

De effecten van loslopende huiskatten op de natuur en de rol van (inter)nationale natuurwetgeving

VVM Symposium 'De huiskat als invasieve exoot' – 17 juni 2022



Arie Trouwborst



I 
CATS





DISCLAIMER

Ik heb nooit een kat gepest, geschopt, geschoten, vergiftigd, gewurgd, verstikt, verdronken of anderszins mishandeld, en ben ook niet voornemens om dit in de toekomst te doen.

– *Arie Trouwborst*



Juridische (en politieke en ethische) vragen

Loslopend huisdier zonder toezicht



- Hinder
- Volksgezondheid
- Verkeersveiligheid
- Dierenwelzijn
- **Natuurbescherming**
- ...





David Costantini



Doug Mackenzie Dodds



FRED, KOM
SNEL KIJKEN!

MAUW.





James Morton



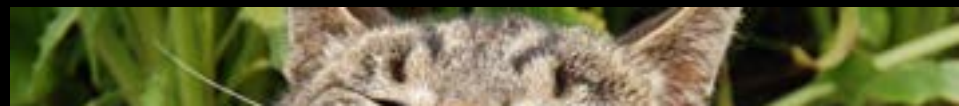
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Carlos Bocos







Cats in US kill billions of birds, mammals, study finds

29 January 2013



A domestic cat sits in October 17, 2010 in Manassas, Virginia. Domestic cats in the United States kill up to 3.7 billion birds and as many as 20.7 billion mice, voles and other small mammals each year, biologists estimated on Tuesday.

Domestic cats in the United States kill up to 3.7 billion birds and as many as 20.7 billion mice, voles and other small mammals each year, biologists estimated on Tuesday.

Puss is probably the biggest human-induced killer of these species, outstripping better-known culprits such as [habitat loss](#), [agricultural chemicals](#) or [hunting](#), they said in a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

investigations.

The next step was to get an estimate of the number of cats in the United States.

Loss's team calculated there were around 84 million cats with owners, of which a couple of million are unlikely to have outdoor access or go hunting.

Added to that are between 30 and 80 million "unowned" cats—animals that are wild or free-ranging but without an owner and survive on goodwill.

"We estimate that free-ranging [domestic cat](#) 1.4 to 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 to 20.7 billion mammals annually," says the study.

"Unowned cats, as opposed to owned pet cats, are responsible for the majority of this mortality."

The paper says the estimates are much higher than previously thought, and show that cats are the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for US birds and mammals.

It adds: "Scientifically sound conservation policy intervention [are] needed to reduce the impact."

The study tried to get a fix on the impact of cats on reptiles and amphibians that are also being lost, but drew a blank.

Cats kill one million birds a day in Australia

4 October 2017



Handout photo from The Threatened Species Recovery Hub showing a feral cat in Australia with a dead Galah bird in its mouth

Woinarski said that while previous research had looked at the impact cats had on Australia's mammals, this was the first nationwide assessment on birds.

It found the highest rates of predation were on Australia's islands and in remote arid areas, where the number of birds killed each year could reach 330 per square kilometre.

Feral cats, which number in their millions across the country, are also considered the main culprit behind Australia's high rate of mammal extinction.

They have wiped out entire populations since being introduced by Europeans who settled in the country two centuries ago, with efforts to cull or sterilise them so far failing to slow their march.

The researchers found evidence of cats killing 338 bird types—almost half of Australia's native species, including 71 threatened species such as the spotted quail thrush, the squatter pigeon, and the night parrot.

"We found that the birds most likely to be killed by cats are medium sized birds, birds that nest and feed on the ground, and birds that occur on islands or in woodlands, grasslands and shrublands," said Woinarski.

Feral and pet cats kill more than one million birds in Australia every day, new research showed Wednesday, with the staggering slaughter driving the decline of many species.

The study, published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, estimated that wild cats wiped out 316 million every year, while pets killed 61 million annually.

