



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Sustainable Wildlife Management



From 28 to 30 October 2014 site managers, landowners and wildlife and hunting organisations from across Europe will come together at Elmley National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Kent, UK to share best practice on how sustainable hunting practices can be integrated into nature conservation planning.

Whether the challenge is sustainable shooting of wildfowl or other game for sport, management of predators to ensure conservation success, or managing large carnivore populations in hunting areas (in mainland Europe), sustainable wildlife management is a topic that site managers are likely to encounter at some point. What's more, there are clear benefits to co-operation between hunters and site managers: hunting can contribute to conservation efforts, whilst effective nature conservation can help to increase the availability of 'game' species. It is clear that there is an opportunity for hunters and conservation organisations to exchange knowledge and experience with European site managers to find and deliver mutual benefits.

That is why Eurosite, in collaboration with Natural England, the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace in Greece, and Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, is organising this three-day workshop. The workshop will be an opportunity to share examples of successful, and not so successful, projects involving hunters and site managers, as well as to discuss future strategies for sustainable wildlife management.

The workshop programme will include a series of presentations, an Interactive Information Market and working group discussions on hunters' challenges and successes working in conservation and using hunting as a tool for management. On the second day, there will be a full-day field trip to Elmley National Nature Reserve on the Isle of Sheppey, off the north coast of Kent. Elmley is a farm owned and managed by a local farming family in close collaboration with Natural England. Elmley NNR is an important site for breeding wader populations and, in order to manage the site for the benefit of the waders, predator control has been carried out at Elmley. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in the breeding success of the wader populations. The visit to Elmley will therefore provide the workshop participants with the chance to witness first-hand the positive impact of predator control on nature conservation outcomes.

Notes to editors:

Full workshop title: Sustainable Wildlife Management: integrating hunting practices with nature conservation planning

Event organisers: Eurosite is organising the workshop in collaboration with Natural England, UK; the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace, Greece; and Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Finland.

Workshop language: English

Registration: The deadline for registration is **Monday 20 October 2014**. For more information about the registration process, please see the workshop webpage: www.eurosite.org/en-UK/content/wildlife-management

About Eurosite

Eurosite's mission is to exchange, enhance and promote expertise in the management of sites for nature, throughout Europe. Based in Tilburg, the Netherlands, Eurosite has 53 members from across 21 European countries. Eurosite's members include public bodies, private organisations and non-governmental organisations, united by their common aim – benefiting Europe's nature.

Website: www.eurosite.org

Email: info@eurosite.org



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About Natural England

Natural England is the UK government's advisor on the natural environment and provides the government with practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone. Natural England works with farmers and land managers; business and industry; planners and developers; national and local government; interest groups and local communities to help them improve their local environment.

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

About the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace, Greece

The Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation that represents 62 Hunting Associations of Northern Greece, with more about 60,000 hunters, as members. There are 260 Hunting Associations in Greece. As well as serving the needs of its members, hunting associations undertake initiatives for the conservation of the natural environment, mainly for the protection of wildlife species and their habitats. The main objective of the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace is the protection and sustainable management of natural resources, mainly game resources.

Website: www.hunters.gr

Email: hunters@hunters.gr

About Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services

Metsähallitus is a state enterprise that administers more than 12 million hectares of state-owned land and water areas. Metsähallitus is responsible for managing and using these areas in a way that benefits Finnish society to the greatest extent possible. Metsähallitus runs business activities while also fulfilling many public administration duties, including the management of Natura 2000 areas.

Website: www.metsa.fi

Email: kirjaamo@metsa.fi

Further comments also available from Jaume Tormo, Network Project Manager, Eurosite: jtormo@eurosite.org

About the workshop: This workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management is being organised by Eurosite. Natural England is hosting the workshop and the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace and Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services are collaborators. This workshop is part of Eurosite's 2014 workshop programme, made possible with funding from the European Union. The sole responsibility lies with the author – the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

