

Using hunting as a lens, HUNT aims to explore general aspects of the relationship between humans and nature, seeking ways to reconcile conflicts between people over hunting practices.

HUNTING for sustainability

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

Sustainable use of biodiversity is a central issue on the global agenda, and how we use and manage the world's natural resources is a subject that crosses many disciplines, regions, and levels of governance. In spite of an increasing recognition of the value of well managed hunting as a conservation tool, it is clear that the development of sustainable management practices require an integrated approach drawing from both the social and natural sciences, building on both academic and experience based knowledge. **HUNT** integrates the social, economic and ecological elements of hunting with policy makers and explores the potential for new biodiversity conservation options.

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Goal:

The overall goal is to assess the social, cultural, economic and ecological functions and impacts of hunting across a broad range of contexts in Europe and Africa.

Objectives:

- Investigate the meanings attributed to hunting by different social groups in different localities.
- Analyze how institutional arrangements and institutional change influence hunting.
- Assess the economic importance of hunting and alternative forms of land use at different spatial scales.
- Consider which species are hunted, what harvesting strategies are employed and build models to quantify sustainability of these strategies..
- Examine how game management influences various aspects of wider biodiversity.
- Integrate the findings from the social, cultural, economic and ecological values and impacts of hunting into the European policy context and its wider global application.
- Establish communication concerning the design and implications of the project results with key stakeholders and policy makers, and to disseminate these findings to a wider public.
- Develop fora for the implementation of methodologies for the reconciliation of conflicts between key stakeholders



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New knowledge, improved management

At present our knowledge regarding hunting and biodiversity is mostly limited to single disciplines or single area, case studies, as few interdisciplinary studies specifically address the issue of hunting in relation to biodiversity in a comparative manner. Over a period of three years **HUNT** will bring together four different study disciplines through separate work packages; sociology, political science, economy and ecology in order to reduce this knowledge gap, exploring the wider meaning of hunting.

This is a highly original approach that will lead to increased understanding between research disciplines that are commonly isolated, and an integrated perspective on the role of hunting in a number of European and African countries.

The world of HUNT

HUNT will be conducted in six different study case regions; United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Spain, Northern Dinarics and East Africa. Within each of these regions **HUNT** will also establish National Consultative Groups (NCG's) which will comprise national stakeholders with strong interests and expertise in hunting and biodiversity conservation. Stakeholders will include those with a range of views concerning the value and impacts of hunting from representatives of hunters organizations to government conservation organizations.

Participants

- The Macaulay Institute
- Frankfurt Zoological Society
- Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
- The University of Ljubljana
- The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb
- Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
- The Department of Political Science, Umeå University
- Conservation Science Group, Imperial College
- Environmental Economics Research Group, University of Stirling
- The University of Aberdeen
- The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Agency



Work packages:

- WP1: The cultural meaning of hunting
-the human dimension
- WP2: Institutions and hunting
- hunting and the rules of the game
- WP3: Socioeconomics and hunting
- hunting as cash generator
- WP4: Biodiversity and hunting
- the ecological perspective
- WP5: Integration
- putting it all together
- WP6: Dissemination
- Spreading the word
- WP7: Management
- planning, management and coordination

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