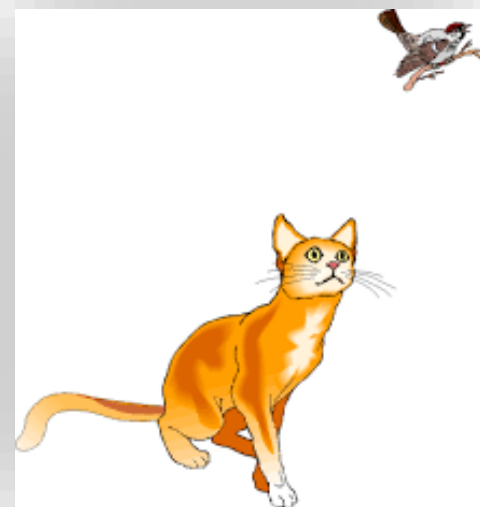
"Everyone knows that cats kill [birds](#), but this study shows that, at a national level, the impact is much greater than we realised."

"For Australian birds, cats are a major threat."



Elvira Martinez Camacho

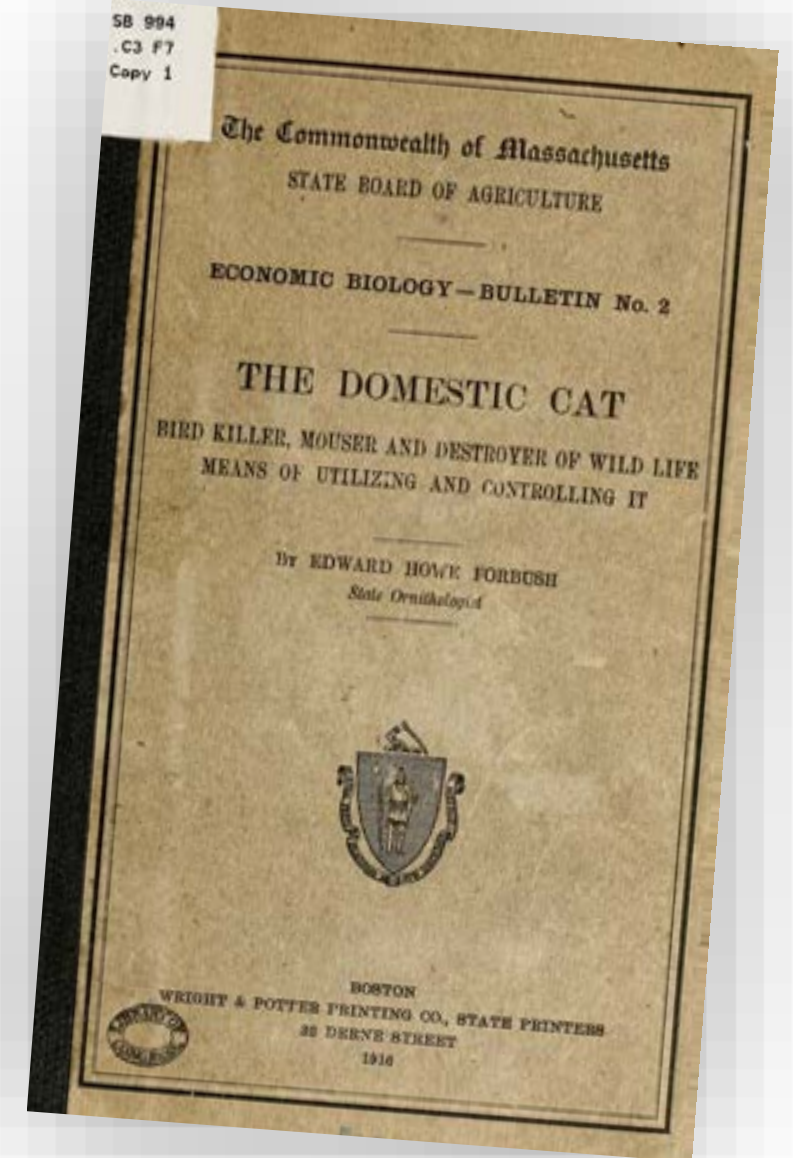




“We now legislate to protect birds, but place no limit on the increase and activities of their most destructive ... enemy. A man is liable to a fine if he kills a bird, but he may with impunity keep any number of cats to kill birds ...”

