

## GUIDELINES

# “LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”

PREPARED BY THE PLATFORM WISO  
(LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY)  
OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION  
ADOPTED BY THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ALPINE CONFERENCE, BRDO SLOVENIA, MARCH 2011



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### “LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”

According to the mandate adopted by the Alpine Conference in Evian 2009 the platform has to deal with questions of conservation, protection and management of large carnivores and wild ungulates and propose solutions to balance the conflicting interests and views – especially concerning coordination of spatial planning, agriculture and forestry, nature conservation and hunting. In order to do so the platform has to treat crosscutting issues of different protocols of the Alpine Convention, therefore it has to search for dialogue and cooperation with representatives of the relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions and to coordinate strategies and concepts always taking into account the ecological, economical and socio-cultural frame conditions.

The Platform “Large Carnivores, wild ungulates and society” had the aim to identify:

- A balanced system of objectives in form of common guidelines for the future work
- Options as a base for project ideas for common future cooperation reflecting a holistic approach

The guidelines in hand, which have been adopted at the Alpine Conference (decision see page 10) have been developed with contribution of relevant stakeholders, are the main result of the previous activities of the platform. Information on the participants of activities of the Platform, on national contributions and inputs of stakeholders are available on:

[http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06\\_WG\\_f\\_en.htm](http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_WG_f_en.htm)



## **GUIDELINES**

### **“LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”**

#### **MAIN GOAL – GENERAL ORIENTATION**

**Large carnivores and wild ungulates are preserved in balance with their habitat, other wildlife and human interest. Conflicts with human interests are addressed and negative impacts are counterbalanced.**

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### **“LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”**

#### **SUBGOALS**

**1 - Dialogue: We inform, sensitize, and promote dialogue concerning the relations between wildlife, habitat, and society;**

**2 - Wildlife populations: We respect the intrinsic value of our wildlife as central components of our environment and steer the development of native wildlife populations in harmonization with their habitat and human interests, with the goal of securing viable wildlife populations;**

**3 - Wildlife habitat: We support close to nature land-use forms when using mountain pastures, agricultural areas and forests and aim for the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats in terms of surface and quality;**

**4 - Integrative sustainable use: We use our wildlife sustainably, in recognition of and in harmonization with the various human interests in protection and use, and we further develop the various land use forms in a balanced manner;**

**5 - Cooperation: We cooperate transboundary in a cross-sectoral way and harmonize measures, as far as it is needed to reach common objectives, such as the amelioration of living conditions for wildlife species or the prevention of conflicts as regards different user interests as well as compensation of damages.**



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#### **Options**

**1 - Dialogue: We inform, sensitize, and promote dialogue concerning the relations between wildlife, habitat, and society.**

**1-1) We advocate the right of existence of all native wildlife-species and recognize their intrinsic value;**

**1-2) We promote research and knowledge on wildlife, their habitats, and their interactions as well as environmental impacts;**

**1-3) We actively sensitize the population and promote an objective and cross-sectoral dialogue;**

**1-4) We include affected parties in the discussion concerning potential conflicts and possibilities for coexistence, we seek to identify consensual solutions to problems and management decisions, and we communicate in a transparent manner.**

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**2 - Wildlife populations: We respect the intrinsic value of our wildlife as central components of our environment, promote and steer the development of native wildlife populations in harmonization with their habitat and human interests , with the goal of securing viable wildlife populations.**

**2-1) We want to preserve and restore wildlife as wildlife to the extent possible by assuring their free movement in space and time;**

**2-2) We aim for viable populations of native species in the entire Alpine region taking into account their bio-geographical distribution comprising regions neighbouring the Alps and a possible long-range migration;**

**2-3) We aim for population sizes that allow sustainable use where appropriate;**

**2-4) In the interest of population management, and while safeguarding the survival of the species, we agree on interventions in populations of protected species as a possible management decision, if there is danger to life and limb of human beings and to prevent substantial damage;**

