



ANNUAL REPORT

European Federation for Hunting and Conservation


2017



With the financial support of the European Commission

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FACE is the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation. Established in 1977, FACE 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 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 6 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

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

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Dear Members,

2017 was a very important and successful year for FACE. On the one hand, many important hunting topics were discussed at EU level, such as the Action Plan on the Nature Directives, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, African Swine Fever and lead in ammunition. Secondly, the new Secretary General, Ludwig Willnegger, took over the leadership of the FACE secretariat at the beginning of the year and the secretariat itself has been strengthened.

In retrospect, it can proudly be noted that lobbying and communication activities have significantly increased and that many political achievements have been reached. FACE's excellent work is also reflected in the attendance of two EU commissioners at the events at FACE's 40th anniversary. EU Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan, shared his idea on the future of agriculture at the FACE General Assembly and the EU Environment Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, delivered a keynote speech at the Hunting Intergroup conference on young hunters and biodiversity.

Pivotal to this success in Brussels is the improved cooperation between FACE Members and the FACE secretariat. Since more than 80% of the environmental and agricultural legislation originates from Brussels, it is very important to work together through the whole process, from Europe to the local region. The same should apply to communication: it is particularly important that FACE Members report more on FACE's significant work to the hunting community across Europe. Only then can FACE claim to represent 7 million hunters.

FACE also revived the cooperation with the CIC, ELO and COPA-COGECA in 2017. Cooperation with and consolidation of land users' interests is essential, given the enormous financial resources of environmental and animal welfare organisations in Europe. That is why, in order to gain more political power in the future, FACE shall continue working on the revision of the Statutes and its resources.

With a strong *Waidmannsheil*,

Dr. Michl Ebner



THE FACE SECRETARIAT

The FACE Team is based in Brussels and makes up the Secretariat.

This team combines a passion for hunting and conservation with expertise in a range of key areas to protect hunting in Europe.

2017 STAFF

SECRETARY GENERAL

Ludwig Willnegger

ADMINISTRATION

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Office and Business Manager

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CONSERVATION

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Senior Conservation Manager

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Christopher De Coen

Administrative Assistant

Johan Svalby

Director of Legal and Public Affairs

Berta Redondo

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Johanna Von Rechberg

Communication and Public Affairs Intern



FULL MEMBERS

Albania: Federata e Gjuetarëve Të Shqipërisë

Austria: Jagd Österreich

Belgium: ASBL Wallonne du Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique (RSHCB)

Belgium: Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen (HV)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lovački Savez Herceg-Bosne (LSHB)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lovački Savez Republike Srpske (LSRS)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)

Bulgaria: Съюз на ловците и риболовците в България

Croatia: Hrvatski Lovački Savez

Cyprus: Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Κυνηγίου
Και Διαθρησκείας Αγρίας Ζωής

Czech Republic: Českomoravská Myslivecká Jednota

Denmark: Danmarks Jægerforbund

Estonia: Eesti Jahimeeste Selts

Finland: Suomen Metsästäjäliitto/ Finlands Jägarförbund

France: Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs

Germany: Deutscher Jagdverband

Greece: Κυνηγική Συνομοσπονδία Ελλάδος

Hungary: Országos Magyar Vadászkamara

Hungary: Országos Magyar Vadászati Védegylet

Ireland: FACE Ireland/National Association
of Regional Game Councils

Italy: FACE Italia/ Federazione Italiana della Caccia

Latvia: Latvijas Mednieku Asociācija

Lithuania: Lietuvos Mediotojų ir Žvejų Draugija

Luxembourg: Fédération Saint-Hubert des Chasseurs
du Grand-duché de Luxembourg asbl

Malta: Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK)

Montenegro: Lovački Savez Crne Gore

Netherlands: Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagers Vereniging

Norway: Norges Jeger-og Fiskerforbund

Poland: Polski Związek Łowiecki

Portugal: Federação Portuguesa de Caça (FENCAÇA)

Romania: Asociația Generală a Vânătorilor și Pescarilor
Sportivi din România (AGVPS)

San Marino: Federazione Sammarinese della Caccia (FSdC)

Serbia: Lovački Savez Srbije

Slovakia: Slovenská Poľovnícka Komora

Slovakia: Slovenský Poľovnícky Zväz

Slovenia: Lovska zveza Slovenije

Spain: Oficina Nacional de la Caza (ONC)

Sweden: Svenska Jägareförbundet

Switzerland: JagdSchweiz / ChasseSuisse / CacciaSvizzera /
CatschaSvizra

Turkey: Türkiye Atıcılık ve Avcılık Federasyonu

United Kingdom: FACE UK/ British Association for Shooting
and Conservation (BASC)

United Kingdom: FACE UK/ Countryside Alliance

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Association Européenne de Commerce d'Armes Civiles (AECAC)

Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM)

Safari Club International (SCI)

Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)

European Bowhunting Federation (EBF)

Conservation Force

OTHER MEMBERS

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Giovanni BANA, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Jochen BORCHERT, John GARDINER, Martin HØJSGAARD, Yves LECOCQ, Torstein MOLAND, John Anthony SWIFT.

