Community management for mammals: is it the right time?

Lead: Dr. David Scallan







ASF fever in wild boar

- Oubtreak of ASF in Belgium in Wild Boar
- FACE ASF Task Force
- Coordonation between different FACE Members





European Commission/FACE Conference PREPARING EUROPEAN HUNTERS TO ERADICATE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Interpretation: EN-DE Livestream provided

Westfalenhaller

30 January 2019, 10:00-16:00

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Agenda point 6.3:

FACE recommendations for hunting associations and hunters in preparing for and dealing with African swine fever (ASF) in the field

Hunting associations: Before an outbreak

Knowledge base:

- Be familiar with (at least) the following documents: <u>Strategic approach to the management</u> of <u>African Swine Fever for the EU</u>, <u>OIE's handbook</u>, GF-TADS recommendations on ASF and <u>CIC/FACE/OIE Recommendations</u>.
- Delegate a national expert to take part in the FACE ASF Task Force that facilitates international and transboundary cooperation by sharing national updates and best practice.

Communication:

- Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns for all stakeholders, including nonhunters.
- · Focus your communication on certain key messages:
 - o ASF is not dangerous for humans.
 - When there is no outbreak, the meat of wild boar is perfectly safe for human consumption.
 - o Hunters have an important role to play in monitoring, preventing and eradicating ASF.
- Start or maintain a regular dialogue between all stakeholders, especially to increase preparedness on ASF.
 - With regards to a dialogue with authorities, communication should be open and twosided.
- Use simple and clear language, especially when communicating the role of hunting in eradiating ASF towards the general public.
- Develop a best practice example of a fully prepared hunting ground that you can share.

Wild boar populations:

- Develop or maintain a science-based and tailormade long-term strategy to manage wild boar populations.
 - Following international recommendations, this strategy should promote a reduction of wild boar populations, using effective management strategies.
- · High animal welfare standards should remain in place.
- In view of population density reductions, ensure that hunters can use all relevant instruments and/or hunting techniques (e.g. night vision and suppressors),
- Ban supplementary feeding for wild boar, but still allowing baiting.

Biosecurity:

- Develop and implement a biosecurity strategy for hunters, based on the <u>OIE handbook</u>.
 - o Develop biosecurity training programmes/sessions.
 - Make sure hunters follow best practice bio-security measures and have the required equipment.
- Develop, together with relevant authorities, a logistical work plan on common actions when an outbreak occurs.
 - o If possible, simulate such a plan, to make sure it works in practice.

Monitoring:

- Provide guidance towards hunters and others on monitoring ASF, with the aim of providing an early warning system:
 - o How to recognise sick animals (clinical signs).
 - What to do when a sick or dead animal is observed.
 - o Why it is important to monitor the disease.

Hunting associations: After an outbreak

Knowledge base:

Keep your knowledge on ASF up-to-date; share relevant experiences and lessons learned with
others, especially the FACE African Swine Fever Task Force.

Communication:

- Inform the general public, focussing on the key messages.
- Work together in a constructive way with all stakeholders.
- Maintain an open and two-way dialogue with all key stakeholders, especially authorities:
 - Transparency and trust are key, especially to motivate hunters in taking concrete actions.
- Prepare hunters and others of the long-term effects of ASF:
 - o Endemic diseases threaten wild boar populations for a long time.
 - o It is crucial to remain vigilant in monitoring, biosecurity measures and carcass removal.
- Follow any national/international obligations on discarding meat from harvested animals in certain areas, even that such meat is fit for human consumption. Wild boar meat from other areas is fit for consumption.

Wild boar populations:

- Support the implementation of the <u>Strategic approach to the management of African Swine</u> Fever for the EU, the following recommendations are for the non-infected areas:
 - o No sustained feeding, only baiting.
 - Hunting should prioritise adult and sub-adult females, while balancing males and females.
 - o The minimum biosecurity requirements for hunters are applied.
- · It is paramount that hunters understand the need for these measures and support them.

Biosecurity:

- As part of your communication, focus on giving guidance on how to implement biosecurity and carcass removal measures in a practical manner.
- Organise training sessions and information sessions for hunters on these topics.

Hunters: Before an outbreak

Knowledge base:

- Consult information provided by your national hunting association and/or authorities:
 - o Clinical signs and other ways to monitor for ASF in wild boar.
 - o On population management for ASF prevention.
 - On biosecurity measures, see also the <u>OIE handbook</u>, chapter 4 and 5.

Emerging diseases

• Deer (CWD)

Other species with diseases but not mananagement:

- Rabbit (Myomatose)
- Hare(Tularemia)





Importance of Urban Wildlife Management in the United States and Canada

Erin C. McCance, Daniel J. Decker, Anne M. Colturi, Richard K. Baydack, William F. Siemer, Paul D. Curtis, Thomas Eason

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Mammal Study, 42(1):1-16 (2017). https://doi.org/10.3106/041.042.0108

Abstract

Urban wildlife management is growing in importance in the U.S. and Canada. This paper describes the archetypical history of wildlife population exploitation, recovery, impact management, and the anthropogenic root-causes for management of many species in urban environments. Although urban and traditional wildlife management situations differ in many ways, in both contexts, some species are welcome to co-exist with humans, while other species are considered intolerable. Management approaches and techniques tailored to urban situations are still in early days of development. Urban wildlife management issues tend to be "wicked problems" (problems where disparate human values lead to different interpretations of desirable outcomes and acceptable means of achieving them). People sharing the same space with each other and with wildlife inevitably perceive different impacts from wildlife. Experience has



Management...

