

Petr Šeplavý
Ing. Jaroslav Růžička
Ing. Jiří Pondělíček, Ph.D.

GAME MANAGEMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Natural conditions

The Czech Republic is located in Central Europe and it is a member of the European Union. The total area of the Czech Republic is 78,866 km². The Czech Republic borders with Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria. The landscape is mainly formed by uplands and highlands. The area of the Czech Republic is surrounded by mountains, which slope down to lowlands along the main rivers (Labe, Vltava, Morava). The Třeboň's basin is the largest basin with the area 1,360 km². Erosion helped to form bizarre rocky formations called "rock towns" which could be seen especially in the northeast Bohemia. The Czech Republic is located on the main European water divide. Total precipitation amounts to 693 mm. One third of that amount flows to three seas. The longest river is called Vltava and its length is 433 km. Vltava and Labe together create the longest river road of the Czech Republic with the length of 541 km. There are many artificial dams in the Czech Republic. Most of them were built during the 20th century. Dam reservoirs are used in flood prevention, as sources of the energy and vacation venues. Most dams are on the Vltava River (so-called the Vltava Cascade). The largest dam is Lipno with the area of 4,870 hectares. Ponds are the phenomenon of the Czech countryside. They were built from the 12th century, primarily for the purpose of fish breeding. Later they were used as a source of water for flour and iron mills. The largest pond system is situated in the south Bohemia and is filled by the artificial supplying ditch called "Zlatá Stoka" ("The Golden Canal"), which brings water from the river Lužnice and its tributaries. The pond called Rožmberk with the area of 489 hectares is the largest pond in the Czech Republic. There are few natural lakes in the Czech Republic but they are rather small. Artificial dams and ponds are a home to mixed fauna living in water habitat. Many of these localities were declared as conservation areas within the framework of the European project Natura 2000. The Czech landscape was markedly changed throughout centuries. Increasing protection and care is taken of valuable localities not damaged by human activities. The largest National Park is Šumava with the area of 683 km². The largest protected landscape area is Beskydy and its area is 1,197 km². The oldest conservation area is the primeval forest "Žofín" which was founded in 1838 and it is also the oldest conservation area in the Europe. Forests (with the area of 25,000 km²) cover 1/3 of the area of the Czech Republic. There are approximately 600 cities and 6,250 villages in the Czech Republic. More than 71% of population lives in cities. Communities are connected through a dense traffic network.

Type of countryside	Altitude above sea level	Share of the total area
Plains and basins	to 300 m	20%
Uplands	300 m - 600 m	39%
Highlands	600 m - 900 m	30%
Mountains	above 900 m	11%



Game management and its historical development

Hunting has had an undeniable importance for human society development since the very early stages. There are peoples on our planet whose survival, even now, directly depend on hunting. The territory of Bohemia was settled more than 750,000 years ago. The settlement from before 28000 B.C. is supported by a number of archaeological findings. Hunting on the territory of the Czech Republic has been controlled for more than 1,000 years. Hunt control records are known from the first half of the 9th century, when the first historically documented Czech prince Bořivoj I., member of the Premyslid dynasty, was christened. Documents relating to hunt, including falconry, offered archaeological findings from the era of the Great Moravian Empire. Settlement of new territories, farming and pasturage development led to splitting fields, and the hunt began to relate to landownership. Natural conditions with social ordering, cultural development and technological progress formed contemporary game management. The Czech principedom subsequently became a mediaeval country. The Prague bishopric was founded in 973. Saint Wenceslas became the main national saint then. The attribute "hunter" appears in the 11th century for the first time. The ruler was surrounded by numerous hunt companies. The hunt staff gathered at special purpose places, whose names testify that, for instance Loveč, Psáry, Lovčice or Sokoleč. The Czech principedom became kingdom in the 13th century and it flourished under Premyslid and Charles IV rule. The Czech kingdom was an important part of the Holy Roman Empire and Czech ruler was an elector (one of seven Emperor electors). The Czech council passed a resolution in 1573 about game management conservation, where hunting rights are connected with landownership and game conservation conditions are determined. Capercaillie, black grouse and common pheasant hunting was prohibited for three years by Czech council resolution from the year 1627. The hunt staff became professional hunters. Since the end of the 17th century, with the development of rifles, the big predacious animals have been almost eradicated. At the turn of the century, in 1695, the Saint Hubert Order was founded by the earl František Antonín Sporck. In support of surviving relatives (of game-keepers killed by poachers) the Hunting brotherhood was founded in Hosín in 1699. Sweeping reforms enforced by Josef II in 1781 brought religious liberty and serfdom abolishing. In 1786 Josef II passed hunting regulations, called General hunting patent, which regulated crops protection, settled losses by hunt or game and improved working conditions for liege people. It has finally led to focus on small game rearing at the expense of costly cloven-hoofed game rearing. 59 game preserves and 188 pheasantries were established in Bohemia in the second half of the 18th century. The Czech national revival has begun in the Czech countries at the end of the 18th century. It was an attempt to revive the Czech culture and language and to take control over political strength by parties representing interests of the Czech nation. In the revolutionary year 1848 feudal subjection was abolished and



Emperor František Josef I immediately passed the imperial law of game management No. 154. Important economic and cultural development started in the Czech countries in the second half of the 19th century. There was a boom in guild activities and hunting organisations establishment. The Czech countries achieved independence on 28 October 1918 after the defeat of Austria-Hungary in the World War I and they became the core of newly founded Czechoslovakia, country which disposed of the majority of the original Austro-Hungarian industry. The Czechoslovak hunting union was established in 1923 and so-called "Small Game Act" appears in 1928. At the time of the German occupation of Czechoslovakia an obligatory membership in hunting organizations was established, which remained in force after liberation as well (according to Game Act No. 225/1947). In consequence of political events in 1948, lease of hunting areas was forbidden to individuals and only hunting guilds could enter hire contracts. It separated the hunting rights from the landownership and game management was managed by hunting organisations. The present state of game management reflects democratic changes after the revolution in 1989. Hunting areas can be created only by landowners, directly or through hunting guilds. Obligatory membership in hunting organisation was cancelled. Hunting areas can be leased by physical entities or corporations.

The relationship of human beings to hunting (later to nature conservation and game management) formed over the time. The simple hunt has changed into game management in the course of human history. Game management is considered to be a collection of in-nature activities concerning the free-living animals and club activity, which is aimed at sustainability and development of game management traditions and customs, which form an integral part of the Czech national cultural heritage. Game management performs an economic role, because it creates the balance between game species protection needs, their abundance and reduction of unfavourable influences, which some game species cause by their own living activities. Game management interacts with other human activities such as the engineering industry, food industry, clothing industry, leather industry, tourism, business and trade, catering industry, zoo-pharmacy, scientific and research activities, music, painting, sculpturing, architecture, literature as well as handicrafts. It performs its role in landscape formation, rural development, social contact improvement and it is a source of job opportunities. Game management went through rather a long historical process and nowadays it plays an irreplaceable role in our society.



The development of game management legislation

- **The reign of the Prince Boleslav I, around the year 950**
Hunting *lus Regale*; hunting rights can be pursued only by the regional rulers.
- **The Regulation of King Václav IV, 1388**
Demesnial lus Regale; hunting rights can be pursued by small owners of plots.
- **The Czech Council Resolution, 1573**
Regulation on game protection and competence for game management execution reserved for the owners of the plot.
- **Emperor Rudolf II Instruction, 15 April 1599**
- **The Czech Council Resolution, 1627**
Ban on capercaillie, black grouse and common pheasant hunting for three years.
- **Emperor Ferdinand III Regulation, 1641**
- **Emperor Karel VI First Hunting Regulation, 1728**
- **Emperor Josef II Letter Patent**
So-called "Josef's Patent" unified hunting regulations and defined duties of hunting rights owners to feed the game and compensate for damage caused by hunting and game. The rearing of wild boar was allowed only in game preserves.
- **The Common Civil Code No. 946/1811, coll.**
There were determined the position of game among other objects and the position of the hunting right among other rights, game keeping, the hunting right as a burden, and the relation between the hunting right and the ownership of the plot.
- **Emperor František Josef I Letter Patent No. 154/1849, on game management**
The hunting rights on someone else's plot were abrogated. Creation of hunting areas within the area of municipalities was incited. The minimal area had to be 115 ha. The game management could be pursued by the owner of the plots with the area of 115 ha or more, or by the municipality.
- **Game Management Act No. 49/1866, coll., on game management**
The first independent Game Management Act for the Czech Kingdom. Hunting rights were bestowed to the ownership of plots. The Act legitimised the opportunity to create hunting guilds. The hunting licence was necessary for hunting. The game protection was consolidated. The Act also determined the hunting and breeding seasons for specific game species. Act No. 98/1929, coll., on the changes and amendments to several hunting-and-police regulations, game conservation above all. Several provisions, especially those related to game protection were completed and partially changed (so-called "Little Game Act"). Terms such as hunting season and breeding season were determined there. Government Decree No. 127/1941, coll., on game management, and No. 128/1941, coll., implementing several provisions of No. 127/1941
It adapted the game management control to the organisational structure of Nazi Germany. It determined the subject matter of hunting rights in accordance with the game hunting and game keeping. The minimal area of guild hunting areas was 250 ha. The Decree established game management administrative departments. It legalised hunting examination as a condition for issuing a hunting licence.