PARTNERS

European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT)

Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO)

Nordic Hunters' Alliance (NHA)

BOARD	President, M. EBNER	BUREAU
	Vice-President, Germany, V. BÖHNING	
	Vice-President, Nordic Region, C.L. CHRISTENSEN	
	Vice-President, Central Region, S. ŽERJAV	
	Treasurer General, W. SCHRAEN (until 09/2017), V. MALLISON (from 09/2017)	
	Secretary General, L. WILLNEGGER	
	Vice-President, Italy, G.L. DALL'OLIO	
	Vice-President, Baltic Region, L. DOMBROVSKA	
	Vice-President, France, A. DURAND	
	Vice-President, United Kingdom, C. GRAFFIUS Vice-President, Atlantic Region, L. HOEDEMAKER	

FACE works with its Members, partners and the EU institutions to facilitate understanding, action and information exchange through regular meetings with its Members, as well as with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

FACE is nowhere without its Members.

FACE Members encompass the expertise, knowledge, structures and influence that define hunting in Europe.



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP “BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE”



Known as the “Hunting Intergroup”, the European Parliament Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active parliamentary platforms.

With some 110 actively supporting MEPs, the Intergroup promotes the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of natural resources. FACE has provided the Secretariat for this Intergroup since 1985 while the European Landowners' Organisation serves as co-secretariat.

It tackles topics related to biodiversity, wildlife management, rural development and agriculture and discusses current subjects whilst building the bridge between civil society and decision-makers.

The activities of the Intergroup are run by a Bureau who is responsible for setting the themes and providing overall guidance. MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz is the President of the Intergroup.

“We are facing many challenges regarding biodiversity, hunting restrictions and wildlife management as well as climate change and rural development. This Intergroup serves as the key stakeholder platform within the European Parliament, enabling open cross-political discussions between decision-makers and experts, aiming to affirm the significant role of rural actors and the socio-economic importance of countryside activities.” - MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz

The Bureau is also constituted of three Vice-Presidents: MEP Renata Briano, MEP Bendt Bendtsen and MEP James Nicholson, and a Secretary General MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik.

In 2017, FACE organised five meetings of the Intergroup. Here are some highlights:

17 January 2017 - How to manage overabundant species: The example of goose management

The debate had as its main focus on how “adaptive harvest management” has advantages over traditional approaches in the conservation and management of Europe's goose populations.

Prof Jesper Madsen, from Aarhus University, Denmark: “The introduction of adaptive harvest management under the AEWA International Species Management Plan for the pink-footed goose marks a major step forward for waterbird management in Europe. For the first time, range states and stakeholders have come together to agree on an international coordination of harvest as a means to stabilise an increasing population causing damage to agriculture and a threat to vulnerable Arctic tundra vegetation. Close monitoring of population size and harvest is followed up by adjustment of harvest regulations. This ensures that the population maintains a favourable conservation status as well as the sustainability of hunting”.

7 March 2017 - The future of the Nature Directives: Where are we going?

The conference focused on the outcome of the Fitness Check of the EU Nature Directives and had a specific emphasis on how to improve implementation in the future.



MEP Renata Briano, Vice-President of the Intergroup underlined: *“The European Commission should listen to hunters and those people living in the countryside: the loss of biodiversity is one of the main environmental challenges for the EU. It is positive that the Nature Directives remain fit for purpose; we will continue the work for a better implementation, without ignoring the problems reported from the rural areas and by EU Institutions such as the European Court of Auditors. As Members of the European Parliament, we must participate in the debate and let the citizens’ voice be heard”*.

27 June 2017: Perspectives on combating illegal killing: The role of hunters

The meeting acknowledged the valuable role of hunting communities in promoting and encouraging compliance with the law as well as the need to continue to adopt a zero tolerance policy towards illegal killing.

MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz, President of the Intergroup ‘Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside’ and Chair of the meeting, stated that: *“Hunters have an important role to play in tackling illegal killing, through their involvement in enforcement activities, communication and awareness-raising”*. He added that: *“It’s important to recognise the distinction between illegitimate illegal practices and the legal sustainable use of wild resources”*.



6 September 2017 - Young hunters: Securing a future for Europe's biodiversity

Sustainable hunting is a positive force for conservation! This was one of the messages delivered by Environment Commissioner, **Karmenu Vella**. With a focus on young hunters, the conference - hosted by MEP Bendt Bendtsen at the European Parliament - set out to debate the future of hunting in an increasingly urbanised world. Panel members discussed communication strategies and how best to support the contribution of young hunters to nature conservation and wildlife management. There was widespread agreement on the need for educational programmes and activities dedicated to support young hunters.



6 September 2017 - Exhibition “Young Conservationists”

A **parallel exhibition** in the European Parliament - “**Young Conservationists**” - showcased in a visual way how European hunting associations reach out to and actively engage with young people in promoting hunting and conservation. Informative panels from different European countries and video documentaries displayed many conservation projects dedicated to the young and schoolchildren, focused on learning more about wildlife management and community-based conservation.



17 October 2017 - “Coexisting with Large Carnivores: Challenges and Solutions”

The main message emerging from the conference was that much more effective measures need to be implemented to mitigate the increasing conflicts between humans and large carnivores in Europe.

Dr. Nicola Notaro, Head of the Unit Nature protection of DG Environment (European Commission), focused on the fact that large carnivores are an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe, and the key approach to managing conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species is to develop a constructive dialogue with stakeholders, farmers, hunters and institutions. This dialogue should include the exchanging of knowledge, working together and using the tools provided within the current EU legislation and policy, which are flexible enough to be adapted to different contexts and geographical areas. He referred to the EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy as a means to achieve these actions.



