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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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BIENNIAL REPORT (2011-2012)

- MALTA -

*Memorandum drawn up by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance
The document is being circulated in the form and the languages in which it was received by the Secretariat*

1. EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING STRICTLY PROTECTED FLORA SPECIES

Name of the species	Number of licences	Number of specimens (when practical)	Reasons for issuing of licences ¹	Impact on population
<i>Helichrysum melitense</i>	1 (2012)	72 flowerheads (2012)	A	Nil. Considering that <i>Helichrysum</i> plant cluster may have up to 200 flower heads each and the researcher only collected a minimum number, the exception was not deemed to have a negative impact on the population.
The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority			
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	The flower heads were to be collected over a period of one year from one location in Gozo. Moreover, the uprooting or causing damage to the plant itself was prohibited and the disturbance to any part of the area and associated communities was to be kept a minimum.			
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.			

¹ A – for research/education/repopulation or reintroduction
 B – for exploitation
 C – for other overriding public interest (which?)

Name of the species	Number of licences	Number of specimens (when practical)	Reasons for issuing of licences ²	Impact on population
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	1 (2012)	560	A	Nil. Considering that care was taken to limit the number of samples collected the impact was envisaged to be minimal.

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	This activity was required in relation to environmental monitoring surveys carried out by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in relation to the Water policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 192 of 2004 as amended). Such exception was limited to the taking of shoot samples from 25 monitoring stations during the months of May to August.
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.

² A – for research/education/repopulation or reintroduction
 B – for exploitation
 C – for other overriding public interest (which?)

2. EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING STRICTLY PROTECTED FAUNA SPECIES (APPENDIX II)

Name of species	No. of licences	No. of individuals (when practical)	Action permitted (a to f)	Reason (i to v)	Means of killing/capture	Impact on population
<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	2 (2011) 1 (2012)	268 (2011) 431 (2012)	(d)	(iv)	The use of traps	Nil. In view that the specimens were released back into the water without causing harm, the exception was not deemed to have a negative impact on the population.

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	During the reporting period the killifish were captured from Maghluq tal-Bahar (l/o Marsaskala), is-Salini, is-Simar and l-Ghadira with the scope of taking length measurements and sex determination. Such specimens were then released back into the water without causing them any harm and the disturbance of any part of the area and associated communities (especially the water bank) was to be kept to a minimum.
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.

Name of species	No. of licences	No. of individuals (when practical)	Action permitted (a to f)	Reason (i to v)	Means of killing/capture	Impact on population
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	9 (2011) 20 (2012)	13 (2011) 11 (2012)	(c) & (d)	(i)	By hand	Nil. Since the aim was to rehabilitate and/or release turtles back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	The disturbance of stranded turtles was to be minimal and restricted to i) first aid ii) aid in re-flotation iii) taking of measurements and photographs. Moreover, when required, stranded specimens were transported from the site of stranding to the rehabilitation centre at San Lucjan and then released back into the wild following treatment. Each exception was valid for 8/9 months.
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.

Name of species	No. of licences	No. of individuals (when practical)	Action permitted (a to f)	Reason (i to v)	Means of killing/ capture	Impact on population
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	9 (2011)	1 (2011)	(c)	(iv)	By hand	Nil. Since this exception relates to the measurement of a dead stranded specimen, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	The disturbance of stranded cetaceans was to be minimal and restricted to i) first aid ii) air in re-flotation iii) taking of measurements and photographs. Moreover, the keeping of samples/ specimens of such cetaceans was prohibited. This exception was valid for 8 months (May to December).
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.

Name of species	No. of licences	No. of individuals (when practical)	Action permitted (a to f)	Reason (i to v)	Means of killing/capture	Impact on population
<i>Atelerix algirus</i>	3(2012)	9(2012)	(c) & (d)	(i)	By hand	Nil. Since the aim is to rehabilitate and/or release hedgehogs back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled	The Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exception where granted	The disturbance to the hedgehogs was to be minimal and restricted to i) first aid ii) keeping and rearing of abandoned young iii) aid in rehabilitation and the iv) taking of measurements and photographs. Moreover, when required, injured specimens or abandoned young were transported from the site of finding to the veterinary surgeon for medical care and then released back into the wild. The exception was valid for 9 months (April to December).
The controls involved	A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individuals were to abide with the conditions therein.

3. EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING FALCONRY

For each species used in falconry, state (use a separate sheet for each species) :

Name of species:

Number of birds in captivity (after entry into force of the Convention) :

Origin of birds : % captured from the wild in the State

% imported

% reared in captivity

Estimated population in the wild (in the State) :

Number of birds captured from the wild each year :

Number of birds imported (specify country of origin) :

Means authorised for capture:

Controls involved:

4. EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING PROTECTED FAUNA SPECIES (APPENDIX III)³

Name of the species

Exceptions made

5. EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF MEANS OF CAPTURE AND KILLING SPECIFIED IN APPENDIX IV

Name of species	No. of licences	No. of specimens	Reasons	Method used	Impact on population
<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	2(2011)	268 (2011)	(d)	11	Nil. In view that the specimens were released back into the water without causing any harm, the exception was not deemed to have a negative impact on the population.
<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	1 (2012)	431 (2012)	(d)	11	Nil. In view that the specimens were released back into the water without causing any harm, the exception was not deemed to have a negative impact on the population.

³ If exceptions concern the prohibited means of capture and killing for Appendix III species, use the form 2.4 on Appendix IV.