

Hunting, conservation law and organisation of hunting

Albania

1. International Conventions relevant for wildlife conservation

- Ramsar Convention, 29/11/1995
- Bern Convention, 31/10/1995
- Bonn Convention, 16/11/2000
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 05/01/1995
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 25/06/1998
- Cites, ??
- The European Convention on Landscape

2. National Law

The Commission on Health and Environment is the main body within the Parliament of Albania responsible for the environment. A basic law on environment has existed since 1967. The development of a modern legal system for environmental protection based on democratic principles began in 1991.

Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) (no. 7664/1993)

The LEP is the main law on environmental protection in Albania. The law considers environmental protection as an essential condition for the social development and a national priority.

The protection of ecosystems is obligatory for all state organs and legal and natural persons. According article 4, protection of water, atmospheric, land-ecosystems and nature and landscape is included. To preserve and protect the environment in a sustainable way is defined as an obligation of all institutions and natural and legal persons.

Law on Forests and Forest Police (no. 7623/1992)

The law considers forest management with the purpose environment protection. Article 12 describes five categories of management units: 1) national forests parks 2) nature reserves 3) scientific reserves 4) nature monuments 5) landscapes and industrial trees.

The designation of 1) and 2), respectively, requires the decision of The Council of Ministers while the other categories require special decision of General Directorate for Forest and Pastures (GDFP).

Law on Hunting and Wildlife Protection (no. 7875/1994)

The law on hunting and wildlife protection states the wild fauna as national property that is managed and protected by the state in compliance with national law and international agreements. The term wildlife includes all animals and birds that form part of free populations, whether living permanently or temporarily in the Albanian territory.

The hunting fund is divided into four categories 1) free hunting area 2) breeding area 3) hunting reserves and 4) fauna or nature reserves.

Fauna and nature reserves aim an absolutely protection of the wild fauna and other resources living there. Scientific activities are allowed with permission of GDFP.

Hunting reserves serve for tourism, hunting and permanent management of the wild fauna. Although large carnivores are protected by law, there is no penal code in the case of killing large carnivores without permission in Albania.

3. Hunting bag and wildlife statistics

Three wild ungulate species are present in Albania: wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), and chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

In 2001 the roe deer population was estimated between 400-500 animals with decreasing population (Bego et al. 2002).

GDPF estimated chamois population to consist from about 1,200 – 1,600 individuals in 2001 (Bego et al. 2002).

All three ungulate are not permitted by regulation to be hunted and considered protected species in Albania but hunted throughout their distribution range in Albania, even within nature preserves and national parks (Bego et al. 2002).

Sources: Protected Areas in the Southern Balkans. Legislation, Large Carnivores, Transborder Areas. 2002. Ed. S. Psaroudas. Arcturos. Thessaloniki, 2002.