MIGRATORY BIRDS

FACE was founded in 1977 by national hunting associations in Europe to take part in the process of shaping the EU Birds Directive by providing hunters' extensive knowledge of nature and the governance of hunting. A similar role was taken at international level, with FACE's involvement, together with CIC (International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation) and the OMPO institute, in the establishment of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in the 1990s. Since those early days, FACE has remained very close to its origins by engaging with these legal instruments as well as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) continuing to respond to the challenges of conserving migratory birds and ensuring sustainable hunting of these species which we cherish.

EU Action Plan on the Nature Directives published

In 2017, the European Commission published its "Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy", which was the result of the "Fitness Check" of the EU nature directives. FACE, with input from its Members, was involved in the entire Fitness Check consultation process. For migratory birds, the plan includes important actions for European hunters to be delivered by 2019 such as the updating of the 'Key concepts document'. It also foresees an evaluation of the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on biodiversity.

European Goose Management Platform

In light of recent developments relating to goose populations within Europe, there has been greater international focus on ways to conserve declining populations and address conflicts as a result of increasing goose populations across Europe.

The goose species currently covered include the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) and Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). FACE is considered as a key player with regard to the successful implementation of these plans with regard to informing the hunting community, harvest data collection and providing advice on managing populations through hunting.

In June 2017, FACE participated in the 2nd meeting of the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Goose Management Platform in Denmark. At the meeting, a decision was made for the first time in European history to share a hunting bag using 'adaptive harvest management' for a declining migratory bird species – the Taiga Bean Goose. This agreement was made between Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Barnacle Goose Management Plan

In 2017, AEWA began developing an international management plan for the Barnacle Goose in Europe. The Barnacle Goose has seen a remarkable increase of its population and is now creating many conflicts for agriculture, nature conservation and air safety. At the planning workshop in Denmark in June 2017, there was a lot of discussion on managing the Barnacle Goose at the flyway level as it is not listed in Annex II (i.e. not huntable) of the Birds Directive. The European Commission stressed that such derogations are workable under the Birds Directive by following certain criteria in the context of an international management plan. The final management plan for this species will be agreed in 2018.

Graylag Goose Management Plan

Governments, stakeholders and experts convened for the first workshop to develop the Greylag Goose international management plan in Paris in October 2017. This species has seen remarkable improvements in recent decades, mainly due to changes in agriculture practices with some populations now causing considerable conflicts in different parts of their flyways (e.g. the Netherlands).

As well as focusing on harvest, there were also broader discussions on damage compensation, mitigation and changing agricultural practices. All stakeholders expressed support for the plan and discussed how EU Member States can work with the flexibility offered within the Birds Directive. The draft plan is expected to be approved in late 2018 and should be launched for implementation in the beginning of 2019.

Species Action Planning – EuroSAP

FACE is one of 13 partners involved in this project, which is developing species action plans for 16 species.

During 2017, FACE played an important role in advising on the development of species action plans for the European Turtle Dove and Velvet Scoter as well as a multispecies action plan for wet grassland breeding waders, including: Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Ruff, Common Redshank, Baltic Dunlin, Common Snipe.



EuroSAP is a LIFE preparatory project, co-financed by the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment, by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and by each of the project partners.

Combating Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB)

For FACE, sustainable hunting is not a problem for illegal bird killing, but illegal bird killing is a problem for sustainable hunting!

In June 2017, FACE attended a two-day meeting (22-23 June 2017) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Wild Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) in Malta, to make progress towards eradicating illegal killing of birds (IKB).

The meeting was chaired by the Maltese Government and attended by over 80 participants from 24 countries in Europe, 17 of which are EU member states, 29 observer organisations that included NGOs, enforcement groups and networks and scientific organisations.

FACE has a long-standing zero tolerance policy on wildlife crime including illegal killing. Dr. David Scallan, FACE Senior Conservation Manager, who attended the meeting, delivered a presentation outlining the various activities carried out by FACE Members in the Mediterranean region in the fight against IKB. These include the involvement of hunters in voluntary enforcement, public condemnation of IKB by hunting associations, the organization of various educational initiatives and the promotion of non-binding charters, such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity.

At the meeting, Malta was referred to as a European best practice example for its progress on combatting IKB.

EU Environmental Crime Enforcement Networks Conference

In September 2017, FACE participated in the EU Environmental Enforcement Networks Conference in Oxford, UK. With a focus on wildlife crime in Europe, the conference set out to promote greater consistency in approaches to enforcement and sanctioning. The conference attracted over 150 attendees, mainly lawyers and law enforcement officials with representatives from the European Commission, EUROPOL and IMPEL. FACE was invited to deliver a presentation in a special session on illegal killing. Dr. David Scallan, FACE Senior Conservation Manager, highlighted the positive work undertaken by European hunters in tackling the illegal killing of birds and dealt with some misinformed statements, including calls for additional legislation and harmonisation. Enforcement agencies were encouraged to work more closely with hunting associations to combat illegal killing.

International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB) conference, France



In August 2017, FACE participated in the IUGB Congress in Montpellier, France. The conference was attended by over 300 participants, including several experts from within the FACE membership. FACE presented a paper with Wetlands International on “Information requirements and data availability to support adaptive harvest management in Europe”, which proposed a set of recommendations to better support international waterbirds monitoring and harvest data collection. In order to advance this topic further, FACE is undertaking research on existing bag return schemes in Europe with the aim of producing a report on best practice. FACE was also delighted to provide sponsorship for the conference, promoting our commitment to advancing science-based approaches to conservation and sustainable use.



