



For onward forwarding to CIC Delegation members

Dear Members of the CIC Executive Committee,

Dear Heads of CIC Delegations,

I hope that this email finds you well. Please allow me to share some positive news, resulting from the concrete actions of the CIC.

In late 2020 and early 2021, we shared information on the subject of '10% strictly protected areas in the EU'. The initial draft text from the European Commission sought to ban hunting in these areas.

Fortunately, after one year of intensive discussions with Member States, the proposal made by the European Commission for a blanket ban on hunting (and fishing) in a new category of strictly protected areas covering 10% of EU land was deemed to be an unjustified measure for halting biodiversity loss. The final document, where the 'hunting ban' in question has been removed, can be downloaded [here](#).

This represents a victory in the recognition of services provided by hunting, and hunters! The CIC has been coordinating closely with FACE on this issue, including communications with CIC Heads of Delegations, CIC State Members, EU Hunting Directors, and the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi), to ensure the necessary voices were heard and the negative implications of such misguided text avoided. Thank you to all those of you who played their part in getting the right messages across.

The subject of strictly protected areas originates from the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. This calls for a coherent network of protected areas covering 30% of the EU, of which 10% will be under strict protection. The criteria and guidance are non-binding and aim to help Member States fulfil their political commitment.

The next step will be for Member States to make pledges for the 30% and 10% targets using existing protected area networks or new designations if needed (including OECMs - Other Effective Conservation Measures, such as **hunting reserves**). What is clear is that the success of protected areas does not depend on the level of protection, but rather the involvement and empowerment of local people (including hunters) and the associated cultural and livelihood benefits.

In this regard, the NOTE ON CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTED AREAS DESIGNATIONS contains some promising text, including:

"Activities authorised in strictly protected areas should also include those that are necessary for the restoration of the natural values of the areas in question. They should also include activities linked to small-scale subsistence resource use for indigenous people, provided it does not interfere with the conservation objectives of the area."

"... It should be noted, however, that while the definitions of categories Ia and Ib are largely in line with the objective specified in the strategy, of leaving natural processes essentially undisturbed to respect the areas' ecological requirements, the definition of category II allows for a process of zoning, in which strict protection does not necessarily apply to the whole protected area."

"... Thus, the criteria identified in this note to guide Member States in the designation of additional protected areas should also be used to screen which of the existing protected areas, other than Natura 2000 sites, and other spatial conservation measures that could be considered as OECMs can be counted towards the target in the strategy."

Once again, thank you to all those who contributed to this success.

Kind regards,
Mark Ryan
Deputy Director General