Game Management Act No. 225/1947, coll.

It extended the hunting rights for the rights of game rearing and conservation, which means transition from a mere hunting to knowledgeable game rearing. It defined the subject matter of game management. Game management was considered to be of economic and cultural value. The minimal area of guild hunting area was 150 ha and the minimal area of the hunting area as such was 200 ha. The rules for planning game rearing and hunting were determined there for the first time. Protection of game management was guaranteed by the sworn game-keeper or game manager.

Game Management Act No. 23/1962, coll.

It separated the hunting rights from the ownership of plots. The hunting rights are defined not only as a right but also as a duty. The minimal area of hunting area was increased to 500ha. Specific hunting methods were banned by the Act, while conditions of game management, game management planning, game management records and game-keeper guard determined.

Game Management Act No. 270/1992, coll.

It connected the hunting rights and ownership of plots. Membership in the hunting union ceased to be compulsory. The State administration of game management with the Ministry of Agriculture became the game management supervisors. Option to create guild or private hunting areas. Definition of damage to game, and fixation of market prices for leasing hunting areas.

Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll.

It emphasises protection of game in its natural environment and game management itself. It set up the rules for assessment of the quality of reared game. It is the first Act to define the term "game rearing". The game management adjusts to the demand of the European communities for protection of free-living animals. The creation of hunting areas is tied up with the ownership of plots. It determines the minimal area of 50 ha for the game preserve. It eliminates the influence of state administration on game management planning; it sets up game management supervision and control of the bagged game, determines the state subsidies for game management and club hunting and also determines sanctions for violation of game management regulations. It strengthens considerably the proprietary law in case of creating hunting areas or management in the hunting area.

The game management organisations development

- 1695 Saint Hubert Order, established by the earl František Antonín Sporck
- 1699 The Hunting brotherhood in Hosín (Schwarzenberg Principedom)
- 1769 Association for tilth and liberal arts in the Czech Kingdom
- 1868 Prague Club "Hubertus"
- 1883 Hunting and Game Protection Club, later renamed the Central Club for Hunting Protection and Hound Breeding in Bohemia
- 1886 Czech Pedigree Book of Hounds
- 1900 Hunting Clubs in Brno, Olomouc and Litovel
- 1919 Czechoslovak Hunting and Cynological Imperial Association
- 1920 Maticе lesnická
- 1923 The Czechoslovak Hunting Union (established on the 22 April in Brno)
- 1939 Czechoslovak Hunting Union
- 1945 Three provincial associations of the Czechoslovak Hunting Union
- 1961 Czechoslovak Hunting Association
- 1969 Czech Hunting Association
- 1991 Saint Hubert Order
- 1992 Czech-Moravian Hunting Union
- 1994 Safari Club International - Bohemiae
- 1995 Association of professional hunters of the Czech Republic
- 2009 I. Women Gamekeeping association
- 2012 Association of the Czech Game Management
- 2014 Saint Eustache Club

Rich art collections in castles, chateaus and museums are an evidence of game management, hunting traditions and culture development. Museum of Forestry, Game-keeping and Fisheries in the chateau Ohrada (a part of National Museum of Agriculture Prague) is one of the oldest museums in the Czech Republic (founded in 1842). We can also find interesting exhibits in Konopiště, Křivoklát, Opočno, Úsov, Blatná, Lednice na Moravě, Orlík, Bítov, Hluboká na Vltavou, Žleby, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, in Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague and in other museums.



Contemporary legal regulations of game management in the Czech Republic

The game management is considered to be a legally substantiated activity, whose subject matter is long-term nature utilisation and protection. The Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., regulates game management on the territory of the Czech Republic.

The law consists of ten parts which contain:

- General provisions.
- Object and purpose, Definitions.
- Game keeping and breeding.
Game keeping principles; Restriction imposed to preserve game species; Trophy shows; Game keeping in captivity.
- Hunting control and improvement of game living conditions.
Basic control; Restrictions and bans in the interest of control; Duties of the owners of domestic and farmed animals; Duties of the users of hunting areas; Game keeper guard.
- Creation and use of hunting areas
General principles of the hunting area creation; Recognition of the hunting area; Change and cessation of the hunting area; Hunting guild; Use of hunting areas; Contract on the hunting area lease.
- Game management and hunting.
Game manager; Game management plan; Permission of hunting in special cases; Hunting season and its conditions; Use of hunting dogs; Falconry; Banned hunting methods; Hunting permit; Hunting licence; Compulsory insurance; Game control and utilisation.
- Damage caused by the use of the hunting area, by game and to game
Liability of the hunting area user; Measures to prevent damage caused by game; Claims to compensation; Compensation for damage caused to game.
- State administration of game management
State organs of game management and their powers; Game management supervision; Support of game management and hunting associations.
- Penalties, offences, fines.
- Transitory and final provisions.
- Relation to other rules, provisions for authorising.

Amendment: The acts No. 320/2002, coll., and No. 59/2003, coll.

The following rules were issued to carry out the game management act:

Decree No. 244/2002, coll., implementing several provisions of the act No. 449/2001, coll., on game management
Contents: Game keeper guard, game manager, game keeper examination, game manager examination, higher professional hunting examination, field-trial, falconry examination, hunting licence, hunting permit, control methods for hunting game, service uniform for the employees of the state administration organs of game management, examples of the forms.
Amendment: Decree No. 350/2003, coll.

Decree No. 245/2002, coll., on hunting season for individual game species and detailed conditions for hunting
Contents: Hunting season for individual game species, detailed conditions of hunting.
Amendment: Decree No. 480/2002, coll.

Decree No. 491/2002, coll., on the way of setting down minimum and prescribed game stocks and categorisation of hunting areas or their parts into quality classes
Contents: Categorisation of hunting areas or their parts into quality classes, assessment of the environment quality for the game, setting down minimum and prescribed game stocks, sex ratio, coefficient of expected production, age structure of the game population.

Decree No. 7/2004, coll., on assessment conditions for pheasantries and process of their delimitation as parts of hunting areas
Contents: The way of assessment conditions for intensive pheasant rearing, process of pheasantries delimitation.

Decree No. 553/2004, coll., on conditions, model and detailed instructions for elaboration of the plan of game management in hunting areas
Contents: The structure of the game management plan, game species liable to game management, terms of plan elaboration, groundwork for plan elaboration, blank forms for game management plans.

The game

Nature in the Czech Republic provides living conditions to many game species. The evolution of diversity and number of species is, in reaction to the environment changes, rather a dynamic process. Therefore game species frequently occurred in different proportions on our territory over the run of several decades. Apart from the original ones, various game species have been introduced on the territory of the Czech state over the centuries. During the reign of the Charles IV, for instance, the pheasant was imported and began to be bred in pheasantries. The muskrat, released in the area of the Dobříš castle by the earl Colloredo Mansfeld, spread in whole Europe from the Czech territory. Imported mouflon, fallow deer and Japanese sika deer became domesticated immediately in our countryside. The American mink, which outcompetes the original polecat from the countryside, escaped from the farm rearing around the end of the 20th century. The numbers of the racoon dog or the lynx have substantially increased.

On the other hand some game species have completely disappeared from our countryside due to the increasing pressure of civilisation. Today we do not see European bison, brown bears or wolfs walking the countryside. Other species are resettling here, though. Beaver, recently almost wiped out, is returning to our rivers again. Swan and raven were rare in our country twenty years ago and today they are common in our countryside. We can observe spreading of cormorants and grey herons recently. Professor Komárek, a renowned expert in game management, wrote in 1949 about wild boar, then endangered by extinction, and assumed that there would not be any wild boar in our territory by 2000. The opposite is true and now we are facing a problem of how to effectively reduce the numbers of wild boar. The game management legislation has to react flexibly to the changing numbers of game, landscape changes in the forestry and agriculture.

According to the game management act, the game is considered to be free-living animals which can be managed by hunt or which are protected and are defined in the Game Management Act for reason of increased protection. Decree No. 245/2002, coll., on hunting seasons for individual game species and detailed conditions for hunting, determines the hunting season for every single game species.

