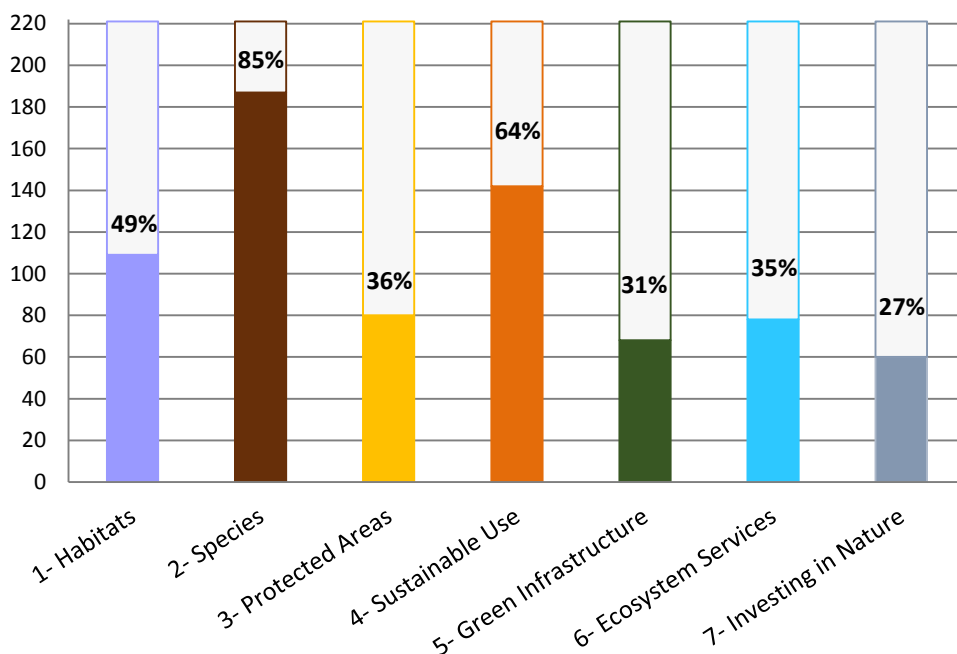
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<sup>3</sup> Note that each project can contribute to more than one action.

# HIGHLIGHTS

This section presents the 221 case studies gathered between January 2013 and August 2016 in relation to the seven key BDM sections. It also illustrates the geographic distribution of the projects.

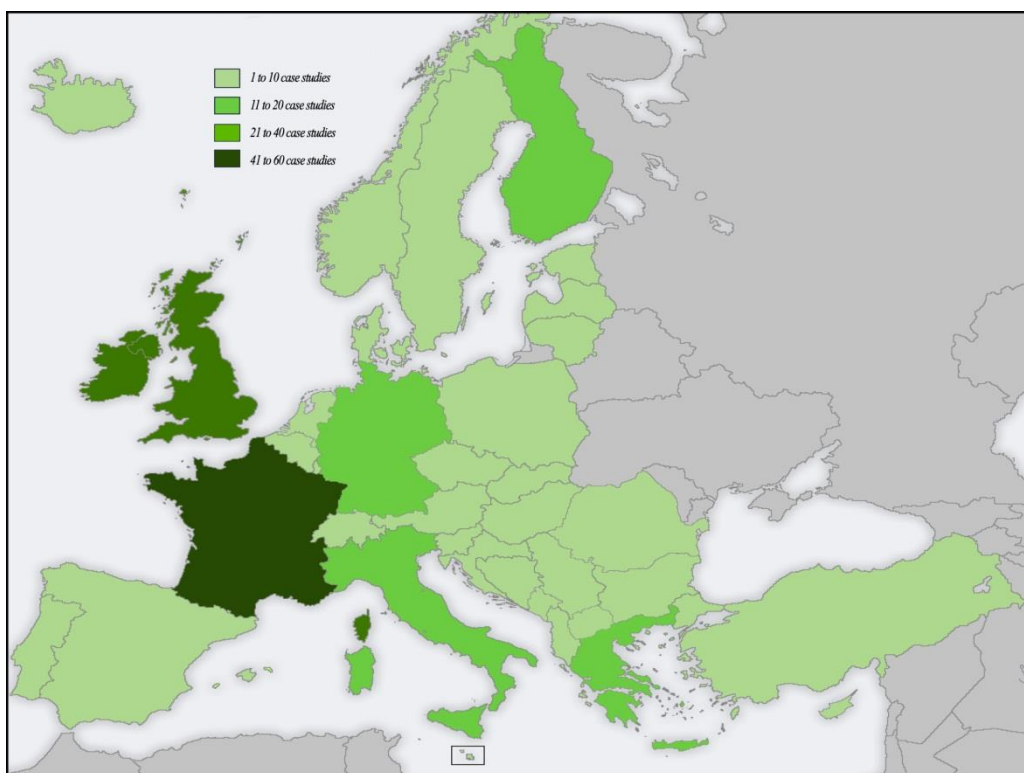
**Hunters' actions mapped against 7 sections of the Biodiversity Manifesto**



**Graph 1:** Number of case studies contributing either fully or partly to each of the 7 sections from the BDM. One case study can contribute to several sections.

The data show that most hunters' projects engage species, aspects of sustainable use and habitats. This demonstrates **hunters' commitment to conservation** and their contribution to current EU policy, which ambitiously aims to prevent biodiversity loss by 2020. Some of these projects engage other EU processes and objectives, including management of Natura sites, combatting invasive alien species, linking with rural development programmes under the Common Agricultural Policy and tackling illegal killing.





**Figure 1:** Geographic distribution of hunters' 221 projects

## **HUNTERS' CONTRIBUTION TO EU NATURE DIRECTIVES**

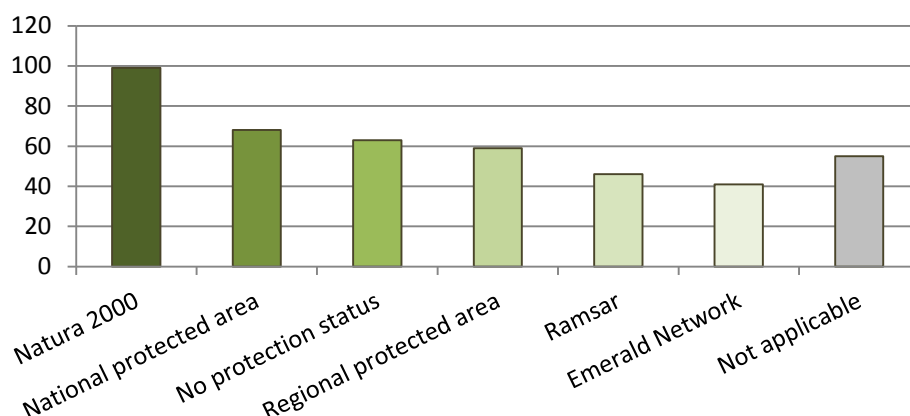
Of the 221 projects, which hunters are involved in, **43% occur on Natura 2000 sites**. This is important as EU Member States have to ensure the **favourable conservation status** of habitats and species of EU interest under the nature directives. This requires financing, monitoring, conservation and restoration. The BDM shows that hunters contribute to all of these aspects and therefore Natura 2000 needs their support.

The data show that 64 projects fulfil BDM action point 3.2: *"Continue to promote hunters' engagement in the management of **protected areas** in collaboration with the relevant competent authorities and other stakeholders (especially with regard to the Natura 2000)"*.

This demonstrates that sustainable hunting can be an important tool to help **achieve the conservation objectives of Natura 2000**. The BDM also shows that the management practices adopted by hunters can benefit not only game species but also a range of other protected or endangered animals and plants.

## SUMMARY OF THE 221 HUNTERS' PROJECTS

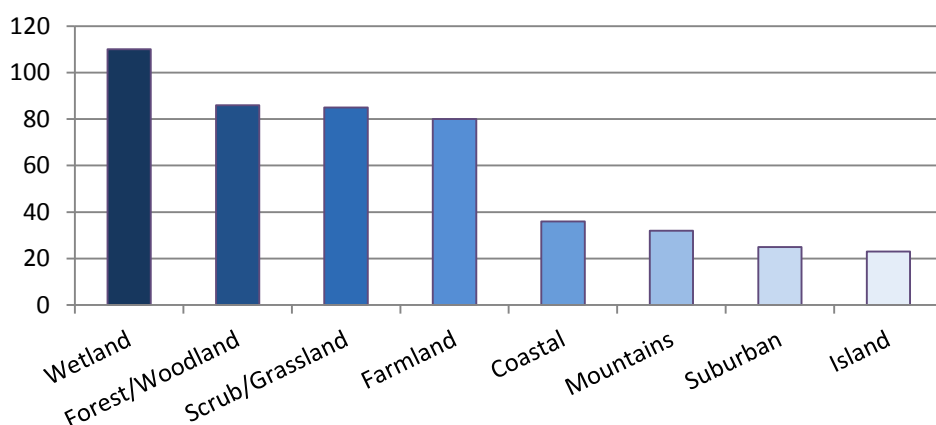
### Status of the areas where actions are undertaken



**Graph 2:** Number of case studies per area status; one case study can be conducted on several types of area.

Almost **half** of the projects occur in Natura 2000 sites

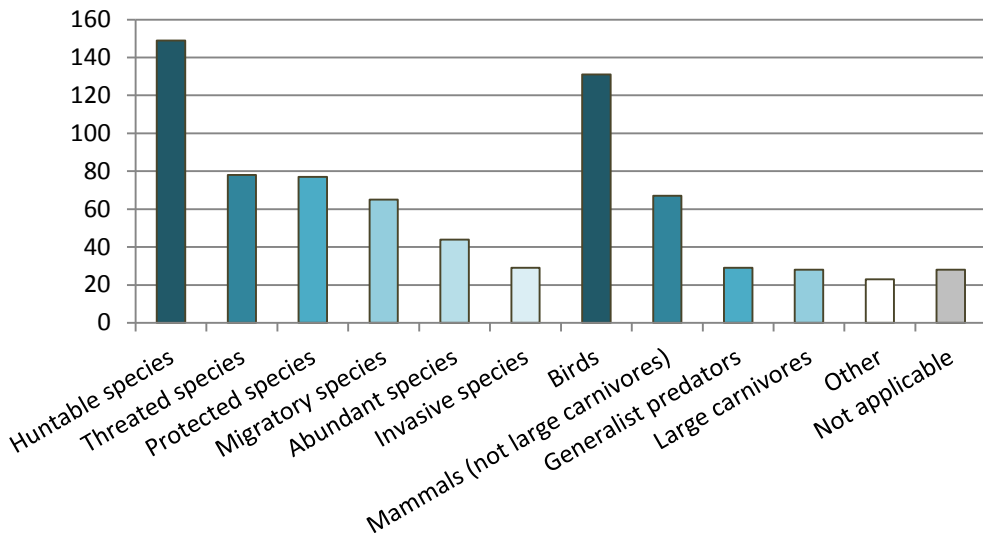
### Types of habitats involved in hunters' projects



**Graph 3:** Number of case studies per type of habitats, one case study can be related to several habitats.

**Wetlands, forests/woodlands and scrubs/grasslands** are the most common habitats managed by hunters.

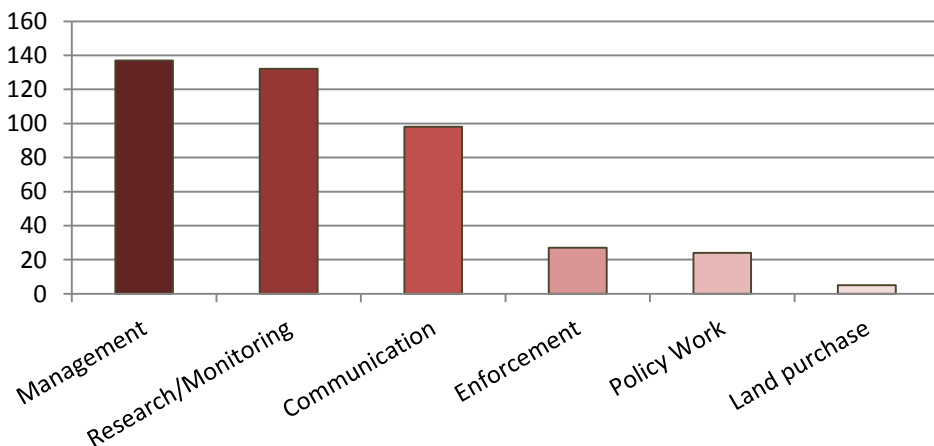
### Types of species concerned by hunters' actions



**Graph 4:** Number of case studies per species' type; one case study can be related to several types of species.

The majority of hunters' actions focus on **bird conservation**. Out of the 221 projects, a **third** deals with **threatened species** and/or **protected species**.

### Main actions conducted by hunters



**Graph 5:** Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions.

**Management of habitats/species and research/monitoring** are the most commonly implemented actions.

## HABITATS

*“Protecting habitats is a fundamental means to conserve wild flora and fauna, thereby maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ultimately, it is through individual actions at grassroots level that a difference can be made”.*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

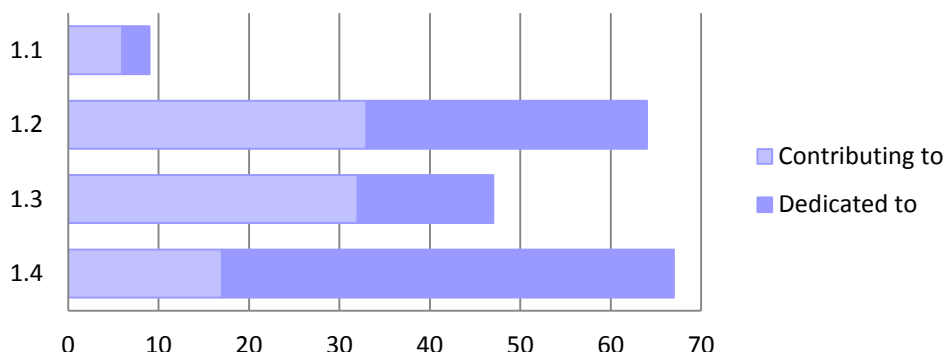
### **FACE BDM Action Points:**

- 1.1 Develop strategies and policies to address habitat provisioning within the Common Agricultural Policy (through Pillar 1 and Pillar 2).
- 1.2 Continue to collaborate with farmers and conservation organisations to maintain and restore farmland biodiversity through local actions.
- 1.3 Work with landowners, forestry interests and conservation organisations to develop policies and strategies that seek to achieve a balance in the management of forest ecosystems that is positive for biodiversity.
- 1.4 Continue efforts at the local level to maintain and restore wetlands.





### Number of projects linked to these action points



**Graph 6:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Habitats' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions aiming to maintain, restore or improve habitats in 109 case studies

In terms of habitat management, the 109 projects show slightly different trends from the overview (see annex 1). In summary:

- **Wetlands** remain the **most represented** habitat type managed by hunters (**67** case studies) in line with action point 1.4.
- **Farmland** habitat ranks second with **43** case studies related to actions 1.1 and/or 1.2, while **Scrubs and/or Grasslands** are represented in **42** case studies.
- **Forest/Woodland** is represented by 34 case studies, which relate to action point 1.3.



## RESTORING WETLANDS FOR BIRDS IN FINLAND

The Lintulahdet Life project (Bird Bays Life) restored 12 wetland sites where 35 (Annex I) bird species come to rest or breed from 2003 to 2007. Finnish local hunters succeeded in reducing the numbers of predators to improve nesting success in these areas.



*Laajalahti Bay by Tero Taponen*

The project was carried out in the Uusimaa region and in Southeast Finland and focused on the restoration and management of a number of important wetland for birds along the Gulf of Finland migratory flyway. The overall project area was approximately 3,630 hectares.

The active habitat management aimed to restore and diversify the wetland ecosystems. During the project, flood meadows and open water areas previously dominated by reed were cleared and the numbers of small predators were reduced by local hunters. The populations of invasive alien species, such as North American mink and Raccoon dog, were growing in the wetlands in Southeast Finland due to an abundance of food (bird eggs, nestlings and adult birds).

The purpose was to reduce the numbers of predators in order to improve nesting success so the game districts of Uusimaa and Kymi made hunting plans for the project areas, defining suitable hunting methods and procedures.

The outcome was monitored by counting waterbird and gull broods and due to the predator control, nesting was more successful in the areas where control was in place.



*Photo by FACE*

The Lintulahdet Life project also established recreational areas by building bird towers, map guides and nature trails. In addition, various educational materials and brochures were produced to promote and improve awareness of wetlands.

#### **Contact and Sources:**

**Ilpo HUOLMAN** - Project Manager

[ilpo.huolman@ely-keskus.fi](mailto:ilpo.huolman@ely-keskus.fi)

More information can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast/download.cfm?fileID=1334>

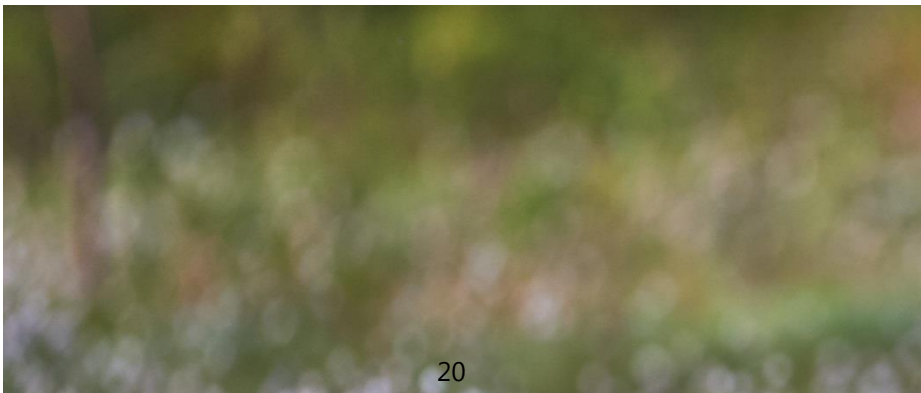
## SPECIES

*"While maintaining the habitats in good condition is critical for fulfilling the general ecological requirements of species, there are circumstances where certain species need particular attention."*

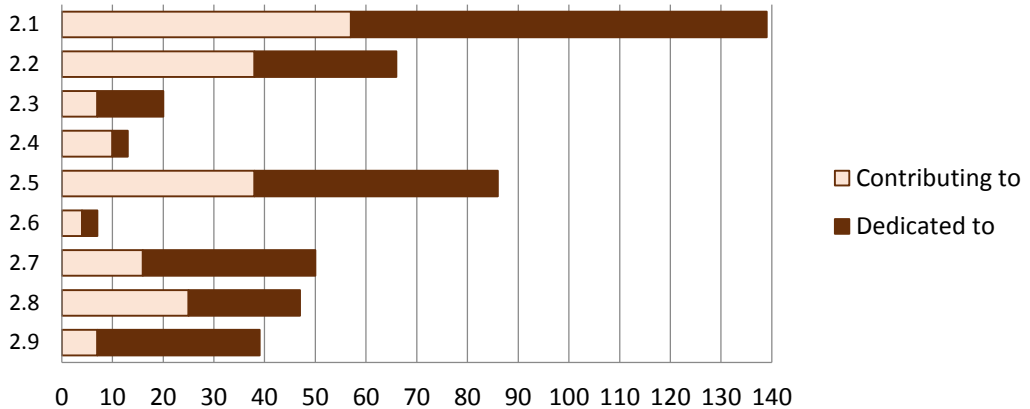
FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 2.1 Encourage hunters to continue engaging in programs to monitor and assess the status of huntable and other wild animal species, and implement appropriate conservation measures.
- 2.2 Highlight best practice amongst hunters with regards to species' identification programs, harvest regulation schemes (such as bag limits), restoration and conservation.
- 2.3 Communicate to hunters the necessity to identify, control and avoid the introduction of alien animal and plant species.
- 2.4 Contribute to policy formulation for issues such as the control of Invasive Alien Species and large carnivore conservation.
- 2.5 Promote the development and implementation of management and action plans especially for species considered to be at risk.
- 2.6 Contribute to the formulation of guidance documents on issues such as hunting during periods of severe environmental conditions (e.g. extreme cold or dry weather, forest fires, oil spills and epizootics).
- 2.7 Continue to contribute to the conservation of endangered species.
- 2.8 Collaborate for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory birds and the conservation of habitats along their flyways.
- 2.9 Promote the sustainable use and ecologically balanced control of widespread opportunistic species and generalist predators.



### Number of projects linked to these action points

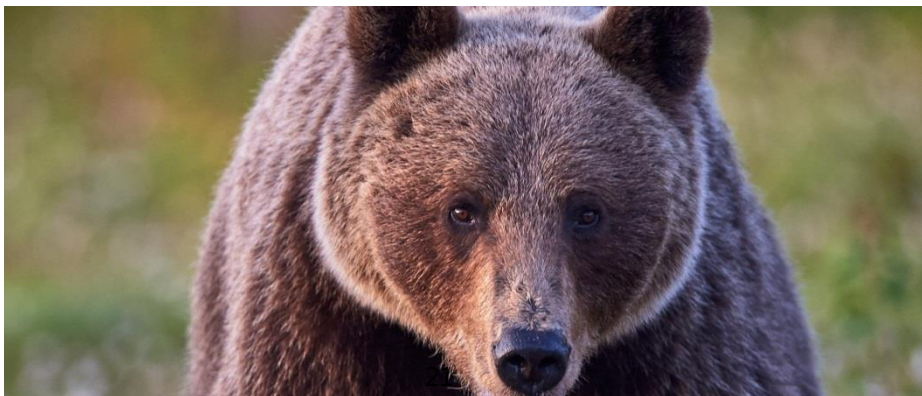


**Graph 7:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Species' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions aiming to improve knowledge and manage species of EU interest in 187 case studies

In the case of "Species", the 187 projects show (see annex 2):

- Most of case studies (125) relate to research and data collection.
- **Two thirds** relate to **bird conservation** with **40%** corresponding to **protected species**.
- In terms of habitat restoration for species conservation, wetlands rank highest with 92 case studies; in second place is scrub/grassland habitat (80), followed by forests (70).





## RECOVERING THE IBERIAN LYNX IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Spanish and Portuguese hunters participated in the successful project LIFE+IBERLINCE, which has tripled the number of Iberian lynx in only one decade from less than 100 individuals in 2002 to more than 400 in 2015.



Photo by [iberlince.eu](http://iberlince.eu)

*LIFE+Iberlince* launched this 6 year project in 2011 in collaboration of approximately 20 public and private stakeholders. The Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) was one of the most endangered wild cat species in the world, but nowadays, after four consecutive projects, the IUCN has lowered its threat category from 'critically endangered' to 'endangered'.

The project aimed not only to stabilise the Iberian lynx populations in Spain and reduce the risk of extinction but also to develop a comprehensive strategy for the conservation of the species. To achieve this, the Government of Andalusia carried out different actions together with landowners and managers of private hunting estates such as securing lynx-friendly land management practices across more than 194,000 hectares(including six Natura 2000 sites), captive breeding as well as the reintroduction of specimens into the wild and reducing the hunting pressure on rabbits (lynx's main prey).

Thanks to all this actions, at the end of 2015 there were 404 individuals of Iberian Lynx spread out in Spain and Portugal and each protected area included in the Natura 2000 network in Spain has already success reproductions in the wild. In May 2016 the Government of Andalusia has been rewarded with the coveted “European Citizens’ Award” of the 2016 Natura 2000 Award.



*Photo by iberlince.eu*

### **Contact and Sources:**

**Miguel Angel SIMON** - Project Manager Junta de Andalucía

[miguelangel.simon@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:miguelangel.simon@juntadeandalucia.es)

More information can be found here:

<http://www.iberlince.eu/index.php/eng/>

<http://www.natura2000award-application.eu/finalist/2226>

## PROTECTED AREAS

*"The importance of protected areas for nature and biodiversity cannot be overstated; in particular the Natura 2000 network provides an excellent basis for nature conservation in the EU."*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

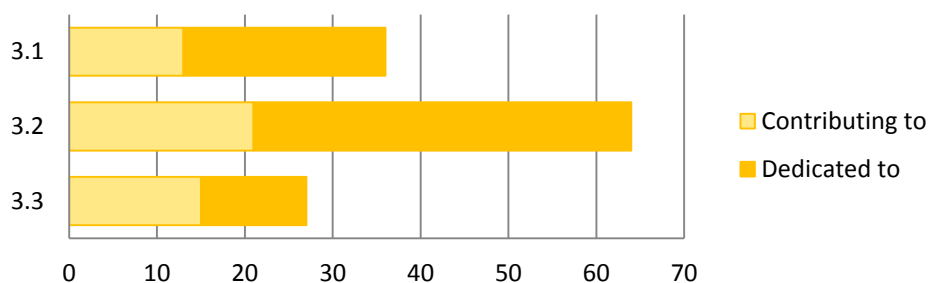
### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 3.1 Engage in dialogue facilitation and conflict resolution between stakeholders within protected areas.
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 Collate best practice examples to its hunting community and the public.





### Number of projects linked to these action points



**Graph 8:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Protected Areas' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions related to management and awareness raising about protected areas in 80 case studies

In the case of protected areas, the 80 projects show (see annex 3):

- **70%** of projects are undertaken in **Natura 2000 sites** (55 case studies). Other protected areas include national/regional designations, Ramsar sites, etc.
- The **management of species/habitats** is the most represented action (63 case studies) followed by **communication activities** (52 case studies).
- It is interesting to note that the habitats engaged with in protected areas differ to those shown in graph 3; the main difference being that forest habitats rank fourth and not second when all 221 projects are considered.



## RESTORING AN ALLUVIAL FOREST IN FLANDERS (BELGIUM)



Photo by Bert Claes

This wetland restoration project takes place on a hunter's 30 ha landholding in Flanders (Belgium). The site forms part of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under Natura 2000 and the objective is it to restore an Annex I habitat; an alluvial forest with Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

Between 2012 and 2013, with the financial support of Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos (Agency for Nature and Forest) and Natura 2000 subsidies combined with hunters' assistance in the field, several restoration actions have been put in place. The project had three main management objectives: the control of invasive alien plants, the creation of a Newt friendly-habitat and ecological reforestation of the site.

Invasive alien plants as Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) were managed so that their expansion was contained. To prevent their recolonisation, Mr. Dries Claes, the landowner, will continue managing these plants for several years.

Three ponds were dug to form a more diverse habitat for amphibians such as the Northern Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), which is a pollution-sensitive species.

The Claes family is aware that the success of the project will need time. In order to reach their goal of creating a sustainable alluvial forest ecosystem, the forest has to pass by several phases combined with soil regeneration. This process could happen naturally, however, they decided to assist by planting native tree species, such as the native Common Cherry (*Prunus padus*). The indicator for sustainable forest management in this case is having less than 10% of alien species, while keeping 4% of dead wood.