“The widespread dissemination of cats in the woods and in the open and farming country, and the destruction of birds by them, is a much more important matter than most people suspect, and is not to be lightly put aside.”

– *Edward Howe Forbush, 1916 (!)*



Co-auteurs

Han Somsen



Phillipa McCormack



Elvira Martínez Camacho



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

ECONOMIC BIOLOGY—BULLETIN No. 2

THE DOMESTIC CAT

BIRD KILLER, MOUSER AND DESTROYER OF WILD LIFE
MEANS OF UTILIZING AND CONTROLLING IT

By EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH
State Ornithologist



BOSTON
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
32 DENE STREET
1914



PLATE III.



FIG. 1.—A CAT THAT HAS BEEN "TAUGHT NOT TO KILL BIRDS."
After which she killed three "on the fly." The warbler just killed by her is tied under her chin to "cure" the bird-killing habit, but the experiment failed. She still kills birds.



FIG. 2.—FIFTY-EIGHT BIRDS IN ONE SEASON.
This white cat was known to kill fifty-eight birds in one year, including the young in five nests. (Photograph by Mr. A. C. Dike, first published in "Useful Birds.")

PLATE IV.



SEVEN ANGLE THROAT SWALLOWS BY A CAT IN CHARGE OF THEM.
A collection of bird skins in the possession of Miss Corbelle J. Woodward. Some of these birds were not killed by the cat, but the young birds killed by her were not preserved. See page 21. (Photograph by courtesy of Miss Woodward.)

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Loslopende huiskatten – invloed op wilde dieren

‘echte’ huiskatten – boerderijkatten – zwerfkatten – verwilderde katten

Invloed:

- Predatie
- Verstoring
- Concurrentie
- Ziektes
- Hybridisatie
- *Combinaties*



Predatie – enkele schattingen (per jaar)

	Zoogdieren	Vogels	Reptielen	Amfibieën
Canada		100-350 miljoen		
VS	6-22 miljard	1.3-4 miljard	260-920 miljoen	95-300 miljoen
Australië		170-500 miljoen	270-1000 miljoen	
Polen	500-670 miljoen	100-170 miljoen		
Nederland		17-100 miljoen		

“large numbers of cats inevitably kill large numbers of wild animals” (*Crowley e.a. 2019*)



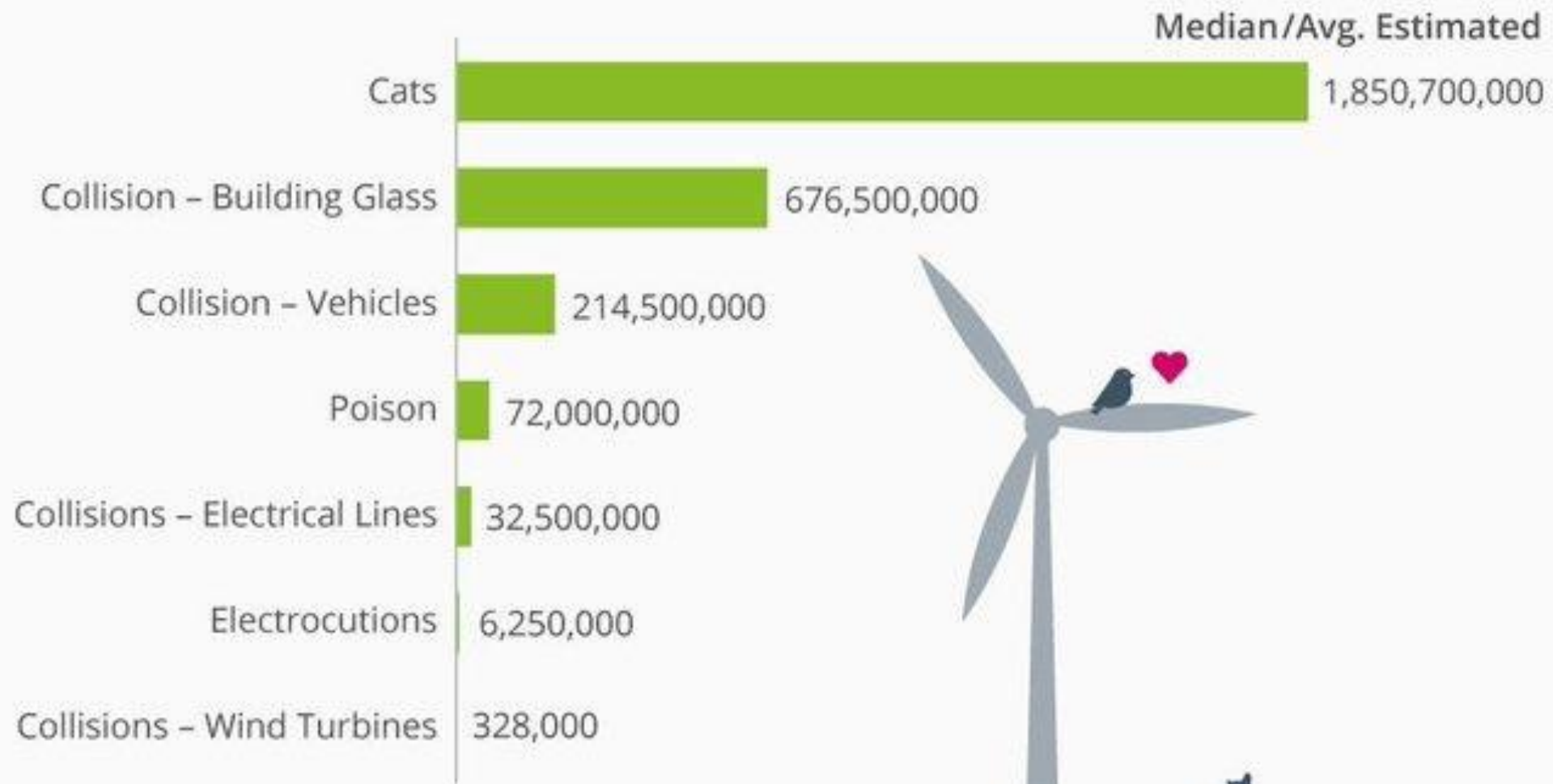
Predatie – in perspectief

Directe antropogene sterfte van vogels in de VS (*Loss e.a. 2015*):

Oorzaak	Vogelslachtoffers per jaar
Botsingen met windmolens	Honderdduizenden
Electrocuties door hoogspanningslijnen	Miljoenen
Botsingen met zendmasten	Miljoenen
Botsingen met hoogspanningslijnen	Tientallen miljoenen
Botsingen met auto's	Honderden miljoenen
Botsingen tegen gebouwen	Honderden miljoenen
Predatie door huiskatten	Miljarden



Annual estimated bird mortality from selected anthropogenic causes in the U.S.