**2-5) We monitor wildlife with respect to diseases that are transmissible between wildlife, livestock, and humans, and we take appropriate measures for prevention and containment.**

**2-6) We are aware of the conflicts that wildlife species can cause and aim for a solidary approach between the society as a whole and the directly concerned people when looking for solutions.**

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**3 - Wildlife habitat: We support close to nature land-use forms when using mountain pastures, agricultural areas and forests and aim for the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats in terms of surface and quality;**

**3-1) We want to ensure that wildlife habitats can satisfy the specific needs of wildlife species in accordance with close to nature land-use forms in a manner appropriate to their species throughout the entire Alpine region;**

**3-2) We preserve and connect wildlife habitats and ensure the permeability of the landscape;**

**3-3) We steer tourism and leisure activities in order to keep areas that are important to wildlife as free from disturbance as possible ;**

**3-4) We integrate goals for the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats into the planning and steering processes of public and private actors;**

**3-5) In our management concepts, we take account of the possible impacts on wildlife and their habitats, in particular the potential effects of climate change.**

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**4 – Integrative sustainable use: We use our wildlife sustainably, in recognition of and in harmonization with the various human interests in protection and use, and we further develop the various land use forms in a balanced manner.**

**4-1) We recognize the performances of agriculture and forestry for the benefit of the wildlife habitat and promote a mosaic of forests, open land, and transitional forms;**

**4-2) We support a sustainable use of alpine pastures and adapted livestock husbandry that supports rural livelihood, that contributes to the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats and facilitates coexistence with wildlife;**

**4-3) We promote sustainable hunting based on the natural diversity of species, the natural age and social structure of wildlife, and the satisfaction of their needs, without compromising natural regeneration of forests, primary forest functions and other human interests;**

**4-4) We support forestry that sustainably preserves and improves the ecosystem performance of the forest and the quality of wildlife habitats;**

**4-5) We support efforts to preserve biodiversity, especially with a view to endangered species and habitat types;**



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**5 – Cooperation: We cooperate transboundary in a cross-sectoral way and harmonize measures, as far as it is needed to reach common objectives, such as the amelioration of living conditions for wildlife species or the prevention of conflicts as regards different user interests as well as compensation of damages.**

**5-1) We promote conceptual harmonization in order to achieve a shared understanding of terms used and measures to be taken;**

**5-2) We promote a timely and open information exchange on a good knowledge base at all levels;**

**5-3) As part of a joint responsibility for wildlife populations, we take account of developments in the neighbouring regions for our own management measures, and we promote cross-border cooperation;**

**5-4) We involve parties concerned in the development of management strategies and we initiate measures based on objective knowledge and adjusted to local circumstances;**

**5-5) We promote, also across borders, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation, we reduce conflicts and make use of synergies.**



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### “LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”

The decision of the XI<sup>th</sup> Alpine Conference to adopt the guidelines is to find under: [http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06\\_AC\\_en.htm](http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_AC_en.htm)

#### The Alpine Conference<sup>1</sup>

1. acknowledged the report<sup>23</sup> on the activities of the Presidency of the “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” Platform,
2. supported a multi-sector, global and transboundary approach to wildlife and society and decided to change the name of the Platform from “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” to “Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society” (wildlife and society - WISO),
3. acknowledged the reference framework<sup>24</sup> compiled by the Platform as a basis for the development of transboundary projects,
4. entrusted Switzerland with the Presidency of the Platform until the 12th Alpine Conference,
5. tasked the Platform to particularly investigate the following areas for action:
  - development of an Alpine programme for monitoring large carnivores
  - a census of the population and distribution of rock goats
  - exchange of programmes for sending information and knowledge, and also for improving knowledge about relations between wildlife and society.

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<sup>1</sup> Regarding Germany and Italy’s assent to this decision, they refer to the declaration enclosed with the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee on this matter.