Rationale Factsheet

CORAC
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The need to ban hunting relies on three key points: Ethical, Ecological and Societal.

ETHICAL

- Hunting is **a hobby, a source of entertainment**, which consists in the **stalking and killing** of animals. The hunting lobby justifies this activity through cynegetic propaganda, which relies on the false argument that nature needs to be regulated by humans, when in fact humans have disrupted nature and strive to keep it in a state of chaos, in order for it not to go back to normal and to be able to continue hunting. The approach is deliberately aggressive: the animal's death is not accidental, it is the sole purpose of this activity and is performed for the pleasure it imparts. **Can killing for pleasure be tolerated** in the 21st century?
- Hunting negates scientific advances and our increased understanding of animals: they are **sensitive, sentient beings.** They feel emotions, pain and stress just as much as human beings do. Causing death intentionally, for sheer pleasure, is ethically unacceptable.

- Is teaching young people, how to use lethal weapons and to kill "for real" **the right path to achieving a peaceful society?** In France, teenagers can hunt with an adult at the age of 15 and on their own from the age of 16.

Finding a source of pleasure and entertainment in the suffering and killing of animals should not be allowed – a hobby, which consists in killing animals, is not acceptable. Thereby, the practice of hunting in France is ethically reprehensible.

ECOLOGICAL

- Even though hunting is practised in a natural environment, there is nothing natural about this activity, especially from an ecological standpoint.
- Hunters organise and manage natural areas to benefit their activity. They divide wildlife into two categories: species they enjoy killing and pests – the making of cynegetic hunting. Hunters bring chaos and maintain excess numbers of animals, in order for their lethal activity to endure, then, they present themselves as the solution for the issues they created and perpetuate.
- **Each year, around 20 million animals are raised for the sole purpose of being released into nature by hunters** and become living targets to guarantee a satisfactory scoreboard. These animals are not suited for living in the wild, as they neither know how to feed nor protect themselves – they cannot ensure the future of their species. Additionally, the release of these animals weakens the remainder of the natural populations, since they bring diseases from the farms, disturb the ecosystems and cause severe genetic pollution to the fauna.
- **In France, hunters kill about 40 million wild animals each year, resulting in a decrease in the quantity** of hunted species.
- The inconvenience generated by hunters causes a modification and **reduction of the geographical distribution** of species (very notable in water birds), energy losses inducing a **decrease in survival** (reduced resting and feeding times, increased watching and fleeing times), a **decline in the breeding success rate**.
- Over the years and in the case of certain species, hunters foster a **fearful population** with abnormally high creepage distances. These animals are stressed, sensitive to disturbances, and form fragile populations with low demographics.
- Using lead cartridges (nowadays forbidden in wetlands) has caused lead poisoning, which among certain duck species has contaminated over 60% of individuals.

The animal world does not wish us harm or seek to harm us: it only strives to satisfy its basic needs - hence, there is no legitimate reason to attack it.

Consequently, hunting has a detrimental impact on wildlife on a quantitative and qualitative level. It directly (the "extractions") and indirectly (inconveniences) contributes to the decrease in the number of animals per species. Furthermore, it alters the behaviour and state of health of hunted species. Thus, hunting is reprehensible for ecological reasons.

SOCIETAL

- In using weapons in the open, which range covers several kilometres, hunting is a dangerous hobby. There doesn't exist a single mean to efficiently protect oneself from it (aside from not going outside for over half of the year).
- Each year, there are close to 200 hunting « accidents », amongst which around 20 result in death.
- Hunting is the only hobby, which frequently wounds and kills people who neither hunt nor observe this practice. As a matter of fact, this activity endangers the entire population (other nature users, drivers, local inhabitants…)

Hunting is an issue of public safety and is thereby reprehensible for security reasons.

- Contemplating a serene, peaceful natural environment **is a blessing** for all human beings. Hunting deprives the French population of this necessary comfort.
- By monopolising nature and creating an **atmosphere of insecurity**, hunting is incompatible with other outdoor leisure activities. Many choose not to pursue their outdoor activities during the hunting season, since they cannot enjoy them peacefully and safely. This small part of the population (hunters: 1,2 %) **prevents the majority of citizens from performing a basic need**: having access to natural areas.
- The **hunting lobby is powerful** and it defends **private interests contrary to public interests**. It succeeds in imposing legislations **going against the will and expectations of the majority**.
- Hunting **harms the development of green tourism** and wildlife viewing.
- Hunting is the school of **violence**, the passion for **weapons**, the pleasure of **killing**. Our society needs to shape itself and focus on better values, such as compassion, solidarity, non-violence and respecting life.
- 87% of French citizens wish to **extend the law against ill-treatment protecting domestic animals and those held in captivity, to wild animals**. This comes into conflict with the practice of hunting, which involves a tremendous amount of suffering for the animals.

For these reasons, hunting is out of step with the expectations and aspirations of our society.

CONCLUSION

We believe that questioning the existence of hunting in our society in the 21st century is relevant. **A hobby consisting in killing animals is not acceptable. Animals are now known to be sentient beings and hence cannot fall prey to individuals, whose objective is to kill them for fun. This activity gives birth to an important ecological prejudice and makes it impossible to efficiently protect biodiversity.**

In our present context, wherein natural habitats are on a constant decline and with the continuous development of human activities in particular road traffic, intensive agriculture and pollution, hunting is the final drop when it comes to saving a much challenged biodiversity. Furthermore, through the mass, systematic destruction of animals falsely named « pests », our country is one of the worst in terms of the irresponsible and irrational killing of wildlife. Hunting disturbs the legitimate wish of the population to enjoy natural areas and forests in peace and safe conditions. It is intolerable that to avoid putting their lives at risk, nature lovers, hikers, strollers, bikers, horse riders, etc. abandon their outdoor activities during the hunting season. In defending the values of non-violence and respect of the living, our modern, progressive society wishes to establish new relationships with the animal world.

Hunting is a war declaration on fauna and on our civilised society of the 21st century – thus is this practice condemned by the majority of our citizens.

In view of this, alleged arguments of tradition and rurality are anything but relevant.

Biodiversity should not be in the hands of a corporation guided by private interests, which go against public interest.

Nowadays, banning hunting in France is possible, recommended and necessary in order to face the decline of biodiversity and protect the animal world put under constant pressure.

We therefore propose to change the paradigm to managing human interactions and activities with the animal world through specific mechanisms, instead of managing wildlife, whilst preserving the interests of both worlds.

Throughout the entire country, areas dedicated to animal tranquillity have to be established and watched over.

These mechanisms have to be managed by a government body composed of competent public servants representing the different departmental, regional and scientific instances, as well as naturalists and volunteering nature lovers, consolidated in each and every territory (in the communities of the communes).

The role of this government body is to establish the conditions for a harmonious and peaceful cohabitation between the fauna and human activities.

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[1] **Sources : https://www.politique-animaux.fr/opinion-publique**
To the 78% of people favourable to recognising and granting all wild animals the status of living and sensitive being: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.ifop.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/3924-1-study_file.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwij8O-wkpzoAhXtzoUKHa68D_UQFjAAegQIBhAC&usg=AOvVaw3-tpsyNuhov-KWRbSkKuaX&cshid=1584263817433