

CIC – INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

A Worldwide Community for the Conservation of Wildlife through Sustainable Use

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is a politically independent advisory body aiming to preserve wild game. To achieve this goal the CIC is promoting sustainable use of wildlife resources, and plays an active role in the worldwide efforts to keep hunting sustainable and to develop hunting, especially sustainable hunting tourism, into a powerful instrument for conservation, human development and poverty alleviation.

Born from a Central European idea around 1900, the CIC was created in 1928 in Palárikovo (Slovakia), following an initiative of Count Louis Károlyi and his friends from different European countries. CIC was registered in Paris (France) in 1930 and since then it has gained global recognition as a unique advisor in the field of sustainable use and conservation of wildlife.

CIC is recognized by the Austrian Government as an international non-governmental and non-profit organization, working in the public interest. Since 2003, CIC has its seat in Vienna (Austria), the Administrative Office is in Budapest (Hungary).

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the CIC enjoys the status of an Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO).

MEMBERS

The CIC is today active in 83 countries. The membership includes governments (32 Member States around the world), hunting and conservation associations, universities and experts in a variety of research fields as well as dedicated private individuals. The CIC has over 40 National Delegations, which are responsible for activities in their own countries.

The Working Group Young Opinion brings together junior members who are less than 34 years old. All activities are financed by the membership fees, donations and sponsoring.

STRUCTURE

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

This knowledge-based network carries out projects, formulates recommendations and organizes scientific conferences related to specific aspects of wildlife conservation and use. The different topics and activities can be divided under the following categories:

- Policy: Sustainable Use, Agri-Environmental Measures
- Science: Migratory Birds, Big Game, Small Game, Tropical Game, Hunting Dogs, Exhibitions and Trophies
- Culture: Traditional Hunting, Falconry, Hunting in Art, Wildlife Photography, Hunting and Gastronomy
- Education: Wildlife Management Education Network involving young people of the world for sustainable use.

REGIONAL COORDINATION FORUMS

In order to work efficiently on the regional scale, the CIC has established coordination forums for Central and South-East Europe, Central Asia and the Mediterranean Region, which carry out cross border

cooperation. Regardless of political, religious or geographical boundaries, the CIC brings political decision makers and people from different professions from numerous countries to one table, and ensures that concerted conservation action receives support from all parts of the society. In this regard, transboundary collaboration has become natural and an element of success, and the CIC has been able to meaningfully contribute to improved international understanding and cooperation.



*Man's cultural development is originated from the gatherer, hunter and fisher.
We endeavor to save the cultural heritage of indigenous hunting tribes.
(Photo: Horst Niesters)*

ACTIVITIES

The CIC is first of all a service provider:

- to the hunter as conservationist;
- to all stakeholders in wildlife management;
- to the general public informing them about the values and virtues of wildlife and sustainable hunting;
- for species and habitat conservation;
- to fight poverty through sustainable use for the benefit of local people;
- to develop and establish standards, guidelines, policy and legislation for sustainable hunting and wildlife management;
- to fight against poaching and overexploitation;
- to develop studies and pilot projects.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During its 80 years of existence, CIC has achieved major goals in the conservation of endangered species around the world, e.g. the Peregrine Falcon, Thaki Wild Horse, Houbara Bustard and the Saiga Antelope.

In addition to this practical work, CIC has advocated and promoted the principle of sustainable use in policy development at international environmental debates. In 2004, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) approved the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, which document has been underwritten by 190 States. And again in 2004 the IUCN World Conservation Congress declared Recreational Hunting as a further valuable contributor to conservation.

The CIC played active role in the development of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, which was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) in 2007.

MISSIONS AND OBJECTIVES

In all national and international bodies concerned with the management of wild-living resources, the CIC and its members seek:

- the recognition of the global environment as a common concern of all of us;
- respect for a natural balance between all forms of life in their ecosystems;
- the conservation of nature for the interest of the present and future generations;
- the avoidance of the loss of valuable biological diversity, implementing the objectives of “Countdown 2010”;
- the optimum sustainable use of natural resources as an important tool for social and economic benefits, thereby providing an incentive for their conservation;
- the improvement of wildlife management and land-use;
- the promotion of scientific research and education as well as information to the general public.

The CIC pledges to undertake everything in its capacity in order to ensure that these objectives are met in an ethical manner and that these principles are the basis for all its interventions and activities worldwide.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE HUNTING

CIC maintains strong alliances for promoting sustainable use as well as furthering wildlife policy and law development with partners like:

THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS:

FAO, UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO

ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), with which a partnership agreement was signed in 2005; Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA); Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention); Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

IUCN – The World Conservation Union; Wetlands International; International Association for Falconry (IAF); Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE); WWF; BirdLife; International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB), etc.

NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

CIC National Delegations are also working together with NGOs being relevant for national or regional aspects of hunting and wildlife conservation.