Protected game species

The game species which are determined in accordance with international treaties binding the Czech Republic and published in the Collection of Laws or in the Collection of International Treaties, or the game species which are specially protected animals according to special legal rules, without dispensation to hunt them:

Mammals:

European beaver (*Castor fiber*), Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), Moose (*Alces alces*), Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Birds:

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Common teal (*Anas crecca*), Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), Stock dove (*Columba oenas*), Hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*),

Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), Euroasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Raven (*Corvus corax*), Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Eurasian woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), European jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), Black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*).

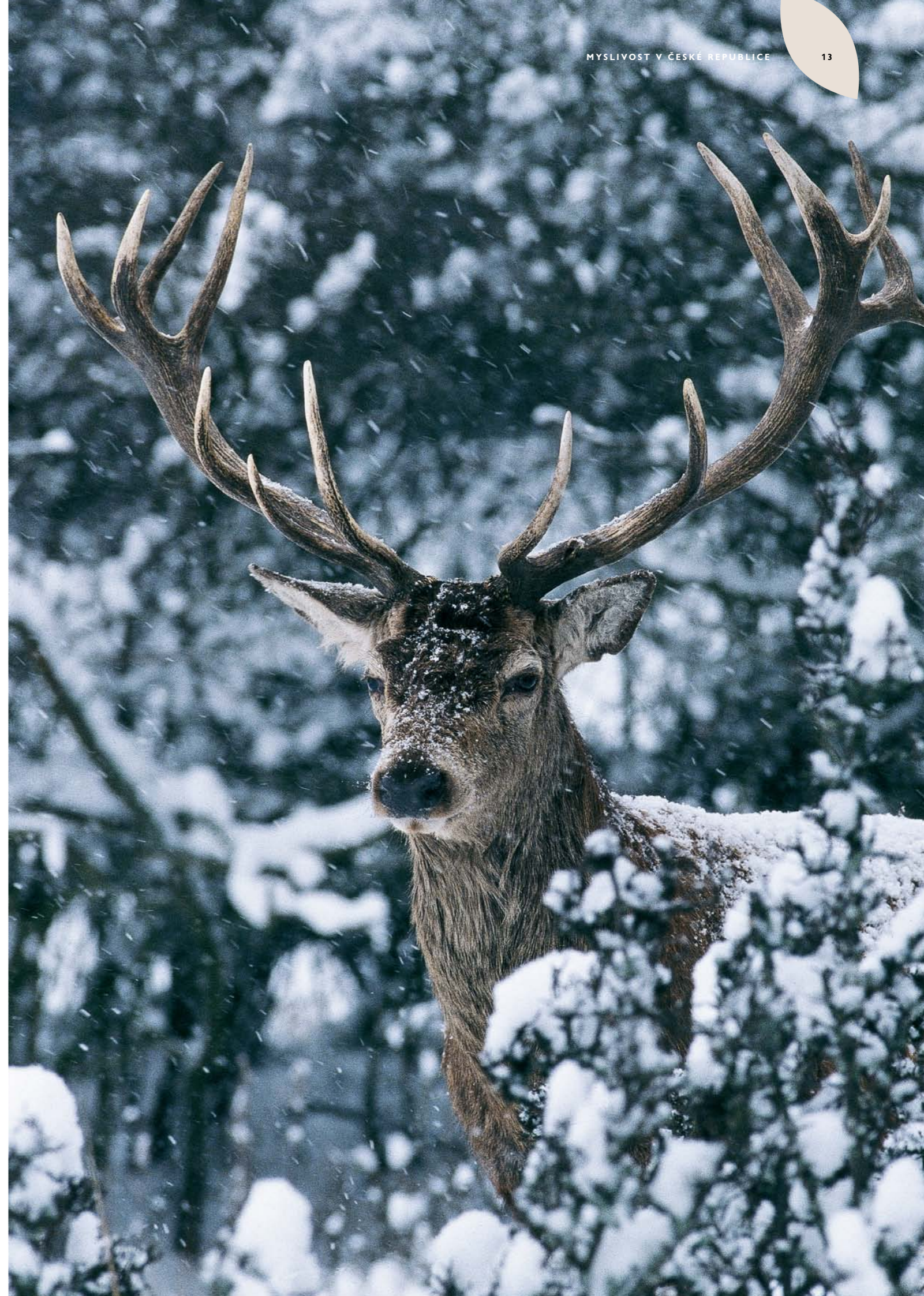
Game species which are allowed to be hunted:

Mammals:

Fallow deer (*Dama dama*), Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), European badger (*Meles meles*), Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), Bezoar goat (*Capra aegagrus*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Pine marten (*Martes martes*), Stone marten (*Martes foina*), Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Mouflon (*Ovis musimon*), Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Dybowski sika deer (*Cervus nippon dybowski*), Japanese sika deer (*Cervus nippon nippon*), Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), Steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmannii*) and Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*).

Birds:

Reeves's pheasant (*Syrnaticus reevesii*), Common pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), Collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), Bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Red-legged partridge (*Alectoris rufa*), Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*), Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Magpie (*Pica pica*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), Hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*).



Game protection

Hunters became already conscious of the need of game protection at the time when the free-living game was an object of mere hunting utilisation. The first reference to game protection can be found in the 16th century when the hind-hunting for the reason of red deer conservation was prohibited for a few years. In the first half of the 17th century hunting of capercaillie, black grouse, pheasant and partridge was banned for three years. In the course of time the game conservation became important and in the 18th century hunting of game transformed into game management, the subject matter of which are not only the intentional rearing and protection of game, but also reducing damage caused by game. Wild boars were closed into game preserves by the Resolution from 1770 and they were exterminated in open hunting areas at the same time.

Nowadays the protection of game and of the game management is guaranteed by the Game Management Act. The protection of game management means protection of game against the adverse influence of the environment, against infectious diseases, against damaging civilisation impacts and against free-moving domestic animals, protection of living conditions of game, the guarantee of peace and quiet in the hunting area and protection of shooting ground facilities.

The duty of game protection for the hunting area users, hunting ground holders, and owners of farm and domestic animals is set by the Game Management Act. Therein are determined the hunting seasons and banned hunting methods.

The state administration appoints, on the basis of a proposal by the hunting area user, the game-keeper guard per each 500 ha of the hunting area, to fulfil the duty of game protection. The game-keeper guard holds a position of a public person and has to pass a difficult examination.

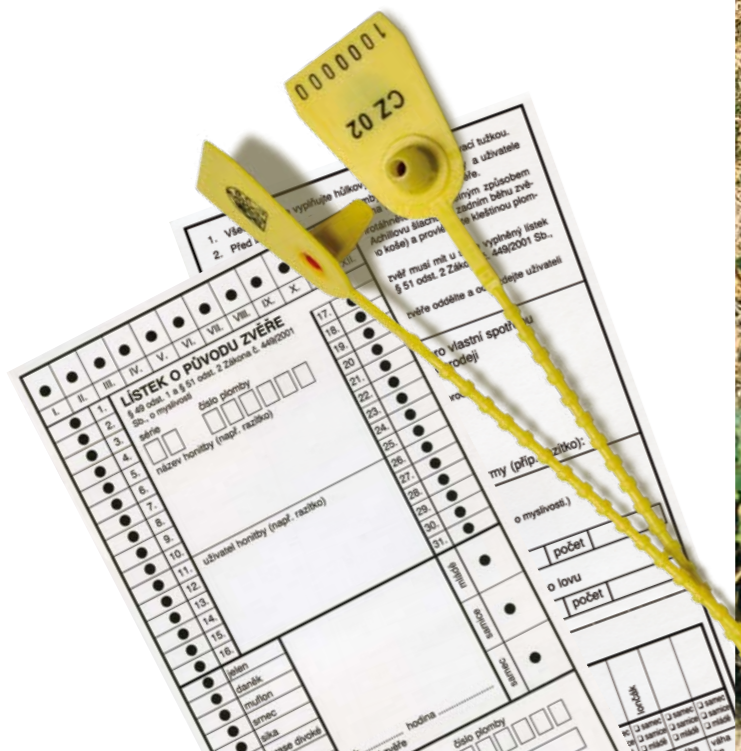
The general protection of free-living animals is also regulated by the act on nature and landscape conservation. The individual protection of all animals is guaranteed by the law on prevention of cruelty to animals.

The contemporary game management has an unreserved respect for the requirements of the free-living animal protection, which are subject to the European legal rules as well as international agreements.