After one year of management, 10,000 trees were planted and the ponds are suitable for Newt and its potential prey. However, the work does not end there: this passionate landowner is actively advocating for this type of management to other landowners and environment organisations.



*Photo by Bert Claes*

### **Contact and Sources :**

**Valérie VANDENABEELE** - Project Manager Natura 2000 Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen

[valerie.vandenabeele@privaatbeheer.be](mailto:valerie.vandenabeele@privaatbeheer.be)

More information can be found here:

[http://www.landelijk.vlaanderen/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Landeigenaar\\_nr61.pdf](http://www.landelijk.vlaanderen/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Landeigenaar_nr61.pdf)

## SUSTAINABLE USE

*"More specifically the EU, the Council of Europe and the Convention for Biological Diversity as well as other major international environmental agreements (Convention on Migratory Species; African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement; etc.) all recognise the legitimacy of hunting as a use of nature."*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

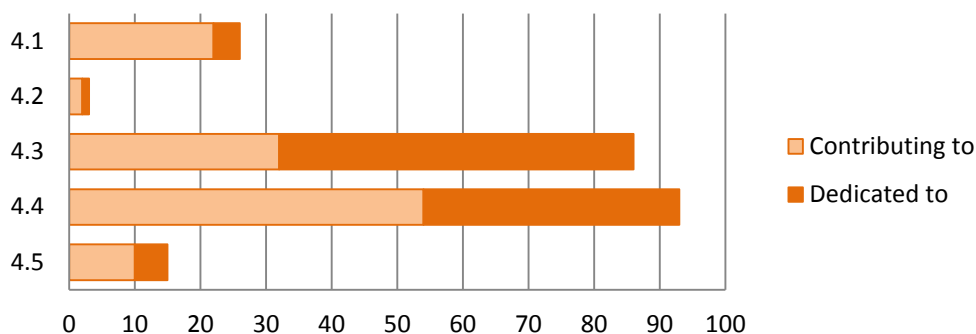
### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 4.1 Create better understanding of sustainable use principles and their implementation, as promoted by the Addis Ababa Principles of the CBD and European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity of the Council of Europe.
- 4.2 Lead efforts for a new sustainable wildlife use initiative, complementary to the Sustainable Hunting Initiative that has a credible representation and support from wildlife users.
- 4.3 Encourage the collection of hunting and population statistics and facilitate research to assess the sustainability of hunting practices.
- 4.4 Seek ways to involve and organise local hunters, their knowledge and experience in promoting good management and best practice for the implementation of EU Nature and Biodiversity Policies.





## Number of projects linked to these action points

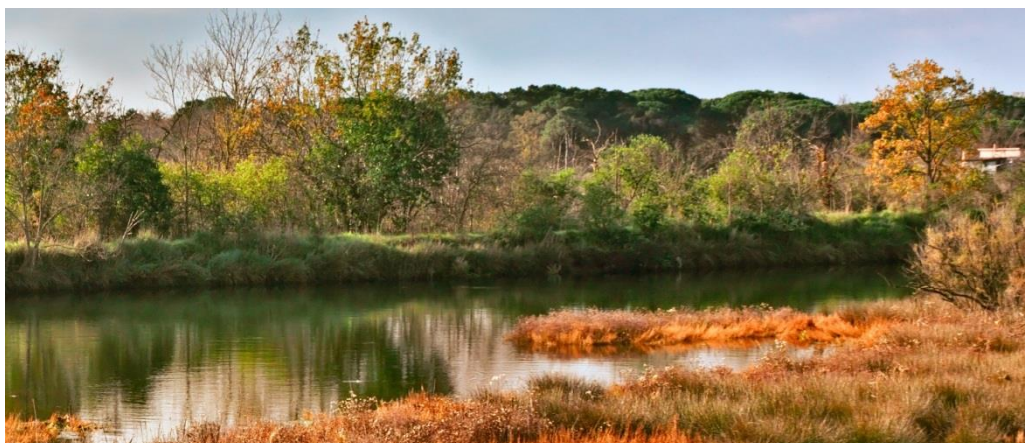


**Graph 9:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Sustainable Use' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions related to population monitoring and sustainable use in 142 case studies

Of the 142 projects within the sustainable use category (see annex 4):

- **Research (70%)** and **management activities (50%)** are the most represented.
- Almost the **half** of the case studies involves conservation work engaging **wetland (64), forest (62) and/or farmland (62)** habitats.
- **Three quarters** of the examples gathered concern **hunnable species (104 case studies)**, while **birds** are represented in more than the **half** of case studies (84).



## **RECORDING HARVEST PARAMETERS IN GREECE AND MONITORING GAME SPECIES' POPULATION DYNAMICS**

Before 1995, the Greek Government did not have scientific or statistical data about hunting harvest in Greece. In addition, it had frequently been noted that subjective data were published by various sources regarding the State's game populations and hunting activities in Greece.

The Hellenic Hunters Confederation (*Κυνηγετική Συνομοσπονδία Ελλάδας*) decided to launch the project "Artemis I" in order to address this knowledge gap and develop a framework to ensure the sustainable hunting and management of game populations in the country. Since then, Artemis I has become a successful project by Greek hunters.



*Photo by FACE*

The project is led by the Hellenic Hunters Confederation with the collaboration of Greece's seven hunting federations and 259 hunting clubs. "ARTEMIS I" is carried out exclusively by hunters, who complete a statistical questionnaire with the daily results of all their hunting days during the whole hunting season. A total of 10 variables are recorded during each hunting journey and the study includes all species, which are hunted in Greece (i.e. 32 avian species and 5 mammals).

The direct cost for the implementation of "ARTEMIS I" reaches €30.000 per year, a sum which is funded entirely by Greek Hunters. The total budget provides for a scientific team to coordinate the project, which is comprised of three main researchers, two trainees and one academic professor as a head researcher.

After 21 years of work, the results of "ARTEMIS I" have demonstrated that hunting in Greece is a sustainably activity. The annual value of harvested/observed individuals of species such as the Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) has been remarkably stable during the duration of this project.



Photo by ksellas.gr

### **Contacts and Sources:**

**Nikolaos PAPADODIMAS**- President of Hellenic Hunters Confederation

[info@ksellas.gr](mailto:info@ksellas.gr)

More information can be found here:

[http://www.ksellas.gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=161&Itemid=204](http://www.ksellas.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=161&Itemid=204)

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

*"The Green Infrastructure concept is meant to help reconnect existing nature areas and improve the overall ecological quality of the broader countryside. A Green Infrastructure will also help maintain healthy ecosystems so that they can continue to deliver valuable services to society."*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

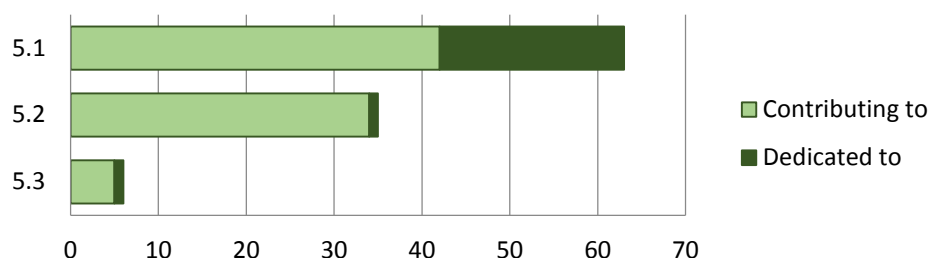
### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 5.1. Continue to promote the sustainable management of hunting areas, whenever possible within voluntary cooperation and coordination schemes which maintain a fundamental green infrastructure for the conservation of nature at a landscape level, thus securing ecosystems, increasing landscape connectivity and its capacity to respond to environmental change.
- 5.2. Actively demonstrate and explain 'tried-and-tested' management measures undertaken within hunting areas that underpin a green infrastructure.
- 5.3. Actively contribute to the policy development for a Green Infrastructure within the EU.





### Number of projects linked to these action points



**Graph 10:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Green Infrastructure' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions contributing to Green Infrastructure principles in 68 case studies

Of the 68 projects related to green infrastructure (see annex 5):

- Most projects link to **management of species and/or habitats** (61 case studies) followed by **communication** (38 case studies).
- **Two thirds** of the case studies include activities conducted on **wetlands** (43) with **birds** comprising half of the cases and **migratory species** comprising a third.



## THE HOLSTEINER LEBENSRAUM KORRIDORE PROJECT

The Holsteiner Lebensraum Project aims to restore the ecological connectivity of the Kreis Segeberg Region (North Germany). Species and habitats became fragmented mainly due to the building of two highways. One of the main objectives was to develop the Holsteiner Lebensraum Korridore in conjunction with a range of partners, including the Kreis Segeberg eV hunters. Several actions are set up at different scales and for different habitats, including:

- The construction of a green bridge over the highway to reconnect the forest. Deer and Wild Boars are now detected daily via photo-traps on the bridge. The bridge also facilitates the movement of beetles, grasshoppers and snakes, which would be otherwise restricted.
- Enhancing cooperation between landowners and the Nature Conservation foundation to improve the nature conservation value of 13 hectares by restoring and creating wetlands, securing open habitats by establishing extensive cattle grazing, including agreement about the management of Wild Boar.