LARGE CARNIVORES

The European hunting community is an 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. In Europe's densely populated multi-functional landscapes, humans and large carnivores need to find a way to coexist; hunters are - and must be - part of the solution.

With this in mind, FACE works at several levels and promotes large carnivore management and conservation based on scientific knowledge on populations, as well as taking into account the human dimension so as to effectively reduce conflicts.

EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

This Platform was established to promote ways and means to minimize, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species. FACE is an active partner in this initiative.

In 2017, the Platform organised regional meetings and focused developing on several initiatives including examining good practice case studies with regard to funding coexistence measures in EU Member States through the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) Rural Development fund.



FACE Large Carnivore Working Group

FACE Members encompass a great amount of knowledge and expertise for a better future for Europe's large carnivores. For large carnivore policy development and implementation – whether within a specific country, at EU or Council of Europe level – FACE ensures that it has adequate up-to-date expertise and knowledge on relevant ecological, legal and socio-economic aspects to provide expert input. FACE uses its network of large carnivore experts from all around Europe, forming the FACE Large Carnivore Working Group. This Group is instrumental in maintaining and developing FACE's knowledge base and in coordinating the FACE input for EU and other processes.

Strategic partners

Partnerships lie at the heart of all FACE work on large carnivores. Through various *fora* (such as the EU Action on large carnivores and the Rural Coalition) and bilateral exchanges, FACE collaborates extensively with the scientific expert community (e.g. the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, LCIE) and various stakeholders such as the farmers and landowners (e.g. Copa-Cogeca and ELO) and environmental NGOs (e.g. WWF).

EU Large Carnivore Platform: Regional workshops

Romania

FACE organised, together with WWF, a regional workshop in Bucharest, Romania on “Coexistence between people and large carnivores: Sharing good practice in monitoring and communication”. The workshop brought together a range of different actors involved with large carnivore management in Romania.

The workshop aimed to resolve current tensions between some stakeholders, generated in part by a decision in October 2016 by Romania’s then Minister of Environment, Water, and Forests not to issue harvest quotas for Brown Bear, Grey Wolves, Lynx, and Wildcats.



The workshop was a success: AGVPS, FACE’s member and WWF Romania, together with other stakeholders managed to reach some common ground. All stakeholders acknowledged the positive role of hunting in the management of large carnivores not only because it brings in the financial means for management, but also for the mitigation of conflicts. The stakeholders also agreed to improve the monitoring of large carnivores.

Italy

This regional workshop was organised by the European Landowners’ Organisation (ELO) and EUROPARC. The goal was to provide examples of best practice of coexistence between people and large carnivores in mountainous/alpine areas.

The meeting’s presentations focused on the role of communication in improving coexistence and provided practical examples on how to live together with large carnivores. Funding (e.g. LIFE funding, Rural Development Funds etc.) can support compensation for damages and implementing different mitigation measures, for example through different forms of fencing and the use of guard dogs. The challenge of maintaining extensive livestock grazing on open pastures, which has many conflicts with large carnivores, was also discussed.

Roderick Enzerink, FACE Wildlife Policy Officer, delivered a presentation on the conflicts between large carnivores and hunting activities, stressing the need for a better inclusion of hunters in decision-making on the management and conservation of large carnivores. One of the workshop conclusions was that the engagement of hunters and farmers is crucial for proper implementation of large carnivore management plans.

More Flexibility, says European Parliament

In November 2017, a resolution was adopted by the European Parliament on the EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy. This European Parliament Resolution reaffirms both the challenges and successes of EU nature conservation in particular with regard to large carnivores. Importantly, it acknowledges that greater flexibility and adjustment measures are required. Some large carnivore populations have been doing extremely well and, in some cases, they have already reached favourable conservation status. Ludwig Willnegger, FACE Secretary-General, stated: “Now, FACE calls on the European Commission to listen to the call of the European Parliament to develop and implement an assessment procedure to amend the level of protection for populations of certain species that have reached favourable conservation status”.

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Hunters share a passion for nature and biodiversity, because their future ability to hunt depends on it. This is why hunters engage every day right across Europe to conserve and restore nature and biodiversity.

FACE and its Members adopted the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto which reflects the active commitment made by European hunters to biodiversity conservation, ensuring the sustainability of hunting for future generations.



The Biodiversity Manifesto

The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) shows the contribution of hunting to conservation through concrete examples of initiatives undertaken by hunters through Europe, which benefit wildlife. Each year, FACE develops an implementation report to assess the progress being made in the field. The first (2015) BDM report highlighted hunters' contribution to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 through its 181 case studies. The second (2016) BDM report demonstrated hunters' contribution to implementing the EU nature directives with almost half of the 221 case studies undertaken on Natura 2000 sites. The 2017 BDM Report, based on 300 initiatives, shows hunters' contribution to the conservation of farmland habitats and species.

In 2017, FACE launched a new BDM website presenting:

- the Biodiversity Manifesto and its reports
- the initiatives gathered
- the opportunity to share your project
- documents related to hunting and conservation.

Visit www.biodiversitymanifesto.com for the best source for hunting-related conservation information in Europe.

FACE warmly welcomes new BDM initiatives. These can include habitat and species management activities, monitoring and research, awareness raising, etc. as long as it benefits biodiversity and includes hunters. Visit our website to upload your project.