Population management

- Deer populations
- Wild boar
- Rabbit
- Hare
- Mouflon

Adverse effect on agriculture/forestry

- Deer
- Wild boar
- Wolf

Management...

EU IAS list:

- Coypu/Nutria
- Grey squirrel
- Muntjac deer
- Raccoon
- Ruddy duck
- Egyptian Goose
- Muskrat
- Raccoon Dog

Habitats Directive – protection

- Beaver
- Wolf
- Bear



Biodiversity Manifesto

- Biodiversity Manifesto Action Points:
- Collecting projects/initiatives
- What is a "project"?
 - Activity/initiative/project (S \rightarrow XL)
 - Beneficial for nature
 - Involving hunters





✓ 1st Report (2015)

- ✓ Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
- ✓ Meets 4 out of the 6 targets of the Strategy
- ✓ 2nd Report (2016)

- ★ Target 1: Enhance implementation of nature legislation
- ★ Target 2: Restore ecosystems and establish Green Infrastructure
- Target 3: Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Target 5: Invasive Alien Species
- ✓ Implementation of the EU Nature Directives
- ★ 46% related to Natura 2000 sites
- ✓ 3rd Report (2017)
 - ✓ Hunters' contribution to farmland biodiversity conservation
 - ✓ 43% occurring on farmland (Grey Partridge, European Hare, Red Grouse)
- \star 4th Report (2018)
 - 🛪 Monitoring





The **3rd Report** of the Biodiversity Manifesto (FR, DE) shows hunters' contribution to farmland biodiversity conservation. The report is based on 300 projects out of which 45% are occurring on farmland and aiming to conserve mainly 3 species: the Grey Partridge, the European Hare and the Red Grouse. FACE advocates for a new CAP that cares both of farmers and biodiversity.

The 4th Report of the Biodiversity Manifesto focuses on the contribution of hunters to the monitoring of biodiversity. The decision was due to the fact that European Union (EU) Member States are required to submit their reports under the nature directives on the status of species and habitats of EU interest by mid-2019. More specifically, EU Member states are obliged to report on the status of all wild occurring birds as well as other species and habitats, under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

3rd Report of the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

HUNTERS' CONTRIBUTION TO FARMLAND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



300 PROJECTS gathered until now

40% of the projects are undertaken on NATURA 2000 SITES

FARMLANDS are the most common habitat type managed by hunters

HABITAT RESTORATION

is the main conservation action undertaken

FACE) BLODIVERSITY MANIFESTO

Information collected

- Location
- Habitats (Type, protection status, general categories
- Species (Protected, IAS, Migratory, Large Carnivores etc)
- Actions undertaken (Habitat, Species, Research, Monitoring, Awareness raising)
- Partners
- Budget + Human resources



Proportion of case studies contributing to the sections of the BDM



Types of habitats involved in hunters' projects



Main actions conducted by hunters





Types of species concerned by hunters' actions

120 100 80 60 40 20 Ramsar Emerald Network 0 Regional protected area National protected area No protection status Not applicable Natura 2000

Status of the areas where actions are undertaken

FACE Biodiversity Manifesto: Mammals



Out of 314 initiatives conducted by hunters

55% of the BDM projects involve conserving and managing mammals.



These projects can involve re-establishing or managing small game, controlling generalist predators like North American mink, or engaging in the management of large carnivores, for example, the conservation of Lynx through LIFE projects.



Examples of projects concerning mammals :

- Wild Forest Reindeer LIFE: The wild forest reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus fennicus*) of Finland: Conservation and recovery of historic range
- Towards the sustainable hunting harvest of the Italian Hare (*Lepus corsicanus*) in Sicily. Good practices and monitoring actions.
- Reintroducción Lince Andalucia Conservation and reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Andalucia
- Nutria populations control in cities with bow and arrow



Most species conservation/management projects involve some form of monitoring

A number of projects contribute to the monitoring of large carnivores, comprising 22% of the species-related projects. Different monitoring methods are often used in combination. Tracking on snow is the basicmethod used by hunters. Another method is DNA-analysis, mainly based on wolf scats collected during tracking where hunters assist.

WILD-project: German hunters' monitoring initiative

- Wide knowledge of hunters about animal species and their habitat
- An annual summary of the monitoring results gets published in the WILD-report
- Tool to detect decreasing population trends
- The foundation for species-specific stock assessments, an effectiveness test of close seasons and other necessary protective measures



Strengths

Weaknesses

SWOT

Opportunities

Threats