Check of bagged game

The Czech Republic was one of the first EU countries, which put into practice sealing of the taken hoofed game in accordance with the Game Management Act in 2002. Game protection against illegal interference with game management and poaching is the purpose of the hoofed game sealing. The sealing system and certificate of origin of taken game match the requirements of European Union on check of taken game. Check of game health condition is an integral part of game-keepers work. They deal with monitoring and prevention of diseases in hunting areas (rabies, swine fever, trichinellosis, avian influenza, etc.) in co-operation with the State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic. The system of inspectors of bagged game was implemented in 2009 in order to guarantee venison quality. Pursuant to the Veterinary Act and decrees No. 289/2007 coll. and No. 61/2009 coll. the taken game is visualized by skilled inspectors. If they do not find possible risks for consumers, the whole piece in coat or feathers may be delivered to final consumer or to local retail outlet. The game which could be diseased with trichinellosis (wild boar above all) has to be tested in accredited laboratory.



Hunting grounds

The Czech Republic is situated in the varied, rugged landscape of the Central Europe. Life-giving water flows from the densely wooded border mountains down to the Bohemian midland. Natural powers together with intensive agricultural, forest and fish farming activities helped to create a medley of habitats with many animal species and unique biodiversity. Hunting grounds with such biodiversity and wildlife are established there.

Recognition of the hunting ground

The game management may be carried out only within the recognised hunting area. The hunting ground recognition is based on the proprietary law to the hunting plots. Hunting grounds and game preserves are recognised by local authorities of the municipality with extended powers in an administrative procedure.

Hunting ground

The hunting ground means a complex of continuous hunting grounds of one or several owners defined by a decision of the state administration of game management. The principal conditions for the hunting ground recognition are: the area of min. 500 ha of uninterrupted hunting plots, and fulfilment of other conditions set by the Game Management Act relating to the shape of the hunting ground and the course of its borders.

Game preserve

The game preserve means a type of a hunting area. The main conditions for the game preserve recognition are the minimal area of 50 ha of uninterrupted hunting plots with the perimeter permanently and perfectly fenced or treated in another way so that the kept game cannot leave the game preserve freely. Local authorities of municipalities with extended powers recognise the game preserves.

Division according to the proprietary relationship

The hunting grounds are further divided into hunting areas as such and guild hunting areas, according to the number of hunting ground owners, whose grounds constitute the hunting area. The hunting areas as such are created on the grounds of one owner only. Guild hunting areas are created on the grounds of more than one owner. There are cases, where the area of hunting grounds of one owner does not cover the minimal area necessary for recognition of the hunting area, but the hunting grounds are continuous and together fulfil the condition of the prescribed minimal area and their owners have founded a hunting guild.

Hunting area data (in the years 2013/2014)

Share according to landscape type (hectares)

Farmland	3,899,211 ha	56.8%
Woodland	2,580,975 ha	37.5%
Water body	98,530 ha	1.4%
Other land	294,380 ha	4.3%

Total area of hunting grounds **6,873,096 ha**

Number of hunting grounds	5,789
Total area of game preserves	45,140 ha
Number of game preserves	196
Total area of pheasantries	97,066 ha
Number of pheasantries	293
Average area of hunting ground	1,187 ha

Hunting ground utilisation

Number of hunting areas run on the proprietors' expense	784	
Number of leased hunting grounds	5,005	
Number of proprietary hunting grounds	1,590	28%
Number of guild hunting grounds	4,119	72%

Game management

The game belongs to renewable natural wealth of the Czech Republic. The wild game has been considered to be "res nullius" since the Ancient Roman law. The Game Management Act determines the rules of game appropriation and responsibility for damages caused by game in hunting areas. Game utilization follows the principles of the sustainable development. Game rearing and its utilization by hunting through the game management plan are regulated by legal rules. The game management plan is elaborated by the hunting area user and discussed with the hunting area holder. The state administration bodies intervene only in cases where the two do not agree on the game management plan. The field of the game management is regulated by Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., with its latest amendments, §36, and decree No. 553/2004, coll., on conditions, model and detailed instructions for elaboration of the plan of game management in the hunting area.

The game management plan includes:

- The breeding and hunting plan for the cloven-hoofed game (Red deer, Fallow deer, Mouflon, Japanese sika deer, Roe deer, Wild boar, Chamois).
- The breeding and hunting plan for the small game (Brown hare, Common pheasant).
- The breeding and hunting plan for other game species (Rabbit, Reeves's pheasant, Wood pigeon, White-fronted goose, Bean goose, Greylag goose, Mallard, Coot, Tufted duck, Common pochard).
- The game tending plan.
- The plan of collective hunting.
- The plan regarding the numbers of hunting dogs.

Elaboration of the game management plan:

Classification of the hunting areas in compliance with the quality classes with minimal and prescribed game stocks is the basis for the elaboration of the game management plan. Determination of the sex ratio, coefficient of expected production, population structure (composition of males, females and young game within the population, and male composition in the age classes).

The plan is further based on the results of the game census, review of the general ecosystem conditions and results of the control and comparative plots comparison, which are used as a record of damage caused by game on the forest and farm crops during the preceding period.

The elaborated game management plan is compared with the intention mentioned in the application for the recognition of the hunting area and with conclusions and recommendations concerning the game management in the rearing areas elaborated by the state administration of the game management, which delimited the appropriate rearing areas.

The plan also contains measures regarding the game tending, protection and improvement of living conditions of the game, including the construction of shooting ground facilities and carrying out duty of keeping and using hunting dogs in the hunting area.



Game management statistics

The game management statistics have been kept in the Czech Republic since 1966. They monitor occurrence of game species, the number and characteristics of hunting areas, the number of hunting dogs and other statistical data. The continuous and fixed methodology of the statistical data enables us to keep track of the main development trends and consequently regulate the game management therein. Aforementioned data serve as basic sources for game breeding and legislative amendment preparation.

Purpose of the statistical findings

The state administration bodies for game management use the statistical data for assessment of the game management level, i.e. game rearing and hunting, and the game management control in the Czech Republic. These results are then compared with national and international standards. Taking into consideration the importance of the game management in areas of game and nature protection and veterinary medicine, the periodical findings of the stock development of individual game species are imperative not only as the protection against extinction of some species but also as prevention against uncontrolled game stock increase with all its negative impacts (damage in forestry and agriculture, transmission of dangerous infectious diseases).

Game bag statistics

(The total number of male, female and young game taken by shooting and trapping)

	1968	1988	2013
Red deer	6,365	21,177	23,593
Fallow deer	1,308	3,832	16,570
Mouflon	946	7,304	9,446
Roe deer	78,292	76,417	105,686
Wild boar	3,356	48,033	152,468
Japanese sika deer	294	2,380	12,866
White-tailed deer	10	92	33
Chamois	4	70	13
Brown hare	1,110,279	182,261	37,694
Wild rabbit	37,814	4,705	117
Common pheasant	910,077	645,258	459,128
Reeve's pheasant	0	1,391	284
Mallard	91,979	224,065	256,375
Common pochard and Tufted duck	-	-	824
Coot	11,697	6,515	968
Geese sp.	612	2,453	1,802
Wild turkey	0	1,070	157
Wood pigeon	103,980	13,647	18,161
Collared dove	0	2,273	3,539
Guineafowl	-	-	151
Great cormorant	-	234	3,256
Grey heron	-	0	118
Magpie	-	15,328	11,773
Crow sp.	-	12,178	1,931
Red fox	19,694	41,376	69,516
Badger	1,117	226	2,714
Pine marten and stone marten	5,114	8,886	12,660
Muskrat	44,257	23,505	716
Raccoon	-	-	411
American mink	-	-	614
Coypu	-	-	1,909
Raccoon dog	3	10	1268
Capercaillie	37	0	0
Black grouse	573	26	0
Woodcock	3,419	312	0
Grey partridge	80,091	157	0



Obecní úřad obce s rozšířenou působností Mysl (MZe) – 1 – 01

Převzaté počty: Mysl (MZe) – 1 – 01
 Č. 448/2001 Sb., o myslivosti, ve znění pozdějších předpisů
 Myslivcký hospodář předá řádně vyplněný listopisnímu obecnímu úřadu obce s rozšířenou působností do 15. 4. 2014.