- Demonstrating hunters' commitment to conservation -

Common Agricultural Policy Reform

In February 2017, the European Commission launched a major consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). FACE replied calling for a more sustainable CAP that addresses the biodiversity crisis on Europe's farmland, which is affecting the status of many hutable and non-hutable species. Most small game populations have decreased due to intense agricultural practices (dramatic loss of quality habitat and food, with poor insect abundance) and the utilisation of unsustainable agricultural production methods.

According to FACE, the next CAP post 2020 should reward farmers for producing food and ecosystem services whatever the scale, thereby providing multiple benefits for farmers and society at large. For hunters, this means that the next CAP should play a more positive role with regard to the conservation of small game species, which require a diversity of farmland habitats. Hunters and farmers have a role to play and partnership between both parties is important.

It has become evident that current Greening measures do not have a significant positive impact on farmland biodiversity. Furthermore, they can often represent an additional administrative burden for farmers and authorities. In this context, FACE is asking for a new Greening instrument in the next CAP to ensure agriculture's coherence with other existing EU policies such as the nature directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, etc.

Biodiversity Strategy

Agriculture

FACE expert group on Agriculture and Land Use

In March 2017, FACE held a meeting of its expert group on Agriculture and Land Use to discuss the consultation on the future design of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020. The meeting agreed on a number of key action points including:

- The development of a FACE position paper on CAP post-2020.
- Guidance for FACE Members on optimising future national Rural Development Programmes for hutable species/hunters in Europe.
- The provision of information for FACE Members regarding what flexibility can be used by Member States with regard to ensuring the conservation of ecological features and farmland habitats.



FACE's input into the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

During 2017, FACE developed its position on the next CAP and responded to the European Commission's public consultation stating that the European agricultural policy should:

- Reward farmers for producing food and ecosystem services whatever the scale, thereby providing multiple benefits for farmers and society at large. For hunters, this means that the next CAP should play a more positive role with regard to the conservation of small game species, which require a diversity of farmland habitats.
- Encourage and help farmers to better respond to the multiple environmental and often competing market demands.
- Incentivise habitat restoration while, at the same time, provide economic security to farm families.
- Contribute better to the EU's international commitments on biodiversity conservation and to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.
- Provide flexibility for Member States to adapt their land eligibility requirements to local and regional land use conditions and characteristics (i.e. to support the diversity of Europe's countryside).

Natura 2000

The Natura 2000 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. The 2016 Implementation Report of the Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) shows the scale of hunters management in Natura 2000 sites: half of the case studies gathered since 2013 are in Natura 2000 sites. This demonstrates how sustainable hunting is 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. 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 hunters' support.

Natura 2000 Seminars of the Biogeographical Process

The Natura 2000 Seminars are part of the European Commission's Biogeographical Process which was established to encourage multi-stakeholder co-operation towards better implementation of the Nature Directives. The Biogeographical process meetings represent a good opportunity for FACE and other rural actors to exchange views and good practices about the management of Natura 2000 sites and issues related to implementation of the Nature Directives.



2nd Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar

FACE participated in the 2nd Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar of the Biogeographical process, which took place in June 2017 in Padova, Italy. Topics of interest included a workshop dedicated to better involve stakeholders in Natura 2000 site management. In this context, FACE referred to the 100 hunting-related conservation projects within Natura 2000 sites listed in the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto.

2nd Mediterranean Natura 2000 Seminar

On the 14-16 November 2017, FACE participated in the 2nd Mediterranean Natura 2000 Seminar in Limassol, Cyprus. FACE highlighted the need to actively involve hunters in the designation and management of Natura 2000 sites. Monia Anane, FACE Conservation Policy Officer, encouraged the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process to take the lead by pushing governments to better engage rural stakeholders such as hunters, farmers, fishermen and foresters in these meetings in order to ensure the success of the Natura 2000 Network.



The Natura 2000 Users Forum

The Natura 2000 Users' Forum brings together FACE, the foresters (the Confederation of European Forest Owners, CEPF), farmers (Copa-Cogeca), anglers (European Anglers' Alliance, EAA) and landowners (European Landowners' Organisation, ELO). Our organisations represent the major environmental, socio-economic and socio-cultural activities linked to rural areas – the areas which host the largest proportion of biodiversity in the EU. Together we represent over 45 million EU citizens which own, manage, use and conserve land. The Forum has proven to be a powerful platform to address EU policy-makers with joint and coherent messages from Europe's land users.



INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

FACE actively participates in key International Agreements, providing relevant expertise, coordination, synergies and awareness in collaboration with its partners and members. In this way, FACE is informed about and involved in all international conservation decisions. This also provides a way for FACE to raise the international profile of hunters as conservationists, as well as finding ways of working with other conservationists.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

As an environmental treaty, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS brings together the countries through which migratory species pass and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

In 2017 FACE attended different expert meeting of the CMS, including the Scientific Council meetings (where decisions are prepared) and the Conference of Parties (COP) where decisions are taken.



FACE participation at the CMS COP (23-28 October 2017), Manila, Philippines

Mammal Updates

FACE, together with associate members Safari Club International and Safari Club International Foundation, participated in the Terrestrial Mammals for the CMS's COP. The most important and most contentious issue were the listing proposals for Lion, Giraffe and Leopard. FACE objected to these proposals, on the grounds that these are not migratory species in line with the text of the Convention and would be unlikely to benefit from CMS listing. FACE also believes that the Convention's



limited resources should be prioritised on more pressing conservation problems.

