

# Meeting on Feral ungulates in islands of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian regions



Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

# Macaronesia



Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

Workshop

# **“Feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions”**

La Gomera, Canary Islands (Spain)

23-24 March 2015



Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

# **“Feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions”**

La Gomera, Canary Islands (Spain)

23-24 March 2015

## **La Gomera Island**



## **Why?**

Hundreds of feral goats and sheep

Highest density of endemic flora per 100 km<sup>2</sup> in Europe

52% of the island is protected



**Workshop**  
**“Feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions”**  
**La Gomera, Canary Islands (Spain)**  
**23-24 March 2015**



Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

Strasbourg, 10 March 2015  
[Inf02e\_2015.docx]

T-PVS/Inf (2015) 2

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION  
OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

**FERAL UNGULATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN  
AND MACARONESIAN ISLANDS**

*Document prepared by  
Mr Joan Mayol  
for the Bern Convention*

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.





Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions





Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions



# Draft recommendation on the control of feral ungulates in islands of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

# Clarify, where needed, the legal status of feral ungulates, both

- those that are result of ancient introduction on islands
- and those that result of recent abandonment from livestock owners or accidental escape;





Consider, as a general rule, **feral ungulates as invasive alien species** having possible negative effects on island native biodiversity;







Reverse, as far as possible, recent introductions of feral or wild ungulates into islands in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions, particularly in those where they are having a serious negative impact on native biodiversity;



## Promote in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands

- a stricter enforcement of legislation on registration, identification and health control of ungulates
- so as to avoid irregular or illegal herding in natural areas;





Avoid subsidies and incentives for free-ranging herds in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands that may result in a substantial increase of feral ungulates;



## When controlling feral ungulates

- prioritise their elimination from small uninhabited islands,
- protected areas and their buffer zones;

Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions



Include, where relevant, control of feral ungulates in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands in management plans of Natura 2000 and Emerald Network sites;





Wherever control or eradication of feral ungulates is not feasible consider fencing as a tool to protect native biodiversity from the negative effects of those animals;



Consult hunters and the herding community when preparing eradication or control plans for feral ungulates in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands so that support and cooperation measures to be implemented are, as far as possible, agreed;





Favour, when eradicating or controlling feral ungulates, the engagement of **professionals with the help of voluntary hunters**, avoiding that hunters are left as only actors of controls, as many past experiences have shown they might have an incentive in making control activities take many years or become permanent;





Collect appropriate information on feral ungulates in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands, particularly in small uninhabited islands, in protected areas and for ancient introductions;

Promote research on the effects of feral ungulates on native species and also on the interaction of different invasive alien species on native species, as the removal of one alien species only may affect the populations of other alien species;



Promote awareness with local communities on the negative effects on biodiversity, landscape and the economy of feral ungulates involving as far as possible different actors so as to get community support for removal of animals;

Promote the active participation of Macaronesian and Mediterranean islands in an efficient international network of island managers, in order to

- i) share lessons learned on past initiatives and
- ii) to be granted access to a series of internationally recognized standards, guidelines and recommendations addressing natural resources management and specifically for feral ungulate management

According to its future development and implementation, promote participation in the “Small Sustainable Islands” ecolabel initiative and corresponding network.





Further recommends appropriate authorities of Spain to:

- Continue and reinforce controls of feral ungulates in the whole island of La Gomera, in particular in National Park of Garajonay, its buffer zone and other protected areas of the island, making sure that there is co-ordination among the different administrations involved (Agriculture, Environment, National Park, Regional, Island and local authorities) and a common strategy is implemented, hopefully resulting in permanently eradicating feral ungulates and illegal herding in the whole island.





Control of feral ungulates in islands of the  
Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions