

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY
WORKING GROUP (WISO)
FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022
(BETWEEN THE XVI AND XVII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)**

1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVI Alpine Conference

Summary of the objectives according to the 2021-2022 mandate or work programme

The main tasks for the WISO working group according to the mandate were:

- To promote the exchange among the Working Group members of information, scientific data and experiences in order to support decision-making processes as well as the coordination of responding actions concerning large carnivores.
- To maintain and improve spatial connectivity for large carnivores and ungulates in the Alps, also transnationally, and, as WISO working group, contribute with its expertise to the implementation of the pathways of the Alpine Climate Board within the sector of activity "Ecosystems and Biodiversity".
- To review the implementation of recommendations made in the previous mandate periods' reports on the coordinated management of Bear, Wolf and Lynx in the Alps and on the report on livestock prevention measures and thereby lay the foundation for an update of said reports and recommendations.
- To continue the exchange and discussion about wild ungulate management.

The WISO Working Group was chaired by Mr. Rok Černe from Slovenia Forest Service, by authorization of the Slovenian Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

The WISO Working Group met four times during its 2021–2022 mandate. In these meetings, all topics foreseen by the mandate were tackled.

1. Online, 19. 5. 2021. Topics: review of the mandate; update and final report on co-adaptation of humans and wolves in the Alpine space by CIPRA; spatial connectivity for LC and ungulates in the Alps – presentation of the topic, overview of current work, ALPBIONET2030 project; updates from the representatives regarding LC; other topics of the mandate.
2. Online, 18. 11. 2021. Topics: presentation of the results of the ecological connectivity modelling for large mammals in the Alps by SFS; presentation of the draft questionnaire for the overview of the implementation of the WISO recommendations for the lynx by KORA and Bundesamt für Umwelt; presentation of the planned phase II of the project on co-adaptation strategies for humans and wolves in the Alps by CIPRA; updates from the representatives regarding LC.
3. Online, 15. 2. 2022. Topics: presentation of the results of the ecological connectivity modelling for large mammals in the Alps by SFS; presentation of the draft report based on the questionnaire for the overview of the implementation of the WISO document for the management of the lynx by Bundesamt für Umwelt; presentation of the Interreg Adrion project “DINALPCONNECT” by EURAC; presentation of the draft report based on the questionnaire for the overview of the implementation of the WISO document for the management of the brown bear by SFS; presentation of the LIFESTOCKPROTECT project by European Wilderness Society.
4. Bled (Slovenia), 20.-21.4.2022. Topics: presentation and confirmation of the final report for the ecological connectivity modelling for large mammals in the Alps by SFS; presentation of the draft report based on the questionnaire for the overview of the implementation of the WISO document for the management of the wolf; updates from the WISO members; the role of large carnivores on the wild ungulates' management; debate on the future mandate; presentation of the Dinaric platform by BFN. The meeting also included the excursion visiting the lynx enclosure in Jelovica plateau built in the LIFE Lynx project, the box trap for ungulates used in the LIFE WOLFALPS EU project, locations for camera traps and location for the box trap for lynx.

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic description of further activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)

The Working Group carried out the following activities for the fulfilment of the mandate:

1. Exchange of information: a regular agenda item was set at the Working Group meetings in order to allow for a regular exchange among members on the status of large carnivores, ungulates and the main news related to their management as well as on other events relevant for WISO.

2. Dialogue: to establish new connections with relevant organisations and stakeholders, different projects and their outputs were presented at the meetings.

3. Exchange on wild ungulates management: based on the presentation of SFS, the contracting parties discussed their ideas for the next mandate regarding the issue how to adapt the wild ungulates' management according to the presence of large carnivores. The representatives agreed to set a podium for the exchange of best practice examples, experiences, practical approaches, expertise, good ideas, since the basis is different from country to country (different hunting systems, different impact of LC on the WU). A symposium about adapting the WU management according to the presence of LC with a broader presence of the stakeholders will be one of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference.

4. Report on the landscape connectivity for large carnivores and wild ungulates in the Alps: on the first meeting, the current work and projects on the topic were presented, on other meetings, draft versions of the report were presented, discussed, updated and adapted regarding the comments of the contracting parties.

5. Reports on the implementation of management options for the conservation of brown bear, lynx and wolf in the Alps: on the second meeting, the draft questionnaire for the overview of the implementation of the WISO recommendations for the lynx was presented and later adapted for brown bear and wolf. Representatives filled in the online questionnaires and based on the answers, two reports (for brown bear and wolf) were prepared and sent for confirmation to contracting parties. The report for lynx was not prepared.

4. Outputs and results

Description of the main outputs and results achieved

1. Exchange of information: regular exchange among member states and observers, shared and updated knowledge of the Alpine-wide situation and developments concerning large carnivores and ungulates.
2. Dialogue: for the communication of the results and activities of the Working Group, the channels and platforms made available by the single WG members were used. The outputs of the Working Group were shared also by the cooperating projects.
3. Exchange on the role of large carnivores on the wild ungulates' management: the summary was produced by the Working Group, proposing to organise a symposium about adapting the WU management according to the presence of LC with a broader presence of the stakeholders.
4. Report on the landscape connectivity for large carnivores and wild ungulates in the Alps: the report was produced by the Working Group.
5. Reports on the implementation of management options for the conservation of brown bear and wolf in the Alps: two reports were produced by the Working Group.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and of the resulting benefits

The Working Group cooperated with the following organisations and projects:

- CIPRA project on co-adaptation strategies for humans and wolves in the Alp, presentations in the online meetings (19. 5. 2021, 18. 11. 2021).
- INTERREG ALPINE SPACE, ALPBIONET2030 project, through the presentation of the results regarding the ecological connectivity, online meeting (19. 5. 2021).
- INTERREG Adrion project "DINALPCONNECT", through the presentation and the discussion about the results, online meeting (15. 2. 2022).
- LIFEStockPROTECT project, through the presentation and the discussion about the results, online meeting (15. 2. 2022).

The Working Group presented its work and results during the online workshops of Thematic Working Bodies (17. 6. 2021 and 25. 1. 2022) and on the meeting for the

establishment of the Dinaric platform (16. 11. 2021) as a best-practice example. The results of the landscape connectivity for large carnivores and wild ungulates in the Alps were presented at the conference of the Interreg DINALPCONNECT project in Slovenia (6.–7. 6. 2022).

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVII Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports, communication materials etc.). *Please kindly provide a PDF file of each attachment. Do not include the minutes of regular meetings!*

- *Short report (summary) about the wild ungulate management discussion*
- *Report on the landscape connectivity for large carnivores and wild ungulates in the Alps*
- *Report on the implementation of management options for the conservation of Brown bear in the Alps*
- *Report on the implementation of management options for the conservation of Wolf in the Alps*