

Biennial Report 2013-2014

Article 9 to the Bern Convention permits exceptions from the obligations accepted by Contracting Parties in pursuance of Articles 4 to 8. The possibility of derogating from the mentioned articles of the Convention is subject to two very clearly defined general conditions, and some non cumulative specific reasons, listed exhaustively in Article 9.

The two general conditions that must be met are:

- a. that there is no other satisfactory solution; and
- b. that the exception will not be detrimental to the survival of the population concerned.

These two conditions are mandatory and cumulative.

The specific reasons for which the exceptions may be granted are the following:

- i. for the protection of flora and fauna;
- ii. to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property;
- iii. in the interests of public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests (please, specify);
- iv. for the purposes of research and education, of repopulation, of reintroduction and for the necessary breeding;
- v. to permit, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking, keeping or other judicious exploitation of certain wild animals and plants in small numbers
- vi. falconry (falconry is dealt with separately)

These specific reasons are mandatory and non cumulative.

According to Article 9§2, Contracting Parties shall report every two years to the Standing Committee on the exceptions made. The reports must specify:

- a. the populations which are or have been subject to the exceptions and, when practical, the number of specimens involved;
- b. the means authorised for the killing or capture;
- c. the conditions of risk and the circumstances of time and place under which such exceptions were granted;
- d. the authority empowered to declare that these conditions have been fulfilled, and to take decisions in respect of the means that may be used, their limits and the persons instructed to carry them out;
- e. the controls involved.

Respondent details

Country

> Malta

Entity

> Environment and Resources Authority

EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING STRICTLY PROTECTED FAUNA SPECIES (ART. 6 - APPENDIX II)

Article 6 of the Convention prohibits the following:

- a) all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;
- b) the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites;
- c) the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention;
- d) the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty;
- e) the possession of and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, (where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article).

Vertebrates

FISHES > SYNGNATHIFORMES

Syngnathidae

Hippocampus hippocampus

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

- The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 9

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

- all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

- iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of gathering morphometric measurements on seahorses to determine life histories and information on their ecology and habitats. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The disturbance to the seahorses was kept to a minimum and the taking of measurements did not usually take more than one minute per specimen. Moreover, when possible, specimens were not removed from their holdfast.

This exception was valid for 10 months (from 20-02-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Hippocampus guttulatus

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

- The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 10

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of gathering morphometric measurements on seahorses to determine life histories and information on their ecology and habitats. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The disturbance to the seahorses was kept to a minimum and the taking of measurements did not usually take more than one minute per specimen. Moreover, when possible, specimens were not removed from their holdfast.

This exception was valid for 10 months (from 20-02-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

REPTILES > CHELONIA (TESTUDINES)

Cheloniidae

Caretta caretta

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 18

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 4

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> Two of the licences issued covered research on the species, with the aim of studying the abundance, distribution and habitat use of the Loggerhead Turtle, with the aim of identifying key breeding, migration and foraging habitats. Since the activities covered observation, and deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state the impact on the population can be considered as minimal. It should be noted that these licences were issued for the purposes of the LIFE MIGRATE project which had the objective of designating proposed Protected Areas for the conservation of the species. An additional licence was issued to cover an additional research activity on the species, with the aim of carrying out a study on the turtles population demography and genetics. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this

and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as minimal. The third licence issued was in the interest of protecting wild specimens of turtles, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil or positive; 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.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the first research activity, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary to attain information (measurements) and blood samples. The turtles were then released back to the capture area. This exception was valid for 5 months (from 15-07-2013 to 31-12-2013) and an additional 7 months (16-04-2014 to 30-11-2014).

For the second research activity, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for the taking of measurements, photographs and a tissue sample of the rear flipper. Specimens were then released at the same point of capture without delay.

This exception was valid for 12 months (from 25-11-2013 to 20-11-2014).

For the rehabilitation activity, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

REPTILES > SAURIA

Lacertidae

Podarcis filfolensis

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 6

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been

captured within five days.
This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled
> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved
> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species
> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

Scincidae

Chalcides ocellatus

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 4

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been captured within five days.

This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species
> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

REPTILES > OPHIDIA (SERPENTES)

Colubridae

Coluber viridiflavus

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 4

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 2

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> A licence was issued covering research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

An additional licence issued was in the interest of protecting wild specimens of the species, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil or positive; since the aim was to rehabilitate and/or release snakes back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been captured within five days.