Roční výkaz o honitbě, stavu a lovu zvěře od 1. 4. 2013 do 31. 3. 2014

Název honitby: _____
 Dřívější honitby: _____
 Úživatel honitby: _____
 IČ: _____

I. ZÁKLADNÍ ÚDAJE O HONITBÁCH
 1. Výměra honitbě v ha (podle stavu k 1. 4. 2011 – započítáno na celé čísla)

Druh honitby	Číslo listu	Číslo výměry honitby	obory	z toho připadá na	
				listopisní § 69 odst. 1 zákona č. 449/2001 Sb., o myslivosti (oficiální seznam)	listopisní § 2 písm. b) zákona č. 449/2001 Sb., o myslivosti (oficiální seznam)
a	1	1	2	3	4
Zemědělská půda	76				
Lesní půda	77				
Vodní plocha	78				
Obilniné pozemky	79				
Honitba plocha celkem	80				

2. Odkohospodařování honitby

Vlastnický útvar a honitba	Číslo listu	Honitby	obory	z toho připadá na	
				listopisní § 69 odst. 1 zákona č. 449/2001 Sb., o myslivosti (oficiální seznam)	listopisní § 2 písm. b) zákona č. 449/2001 Sb., o myslivosti (oficiální seznam)
a	1	2	3	4	5
Vlastní	81	8	7	9	10
Společnostmi	82				

3. Lovci a psi

Skupiny plemén loveckých psů	Číslo listu	Počet psů	Početní stav psů a loveckou uplatnělností	Druh psů	Číslo psů	Počet psů	Měna psů	Počet psů
a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chrt	85				86			
Barak	86				87			
Horní	87				88			
Šelma	88				89			
Šarlat	89				90			
Čakal	90				91			
Šarlat psí	91				92			
Celkem	92				93			

4. Početní stav zvěře pro příkrmování zvěře

Druh zvěře	Číslo listu	Počet kusů	Měna zvěře	Počet kusů
a	1	2	3	4
Starinka	97		X	X
Zajíc	98		ne	ne
Krmelce	99		ne	ne
Nezapadá	100		ne	ne

5. Počet osob (dřívější) platících loveckých listků trvale vykonávajících v honitbě právo myslivosti

Účastník	Číslo listu	Počet osob
a	1	2
Dřívější platících loveckých listků	27	

* Pokud má pes zvláštní pro více výkazů, může být uveden pouze pro jeden výkaz, pro který je majitelem vykazován. Účastník je zvláštní, jak byl naposledy skautován (výkazní počet psů stanoví výkazník č. 294/2002 Sb., který se používá náhradně ustanovení zákona 449/2001 Sb., o myslivosti, ve znění pozdějších předpisů a v souvislosti s tímto výkazem).



Administrative hunting conditions

A person who hunts game is obliged to carry with him/her the following documents: identity card, hunting license, hunting permit and compulsory insurance certificate; for the hunt with a firearm he/she is further obliged to carry with him/her firearm license and firearm certificate, and for the hunt with falconry bird its registration card. These certificates shall be submitted by the hunter at request of these authorities: Police of the Czech Republic, State supervisory body of game management, game manager or game-keeper guard of the respective hunting area. The hunt is legally regulated by Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §46-48, with its latest amendments, and decree No. 224/2002, coll., implementing several provisions of Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., with its latest amendments, §19-20.

Types of hunting licenses:

- Hunting license for Czech citizens,
- Hunting license for students of vocational schools at which game management is a course of study or a compulsory subject of the curriculum,
- Hunting license for foreigners

Hunting licences are issued to:

- Czech citizens for an unlimited period, or a limited period that is for one day, five days, thirty days, six months or a year,
- Students of vocational schools where hunting is an obligatory curricular subject; it is issued for one school or academic year and only for the period until the studies at such school are completed,
- Foreigners for a limited period that is for one day, five days, thirty days, six months or a year.

The hunting license shall be issued exclusively to a person who proves that he/she

- is over 16 years of age,
 - b) has the legal capacity,
 - c) passed a hunting examination or an examination from game management at a university where game management is taught, or is a student or graduate from a higher vocational school at which game management is a course of study or a compulsory subject of the curriculum; for foreigners a valid certificate authorising hunting issued abroad shall be considered as a proof of the hunting examination,
 - d) is an honest person,
- Hunting licenses shall be issued by the state authority of game management responsible for their issuing in the district of the applicant's permanent residency.

Hunting permit

A hunting permit is necessary for the hunt of specific game species in the hunting area, bag limits, sex and age class. Hunting permits are issued by the hunting area user.

Insurance

Anybody who hunts game has to be insured for his/her liability for damage resulting from this activity, caused by injury to health or killing of other persons with the limit of indemnity of at least CZK 20,000,000, and for material damage with the limit of indemnity of at least CZK 500,000 per insured accident. The insurance terms and conditions that will specify the scope of insurance shall not contain an exclusion due to which the insurance does not cover the cases of careless behaviour of the insured.

Education in game management

Experience and skills passed down from generation to generation are the basis of education in the game management. The oldest drawings of hunting motifs we know of can be found on the wall of prehistoric caves. They had not only didactic but also ritualistic character. Approximately since the 14th century game management has been carried out as a professional activity by trained game-keepers. A greater attention has been given to the importance of forest research since the beginning of the 18th century. Large game stocks were reduced due to vast damage they caused, and then the game-keepers attention was fixed on the small-game hunting. The first forest regulations were issued in the middle of the 18th century. Forestry schools, where game management was taught as an obligatory subject, were established in the middle of the 19th century. Nowadays, game management is taught at forestry high schools and forestry colleges. People interested in game management have an opportunity to take the appropriate huntsman examinations. The examinations are organized by subjects who meet exact demands and obtain a licence from Ministry of Agriculture. The Game Management Act demands an obligation to pass the professional examination in order to gain professional qualifications in the several game management activities. The examinations are regulated by decree No. 244/2002, coll.

Hunting examinations

- Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §47 subsection 5 and decree No. 244/2002, coll., §21-24

Examinations for the game manager

- Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §35 subsection 7 and decree No. 244/2002, coll., §5-8

Higher professional hunting examinations

- Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §58 subsection 7 and decree No. 244/2002, coll., §30-32

Falconry examinations

- Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §44 subsection 3 and decree No. 244/2002, coll., §9-13

Field-trial

Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., §44 subsection 3 and decree No. 244/2002, coll., §14-18

Special professional qualifications exam

For working in the state administration it is essential to pass the examination of special professional qualifications in the forestry and game management, which is regulated by Act No.312/2002, coll., regarding the municipality officials, §21, subsections 1 and 2. By the examination for the special professional qualifications is proven the knowledge of:

- Act No. 449/2001, coll., on the game management;
- Act No. 289/1995, coll., on forests and the amendments on other laws (Forest act);

- Act No. 71/1967, coll., on administrative procedures (Administrative Procedure Code) with its latest amendments;
- Act No. 312/2002, coll., regarding the municipality officials, §21 subsections 1 and 2;
- Decree No. 512/2002, coll., regarding the special professional qualifications of the municipality officials, §1 subsection 1.

Taking into consideration the development of the legislation, natural changes and the continuous broadening of scientific knowledge, the education in game management is not concluded with the passing of the above-mentioned examinations. Within the scope of continuous education expert seminars and conferences with international participation are held annually. Up-to-date knowledge gained in the area of game management is presented at these events:

Conferences and seminars

2000	Hranice	Predacious animals in game management
	Hodonín	Brown hare 2000
2001	Konopiště	Feathered game
2002	Hranice	Game management and ecology
2003	České Budějovice	Game management - its function and importance in the cultivated landscape
2004	Mimoň	The problems of game preserve establishment
	Hranice	The landscape changes and the game
2005	Špindlerův mlýn	Overwintering game preserves and rearing areas
2006	Brno	Game management development after the EU entry
	Potštát, Hranice	Prevention of damage caused by hoofed game to the forest stands
2007	Žlutice, Doupov	Japanese sika deer
2008	Roudnice	Brown hare and its role in our countryside
2010	Olomouc, Plzeň	Young people education
2011	Perknov	Problematic of hunting ground establishment, agreements and lease
2011	Písek, Skelná Huť	Non-toxic small shot in practice
2012	Horce nad Moravou	Brown hare and Rabbit in current landscape
2013	Zahrádky	Game management conference
2013	Opava	Damage in agriculture and forests
2014	Dubina	Sika deer
2014	Bechyně	II. International game management conference for women

Young people education

Particular attention is paid to work with young people in the Czech Republic. Children are acquainted with game management under the eye of skilled game-keepers in hobby groups of young game-keepers and conservationists. The all-year-round work in these groups culminates in local rounds of "The Golden Roe Deer Trophy" competition. The winners then have an opportunity to compete in the national round, which is organized by the Czech-Moravian hunting union as a hunters' camp during summer holidays. The Czech Republic has been awarded the Gold Medal for its sophisticated system of the children and young people education by the International Council for game management and game protection.



State administration

Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture is the central body of the state administration of game management in the Czech Republic, with the exception of the territories of the national parks which fall within the competence of the Ministry of Environment.

