



BERN

Biennial Report 2015-2016

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

>>> Switzerland

Entity

>>> Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, 3003 Bern

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

MAMMALS > CARNIVORA

Canidae

Canis lupus

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)

>>> 8

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

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

No. of licences

>>> 8

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

- ii.: prevention of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property

Impact on population

>>> none

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

>>> Exceptions granted by the "Service de la chasse, pêche et faune du canton du Valais" (4 licences) and the "Canton Uri" (4 licences), in conformity with the Swiss Management plan for wolves (Plan Loup)

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

>>> Service de la chasse, pêche et faune du canton du Valais

Canton Uri

The controls involved

>>> Federal office for the environment FOEN

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Comments/notes

>>> 2015: The exceptions granted were not implemented (i.e. no wolf shot)

2016: From 4 exceptions granted, two were implemented (i.e. one wolf was shot in the Canton Uri (28.07.2016) and another in the Canton du Valais (22.12.2016).

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

BIRDS > PELECANIFORMES

Phalacrocoracidae

All species of Birds not included in Appendix II (Phalacrocorax carbo)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Exception made

>>> The Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) is a species that can be hunted in Switzerland.

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

ii.: prevention of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property

Impact on the population

>>> none

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

>>> Cantonal authorities

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Comments/notes

>>> For further information see the federal hunting statistics:

<https://www.jagdstatistik.ch/de/statistics?tt=0&dt=0&at=0&st=1&dp=0&ar=CH&th=1&yr%5Bfrom%5D=2009&yr%5Bto%5D=2018&sp=%20250>

BIRDS > ANSERIFORMES

Anatidae

All species of Birds not included in Appendix II (Mergus merganser)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Exception made

>>> Various

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

ii.: prevention of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property

Impact on the population

>>> none

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled
>>> Cantonal authorities

The controls involved
>>> Federal office for the environment FOEN

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species
>>> The species is protected by law throughout the country.

Comments/notes

>>> The cantons may, with the prior consent of the FOEN, take temporary measures for regulating populations of protected animal, where, despite reasonable measures taken to prevent damage to animals of a particular species: they [...] cause significant damage to forests, crops or livestock, pose a serious threat to populated areas or to the environment, buildings and installations of public interest, or cause severe losses in species that may be hunted.

BIRDS > CICONIIFORMES

Ardeidae

All species of Birds not included in Appendix II (Ardea cinerea)

Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country
 The species occurs in the country

Exception made
>>> Various

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)
 ii.: prevention of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property

Impact on the population
>>> none

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled
>>> Cantonal authorities

The controls involved
>>> Federal office for the environment FOEN

Additional details

Where appropriate, please add a text providing information on:

Information on the conservation status of the derogated species
>>> The species is protected by law throughout the country.

Comments/notes

>>> The cantons may, with the prior consent of the FOEN, take temporary measures for regulating populations of protected animal, where, despite reasonable measures taken to prevent damage to animals of a particular species: they [...] cause significant damage to forests, crops or livestock, pose a serious threat to populated areas or to the environment, buildings and installations of public interest, or cause severe losses in species that may be hunted.

MAMMALS > CARNIVORA

Felidae

Lynx lynx

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)

>>> 1

Exception made

>>> Repopulation

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

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

Impact on the population

>>> none

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled

>>> Federal office for the environment.