



John Linnell – Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

<http://fp7hunt.net>



HUNTING for sustainability

-research on the wider meaning of hunting

An interdisciplinary international research project, financed by the EU's 7th Framework programme, looking into the wider meaning of hunting in the 21st century.



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Backdrop #1

- Humans have been hunting throughout their evolution.
- Europeans have been hunting wildlife since the Pleistocene.
- What is the role of hunting in the 21st century?



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Backdrop #2

- Biodiversity is under increasing pressure from human activities
- Widespread agreement that biodiversity loss must be halted – but how?
- Looking at hunting as a potential case study in sustainability
- Success of achieving biodiversity objectives closely linked to the integration with social, economic and cultural objectives



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Goals

- Assess the social, cultural, economic and ecological functions and impacts of hunting in Europe and Africa
- Underpin EU policy on hunting in the global context of sustainable use of biodiversity, and Project Partners' national policies on hunting
- Using hunting as a lens to explore general aspects of the relationship between humans and nature, seeking ways to reconcile conflicts between people over hunting practices



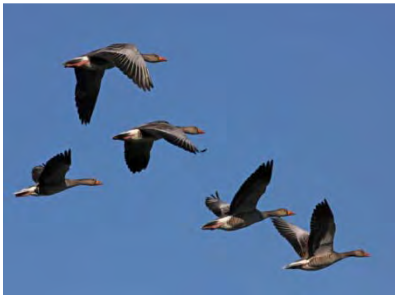
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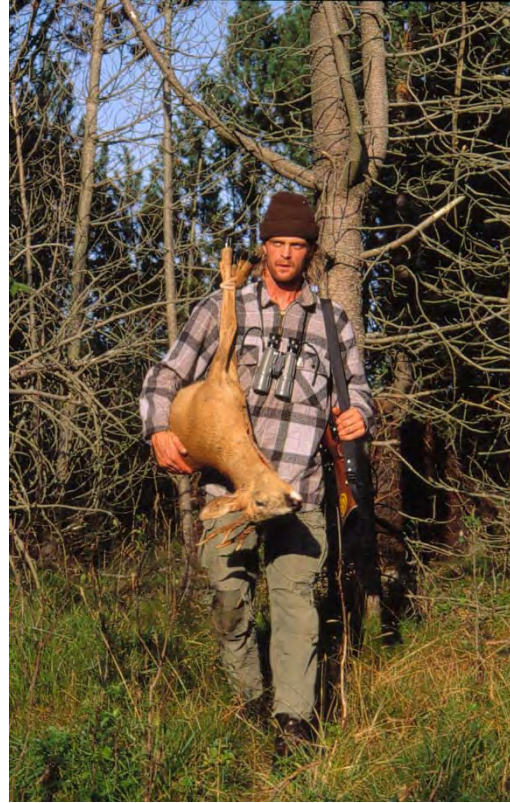
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Why hunting?

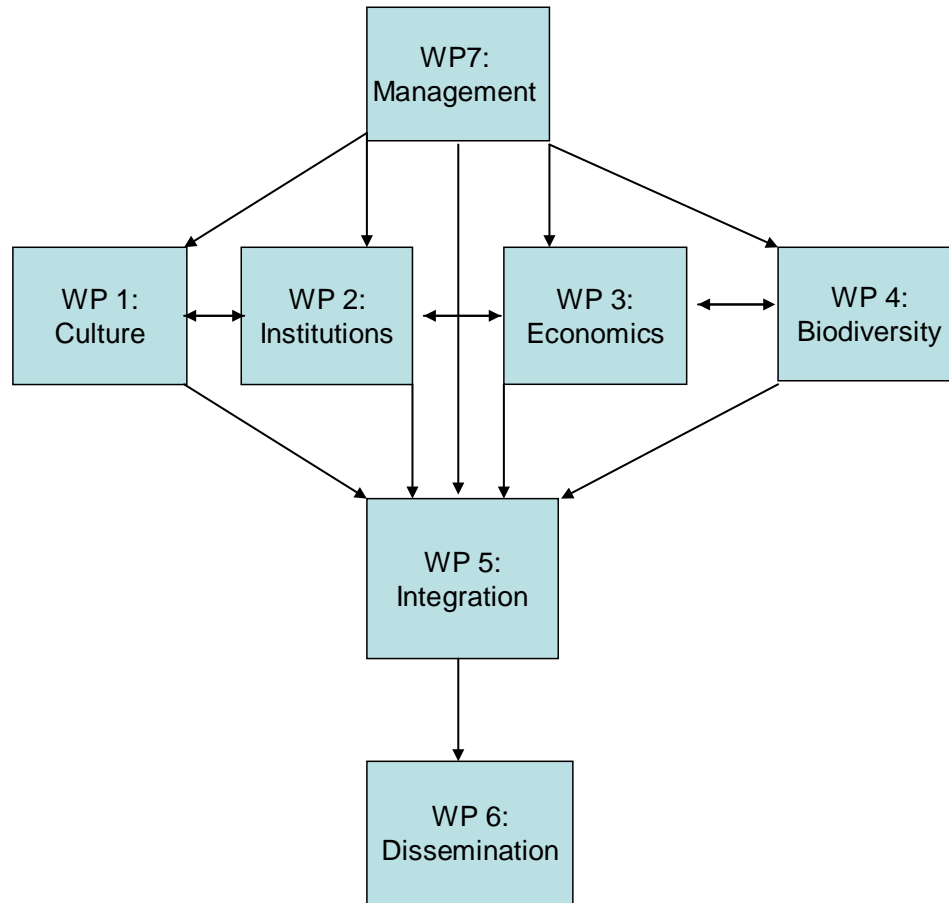
- Millions of people, hectares and Euros
- Range of ecosystems and socioeconomics
- Embedded in social structures and very much a part of current politics
- Important impacts on biodiversity



The diverse aspects of hunting



Integrated perspective on hunting



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WP1: The cultural meaning of hunting

- the human dimension

Objectives:

To investigate meanings attributed to hunting by different social groups in different localities



WP2: Institutions and hunting

- hunting and the “rules of the game”

Objectives:

To analyse how institutional arrangements and institutional change influence hunting



WP3: Socioeconomics and hunting

- the many ways of attaching values to hunting

Objectives:

To assess the economic importance of hunting, and alternative forms of land use at a range of spatial scales



WP4: Biodiversity and hunting

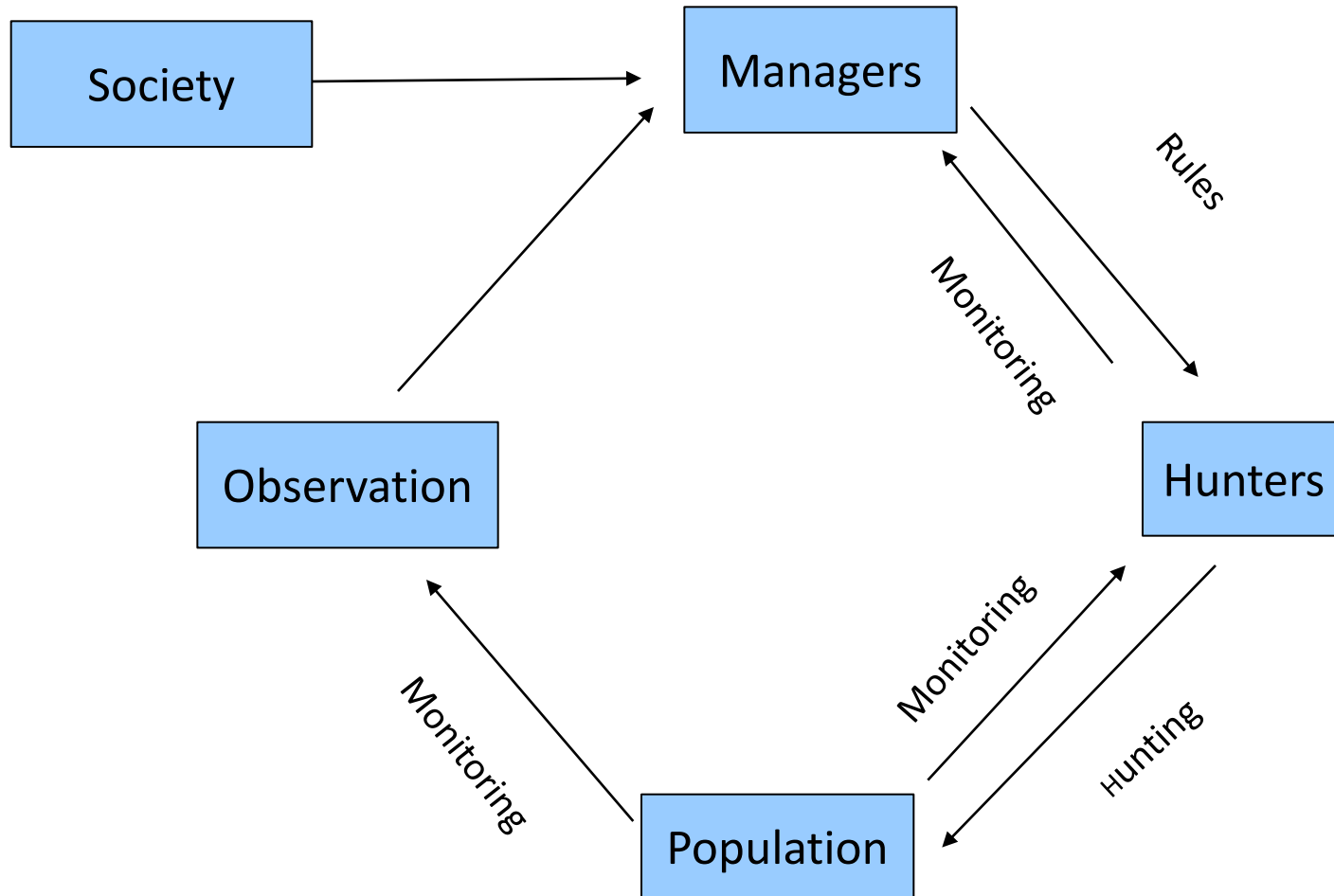
- the ecological perspective

Objectives:

- (1) Exploring the sustainability of harvest.
- (2) Exploring the direct impacts of harvest and the indirect impacts of wildlife management on wider biodiversity.



Management strategy evaluation (MSE)



Focal areas

- Capturing a contrasting picture of the social, cultural, economic and ecological contexts of hunting
- Activity in six different study case regions
 - UK
 - Scandinavia
 - Spain
 - Northern Dinarics
 - Ethiopia
 - Tanzania
- Capacity building and cooperation
- National Consultative Groups



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Project partners and participants

The Macaulay Institute (MI)

Frankfurt Zoological Society - Africa (FZS)

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)

Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), University of Barcelona

Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos (IREC)

The University of Ljubljana (UL)

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Zagreb (FVM)

The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

The Department of Political Science, Umeå University (UMU)

The Imperial College Conservation Science group (ICCS)

