BERN

Biennial Report 2017-2018

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)
››› 45

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

Impact on population
››› none

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled
››› Authority for nature, hunting and fishing of the Canton St. Gallen

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

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

No. of individuals involved (when practical)
››› 6490

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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Great Cormorant
Federal hunting statistics

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)
››› 240

Exception made

››› 8 individuals were caught for relocation

Reasons for issuing of licences (art. 9, i. to v.)
☑ i.: protection of flora /fauna

Impact on the population
››› Beneficial

The authority empowered to declare that the conditions have been fulfilled
››› The authorities of the Cantons Basel, Bern, St. Gallen, and Vaud

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