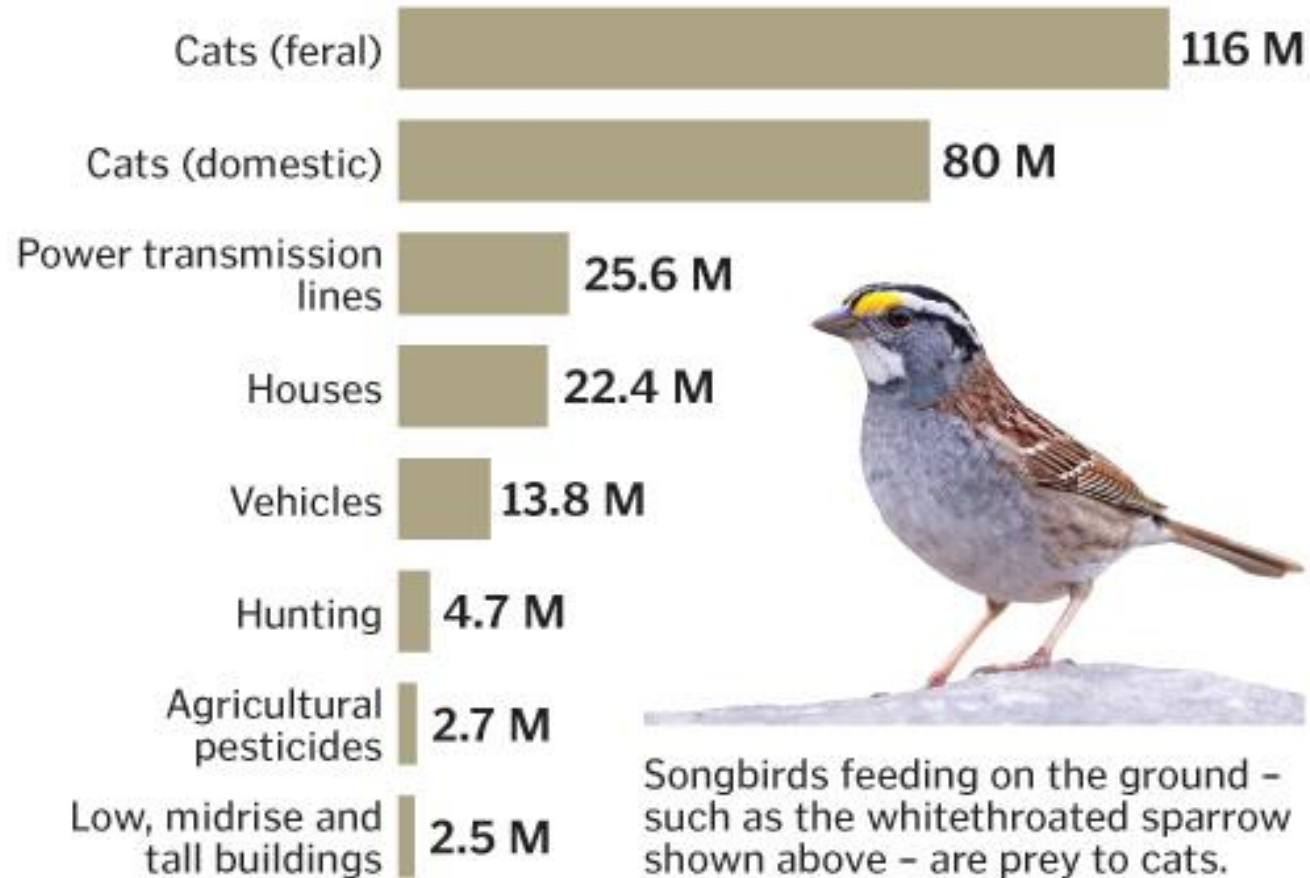
@StatistaCharts Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

statista



Bird deaths in Canada

The top causes of bird deaths in Canada each year, with estimated annual death toll, in millions:



Source: Environment Canada

DENNIS LEUNG/OTTAWA CITIZEN

Guess who's
a purr-fect
serial killer?
PET cats kill more prey in
their neighbourhoods than

