

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity



What is a Charter?

- **”A formal statement of the rights of a country's people, or of an organization or a particular social group, which is agreed by or demanded from a ruler or government” – Cambridge Dictionary**

What is a Charter?

- A charter considers governmental responsibilities (=citizen rights), not only citizen responsibilities.



Scope

This Charter addresses hunting by resident and non-resident hunters

as a consumptive, recreational, and sustainable form of utilisation and management of game species of birds and terrestrial mammals in Europe,

in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979).

Purpose

- This Charter provides a set of guidelines for both governments and stakeholders regarding common principles and good practices for the consumptive, sustainable use of wildlife in Europe in ways that promote conservation of biodiversity.

Purpose

- Charter guidelines are based upon our commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as advised by the:
 - Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (AAPG) for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
 - Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach.

Hunting Charter Goals

- Goal 1: The Charter presents a set of principles and guidelines to ensure the sustainability of wild resource utilisation in Europe, especially through hunting.
- Goal 2: The Charter recommends guidelines for sustainable hunting tourism in Europe to implement those principles.
- Goal 3: The Charter also recommends best practices for European hunters with regard to conduct, proficiency, safety and ethics.

Hunting Charter Objectives

3 sections:

- Sustainable Hunting
- Hunting Tourism
- Standards for European hunters

Sustainable hunting

Charter objectives:

- provides guidelines for sustainable hunting practices within the context of the conservation of biodiversity;
- encourages hunter involvement in monitoring, research and biodiversity restoration;
- promotes cooperation between stakeholders in biodiversity management (landowners, conservationists, government agencies, hunter's organisations).

Hunting tourism

Charter objectives:

- seeks to ensure the sustainability of hunting tourism;
- promotes forms of hunting tourism that provide local communities with economic incentives to conserve wildlife and biodiversity;
- recommends a code of conduct for tour operators and European hunters that engage their services;

Standards for European hunters

Charter objectives:

- encourages hunter education and information measures;
- promotes safe and sound hunting practices;
- promotes measures which increase proficiency in the use of firearms and traps;
- emphasises the need for hunters to be knowledgeable about wildlife (including non-game) species and their requirements, as well as the basic principles regarding biodiversity conservation.

The Approach

- Application of AAPG and Malawi principles.
- Integration of relevant EU and international policy regarding hunting, biodiversity and eco-tourism.
- Input from an appointed Working Group.
- Synthesis into Charter principles and guidelines.

Three pillars of sustainability

- **Ecological: Use that sustains biodiversity.**
- **Social: Use that sustains public acceptability & animal welfare.**
- **Economic: Use that motivates local communities to conserve.**

Bern Charter: Hunting & Biodiversity

- **Charter: rulers + ruled (multi-level governance)**
- **Based on Malawi Principles(12) + Addis Ababa(14)**
- **Synthesis to 12 simple principles, e.g.:**
 1. **Favour multi-level governance that maximises benefit for conservation and society**
 2. **Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected**
 3. **Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable**

Bern Charter: Hunting & Biodiversity

- 4. Maintain wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools**
- 5. Maintain environments that support healthy and robust populations of harvestable species**
- 6. Encourage use to provide economic incentives for conservation**
- 7. Ensure that harvest is properly utilised and wastage avoided**
- 8. Empower local stakeholders and hold them accountable**

Bern Charter: Hunting & Biodiversity

- 9. Competence and responsibility are desirable among users of wild resources**
- 10. Minimise avoidable suffering by animals**
- 11. Encourage cooperation between all stakeholders in management of harvested species, associated species and their habitats**
- 12. Encourage acceptance of sustainable and consumptive use as a conservation tool by the public and other conservation interests**

(<http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/sub/europe.htm>)

What does the Charter do?

- **Formal recognition by the BC of the importance of hunting as a tool in biodiversity conservation.**
- **Places hunting within the context of the CBD sustainability principles.**
- **Gives equal weight to the governing and the governed regarding responsibilities and expectations.**
- **Positive focus on the benefits of hunting and the responsibilities of hunters regarding conservation of wildlife species and their habitats.**

What does the Charter do?

- **Highlights the need for systematic monitoring and hunter involvement in conservation and sustainable management.**
- **Addresses the complex issue of hunting tourism, with regard to economic, socio-cultural and ecological sustainability.**
- **Integrates issues of conduct and proficiency within the context of sustainability. Animal welfare and hunter ability are given high priority.**

What does the Charter do?

- **Builds TRUST!**

Recognition

- **Recognised by IUCN WCC Barcelona 2008**
- **Concept Stimulates debate in other regions/sectors (e.g. South Africa)**
- **Serves as example for European Charter on Angling**

Thank you!