This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

For the rehabilitation activities, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

Elaphe situla

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 1

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions where granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been captured within five days.

This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

MAMMALS > INSECTIVORA

Erinaceidae

Erinaceus algirus (Atelerix algirus)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 111

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 2

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> One of the licence issued covered research on hedgehogs with the aim to assess the population status and habitat preferences of the species. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

The second licence issued was in the interest of protecting wild specimens of hedgehogs, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil. Since the aim was 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.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the research activity, the handling of the specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of biometrics and photographs, and the specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 3 months (from 29-07-2014 to 15-10-2014).

For the rehabilitation activities, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

Comments/notes

> The licence covering the research involved the use of small mammal traps which were set in the evening and checked the following morning. Such devices were not left in operation during the day. The traps contained food and water and were covered to reduce the chance of overheating or stress. Moreover, the bait used in the traps was such that it increased the selectivity towards hedgehogs.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps

MAMMALS > CHIROPTERA

Vespertilionidae

All species of Microchiroptera except *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (*Hypsugo savii*)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 1

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of using capture techniques to validate the quantitative method developed to identify the different echolocating bat species present in the Maltese Islands. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The capture and keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of photographs and measurements. The specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 6 months (from 17-06-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> species conservation under the Habitats Directive is classified as "Unknown".

Justification for derogation for a species in an unfavourable conservation status

> The only alternative was not to allow for this research to take place. However, since valuable information was to be collected about this species, this derogation was allowed for scientific reasons.

Comments/notes

> All effort was made not to harm any specimen, including the concerned microchiroptera caught in the mist nets.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps

All species of Microchiroptera except *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (*Myotis punicus*)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 6

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of using capture techniques to validate the quantitative method developed to identify the different echolocating bat species present in the Maltese Islands. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The capture and keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of photographs and measurements. The specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 6 months (from 17-06-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species conservation under the Habitats Directive is classified as "Inadequate".

Justification for derogation for a species in an unfavourable conservation status

> The only alternative was not to allow for this research to take place. However, since valuable information was to be collected about this species, this derogation was allowed for scientific reasons.

Comments/notes

> All effort was made not to harm any specimen, including the concerned microchiroptera caught in the mist nets.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps

All species of Microchiroptera except Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Pipistrellus kuhlii)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 1

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of using capture techniques to validate the quantitative method developed to identify the different echolocating bat species present in the Maltese Islands. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The capture and keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of photographs and measurements. The specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 6 months (from 17-06-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Favourable" under the Habitats Directive.

Comments/notes

> All effort was made not to harm any specimen, including the concerned microchiroptera caught in the mist nets.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps

All species of Microchiroptera except Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Plecotus austriacus)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 11

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of using capture techniques to validate the quantitative method developed to identify the different echolocating bat species present in the Maltese Islands. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> The capture and keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of photographs and measurements. The specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 6 months (from 17-06-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> species conservation under the Habitats Directive is classified as "Inadequate".

Justification for derogation for a species in an unfavourable conservation status

> The only alternative was not to allow for this research to take place. However, since valuable information was to be collected about this species, this derogation was allowed for scientific reasons.

Comments/notes

> All effort was made not to harm any specimen, including the concerned microchiroptera caught in the mist nets.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps

MAMMALS > CETACEA

Delphinidae

Stenella coeruleoalba

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 1

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

i.: protection of flora /fauna

Impact on population

> The licence issued was in the interest of protecting wild specimens of dolphins, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil or positive; since the aim was to rehabilitate and/or release specimens back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions where granted

> For the rehabilitation activity, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species conservation under the Habitats Directive is classified as "Unknown".

Justification for derogation for a species in an unfavourable conservation status

> The only alternative was not to allow for the rehabilitation of injured or sick specimens. However, this derogation was allowed for the protection of mammals.

Invertebrates

MOLLUSCA > GASTROPODA

(empty)

Gibbula nivosa

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of specimens involved (when practical)

> 54

Authorised action (art. 6, a. to f.)

all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;

No. of licences

> 1

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of provide biological information on the occurrence and population density of this endemic species. The activities covered the deliberate killing of specimens from the wild; however since a only a small amount of specimens were affected, the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions where granted

> For the research activity to be carried out to attain important information on this endemic species, the collection and analysis of samples of cobble and pebble habitats was allowed.

This exception was valid for 1 month (from 25-02-2013 to 05-04-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species has been classified as "Inadequate" under the Habitats Directive.