During the discussions, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Tanzania rejected the listing of these species. For Appendix II listing under CMS, the migratory status should be defined based on the characteristics of cyclical and predictable movements of a significant proportion of the population, across one or more national borders.

It was highlighted that certain species are even increasing in some regions, in particular, when hunting and well-managed sustainable use are in place (e.g. for Lion and Giraffe), while other regions have seen major declines. With regard to the need for transboundary cooperation, the point was clearly made that the local, regional and/or national threats (e.g. habitat degradation, decline of prey) should be addressed on the appropriate scale, and that certain transfrontier conservation areas already exist to accommodate international cooperation.

For the first time in CMS history, listing proposals were not adopted by consensus by Governments. During the discussions, it became clear that consultation with range states was lacking and that a much more comprehensive assessment by the CMS Scientific Council was needed. FACE stressed its full commitment to cooperate further in such discussions.



Avian Updates: Poisoning and illegal killing of birds

At the CMS COP, Dr David Scallan, FACE Senior Conservation Manager and Dr Matt Ellis, BASC Scientific Advisor and Chair of the FACE Ammunition Working Group, participated in the CMS Conference of Parties Avian Working Group meetings, which dealt with the risk of poisoning to migratory birds from lead ammunition and combating the illegal killing of birds.

During the meeting, both FACE and BASC urged CMS Parties and observers to ensure a science-based and proportionate approach to managing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds from lead ammunition. Both organisations also asked CMS to continue regularly consulting key stakeholders, including government agencies, relevant industries and hunting and fishing organisations.

At the conference, the Governments voted to support the formation of a new Lead Task group under the existing CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group. The original Resolution called for a CMS Lead Task Force, but this was rejected. The Task group will serve as a way to focus on knowledge and information sharing, including communication, education and public awareness raising with regard to minimising the poisoning of migratory birds from anthropogenic sources of lead, prioritising ammunition and fishing weights. FACE will be actively involved in this Task Group going forward.

On the illegal killing of birds, FACE welcomed the ongoing practical responses by several Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments in advancing work on the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, in particular, the recent enhanced Task Force in the Mediterranean region. FACE will continue to actively support such processes to demonstrate and promote the active role of Europe's 7 million hunters in combating the illegal killing of birds.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (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 183 Parties, including the 28 EU Member States. During the Conferences of the Parties (CoPs), held every 3 years, the EU speaks with one voice and votes as a block. The latest meeting was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2016.

Next CITES CoP

CITES CoP18 will be held in Sri Lanka in 2019. FACE and its partners will continue to work to ensure that the overall positive recognition of hunting and sustainable will be reinforced at the next CoP18.

Dinner debate on CITES, European Parliament

To create a platform for discussion on CITES, FACE and the Safari Club International (SCI) jointly organised a dinner debate in the European Parliament in 2017. The subject of the debate was the CITES, with a focus on the role of trophy hunting in conservation. The evening provided a lively debate on these topics from members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, representatives of Zambia and Namibia and different stakeholders, including the leadership of SCI's International

Affairs and Development Committee, FACE, the Wildlife Conservation Society and CIC.



The importance of hunting in Africa as a form of sustainable use was echoed at the dinner debate. Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) was presented as a perfect example of how the use of natural resources, e.g. trophy hunting and/or other economic activities, can create tangible incentives for communities living with wildlife. In the end: the rural people living with the wildlife are the custodians of the natural resources.



CITES Animals Committee meeting

In July 2017, FACE attended the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). This was the first meeting after the Conference of Parties (CoP), which FACE attended in Johannesburg the previous year. This meeting sets the priorities for the coming cycle of meetings, culminating in CoP 18 in Sri Lanka. The AC gives scientific input in all the processes involving animal species.

The meeting was attended by a wide range of government experts and NGOs, including many animal rights organisations that are interested in using CITES to restrict a range of sustainable use activities. At the meeting, participants discussed which species will be reviewed, for example, in their listing in the Appendices or regarding the sustainability of their trade.

69th meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES

FACE attended the 69th Standing Committee meeting of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES) from 27 November to 2 December 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting discussed the decisions taken during the Conference of Parties in 2016 and the work to implement them. At the meeting, it was decided that Mozambique was allowed to re-start the hunting of Hippopotamus



again and there were important discussions on Elephants, Lions and developing new rules of procedure for the Convention.

FACE is following developments under CITES carefully to ensure that this legal agreement continues to promote conservation through sustainable use, which is becoming increasingly contested. Further, decisions under CITES can have major implications on the trade of hunting trophies and other wild species.

Bern Convention

From 5 to 8 December 2017, Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention gathered in Strasbourg for the 37th annual meeting of its Standing Committee. Experts and NGO representatives, including FACE, joined national delegates to discuss the outcomes of activities implemented throughout 2017, in particular on the control of invasive alien species (IAS), the eradication of illegal killing of birds, the relation between biodiversity and climate change, and the management of protected areas.

On IAS, FACE was pleased to see that its second report on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS was adopted. This work is based on information gathered from 10 European countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom). It represents a





more comprehensive assessment of the first implementation report, which was based on data from six countries in 2014.

FACE, together with other partners and experts, developed the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS, which was adopted by the Bern Convention in 2013. This document presents seven principles that hunters and hunting associations should follow in order to contribute to IAS and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

AIHTS: Better implementation needed by EU Member States

Under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), traps used for certain AIHTS-listed species need to be evaluated using approved testing standards and must subsequently be certified as meeting the AIHTS welfare requirements.

EU Member States had until July 2016 to prohibit the use of traps not certified in accordance with the standards of the Agreement (for AIHTS species). However, most Member States have not achieved this. FACE wants to see more progress being made in implementing this agreement.

In 2018, it is EU's turn to host the next AIHTS Joint Management Committee meeting where the contracting parties – Canada, the EU and Russia – will likely meet to report on implementation. The European Commission will likely increase its efforts to promote implementation of the agreement in the EU before that meeting. In this context, FACE Members should continue discussing this topic with their respective Government agencies and encourage implementation at national level.

See the FACE website for our position tapping, further information on AIHTS, and our work on best practice trapping guidelines for Raccoon Dog, Muskrat, Red Fox, European pine marten and Eurasian beaver.





FIREARMS & AMMUNITION

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.



New EU restriction on the use of lead in shot over wetlands

In 2017, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) launched its public consultation on its restriction on the use of lead in shot over wetlands. Although FACE supports the phasing out of lead shot over wetlands, we identified key issues with ECHA's approach including the (very broad) definition of a wetland, a ban on possession of lead shot and a short phase out period for countries with no restrictions in place. FACE will be carefully following ECHA's opinion development in 2018.

Lead Ammunition on the agenda of the 2nd Meeting of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group

On the 20-21 February 2017, FACE attended the 2nd Meeting of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Preventing Poisoning Working Group in Toledo, Spain. For FACE, the main focus was to ensure that the proposed CMS Lead Task Force, which emerged from CMS Resolution 11.15 and its Guidelines, is balanced in its design and working approach. FACE Members will be aware that CMS's Guidelines (adopted in 2014) called for all CMS Parties to phase out lead ammunition over all habitats by 2017, but it provided flexibility for Parties to decide how or whether to implement it. Thus far, very little progress has been made by CMS Parties.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – Conference of Parties, Manila, October 2017

In October 2017, over 100 Governments voted to support the formation of a new CMS Lead Task Group. This is a way to focus on knowledge and information sharing, including communication, education and public awareness raising with regard to minimising the poisoning of migratory birds from anthropogenic sources of lead, prioritising ammunition and fishing weights.

During the CMS meeting, FACE urged CMS Parties and observers to ensure a science-based and proportionate approach to managing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds from lead ammunition. FACE also asked CMS to continue regularly consulting key stakeholders, including government agencies, relevant industries and hunting and fishing organisations with regard to the risks associated. FACE will be actively involved in this Task Group going forward.

European Parliament approves revised Firearms Directive

In March 2017, the European Parliament (EP) approved the revision of the EU Firearms Directive.

The provisional agreement on the revision of the EU Firearms Directive - which was agreed during the trilogue meetings, between European Parliament, the Council and European Commission - sets out the conditions under which private persons may lawfully acquire and possess firearms or transfer them to another EU Member State. This agreement was previously approved by the EP Internal Market Committee on 26 January 2017.

During 2016 and 2017, FACE worked intensively and collaborated with many MEPs to amend the text and remove unjustified restrictions in the European Commission's proposals on the directive, bringing significant changes and achieving a more balanced text.

FACE will now focus on the transposition of the EU legislation into national laws and will assist and support hunting associations to ensure a smooth implementation without unnecessary burdens and obstacles for hunters, owners and manufacturers of firearms.



Hunters monitor the health status of animals living in the wild (e.g. African 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, hunters are key partners of European (EU) and international (World Organisation for Animal Health -OIE) initiatives against transmissible diseases (zoonosis).

FACE ensures EU policies are workable for hunters in the field and provides guidance to hunters on how best to comply with administrative procedures linked to game meat, animal welfare, public and animal health. FACE participates in the meetings of the European Commission's Animal Health Advisory Committee.

Avian Flu: Hunters as watchdogs for the health of wildlife

In 2017, FACE disseminated information on the spread of avian flu. FACE urged Europe's 7 million hunters to remain alert, scale-up surveillance and report any suspected cases (of sick or dead birds) to national authorities. FACE was advising hunting organisations to:

- Continue to monitor avian flu surveillance programmes and keep up with other developments as they occur;
- Continue to inform their members about avian flu and the need to exercise caution when handling birds.

Those in contact with wild birds should take appropriate hygiene precautions when handling wild birds. For example:

- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Vigorous hand washing should take place after each activity; thoroughly clean knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.
- All game should be thoroughly cooked.

It is important to note that it has not been demonstrated that hunting contributes to spreading the disease. Further, hunting restrictions would remove a key method of surveillance across Europe.

African Swine Fever: Hunters role for the health of all animals

In 2017, FACE followed all updates with regards to the spread and management of African Swine Fever (ASF). FACE worked together with different stakeholders on this topic (governments, veterinary services, representatives of farm industry, food agencies and national hunting associations). FACE urged Europe's 7 million hunters to remain alert, scale-up surveillance and report any suspected cases (of sick or dead wild boar) to national authorities. FACE also contributed to the development of joint recommendations on African Swine Fever after the

two-day training course on the surveillance of wildlife diseases in Pravets, Bulgaria on 18 and 19 December 2017.

