Present situation of Hunting and hunters organization in Slovakia

Imrich Šuba

2.4.2009 Židlochovice - FAO

Laws and regulations

Game Management:
Hunting law 23/1962 and regulations and acts
- Conservation of game as natural wealth
- Conservation of biological diversity
- Conservation of geographical diversity and stability of habitat

Law 543/2002 of natural protection
Firearm law 190/2004
Law of civil organizations 83/1990

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Statistic data from Slovakias hunting areas 2000 – 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Slovak state forestry</th>
<th>Other state organizations</th>
<th>Rented areas of o. n. org</th>
<th>Rented areas of units SHU</th>
<th>Other rented areas</th>
<th>Sumary of hunting areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>1772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1419</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1356</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>1792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1346</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>1818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>136</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1826</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Slovak Hunting Union

- As a civil association by course of the Law No. 83/90 Coll., associated:
- 55,450 members
- 1,097 candidates
- 1,100 members of youth clubs of hunting

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SHU administratively divided into nowadays structure

- 57 district or regional unit
- 42 dog rearing clubs, The Slovak Falconary Club, The Club of Slovak Hunting History, Club of nature photographers
- 1340 hunting clubs (groups)
- The membership has increased for approx. 10 thousand members to contemporary 55,500 members
- Hunting area of Slovakia - 4,441,407 ha
- Hunting area rented by units of SHU - 3,251,532 ha
- 73% from all hunting area of Slovakia

Members of SHU 2002 – 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2002</td>
<td>54010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2003</td>
<td>54235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2004</td>
<td>53923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2005</td>
<td>53885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2006</td>
<td>54849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.12.2007</td>
<td>55450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
■ Situation till 1993

- The hunting right belonged to an owner of the using rights
- People who executed the hunting right obligatory associated in the united hunting organization - SHU
- SHU together with state administration, actively participated in the hunting management
- Hunting grounds were usually at the optimum area of 1000 – 2000 ha and more
- The stock of game were, excepted of small game, above the level of the standard proprietary stock
- Slovakia belonged among the European countries with best trophy quality
- The stock of the big carnivores were preserved and developed
Negatíve impact of the Amendment from 1993

- Lowering of the area of the hunting grounds
- Lowering of the game stock and decrease of its trophy quality
- Rescinded the obligatory membership in SHU
- Caused of the disciplinary authority of SHU towards those people who execute the hunting rights
- Authority has removed under the control of the state administration which has also brought the noticeable release of discipline with the consequent negative impact on the stock of game
- Expiration of the obligatory organisation within the SHU obstructs the coordination of the full area, especially in the application of the game sanitary measurement
- Unfortunately, this Amendment has negatively influenced the hunting

The best results of rearing of Slovak hunting

The highest trophy quality of Slovakia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Hunter</th>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Points CIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red deer</td>
<td>Grežo M.</td>
<td>Bojnice</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>249,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallow deer</td>
<td>Janík J.</td>
<td>Svodín</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>215,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roe deer</td>
<td>Méhes Z.</td>
<td>Žulov dvor</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>214,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouflon</td>
<td>Gibl J.</td>
<td>Bohunice</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>245,55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trend of main game species in Slovakia

Plan of hunting and realized bag of red deer 1966-2007
Plan and realized bag of roe deer 1966-2007

Plan and realized bag of fallow deer 1966-2007
Development of stock and distribution of bear population in Slovakia

Development of stock and distribution of wolf population in Slovakia
Negatives of changes after 1993

- Renovation of privat landownership (mean owning 0.45 ha)
  - desintegration of hunting areas
- decrease of impact of state to hunting
  - decrease of hunters discipline
    - of game stock
    - of game populations
    - Problems with sexual structure
- New NGO's where found (radical and „dark greens“)
  - Decrease of acceptance of hunting in general public

Impact to hunters organization SHU

- Rescinded a compulsory membership in HQ
- decrease of the disciplinary authority of SHU towards those people who execute the hunting rights
- Authority has removed under the control of the state administration which has no enough capacity with the consequent negative impact on the stock of game
Protected areas based on national legislation

- Act No. 543/2002 Coll.
  - 9 national parks
    - 594 200 ha
  - 14 protected landscape areas
    - 525 547 ha
  - 1 086 small areas of special protection (nature reserves)
    - 112 302 ha

**Protected areas cover 23.3% of Slovak area**
(total area of Slovakia is 4 903 500 ha)

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Protected areas based on EU legislation

  - 38 bird territories
  - Total area 1 236 545 ha (25.23% territory of Slovakia)

- Directive 92/43/EEC on conservation of natural habitats of wild flora and fauna (Habitats Directive)
  - 382 territories
  - Total area 574 745 ha (11.72% territory of Slovakia)
Average area of birds territory of EU - 25

Average size of bird area in km2
Now we have two systems of nature protection

National system – 23.3%

Birdlife territory – 25.2%
Habitats territory – 11.7%

When NATURA 2000 will be completed, nearly 40% of total Slovak territory will be under some kind of protection
Protected areas and hunting

Prohibition and restriction
- Time restrictions for hunting
- Collective hunting methods (driven hunts, etc.) are forbidden
- Restrictions for building of hunting equipments (high seats, feeding places)
- Restrictions for construction of new forest roads

State administration does not respect owners' demands or demands of users of these grounds

Present situation of SHU

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the central management of hunting
- SHU takes part in the hunting management according to the provisions of this Law, its executive regulations and commissions of the Ministry of Agriculture of SR

This commission contains:
- Training courses and exams for the hunting permit applicants
- Processing of the statistical data at hunting department
- Management of hunting cynology
- Organisation of breeding and trophy shows and exhibitions
- Representation in the international hunting and cynological organisations
- Test shooting of the members of SHU
2009 - new Hunting Law

- Hunters organization - Slovak Hunters Chamber
- Transfer of direction to Hunters organization with strong state control
- State administration – controlling function
- Long term and real game management on geographical territories
- Hunting not as a business but a part of a sustainable use and protection

Thank you for your attention!
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