Justification for derogation for a species in an unfavourable conservation status

> The only alternative was not to allow for this research to take place. However, since valuable information was to be collected about this species, this derogation was allowed for scientific reasons.

EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING FALCONRY

Accipitridae

Aquila pomarina

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Origin of birds:

	% reared in captivity	% imported	% captured from the wild in the State

EXCEPTIONS CONCERNING PROTECTED FAUNA SPECIES (ART. 7 APPENDIX III)

According to article 7 of the Convention, any exploitation of wild fauna specified in Appendix III shall be regulated in order to keep the populations out of danger.

Measures to be taken shall include:

- i. closed seasons and/or other procedures regulating the exploitation;
- ii. the temporary or local prohibition of exploitation, as appropriate, in order to restore satisfactory population levels;
- iii. the regulation as appropriate of sale, keeping for sale, transport for sale or offering for sale of live and dead wild animals.

Exceptions to species listed in Appendix III concern the use of means of capture and killing specified in Appendix IV.

Vertebrates

REPTILES > SAURIA

Gekkonidae

All species of Reptiles not included in Annex II (*Hemidactylus turcicus*)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of individuals involved (when practical)

> 10

Exception made

> Deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily or permanently keeping them in captivity.

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on the population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been captured within five days.

This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

All species of Reptiles not included in Annex II (*Tarentola mauritanica*)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of individuals involved (when practical)

> 15

Exception made

> Deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily or permanently keeping them in captivity.

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on the population

> The licence issued covered research with the aim of cataloguing the the ecto- and endo- parasites found on the species. Since the activities covered the deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily keeping them in captivity in adequate conditions; the impact on the population can be considered as minimal.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions where granted

> For the research activity, concerned specimens were released back at the site from where they had been captured within five days.

This exception was valid for 12 months (10-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

REPTILES > OPHIDIA (SERPENTES)

Colubridae

All species of Reptiles not included in Annex II (Coluber algerus)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of individuals involved (when practical)

> 2

Exception made

> Deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily or permanently keeping them in captivity.

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

i.: protection of flora /fauna

Impact on the population

> A licence was issued in the interest of protecting wild specimens of the species, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil or positive; since the aim was to rehabilitate and/or release snakes back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions where granted

> For the rehabilitation activities, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

MAMMALS > CHIROPTERA

Vespertilionidae

Pipistrellus pipistrellus

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

No. of individuals involved (when practical)

> 4

Exception made

> Deliberate capture of specimens in the wild, with the intention of temporarily or permanently keeping them in captivity.

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)

iv.: for research / education / repopulation / reintroduction / necessary breeding

Impact on the population

> A licence was issued in the interest of protecting wild specimens of bats, with the aim of relocating, caring for, rehabilitating and release of specimens that were found injured, sick, in danger, or in inappropriate locations. Thus, the impact on the population can be considered as being nil or positive; since the aim was to rehabilitate and/or release bat specimens back into the wild after the necessary medical care, it was deemed that this exception would not have a negative impact on the population.

An additional licence issued covered research with the aim of using capture techniques to validate the quantitative method developed to identify the different echolocating bat species present in the Maltese Islands. The activity involved the deliberate capture of specimens from the wild, followed by their immediate release in an unharmed state. Noting this and the below conditions, the impact on the population can be considered as nil.

Conditions of risk and the circumstances and the time and place under which exceptions were granted

> For the rehabilitation activities, the keeping of specimens was limited to the time required for any medical assessments/procedures, post observation and rehabilitation. Samples from, or whole specimens of, dead specimens could be kept for identification and veterinary purposes.

This exception was valid for 12 months (from 01-01-2014 to 31-12-2014).

For the research, the capture and keeping of specimens was limited to the time necessary for the taking of photographs and measurements. The specimens were then released without delay in the same area from where they were captured.

This exception was valid for 6 months (from 17-06-2013 to 31-12-2013).

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

> The former Malta Environment and Planning Authority which has been succeeded by the Environment and Resources Authority in matters relating to environment protection was the authority empowered to state such a declaration.

The controls involved

> A permit was issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the licensed individual was to abide with the conditions therein.

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species

> The species conservation under the Habitats Directive is classified as "Favourable".

Comments/notes

> All effort was made not to harm any specimen, including the concerned microchiroptera caught in the mist nets employed for the research activity.

Where appropriate: indiscriminate means of capture and killing

11. Traps