FACE advises hunting organisations to:

- Continue to monitor African Swine Fever within wild boar populations and keep up with other developments as they occur;
- Continue to inform their members about African Swine Fever and the need to take into account strict biosecurity measures when handling wild boar in any affected regions or risk zones.

It is important to understand that the question is not whether African Swine Fever will get to you, but WHEN! Francesco Berlingieri from the European Commission, DG SANTE, warned all to prepare now as the war is coming and that raising awareness is crucial!

Animal Health and Welfare Working Group

In 2017, FACE reactivated its Animal Welfare and Health Working Group. Members of the working group were kept informed about FACE's participation at meetings of the EU Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health.

The meeting in November 2017 focused on the revision of official controls in food of animal origin. The purpose of the meeting was to provide stakeholders with an update on the revision of official controls on food of animal origin (replacing Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) and to collect

views of stakeholder organisations.

This was an important meeting where FACE discussed the use of derogations within Reg. 854/2004 which would allow hunters to skin carcasses themselves and then to sell it to small/local butchers and artisans who are sometimes not willing to work with carcasses with skin and/or fur.

The European Commission referred to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 whereby a derogation is possible but it requires Member States to establish national rules for this situation.

The second meeting in November 2017 provided an update on the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, which started working on 24 January 2017. The focus of the platform is not on wild animals, but domestic and, in particular, farm animals. As hunting dogs are covered in this platform, FACE will keep following the issues.

ECMA dog collars

The 3rd meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee, which is the working group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health, was held in December 2017 in Brussels. The objective of this meeting was to inform interested parties about the latest developments on areas related to animal health and welfare.



HUNTING METHODS AND CULTURE

The strength of hunting lies in its diversity. FACE actively supports the rich diversity of hunting methods, traditions and cultures in Europe whilst fully promoting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, which defer decisions and their application to national levels. Our partners in this work include the International Union of Hunting with Hounds, the European Bowhunting Federation (EBF), the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and the European Association for Regional Hunting Traditions (AECT) to name a few.

Championship of bird singing imitation, Sacile (Italy)

In August 2017, FACE was invited by Pro Sacile, the municipality of Sacile and the European Association for Regional Hunting Traditions (AECT) to the championship of bird singing imitation in Sacile, Italy. The competition took place during the famous 744th Sagra dei Osei, the festival of birds. For many generations, incredibly talented competitors from France, Spain and Italy participate each year at this competition and perpetuate the tradition. FACE supports regional and traditional hunting activities throughout Europe as important aspects of deeply rooted cultural heritage. FACE will be further highlighting traditional hunting in 2018 - the year of Cultural Heritage in Europe.



Falconry becomes legal in Denmark

FACE is delighted that falconry was made legal in Denmark in 2017. This is great news for FACE, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey and *Dansk Falkejagt Klub* who have been working on this for many years.

Falconry is practiced throughout the world and has a long-standing record of success in a wide range of conservation-related areas. Falconers actively engage in research, rehabilitation of birds of prey, education and awareness-raising, habitat creation and management for prey species and birds of prey, raptor population monitoring, combatting illegal killing and taking of raptors, as well as raptor translocation and reintroduction projects. Some popular ongoing projects lead by falconers include www.sakernet.org and www.perdixnet.org

Aside from its conservation role, falconry has a rich cultural heritage and has contributed significantly to language and arts, and in developing a scientific understanding in ornithology, wildlife and the natural world. Falconry is recognised by the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, with UNESCO inscription in 19 countries.

The International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), which represents falconry, works closely with FACE through a Memorandum of Understanding. Last year, IAF successfully proposed a motion, supported by FACE, to the IUCN World Congress in 2016 - 003 - *Preventing electrocution and collision impacts of power infrastructure on birds*. The motion was supported by 15 co-sponsors including 3 national government members.



FACE delivers cost-effective support to its Members. This represents great value for European hunters considering the extent of 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 FACE offers cost-effective and transparent management of finances to its members and partners, generating maximum impact with limited expenditure.

While the core funding of FACE comes from the Memberships fees, a portion of FACE's budget is also financed by the European Commission's Directorate Environment through LIFE NGO Funding.



TRANSPARENCY

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

FINANCES

PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2017

INCOME

Membership fees - Full Members	687.334 €
Membership fees - Associate Members	24.971 €
LIFE NGO Grant	156.825 €
Subsidies (ECMA)	18.000 €
Subsidies (ESFAM)	15.500 €
LIFE NGO Grant	156.825 €
Subsidies (ECMA)	18.000 €
Subsidies (ESFAM)	15.500 €
Project Funding (Eurosap)	4.545 €
Sponsorship (FACE Anniversary)	3.750 €
Office rental (IAF)	2.500 €
Financial income	4.275 €
Extraordinary income - Recovery from past years	8.420 €
Extraordinary income - Gain from sale of offices	351.030 €
Total	1.277.151 €

EXPENDITURE

Premises	53.560 €
Consumables	7.330 €
Administration	55.510 €
Work programme costs	120.581 €
President costs	7.729 €
Staff missions	50.398 €
Staff costs	516.573 €
Depreciation (annual liability)	18.487 €
Holiday pay (annual liability)	10.324 €
Extraordinary charges - Loss on past years	14.626 €
Extraordinary charge - Loss on 2017 income	84.582 €
Total	939.700 €









SUPPORT HUNTER RIGHTS IN EUROPE !

FACE is the European Federation of Hunting and Conservation.
Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters.
Work with us to ensure hunting remains good for hunters, society and nature.

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