

## ANNEX: RESPONSE FORM

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

In order to understand who is responding to this consultation we would appreciate you completing a few respondent details.

Question responses will be anonymised before analysis unless you give permission otherwise. An anonymous ID code will be assigned to question responses, which will be kept on a secure database for analysis by team members. Personal details will be retained for three months after the end of the consultation period on a separate password-protected, secure database only accessible to the project manager and lead social scientist.

Are you responding as an individual OR providing your organisation's response?

Individual response

**Organisational response** ✓

Your full name

Organisation name

**Wild Animal Welfare Committee**

In some cases we may wish to follow up on comments and suggestions made. If you consent to being contacted with regards to your response please provide a contact phone number or email address below. These details will only be accessible to the project manager and lead social scientist, used in relation to this project and deleted three months after the consultation closes.

Phone number

Email

**wildanimalwelfarecommittee@gmail.com**

We may be requested for more information on responses we receive or wish to use refer to them in reports. Your response will remain confidential unless you give your consent for us to publish it.

Can we include the organisation name on a list of respondents? **Yes**

Do you give the RSPB permission to publish your consultation response? **Yes**

If yes, please indicate your publishing preference:

**Publish response with name.** ✓

For organisational responses only the organisation name will be used.

Publish response without name.

## Response to consultation

Please answer the questions on the draft principles in the boxes below.

The text boxes will expand to fit your text.

There is opportunity at the end to provide other information you think may be helpful.

### Draft Principle 1

#### **Shooting must not adversely affect the population of any native species targeted for shooting**

Do you agree with draft principle 1? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend to ensure the necessary data is accurately recorded and reported?

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the effect of shooting on the population status of native species?

**WAWC aims reduce harm to wild animals and prevent suffering caused by human activity.**

**In this context WAWC believes that the term 'adversely affect' should encompass not only activities that threaten the conservation status of the species in question but the welfare of the individuals being shot and any dependent young left after shooting. WAWC argues that shooting must be done humanely and that as a minimum all shooters must:**

- **Demonstrate competence verified by a 3rd party.**
- **Use firearms and ammunition appropriate to the species.**
- **Exercise caution and only shoot when a clean kill can be expected. This includes not shooting beyond a maximum distance.**
- **Pick up the carcasses of animals that have been shot and promptly dispatch wounded animals.**
- **Demonstrate competence in the humane killing of wounded animals.**
- **Search for and kill humanely any dependent young left after shooting.**

### Draft Principle 2

**Effective measures should be in place to ensure that shooting operates within the law and those not complying with the law must lose their permission to shoot.**

Do you agree with draft principle 2? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend to ensure relevant laws are effective?

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to ensuring shooting operates within the law?

**WAWC believes that anyone shooting animals needs to be properly trained and demonstrate competence to a standard set by a 3rd party. This competence needs to encompass the welfare of the quarry animals as well as the safety of those involved. Shooters need to be held accountable and there must be periodic independent inspection of activities to ensure that standards are upheld and that welfare of quarry is protected.**

### Draft Principle 3

**Management must not adversely affect the population of any native species in order to increase the shootable surplus of gamebirds and it should be underpinned by transparent reporting of the number of animals killed.**

Do you agree with draft principle 3? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes.**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend to ensure management addresses this principle and the necessary data is accurately recorded and reported?

**Note that should the RSPB adopt the approach set out in our response to Draft Principle 4 that renders Draft Principle 3 redundant.**

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the effect of management on the population status of native species, including those in unfavourable conservation status?

### Draft Principle 4

**Species in favourable conservation status, killed for the purposes of maintaining or enhancing the activity of gamebird shooting, should be managed in accordance with best practice guidance.**

Do you agree with draft principle 4? (delete as appropriate)

**No.**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measure would you recommend to ensure that best practice guidance is followed?

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the management of native species in favourable conservation status?

**WAWC believes that best practice guidance should include the following principles:**

**No native species, whether in favourable conservation status or not, should be killed in an effort to maintain or enhance the activity of non-native gamebird shooting.**

**No native species, whether in favourable conservation status or not, should be killed in an effort to provide an artificially-inflated number of native birds as part of an effort to enhance gamebird shooting.**

#### **Draft Principle 5**

**Land used for gamebird hunting should be managed in a manner that protects and enhances the natural habitats and ecosystem services it supports.**

Do you agree with draft principle 5? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes. No further comment.**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend to ensure land is managed in this way?

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the management of natural habitats and ecosystem services?

#### **Draft Principle 6**

**Some practices associated with shooting need to be assessed for their environmental impacts and, if necessary, to be better regulated or stopped..**

Do you agree with draft principle 6? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes. The use of lead shot and other ammunition needs to be quickly phased out in all circumstances to protect both the environment and public health.**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend for the identification, assessment and regulation assessment of practices that may be of concern?

If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the identification/assessment of practices that may have implications for the wider environment?

#### **Draft Principle 7**

**Mechanisms should be developed and implemented to ensure that gamebird hunting, across all parts of the UK, is carried out in accordance with these principles.**

Do you agree with draft principle 7? (delete as appropriate)

**Yes, provided the principles take into account WAWC's suggested amendments.**

If yes, would you make any amendments to the draft principle? What practical measures would you recommend to ensure these principles are adhered to?

**Any consultative mechanisms must involve stakeholders of all types and should not be confined to the RSPB, other conservation NGOs and the shooting community.**

**If no, do you wish to recommend an alternative principle with respect to the environmental impacts of gamebird hunting?**

Further information and comments:

Do you have any other information or comments you wish to make? Please also note any evidence you wish to contribute to the review (see the end of section 2.2 above).

Further information and comments:

**We applaud RSPB for initiating this review and consultation process. If it will assist RSPB in doing this, WAWC would be happy to engage with RSPB as part of WAWC's work to promote the integration of ethical principles of wildlife management and control into the heart of NGO thinking and best practice.**

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.