Regional authorities

Regional authorities execute the power of the state administration of game management on the territory of the administrative regions.

Local authority of the municipalities with extended

Local authorities of the municipalities with extended powers are the bodies of state administration on the territory of municipalities. The Municipal Authority of the Capital City of Prague is the body of state administration of game management on the territory of the capital of Prague. The delegated powers that are conferred by this law to appointed local authorities may be further conferred by the Statutes of the Capital of Prague. The powers of administrative regions within delegated powers and of municipalities within delegated powers on the grounds designed for national defence are performed by Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture	1
Regional authorities	14
Local authority of the municipality with extended powers	205
Hunting areas	5,767
Hunting areas of the Military Forest and Estates of the Czech Republic, s. e.	25
The Ministry of Environment	1
National parks administration	4
Hunting areas in National parks	22



Game management subsidy

The game management state subsidy is legalised in Game Management Act No. 449/2001, coll., with its latest amendments, §62, and in Government regulation No. 30/2014, coll., on the "Binding regulations for financial contribution granting toward forest management and selected game keeping activities.

Game living conditions improvements

- Creation of feeding fields for the cloven-hoofed game, including seeding, maintenance and renewal in the following years.
- Purchase or production and installation of watering-places, man-made burrows, trap systems, nest boxes for water fowl and catching systems for wild boars.

Support of endangered game species

- Releasing of bought or bred individuals of endangered game species (capercaillie, black grouse, grey partridge) into localities of their natural habitat.
- Rearing of white-coloured red deer and Bezoar goat in game preserves.
- Building shelters for partridges.

Using of birds of prey in plant protection

- Production and installation of nest boxes; production and arranging of stands for the birds of prey on farmland.

Breeding and training of national hound stocks

- Successfully passed field-trial in the same year when the contribution request was submitted; only for the stocks of Czech pointer and Czech terrier.

Breeding and training of birds of prey

- Successful breeding of the bird of prey originating from the artificial breeding (Goshawk, Peregrine falcon, Saker falcon, Golden eagle).

Preventive veterinary medical care

- Infection control in game population
- Medicinal as an ingredient of the feed for treatment and prevention of parasitological diseases of the cloven-hoofed game.

The state supports community associations, in accordance with its subsidiary politics towards non-state and non-profit organisations, in execution of their beneficial communal activities, in their voluntary education of children and young people and in the development of a platform for extracurricular activities of children and young people, falconry, cynology, trophy shows, exhibitions, national hunt carnival and other game management activities.

Rearing of endangered and rare game species

White-coloured red deer

There are only several places on our planet, where are reared several individuals of the white-coloured red deer, an animal with zoological peculiarity. This deer came to Bohemia from Persia sometime around the year 1780. The rearing of the white-coloured red deer was very difficult in the following period, therefore the places, where it was reared, has changed several times. Taking into consideration the small number of reared individuals, no wonder that the game has degenerated in the passage of time and the game came to the brink of extinction. The white-coloured red deer was moved into the Žehušice game preserve around the year 1830. As a response to that, a herd of red deer individuals with the original red colouration from the nearby game preserve of Vedralka were released into the Žehušice game preserve, in order to prevent the continuous degeneration of the game. This way it has succeeded in conservation of the white-coloured red deer at the expense of variable colouration in several other individuals. The whole white-coloured red deer population was henceforth controlled by reduction of game population and elimination of sick, weak and colour different individuals with degenerative symptoms. Nowadays, the white-coloured red deer is reared in three game preserves – in the original game preserve of Žehušice, in Žleby game preserve and in the new game preserve of Kopydlno near Jičín. In total, approximately 300 individuals of white-coloured red deer are reared in these game preserves.



European wild goat (Bezoar goat)

The European wild goat is a naturalised game species, which was introduced into Pálava game preserve in 1953. In the place of its original reproduction the population was reduced to very few individuals. That was the main reason for perpetuation of this game species, which is zoologically allied with the subspecies living in Crete. Taking into account the climatic conditions, the European wild goat rearing was very difficult and the increase of young game is low on our territory. The European wild goat rearing in Pálava game preserve was put to an end under pressure of organised nature protection and the game was transported to the game preserve of Vříska in 1992. Nowadays several individuals of the European wild goat are also reared in Volský Žleb game preserve close to the town of Příbyslav. There are about 30 individuals of this game in our country.

Capercaillie

Capercaillie is our original game species. Its numbers has dramatically decreased in the last decades. The reasons of the capercaillie numbers decrease are environmental changes caused by intensive forest management, civilization pressure and predatory animals including wild boars. The Ministry of Agriculture and a number of other subjects and individuals are engaged in its conservation rearing. The Ministry of Agriculture has established a ten-year conservation programme for the capercaillie. The Ministry cooperates with the Military Forests and Estates of the Czech Republic, s. e., in the area of Brdy. The conservation rearing is also supported by the Forests of the Czech Republic, s. e., in the areas of Hrubý Jeseník and Šumava, Municipal Forests of Domažlice, National Park Šumava and Hunting guild Malý Sněžník. About 120 reared individuals are annually released into the wild.

Grey partridge

Grey partridge became almost extinct in the 1970s. Main reasons were large area management, using of chemical agents in plant protection and increasing number of predacious animals. Extensive programmes of reintroduction artificially reared partridges were not successful. Therefore the emphasis is placed on their natural conditions improvement. Major tasks are ecologically focused agriculture, multiplicity of feeding sources, habitat corridors and three-field system. It is necessary to reduce stocks of predators, feed additionally during unfavourable winter conditions, build shelters for partridges and in co-operation with farmers protect partridges while mowing. Thanks to improving environment the partridge numbers increase in the last years.



Cooperation

The Ministry of Agriculture cooperates with hunting, forest and agricultural organisations, with land owners, representatives of nature conservation subjects, veterinary administration, vocational schools, universities and research institutes. The care for game and its environment would not be feasible without the close cooperation of hunting organisations. The game keepers, who by their voluntary work help to improve the game environment by planting out refuges, biological zones and other natural covers for the game. Improve the ground of the feeding fields not only for the game but also for the rest of the fauna. They monitor the health state of game and perform veterinary examinations. This significantly helps to prevent the genesis and transmission of to-human transmissible diseases. Other game management organizations were established after 1989. The general partner is the Czech-Moravian hunting union. It is given by its plentiful member base (approximately 67,000 game-keepers). The Czech-Moravian hunting union has 84 district hunting associations, where expert commissions work. The Ministry of Agriculture cooperates with the Saint Hubert order in the sphere of game management traditions and cultural heritage.

Czech-Moravian hunting union

The Czech-Moravian hunting union is a succession organisation of the Czechoslovak hunting union founded on the 22 April 1923. The clubs, which were independent until then, founded a united organisation. Its major task was to defend their member's interests as a counter-balance to existing Czechoslovak hunting and cynological imperial association (1919). The constitutive meeting approved of the statutes proposed by Žalman, new register for hunting dog registration (managed by K. Podhajský) which has been used under the original abbreviation "Člp" up to present times, journal "Stráž myslivosti" publishing (editor J. Svoboda) and association mission statement. The Czech-Moravian hunting union is the greatest hunting organisation in the Czech Republic and it associates the bulk of game management executing persons. The organisational mission is to work on conservation and development of game stocks, to perform tasks resulting from the ecological programmes of individual municipalities, to conserve game management customs and traditions, to educate young people in game management and to take care of cynology, falconry and shooting. That is why integrated clubs of falconers, horn-blowers, photographers, cynologists, authors and others work within the frame of the Czech-Moravian hunting union. The Czech-Moravian hunting union maintains, as well as supports and develops our rich game management traditions and heritage. The game management tradition is a part of game-keepers life and guides them through all their meetings not only at the hunt but also at the formal or family meetings. The tradition reveals itself in the style of wearing clothes, in the game-keeper's speech, blowing the horn, formal meetings on the occasion of game keeper examinations, competitions and family meetings connected with christening, marriage or a game-keeper's funeral. Love for game management descends from one generation to another in many families and it inspires their life style and relationship to the nature. The experience passed down from generation to generation is preserved for the future.



Falconry

The art of hunting with birds of prey – falconry, is several thousand years old. We have seen falconry on our territory since the 9th century. The greatest development of falconry occurred in the Middle Ages. In the 13th century Fridrich II wrote a Latin treatise "De arte venandi cum avibus" (About the art of hunting with birds). Hunting with birds of prey was an aristocracy pastime and all important feudal courts and religious orders were involved in rearing and training of birds of prey and founding of the first falconry schools. A trained falcon was considered to be a precious gift of a remarkable value and was often used for diplomatic purposes.