The Environmental Economics Research Group, University of Stirling (UoS)

The School of Biological Sciences at Aberdeen University (UNIABD)

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department (EWCA)

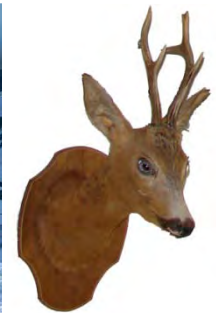
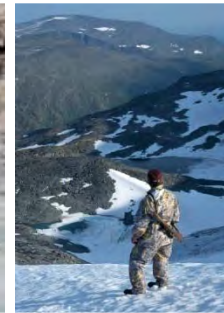


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Case studies

- Brown bear management in Slovenia and Croatia
- Lynx and wild reindeer management in Scandinavia
- Red deer stalking in Scotland - how do the different interests related to hunting interact?
- Multifunctionality of moose hunting in Sweden



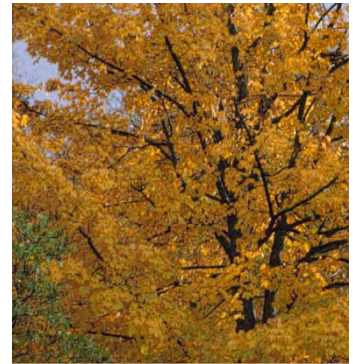
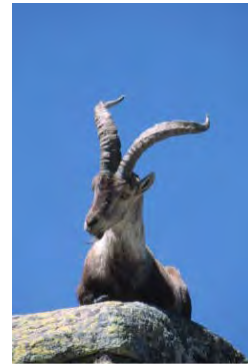
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... more case studies

- Economics of bird hunting in Spain
- Conflict between grouse hunting and hen harrier conservation in Scotland
- Trophy hunting of mountain nyala populations and habitat management in Ethiopia
- Value of bush meat hunting in Tanzania



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New knowledge, improved management

- Increased understanding between commonly isolated research disciplines
- Holistic and integrated perspective on the role of hunting in a number of European and African countries
- Novel approaches to the mitigation of natural resource conflicts involving hunting



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What have we learned so far

- Diversity!



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Hunting and protected areas?

- Not an explicit part of HUNT but here are my thoughts....
- Practices vary from country to country.
- Compatibility will vary depending on specific conservation objectives of the PA – range from necessity to unthinkable.
- But crucial to be aware of our European model of conservation = coexistence
- Coexistence of humans and biodiversity AND coexistence between different groups of humans!

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