

# Hunting management systems and its importance in obtaining extremely ecological food

## Modul no. 4: Precision Livestock Farming

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# Hunting management development

- Game hunting is as old as mankind itself. It was a part of subsistence for emerging prehistoric man as well of later social formations.
- It was the driving force behind the development of human activities, a school of courage and bravery.
- Very soon hunting became the prerogative of kings, an expression of power and wealth, and even at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was almost exclusively the preserve of a certain family of monarchs.
- As the social and class composition of society changed, so did the view of wild animals and hunting, and the important function of management in preserving game and its environment was particularly emphasised.



Figure references:

<https://www.dobrenoviny.sk/c/193059/chystate-sa-na-polovacku-toto-si-na-nu-nezabudnite-zobrat>

<https://polovnictvo-rybarstvo.pluska.sk/polovnictvo/starom-privesku-zubu-jelena-nasla-to-vazne>

<https://www.kdelovit.cz/cz/clanky/historie-sokolnictvi/stredoveke-uhrske-sokolnictvi>

# Hunting management development

- Hunting is a set of activities aimed at the preservation, improvement, protection and optimal use of the gene pool of game as a natural wealth of the EU. It is part of the creation, protection and utilisation of the environment and, while respecting its main principles, should not interfere with the rational management of forest and agricultural land.
- In addition to providing funds for conservation, hunters play an important role in helping state and wildlife biologists manage the size of certain animal populations.
- Regulated hunting is one of the most effective tools that state wildlife agencies can use to address the overpopulation of a species



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# Hunting management

- Professional hunters
- State Forests s.e.
- Military Forests



- Voluntary hunters
- Hunting Chamber
  - members are all voluntary hunters
- Hunting Associations
  - Hunting clubs



Figure references:

<https://www.lesy.sk>

<https://www.vlm.sk>

[www.lovuzdar.sk/foto-98086/spolocna-polovacka](http://www.lovuzdar.sk/foto-98086/spolocna-polovacka)

# Role of hunting management

- The role of hunting management is:
- Hunting managers typically model population growth and set management regulations, which may include season length or harvest quotas, based on field research and harvest data. Once these regulations are implemented, hunting managers monitor the population while continually conducting research and adapting future management decisions based on the resulting data.
- Hunting manager:
- The user of the hunting ground is obliged to propose a hunting manager to the regional authority in order to ensure professional hunting management in the hunting ground



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# Role of hunting management

- Hunting manager:
  - a) is legally competent
  - b) has a valid hunting licence and has held a hunting licence for at least five consecutive years
  - c) holds a valid group D firearms licence
  - d) has passed the hunting manager's examination or a higher vocational hunting examination or is a graduate of a secondary forestry school or a graduate of a university at which hunting is a compulsory subject and has passed an examination in that subject
  - e) has not committed an offence in the field of hunting within the last five years
  - f) is not a hunting manager in another hunting ground/ club/ company



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# Basic tasks of hunting manager

- a key person in the hunting area. He has extensive competences, but even more duties and work.
- is responsible for organising:
  - annual/ seasonal animal censuses
  - drawing up the draft breeding and hunting plan
  - allocating individual hunting licences in the respective area
  - ensuring that shooting is carried out
  - checking that the members of the hunting association are disciplined when hunting
  - procuring seed and seedlings and cultivating the fields
  - registration of hunted animals, venison, provision of hunting fee guests and their accompaniment
  - mowing of meadows, preparation of roughage, kernels and pulp fodder for period of lacking of natural feeding sources



# Basic tasks of hunting manager

- plans and organises the construction of hunting facilities
- organises joint hunts
- responsible for implementing the guidelines of the forestry authority and the State Veterinary and Food Administration
- submitting trophies for annual breeding inspection
- combating poaching and protecting hunting animals
- controlling animals harmful to hunting



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# Conflicts of Interests

- Owners and users (leasers) of hunting grounds, because of their position, often interfere in the activities of the hunting manager
  - relegate him to the role of a statistician whose task is to keep hunting records so that everything is in order „on paper“
- Owners or users of many hunting grounds are solvent and influential people who are engaged in various business activities and are certainly experts in their profession.
  - *It is logical that one cannot be an expert in all fields, and the activity of a hunting manager is a very specialised job that requires „a master of his craft“ and an expert in hunting and the regulations as well of nature and environment.*



# Conflicts of Interests

- in the hunting grounds with the best quality of trophy animals, where national or world records were achieved, the hunting manager was always a top expert, a strong personality whose breeding principles and rules were accepted by all
- other ways it is not possible to achieve breeding objectives, to maintain animal populations in an optimum age and sex structure and to ensure the sustainable production of strong trophies.



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# Hunting management

- Professional hunters
- State Forests s.e.
- Military Forests



- state hunting grounds under the management of State Forests s.e.
- direct hunting
- leased hunting areas ceded to private persons or companies
- designated hunting grounds
  - education and research purposes

Figure references:  
<https://www.lesy.sk>  
<https://www.vlm.sk>

## CERVUS ELAPHUS SP.

2020/2021

70 380 individuals, a decrease of 551 individuals compared to the previous year. In 2021, according to the reports of hunting farmers in Slovakia, 49 558 deer were shot, which is 3 506 more than in 2020. Furthermore, 76 deer were trapped and 4 349 deer died. Thus, the total mortality was 53 983 pcs, which is 4 120 pcs more than in 2020.

## DAMA DAMA

2020/2021

23 877 individuals (+ 1 453 pcs). Hunting was recorded at a total of 23,024 fallow deer (4,779 more than in 2020). Furthermore, the trapping and mortality of 123 and 1 049 deer respectively were reported. The total fallow deer decrease was 24 196 deer (+ 5 016 deer compared to 2020).

## OVIS MUSIMON

2020/2021

14,097 individuals, which is 639 more than in 2020. The 2021 mouflon hunting was reported at 6,715 animals, 510 more than in 2020.

## CAPREOLUS CAPREOLUS

2020/2021

104 811 individuals. The reported roe deer hunting was 25 889 pcs.



## SUS SCROFA

2020/2021

36 761 individuals (2 504 less than in 2020). The reported hunting was 58,186, which is 1,470 fewer animals than in the previous year.

## LEPUS EUROPEANEUS

165 354 hares and increased by 8 333 individuals compared to the previous year. In the 2021/2022 hunting season, 14 525 and 39 hares were reported shot and captured respectively.

## LARGE CARNIVORES

### URSUS ARCTOS

In 2021, 2,997 (+237) brown bears were reported from the level of individual hunting grounds. 6 hunted, 48 culled by report.

For comparison, 835 brown bears were reported in 1990.

### CANIS LUPUS

In 2021, a total 3,291 wolves were reported. No hunting, 24 culled by report.

## LYNX LYNX

2020/2021

The 804 lynx in 2021 are 81 more than the previous year. The lynx is currently classified as a totally protected animal.



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# Regulation of hunting management in Slovakia

- Ministry of Agriculture / Ministry of environmental protection of SR
  - State authority at the level of County – regional office for land and forest – hunting department
  - *delegated state regulation and management in the field of hunting management*
  - *registry of hunting areas leasing/ ownership*
  - *annual animal censuses approval*
  - *breeding and hunting plans approval*
  - *approval of game parks/ preserves*
  - *collaboration with state veterinary and food administration in the field of food security and safety*



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# Thank you for your attention!

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