



In an effort to curtail the rising pressure on field sports and with the aim of having sound and proper defence, the hunting fraternity saw fit to establish various bodies to assist in the creation of proper regulations that control the sport and defend that which was unjust.

Malta could not be left out of this sphere and realised the vital importance of being represented by a body that would command respect and assist in the defence of traditional shooting and trapping. It was, therefore on the 17th September 1973 that the National Association of Hunters and Trappers was formed.

The persons elected to govern this non-governmental organisation had to react in real time to the pressures that were changing at a fast pace. In May 1982 the Association saw its statute amended and its name changed to The Hunters' Association. The omission of the word Trapping did not imply any decline in its importance, it is generally accepted that, similar to other practices across Europe, Trapping is considered to be another form of Hunting.

In July 1984 the Association again changed its name by adding the word conservation, since this important role was becoming more and more part and parcel of the sports.

On the 22nd June 1998 the Association's statute was reconstructed so as to form The Federation for Hunting & Conservation - Malta which incorporates 23 Associations from as many districts and specific committees.

Over the years some of these specific committees have included:

- The Commission for Public Relations and Education
- A Sea-Hunting Committee
- A Rabbit Hunting & Ferreting Committee
- Youth Section
- Children Section
- Mizieb Organisation Committee
- Limits of Mellieha Organisation Committee

Lands Administered by the FKNK -

These latter two Committees were set up since the Maltese Islands limit the amount of land available for the practice of the sports. Therefore the Federation has always insisted on being granted land where its' members, besides being organised in the practice of their sports, can also maintain the natural habitat of the land, and where also the public in general can enjoy other recreations.

In 1983, seventeen plots of land were identified which could gradually be handed over to be administered by the Federation for such organisation, and in fact in 1984, the first pilot project started in the Limits of Mellieha, with the second project, that of Mizieb which began in 1988.

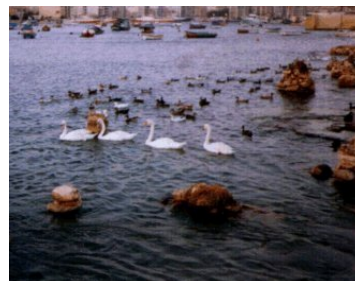
At these two localities, the practicing Members, under the direction of the above mentioned Committees, maintain the place through cleaning, pruning of trees, restoration of rubble walls, etc., throughout the year. Picnic Areas for use by the general public outside the hunting seasons, have also been set up at both localities.

It is a real pity that no more lands have been allocated for this type of exercise, which enables the sportsmen to be responsible for the conservation of the surrounding natural habitats where the sports are also practiced. Hunters are the Managers of Nature, and amongst other things, this occurs when hunters are allowed to manage the land.

Annual Activities and Events -

During the course of each year the FKNK organises and participates at several activities and events and its' annual calendar usually includes:

- Children Outings and Visits to cultural and historical places, and courtesy visits to personalities.
- International Trade Fair participation.
- The biggest clay pigeon shooting competition for teams held in Malta (during the first organisation of this competition by the FKNK in 1992, the now popular mission statement "**Better Shots Make Better Conservationists**" was launched).
- Environment Day participation at specified events.
- Artistic taxidermy show.
- Ducks' village pilot project.



- Maltese folklore nights.
- Gun-dog show.
- Song birds show.
- Maltese Gun-dog competition.
- Gun-dogs field trial.