*Photo by lebensraumkorridore.de*



Photo by lebensraumkorridore.de

- Connecting isolated peatland (moorland) areas by establishing sustainable corridors to maintain and improve the conservation value of this habitat type.
- Rewetting wetlands previously converted into intensive arable land and creating Otter (*Lutra lutra*) tunnels to provide habitat and safe access for Otter but also for other animals including Moor Frog (*Rana arvalis*), Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Common Spadefoot (*Pelobates fuscus*) or European Adder (*Vipera berus*).

Hunters are involved in several aspects of this project such as communicating with landowners, assisting in the procurement of land for nature conservation measures and monitoring.

### **Contacts and sources:**

**Oliver STONE** and **Jasper MÜLLER**, Kreis Segeberg eV Greening Coordinators

[olistein@aol.com](mailto:olistein@aol.com);

[jasper\\_mueller@web.de](mailto:jasper_mueller@web.de)

More information can be found here:

<http://www.lebensraumkorridore.de/home/>

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

*"It is often hunters as both users of ecosystem services and in part managers of ecosystems that actively conserve this wider landscape, contributing to ecosystem resilience and restoration."*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

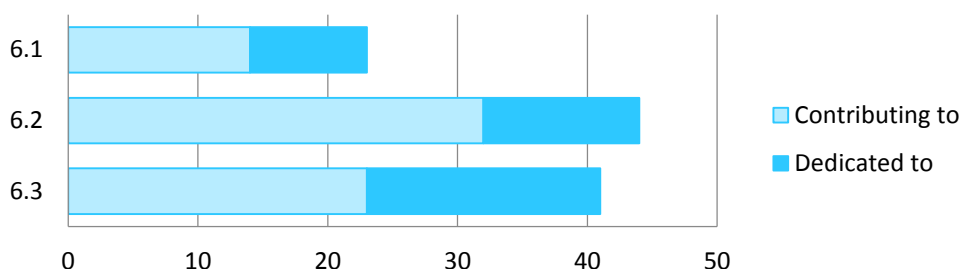
### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 6.1. Endeavour to improve information on ecosystems and the services that they provide by continuing to be involved in collaborative research and monitoring that contributes to the placing of a true value on biodiversity assets.
- 6.2. Endeavour to improve understanding of the importance of healthy and resilient ecosystems and the services that such ecosystems provide, by collaborating in awareness raising programs as well as educational activities, both for hunters and the public.
- 6.3 Advocate that the conservation work that local hunters carry out contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of functioning ecosystems.





### Number of projects linked to these action points



**Graph 11:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Ecosystem services' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions contributing the understanding and management of ecosystem services in 78 case studies

Of the 78 projects related to ecosystem services (see annex 6):

- The **majority** relate to **management of species and/or habitats** (60 case studies).
- The **second most common activity** links to **communication** (49 case studies) and therefore to the action point 6.2.
- In line with action 6.1, the **third type of activity** represented is **research and monitoring** (28).



## CASE STUDY: CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT



*Photo by cairngorms.co.uk*

Situated in the north of Scotland and with an area of 4,528 km<sup>2</sup>, the Cairngorms National Park is Britain's largest national park. The Cairngorms contains many natural habitats containing a number of rare and endangered species.

In order to preserve the ecological and cultural richness of the National Park, the OpenNESS project partnered with the 'Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group' to assess and promote the ecosystem services and natural capital concepts in relation to sustainable land management.

Since 2000, the main objective of this project is to enhance the management of the Cairngorms National Park. Considering different areas and objectives, four subprojects have been established:

1. Sustainable Management planning
2. Competitiveness planning
3. Human Well-being
4. Sustainable Management



*Photo by cairngorms.co.uk*

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association is involved in the decision-making process and the process of maximising the ecosystem services and natural capital via the mapping of ecosystem services using GIS software; and in the collection of data to assess ecosystem service presence/absence from local stakeholders.

Regarding the Glenlivet Estate subproject, hunters are participating in the assessment of the economic valuation of the area considering different criteria such as the estimated hunting and fishing value. These recreational activities were converted to monetary values: hunting and fishing are respectively valued at £25 and £547 per person and year. The results of this case study are relevant to other mixed rural landscapes in Europe and beyond.

### **Contact and Sources:**

**Jan DICK** - Landscape Physiologist at Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Scotland)

[jand@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:jand@ceh.ac.uk)

More information can be found here:

<http://www.openness-project.eu/node/62>

## INVESTING IN NATURE

*"Hunters have long paid their way both financially and in kind. Hunters and other wildlife users invest considerable time and effort in carrying out conservation work all year round. This not only has positive impacts on the environment but also improves our knowledge of nature."*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

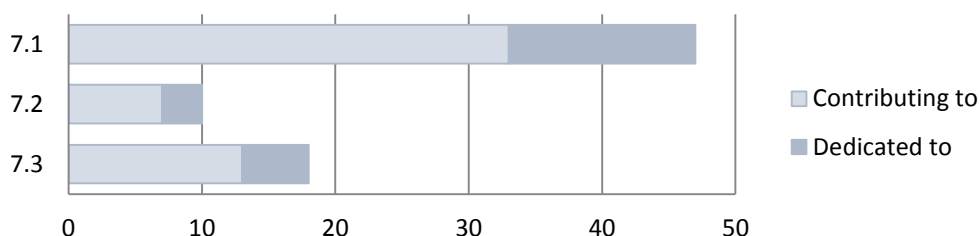
### FACE BDM Action Points:

- 7.1 Improve the understanding of how hunters spend their resources within the context of ecosystems, so that investments in nature can be better targeted and valued.
- 7.2. Examine and promote economic tools (e.g. biodiversity banking, fiscal incentives, subsidies, funding mechanisms) to support conservation measures associated with sustainable uses such as hunting, to provide sustainable solutions for biodiversity conservation.
- 7.3. Encourage actions associated with hunting through rural development programs creating jobs, businesses and other economic activity that sustains nature.





### Number of projects linked to these action points



**Graph 12:** Number of projects dedicated to or contributing to the 'Investing in Nature' section.  
Note: One case study can contribute to several actions.

### Hunters undertake actions related to rural development programs and other economic tools in 60 case studies

It is important to highlight that these action points do not take in account the huge investment in voluntary time, which hunters put into these projects. Regarding direct financing, we can say that in **66%** of the projects, hunters (partly or entirely) are involved in **financing the projects** and, in **91%** of the cases, they conduct the projects on a **voluntary basis**. (See annex 7).



## COMBINING NATURE PROTECTION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MINERVOIS REGION, FRANCE



Photo by [facebook.com/SitesNatura2000Minervois](https://www.facebook.com/SitesNatura2000Minervois)

The Languedoc-Roussillon region has two Natura 2000 sites: the "*Causses du Minervois*" Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which aims to preserve natural habitats and species; and the "*Minervois*" Special Protection Area (SPA), which aims to conserve important habitats for bird populations.

Established in 2014, the main objective of these projects is to maintain and restore the favourable condition of species and habitats in the Minervois Region. Members of the Departmental Federation of Hunting in the Aude and Herault provinces are involved in ensuring that nature conservation obligations are met while developing economic, social and cultural activities acting on the site.

To meet these challenges, several conservation actions have been proposed:

- Maintaining and restoring the sites' open landscapes, through maintaining agricultural diversity;
- Conserving and restoring landscape features needed by species for their life cycle
- Reduce and eliminate threats to species and habitats
- Increase the biological value of the forest habitats
- Improve social knowledge about the habitats and species
- Educate, train and involve stakeholders in the Natura 2000 approach



Photo by facebook.com/SitesNatura2000Minervois

Some examples of activities carried out since 2014 include the creation and conservation of ponds and artificial warrens which help to develop the population of the European rabbit, a prey specie of many raptors such as the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Hunting quotas and a moratorium on rabbit hunting on the implantation area (150 m around the warren) were established in order to increase populations.

### **Contact and Sources:**

**Laurent COURNAULT** - Task officer FRC Languedoc Roussillon

[lcournault@chasseurdefrance.com](mailto:lcournault@chasseurdefrance.com)

More information can be found here:

<http://sites-du-minervois.n2000.fr/les-sites-du-minervois/enjeux-et-objectifs>

<http://www.fdc34.com/index.html>

## HUNTERS FOR NATURE: CONCLUDING REMARKS

The projects treated in this report differ with respect to their size, location, organisation and duration. But, they all have two aspects in common: i) **hunters are involved** (fully or partly) and ii) the **objective is to conserve nature**. Hence, hunters' motivation for conservation is clear and the means to achieve it are diverse.

