

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Lebanon*



Updated in October 2014

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Hunting law 580/2004

Year of publication: 4 March 2004

Supporting legislation: Hunting ban decisions since 1995 till 2004. Application decrees for the hunting law 580/2004. Decrees for establishing the "Hunting Higher Council-HHC" and its role

Legislation updates: Hunting ban decisions since 1995 till 2004. Application decrees for the hunting law 580/2004. Decrees for establishing the "Hunting Higher Council-HHC" and its role

Hunting legislation (web link): It will be available for the law once hunting season is declared by Minister of Environment

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link):

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe):

- * Hunting is still currently banned, but laws allow import of guns and ammunitions normally.
- * Only one representative for conservation NGOs in the HHC.
- * HHC meets only based on invitation from the Minister of Environment.
- * The law mentions that list of game species can be revised annually by the Minister and HHC, but with no specific scientific guidelines. There is no scientific monitoring program for birds, especially game birds up till now.
- * The restrictions mentioned in the current hunting legislation can be considered very Lenient as the definition of Pest species for agriculture is not precise and these can be considered a pest by the landowner of an affected plot.
- * It is difficult and costly to prevent hunting on land through specific signs all over the country (cost & visual nuisance). The law does not specify "hunting areas" yet.
- * Hunting exam does not include a practical section for testing the hunter's skills in identifying flying bird species.
- * Hunting exam is mandated for getting the hunting license for the first time only. Later on, it is just renewed without an exam.
- * Gun license is usually general and multi-purpose including hunting guns. Recently, the Minister of Interior issued a decision that restricts the license to a specific gun with its serial number (does not allow hunting except for hunting guns).
- * Capacity for Law Enforcement Officers is low for implementing the hunting law (It is not a priority within current security situation, needs training on bird identification & hunting law). Some of them are even hunters.

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* Law Enforcement Officers include: Internal security, rangers of Ministry of Agriculture, and rangers of nature reserves (MoE). Municipality police are not entitled to enforce to the hunting law.

* The fine for breaching the law is very soft and does not suit the current timing and financial and conservation status.

* Lebanon joined CITES in 2014. There is overlap of authority between Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture as who is the National Focal Point of CITES.

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): N/A

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Law, legal hunting is permitted only during the day, in specific season (15 September-31 January), and for certain game species (all other bird species, local or migratory, are completely protected). Hunting is banned during breeding season (spring season). Hunters should have a gun license, insurance policy against others, and a hunting license. Hunting license is issued Ministry of Environment based on an exam organized at “Hunting Clubs” that are certified by the ministry. Certain hunting methods namely: semi-automatic shooting guns, bow archery, dogs, and falconry are only permitted. Restrictions include: hunting at night, hunting out of season, hunting on private land without permission, hunting on land with “no hunting” signs, hunting on agricultural land with crops that are still not harvested. Restrictions include: hunting without hunting license, hunting with illegal equipment, hunting non-game species. It is strictly forbidden to hunt in cities, villages, picnic areas, public gardens, protected areas; and areas that have been categorized as important heritage sites, or less than 500 meters distance from residential areas, religious sites, public or private infrastructure, even if hunter is using arms that work by air or gas pressure. It is also prohibited to display hunted prey on the car and on main roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minister based on HHC decision sets the criteria of the hunting exam. The use of the following tools is completely banned: nets, glue, calling machines and decoys, projection light,poison or drugs, traps, luring, electrical machines. Shooting from all sorts of moving vehicles (cars, motorcycles & ATV) is not allowed. Hunting in mountains during snow season is banned. The land owner or the investor of the land has the right to prohibit hunting on it by placing “No Hunting” signs on the entrance of the land according to agreed practices (based on the

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting on mountains covered by snow is not permissible 	request of its owners, including municipalities).
Trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trapping in general is illegal in Lebanon, but not for pest species announced by the Ministry. It is completely banned to remove bird nests, take, destroy, or sell bird eggs, or young birds/animals. Only scientists are allowed to trap birds and animals for scientific purposes, and then release them. They are also allowed to take bird eggs for research. They should get a special license from Ministry of Environment based on a request addressed to the National Council for Scientific Research. 	

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
15 September - 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the following species are allowed for hunting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quail, Turtle Dove, Woodcock, Chukar Partridge, Song Thrush, Redwing, Mistle Thrush, Field Fare, Mallard Duck, Teal, Gargancy, Rock Dove, Stock Dove, Wood pigeon, Calandra Lark, Eurasian Skylark, Crested Lark, Chaffinch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is bag limit for each specie/hunter/trip. The rest of the 400 bird species in Lebanon are protected all year long. List of game species and bag limit/specie can be modified annually based on revision of the status of the species.

<p>All year round</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the wild birds or animals in Lebanon is considered the property of anyone regardless of its species or origin. They are protected all year except for the specified legal game species. • The minister of Environment can prevent hunting, on temporary or permanent basis, for any specie that might be beneficial to agriculture, ecological balance, or they are listed on IUCN red list, in order to increase their numbers. • The minister based on the HHC decision can allow hunting of certain species that have negative effect on agriculture or ecological balance. 	
<p>Rest of the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting is not permitted unless there is a justified cause for the hunting. 	
<p>Breeding farms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law promotes establishment of breeding farms for wild animals and birds, with the restriction that the species should be from the local or migratory species over Lebanon (especially if their numbers are decreasing). 	
<p>Hunting farms (Hunting reserves)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPNL in collaboration with MSB project and MoE, has identified 10 responsible hunting areas based on scientific objective criteria. • The idea is to restrict hunting to specific areas in order to allow proper management and enforcement of hunting law. 	

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
N/A	N/A	N/A

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

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Legal trade	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not allowed to export bird eggs or young birds/animals except those bred in breeding farms. • It is not allowed to export hunted species except through license from Ministry of Environment. • Lebanon recently joined the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in spring 2014. • Up till now there is no special law that allows the trade in wildlife. At the same time there is no law which organizes this process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not allowed to produce or import or use or sell glue used for hunting and taking birds. • It is not allowed to sell or display or use calling machines used for hunting and taking birds. Also marketing these machines is not allowed, and even its transit through Lebanon is banned.
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no special legislation for dealing with the pest species issue, except what is mentioned in the current Hunting Law. • Pest for agriculture can be trapped and hunted based on approval from Ministry. 	

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