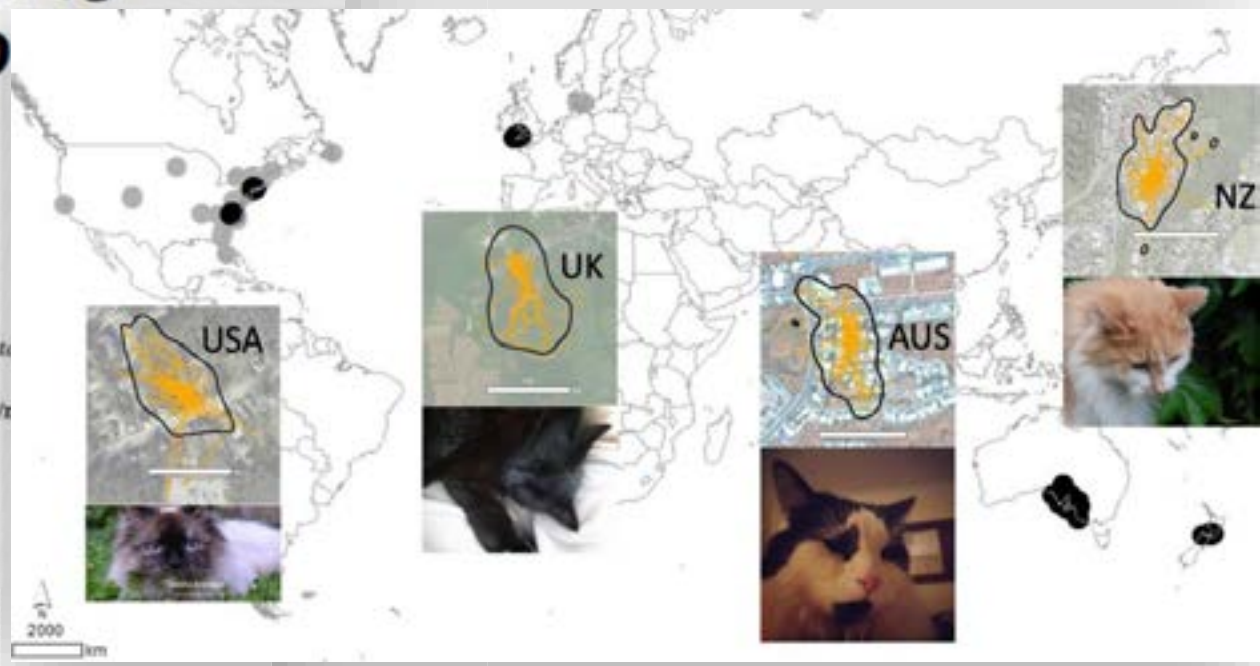
Kays, R. et al. (2020). The small home ranges and large ecological impacts of pet cats. *Animal Conservation*, doi:10.1111/acv.12563

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=35&v=SYJATBgQIY0&feature=emb_logo

Cats kill up to 10 times more wildlife than natural predators — so keep indoors

Domestic cats kill millions of birds and other mammals every year.

by Tibi Puiu (<https://www.zmescience.com/author/tibipuiu/>)
— March 13, 2020 (<https://www.zmescience.com/ecology/animals-ecology/cats-kill-up-10-times-more-wildlife-than-natural-predators-indoors/>)
in Animals (<https://www.zmescience.com/category/ecology/animals-ecology/>), News (<https://www.zmescience.com/category/science/>)





BirdsbeSafe®



AridRecovery



Victor Sainz





‘What’s (international/EU) law got to do with it?’

Feiten + recht (interpretatie) = conclusies

- EU-Vogelrichtlijn en Habitatrichtlijn (VHR) &
- dozijnen toepasselijke internationale verdragen

Verplichtingen m.b.t. :

- Invasieve uitheemse soorten (‘exoten’)
- Bescherming van gebieden
- Bescherming van soorten



Verplichtingen – exoten

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992), Art. 8(h)
- Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, 1979), Art. III(4)(c) & V(5)(e)
- African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA, 1995), Annex 3, par. 2.5 & 4.3.10
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP, 2001), Annex 2, par. 1.4.2
- Central American Biodiversity and Wilderness Convention (1992), Art. 24
- (Revised) African Convention on Nature Conservation (2003), Art. IX(2)(h)
- Protocol on Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Eastern African Region (1985), Art. 7
- Protocol on Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (1995), Art. 13
- Bern Convention on European Wildlife Conservation (1979), Art. 11(2)(b)
- EU Habitats Directive (1992), Art. 22(b)
- ...