*"The importance of Protected Areas for nature and biodiversity cannot be overstated; in particular the Natura 2000 network provides an excellent basis for nature conservation in the EU. In the meantime, the Birds and Habitats Directives leave rooms for flexibility allowing the socio-economic activities inside Natura 2000 sites (...)"*

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto, "Protected Areas" section

The fact that almost **half of the projects occur in Natura 2000 sites** demonstrates hunters' commitment to implementing the nature directives. Further, this commitment to nature conservation for sensitive habitats and species existed long before the nature directives were born. Their ancient and voluntary passion to preserve nature areas has, in cases, also contributed to the development of the Natura 2000 network.



This report shows that hunters' interest in nature motivates them to conserve it. The solution and the challenge for the future are to promote the sustainable use of nature so that hunters and other stakeholders have a direct interest in it. When such positive **synergies** are in place, the conservation of nature becomes effortless.



# THE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO PROCESS: NEXT STEPS

*"We will set in place a system for regular reporting and review our Manifesto to ensure that the hunters' contribution to the conservation of biodiversity is in line with decisions taken by the European and Global Community and remains focused on agreed priorities and public needs."*

34<sup>th</sup> action point from the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

Finally, this second report of the FACE BDM is based on 221 projects across Europe and beyond. The number of case studies has increased by 40 since last year. The objective for the future is to increase and geographically expand the number of conservation projects involving hunters.

During 2017, a website devoted to the BDM and the demonstration of hunters' actions for biodiversity will be launched. FACE will also produce a leaflet summarising the main points to support our communication activities.

For more information, please visit [www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu) and [www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com)



## **CONTACT DETAILS**

For more information on the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto and its results please contact [info@face.eu](mailto:info@face.eu)

Address: FACE, Rue Frédéric Pelletier 82, B-1030 Brussels

Telephone: +32 2 732 69 00





## Useful Links

- **African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement** - [www.unep-aewa.org](http://www.unep-aewa.org)
- **The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM)** - [www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com)
- **Convention on Biological Diversity** - [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)
- **Convention for Migratory Species (CMS)** - [www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int)
- **Council of Europe** - [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 - Our life insurance, our natural capital** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm)
- **Fitness Check of Birds and Habitats Directives** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/index_en.htm)
- **European Commission – DG Environment** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)
- **Green Infrastructure** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm)
- **International Union for the Conservation of Nature** - [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)
- **Natura 2000 Network** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)
- **The Ramsar Convention** - [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)
- **Rural Development Programmes** - [ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm)
- **State of Nature report 2015** - [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/state\\_of\\_nature\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/state_of_nature_en.pdf)

## Acknowledgments

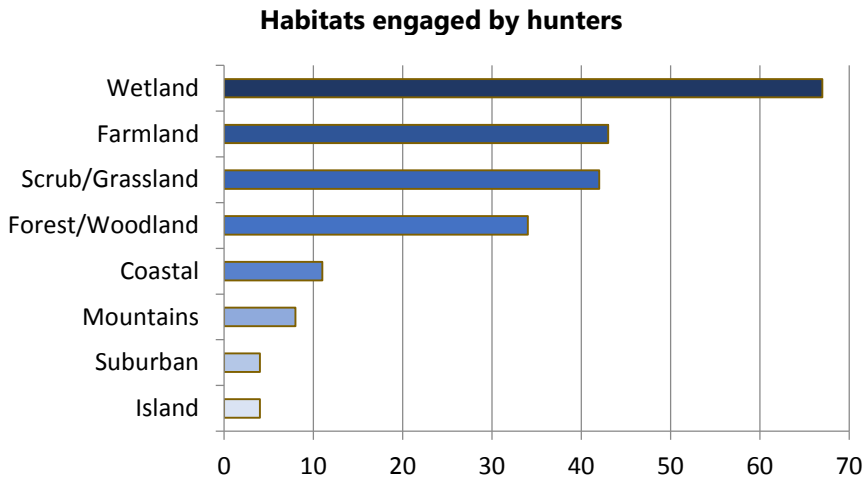
The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto Working Group

Report compiled by: Monia Anane, Dr. David Scallan and Berta Redondo

Design by: Berta Redondo and Monia Anane

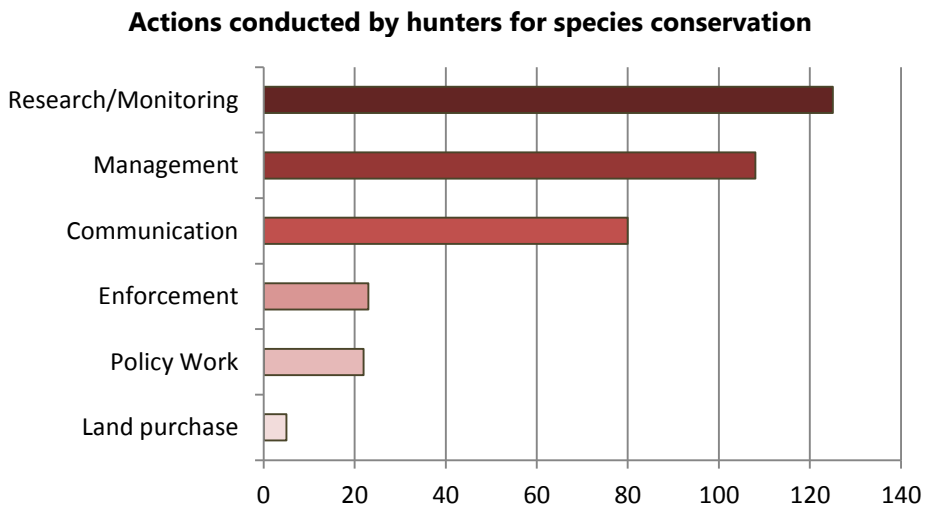
# Annexes

## ANNEX 1 – HABITATS



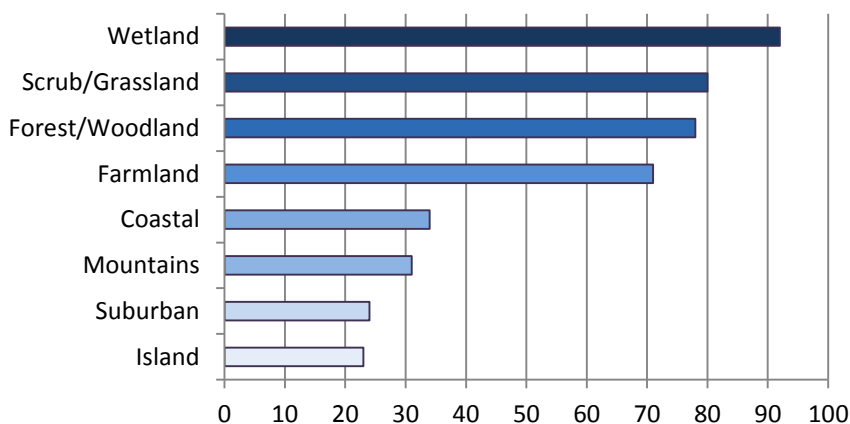
**Annex 1.1:** Number of case studies per type of habitats; one case study can be related to several habitats.

## ANNEX 2 – SPECIES



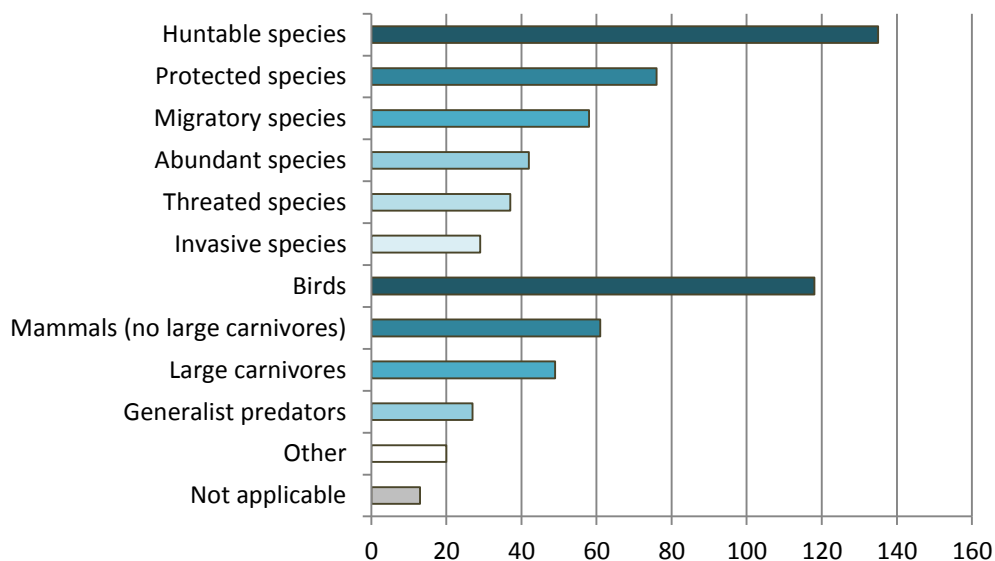
**Annex 2.1:** Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions

### Habitats engaged by hunters for species conservation



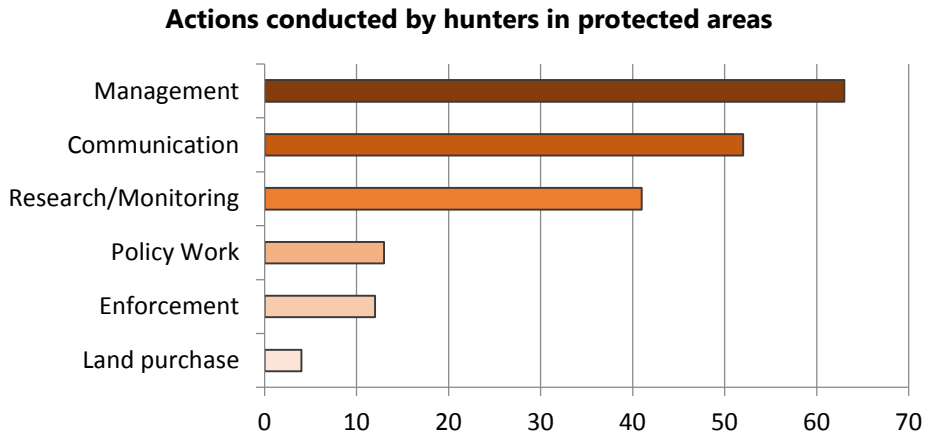
**Annex 2.2:** Number of case studies per type of habitats; one case study can be related to several habitats.