The Club of Falconers was established by the Czechoslovak hunting association in 1967, for the purpose of conservation of falconry traditions in the Czech lands as well as development of the rearing and training of birds of prey and hunting with them. Nowadays the Club has approximately 475 members and consists of twenty-two centres. The membership requirements are: the age of 18 years and over, membership in the Czech-Moravian hunting union and a successfully passed falconry examination. Adepts led by skilled falconers prepare for the examination in the local centres. Using of birds of prey for falconry is permitted by the state administration body for game management, their possession and rearing is permitted by bodies for nature's protection. Birds most frequently used for falconry are: Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Pheasants, hares and fox are most frequently hunted with birds of prey.

Czech falconers use approximately 400 birds of prey for hunting and additional dozens of them serve for artificial rearing of chicks. There are 700 young birds bred annually in this way and some of them are released into the wild. Many falconers breed other rare species of birds of prey, ranging from very small merlins to eagles and owls as well. Apart from training birds of prey and hunting with them, the falconers take part in conservation of birds of prey in the countryside, and take care of wounded or handicapped individuals.

The most prestigious meeting of the Club is the annual international meeting in Opočno under the Orlice mountains, accompanied by hunts. The 48th annual meeting will be held in 2015.

The Club of Falconers has been a member of the IAF (International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey) since 1991. In cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Czech falconry has been enlisted on the national list of cultural heritage in 2009 and consequently it was recognized as intangible cultural heritage by UNSECO in 2010.





Cynology

The duty of the hunting area user to keep and use hunting dogs in the hunting area is laid down by the Game Management Act. The hunting dog is a dog of a breed recognized by the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale), with a pedigree. Dog has to successfully pass the appropriate field-trial. The individual field-trials focus on searching or tracking shot or wounded game, retrieving shot game and earthdog hunting. The field-trial description and obligatory number of hunting dogs in the hunting areas are regulated by the decree implementing several provision of the Game Management Act.

The Czech Republic has been a member of the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) since 1993. The former Czechoslovakia was one of the members establishing the above-mentioned organisation at that time. The Czech and Moravian cynological union represents the entire cynology of the Czech Republic in the FCI. The hunting cynology is represented by the Czech-Moravian cynological club, which was charged with keeping the Pedigree register of the Czech-Moravian cynological union. The Clubs of breeders are engaged in breeding of various breeds of hunting dog.

The Czech cynology enriched the breeds of hunting dogs with the Czech roughhaired pointer and the Czech terrier. The top cynological competitions are the Karel Podhajský Cup and the Richard Knoll Cup for the pointers. There are 29,700 hunting dogs used in the hunting areas in the Czech Republic.

Number of hunting dogs (2013)

Pointers	11,462	36.7%
Bloodhounds	2,267	7.3%
Coursers	1,839	5.9%
Tracker dogs	2,866	9.2%
Terriers	8,898	18.9%
Dachshunds	6,807	21.8%
Elk-hounds	81	0.2%
Total	31,220	

Horn-blowers

After founding the Saint Hubert Order in 1695, the earl František Antonín Sporck sent two of his apprentices to France, so that they learn to play the French horn. He did not certainly anticipate that blowing the horn will survive up to present. Czech hunting signals and fanfares composed by Prof. Antonín Dyk are played at all game management events. The horn-blowers club belonging to the Czech-Moravian hunting union, established in 1991, is a supporter of ongoing horn-blowing tradition. The fundamental task of the club is to pursuit hunting music and popularise it which results in a broad propagation of human and aesthetic aspects of game management. The club, with its manifold activities, helps to increase their member qualification and supports preservation of historical and professional traditions. Nowadays the club has approximately 450 members associated in more than 50 ensembles. The club supports not only beginners but also skilled ensembles or individuals, publishes musical notations, holds educational seminars and national or international horn-blowing competitions and supports composers.





Wildlife photographers

Wildlife photographers' club was established in 1989 on Sláva Štochl's initiative. The club associates more than 50 Czech and Slovak photographers who are interested in nature. The club members meet regularly, hold competitions, exhibitions and forums in various cities in the Czech Republic. Their photos can be admired on exhibitions, in magazines, calendars, books, postcards etc., not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. They aim to show the countryside in its unique beauty to all who concern over nature conservation. Some Czech photographers have been awarded abroad. Sláva Štochl, Jaromír Zumr senior and Přemysl Pavlík (member of the International federation of wildlife photographers) have won gold medals of CIC for their photographs.

Authors' club and the Video club in the Czech-Moravian hunting

The Authors' club was established in 2005 with the intention to associate authors of different fiction, non-fiction, dramatic and visual genres, to promote and popularise game management among the public through their works of art. They wanted to promote nature, and the need of its conservation and game management among young people, to create conditions for active editorial work, to hold cultural-social meetings with the help of the Czech-Moravian hunting union, and to co-operate with other units of the Czech-Moravian hunting union, game management organisations, associations and other subjects interested in the game management. The Authors' club associates more than 30 active members. The Authors' club is concerned to creating conditions for valuable literary production and art presentation of game management in close cooperation with the Czech-Moravian hunting union.

The Video club by the Czech-Moravian hunting union was established on 26 October 2001. The aim is to support and back amateur and professional films with fauna, flora and nature conservation themes. The club operates in the whole Czech Republic. The Czech-Moravian hunting union annually awards the Cultural prize to an artist or writer for an important work of art or for their life-long work in the sphere of hunting arts.

Competition in stag lure-calling

The art of game-keeper to lure game by calling is still ranked among privileged skills of a good game-keeper. Calling stags is a top discipline of game-keepers specialised on red deer, who form an elite among game-keepers. Competitions of game-keepers in calling stags have a long-standing tradition in the Czech Republic. The first competition in calling stags after the 1989 revolution was held on the occasion of the conference about red deer in Žďár nad Sázavou in 1995. Thanks to the "Myslivost" journal the calling stags tradition was renewed in 1998. The first "National competition in calling stags" was held in cooperation with the Saint Hubert Order in the frame of the Saint Hubert Festivities in Kuks. The first "European championship in calling stags" was held on the occasion of the international fair "Jagd und Hund" in Dortmund in the beginning of the year 1999. Competitors from Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic have taken part in that competition. The first "European championship in calling stags" organised in the Czech Republic was held in the hunting-seat of "Ohrada" in 2002. Six years later, in 2008, a jubilee competition was held at the same place. The Czech-Moravian hunting union in co-operation with the "Myslivost" journal hold not only annual national competition (connected with competitor nomination for European championship), but also professional seminars. Systematic training produced results and the Czech Republic has already had three European champions in calling stags since 2005. The last European champion from the Czech Republic was crowned in Dortmund in 2009, where the Czech Republic was a partnership country of the international fair "Jagd und Hund".

International cooperation

The game-keepers in the Czech Republic maintain a good relationship with similar organisations in the world, above all in Europe. The exchange of experience, reciprocal cooperation and common projects on the level of state administration of game management, game-keeper organisations, cynology clubs, falconers, nature photographers and horn-blowers brings an invaluable amount of knowledge and thus benefit our game management. Our hunting and cynological organisation are members, and in many cases also the co-founders, of important international organisations.

Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier (CIC)



This non-governmental organisation deals with questions of game management, game protection and nature conservation in all their aspects. Czechoslovakia was one of four countries, which initiated the CIC foundation in 1928. CIC members are partly individual countries represented by ministries, universities, game management organisations, and partly individual members represented for instance by research experts. The number of members is approximately 80 and it consists of 39 national delegations. CIC members work in 10 expert commissions and in 5 working groups.

Fédération des Associations de Chasseurs de l'Union Européen (FACE)



The Federation supports game management in harmony with principles of wise and sustainable exploitation of natural resources which is an instrument for rural development, unspoiled countryside and biodiversity development and for protection, improvement and renewal of the natural biotopes of game. The Federation was founded in 1977. The Czech-Moravian hunting union, the representative of the hunting organisations, has been representing the Czech Republic since 1990.

Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)

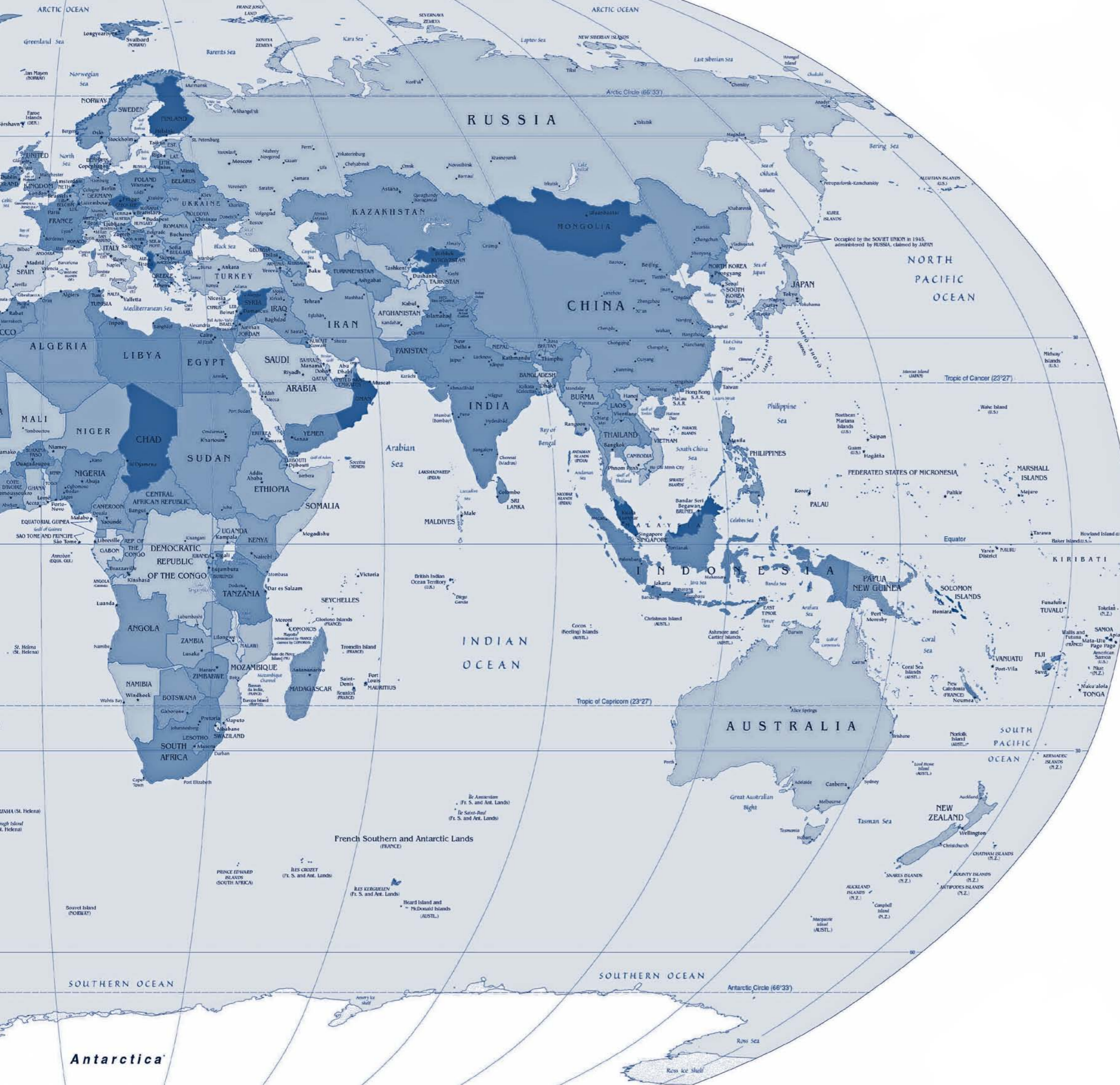


Registration and acceptance of all pedigree hound stocks and general adjustment to the breeding rules are the main interests of this federation. Breeder clubs cooperate with the FCI through the national cynological organisation, which is the Czech Cynological Union in the Czech Republic. The FCI was founded in 1911 and the former Czechoslovakia was one of the foundation members.

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF)



The non-governmental organisation represents falconry worldwide. The IAF was founded in 1968. It unites 92 associations from 67 countries. The Czech Republic is represented by the Club of Falconers associated in the Czech-Moravian hunting union. The Club has been a member of the IAF since 2000.



Wildlife research

A need has arisen for the systematic gaining of knowledge about game and its environment by reason of the increasing significance of game management as an economic activity and the need of game protection against the increasing pressure of civilisation.

This was the reason for the foundation of the Forest Protection Institute, an unparalleled institution in Europe, which was a part of the Forestry and Game management Research Institute in Zbraslav nad Vltavou at that time. Nowadays this activity is not concentrated in one place because of the wide scale of the game management research, but there are a number of workplaces involved in the research, including forestry and agriculture colleges. The most important collaborators of the state administration of game management are Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Forest Management Institute, Institute of Forest Ecosystems Research, Central European Institute of Game Ecology, Institute of Ecology and Game Hunting.

Main tasks of the game research

- Survival of game in modified nature conditions.
- The assessment of the landscape environmental functions relating to the game survival.
- The continuous mapping of the most dangerous preparations in terms of the health state of the game and transmission of the residues in their food chain.
- Stopping of the decrease of water fowl population.
- Monitoring of the health state of game as a presumption for creation of genetic base and population management.
- Establishment of the genetic bank for hare and roe deer in the Czech Republic.
- Perpetuation of endangered game species.
- Monitoring of population of tetraonides, grey partridge, white-coloured red deer and European wild goat.
- Assessment method of intraspecific game relationships and their control.
- Harmonisation of the relationship between game and ecosystems.
- Monitoring of the development of game stocks and damage caused by game.
- Periodical assessment of grazing pressure of cloven-hoofed game on rare fytocenosis.
- Support of decision processes of the state administration of game management.



Problems related to the game management

The decrease of small game stocks

The most successful period of the Czech game management in the 20th century was based on the rearing of small game. Large area agriculture management was the cause of fundamental game habitat change and decreasing small game numbers. The numbers of capercaillie, black grouse and hazel grouse have decreased under the limit enabling us to rear them effectively in the wild. The numbers of partridges, brown hares and rabbits dramatically decreased. The decrease of the small game is connected with sprawling of cultivated areas, intensification of agriculture, implementation of new artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Decrease in the amount of free land arising from a 7% extension of built-up areas together with development of traffic and road system and increase of tourism in the countryside has also contributed to the declining numbers of game. Increasing traffic is the cause of higher number of collisions with small game and also hoofed game.

Many of these factors not only persist to the present, but in many cases their negative influence is getting worse. This primarily concerns tourism, increase of traffic and increase of stocks of predacious animals. On the other hand implementation of the ecological management in agriculture has helped to improve the environment for small game. Small game is considered to be an indicator of the environment's health.

The increase of cloven-hoofed game

The cloven-hoofed game has reacted to the environmental changes, which started in the 20th century, by a rapid increase of its numbers (see table no. 22).

The increase of the cloven-hoofed game is influenced by the increase of feed offer that has been caused by development of agriculture, increase of cultivated fields planted with only one crop-plant in one large area, showing little respect for regularities regarding interrelations between human economic activities carried out in the countryside and natural living requirements of wild animals. The interest of the hunting public in the increase of number of other game species, as a substitution for decrease of small game, is connected with damage to the forest stands and farm crops.

Anti-hunting propaganda

The fulfilment of game management tasks in the countryside, i.e. creation of a balance between the need for protection of game species, their population and reduction of adverse impacts caused by living style of some game species, is negatively influenced by stirring up of an anti-hunt atmosphere among people by several ecological organisations. The aim of this anti-hunt propaganda is public condemnation of game management and hunting as such. Their aim is to reduce or exclude this activity from the human economic activities having instilled in the public the feeling that the game management and hunt are only anachronisms. The radical ecological organisations denigrate game-keepers by reason of insufficient reduction of cloven-hoofed game numbers, which devastates forest stands and farm crops from their point of view.





Countryside recreation and sport

Active leisure in the country is the current life style phenomenon sought after by city inhabitants above all. 70% inhabitants live in cities rather far from the nature and without any symbolic relation to which was formerly naturally formed by day-to-day human labour in the forestry or agriculture. People not only understood how to use natural resources, but they also could live in harmony with the nature's needs. It is common today to meet in quiet zones of hunting grounds four-wheelers, bikers, and skiers in winter and other visitors at the time of forest fruits collecting. The result of aforementioned activities is disturbance of game, which has adverse effects, especially in reproduction season. There is a frequent conflict between game-keepers and countryside visitors and it is used to be a media event with a negative impact upon game management. It is necessary to find a compromise and to understand both sides' needs.

Invasive species of predatory animals

New game species have expanded into Czech countryside lately. They force original species out and they present a new threat for small game and the whole native fauna. The American mink escaped from the farm rearing. The numbers of the racoon and the racoon dog substantially increased.

The European Commission came up with a regulation to have a united procedure in the fight against invasive alien species. This proposal was accepted in 2014 as Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.



„Game management is a complex of efforts to properly manage game in the emotional and respectable way, imbued with human culture and dignity.“

Prof. Ing. A. Dyk (1941)