### Types of species managed by hunters

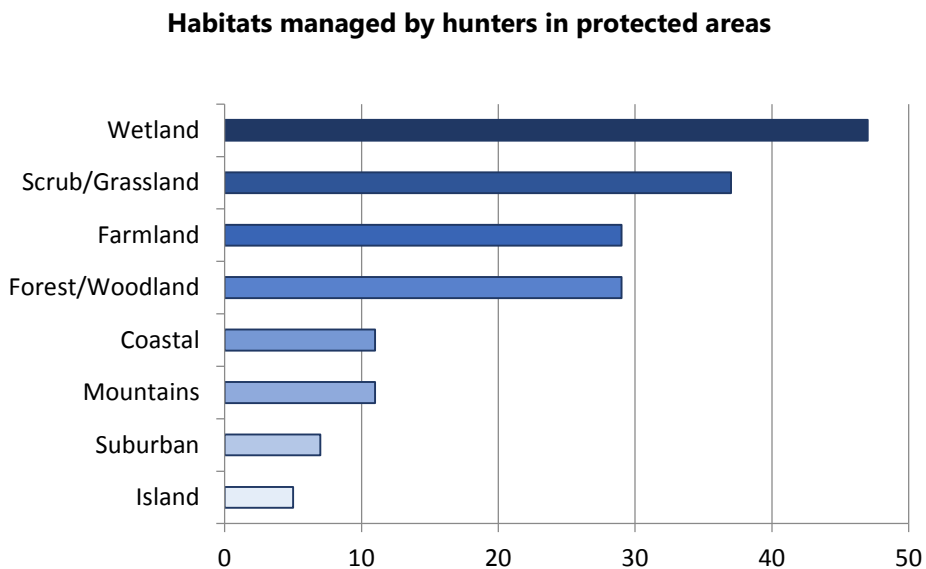


**Annex 2.3:** Number of case studies per type of species; one case study can be related to several types of species.

## ANNEX 3 – PROTECTED AREAS



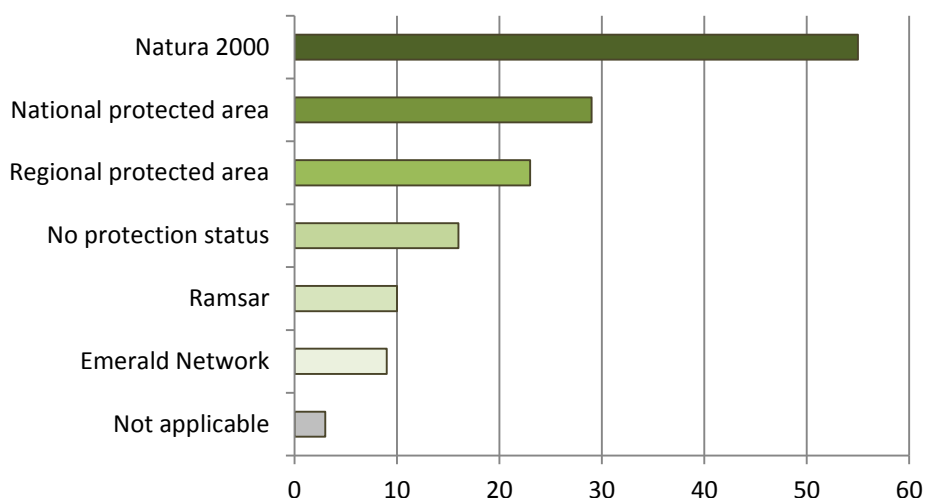
**Annex 3.1:** Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions



**Annex 3.2:** Number of case studies per type of habitats; one case study can be related to several habitats.



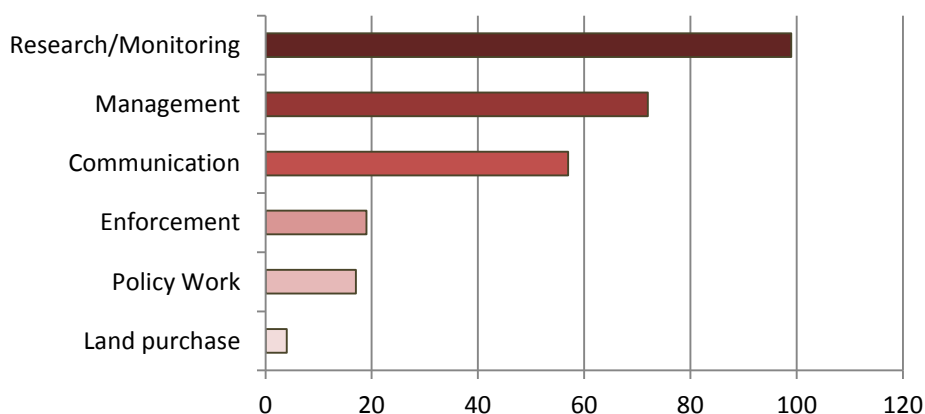
### Protection status of the areas where actions are undertaken



**Annex 3.4:** Number of case studies per area status; one case study can be conducted on several types of area.

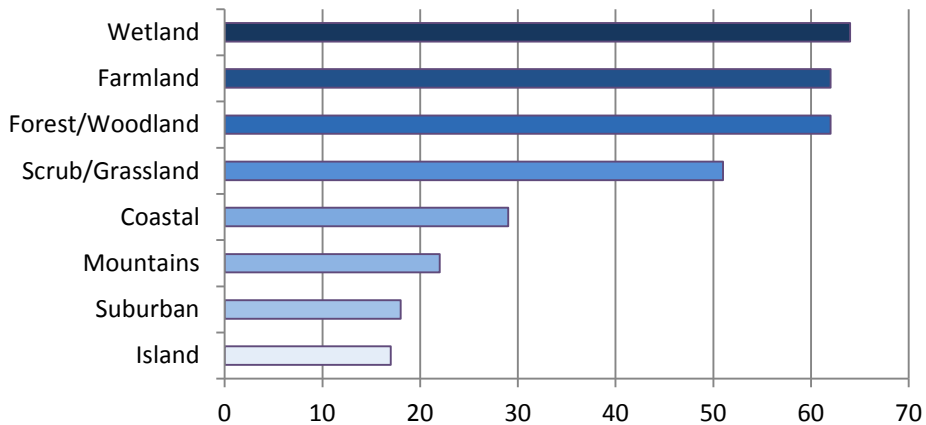
## ANNEX 4 – SUSTAINABLE USE

### Actions conducted by hunters for sustainable use



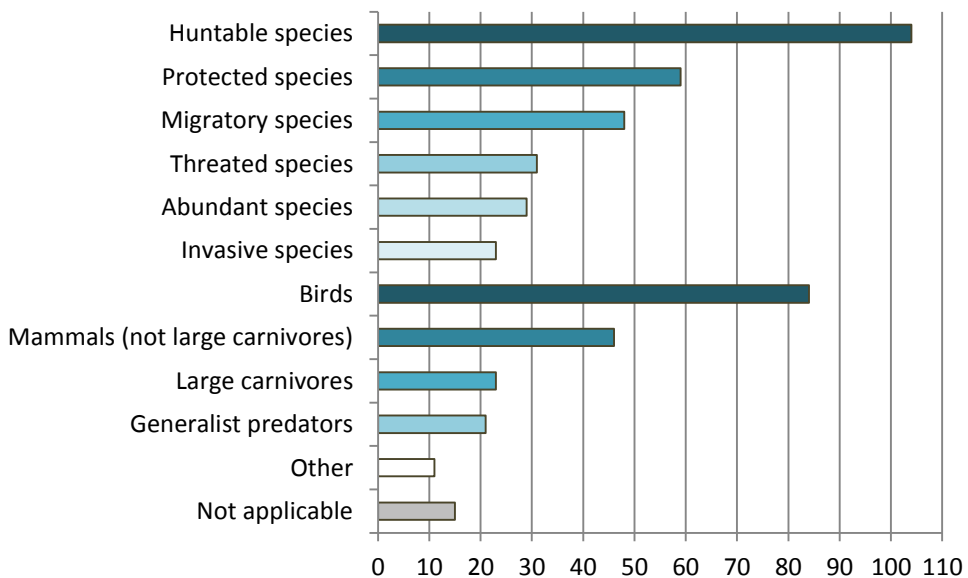
**Annex 4.1:** Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions

### Habitats engaged by hunters for sustainable use



**Annex 4.2:** Number of case studies per type of habitats; one case study can be related to several habitats

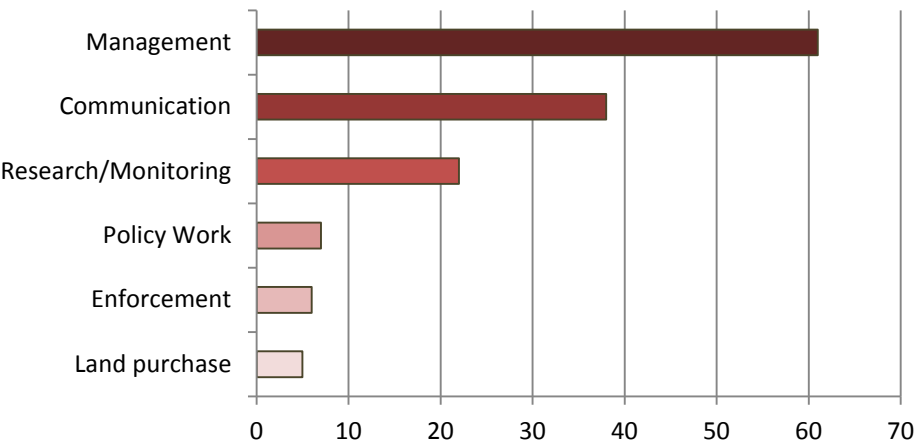
### Types of species engaged by hunters for sustainable use



**Annex 4.3:** Number of case studies per type of species; one case study can be related to several types of species.

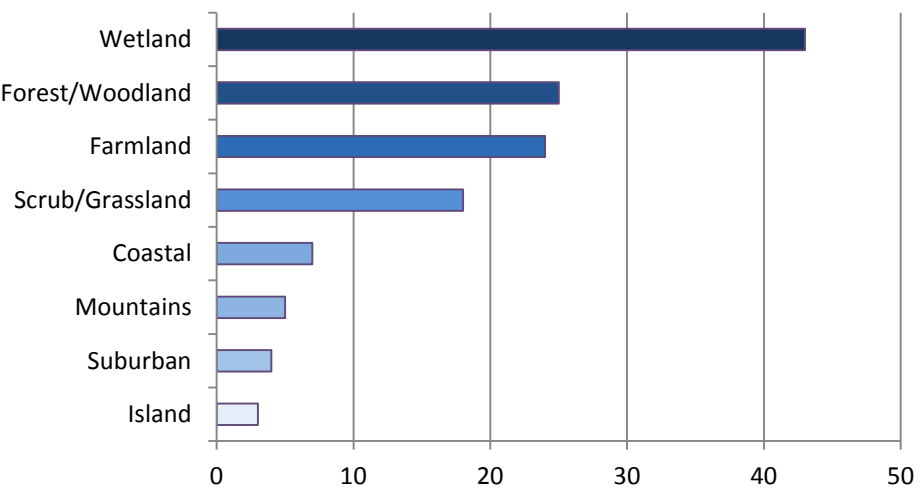
ANNEX 5 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Actions conducted by hunters for green infrastructure



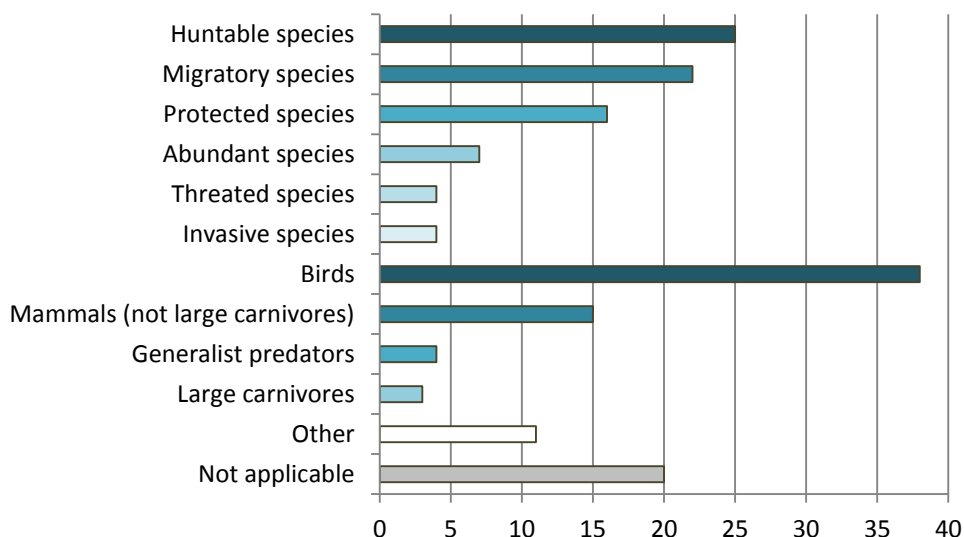
Annex 5.1: Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions

Habitats managed by hunters for green infrastructure



Annex 5.2: Number of case studies per type of habitats; one case study can be related to several habitats

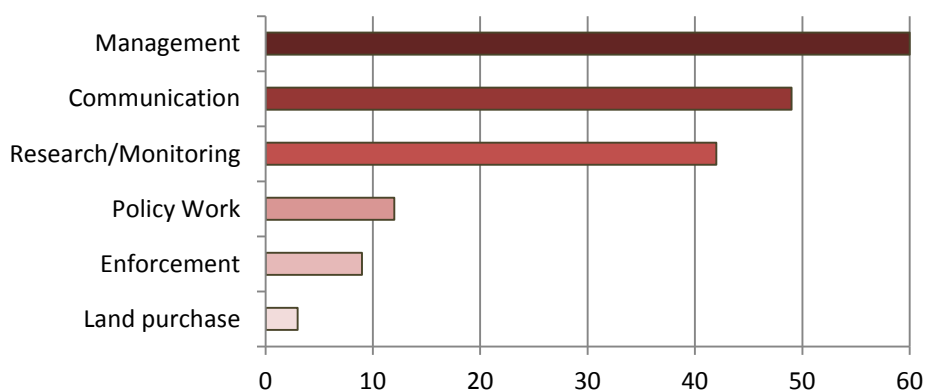
### Types of species managed by hunters for green infrastructure



**Annex 5.3:** Number of case studies per type of species; one case study can be related to several types of species

## ANNEX 6 – ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

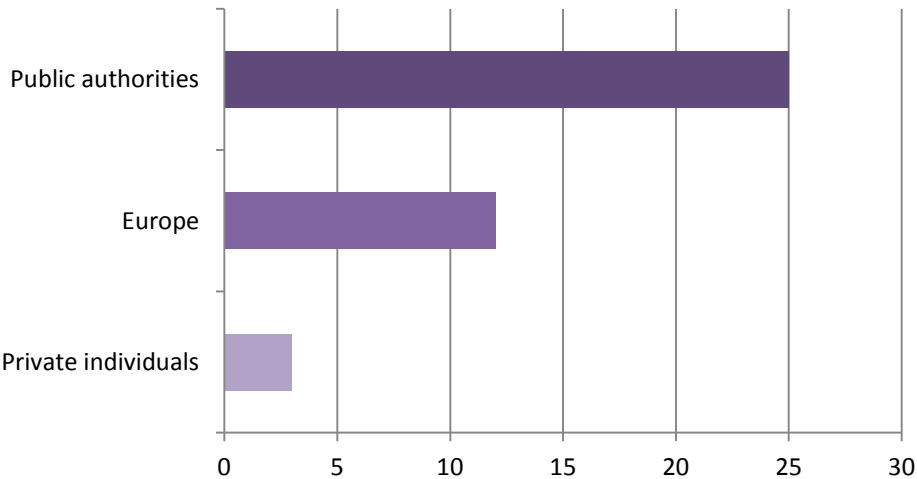
### Actions conducted by hunters for ecosystem services



**Annex 6.1:** Number of case studies per type of actions; one case study can contribute to several actions

ANNEX 7 – INVESTING IN NATURE

Financial contribution to projects (excluding hunters)



**Annex 7.1:** Number of case studies per type of financial contribution; one case study can be related to several types of financial contribution



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- **Albania** - Federata e Gjuetareve te Shqiperise
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VZW
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  - Lovački Savez Republike Srpska (LRRS)
  - Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)
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  - Országos Magyar Vadászati Védegylet
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- **United Kingdom**
  - Countryside Alliance
  - British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)



Federation of Associations for  
Hunting and Conservation of  
the EU

Rue F. Pelletier, 82  
1030 Brussels  
+32 2732 69 00

[www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)  
[www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com)