

MANDATE OF THE
Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society
Working Group (WISO)
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them

The Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group (WISO) aims at finding solutions to manage large carnivores and wild ungulates harmoniously with society. Knowing the monitoring methods, the status of the populations of large carnivores and the possibilities for their management, as well as comparing the financial schemes for preventive measures represent the firm basis for the continuing work towards increasing political and social acceptance of cohabitation in the Alpine Region.

The WISO Working Group, in all its work, is committed to an integrated approach, combining ecological, social and economic aspects of large carnivores and wild ungulates management.

2. Objectives

Description of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference

1. 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 management actions for large carnivores. Updates about the actions on the EU, international and national level (publication of studies, political decisions, statements on the large carnivores...) will be a part of this exchange.
2. Share the available/applied monitoring methods and data for large carnivores, underlying the understanding of the viability of populations per Contracting Parties.
3. Compare the use and interpretation of the derogation regimes of the Bern Convention and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (The Habitats Directive) regarding the management of the large carnivores.
4. Present the national schemes for the use of the ERDF for prevention measures (under the current and next CAP) – what is new?

5. Exchange best practice examples about adapting the wild ungulates' management according to the presence of the large carnivores, discussion in a broader circle of experts/stakeholders on a symposium.

3. Planned outputs

Description of the planned outputs, with reference to the objectives

1. Regular updates of the Working Group members on news, issues, measures and developments in the EU, Alpine countries and regions and in the framework of the Bern Convention on the respective topics. Ideas and recommendations for the members of the Working Group to address and tackle challenges within their respective countries and regions.
2. Short report/map showing the populations of large carnivores in the Alpine region.
3. Note on the comparison of the use and interpretation of the derogation regimes of the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive regarding the management of the large carnivores.
4. Update of the previous report on the use of the EARDF to protect livestock in the Alpine countries (2018).
5. Short report after the symposium.

4. Work plan

Outline of the foreseen timetable (meetings and other activities, main milestones scheduled)

The working group will meet at least three times during the mandate period, with each meeting dedicated to one/two topics.

5. Cooperation

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

Cooperation with the Alpine Biodiversity Board regarding the monitoring methods and data for large carnivores in the Alps.

Cooperation, based on the output of the previous mandate regarding the ecological connectivity, with the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group – presenting the results and searching for synergies.

6. Communication

Description of the communication goals, targets and respective planned measures

- Foster dialogue with relevant alpine stakeholders (including stakeholders from the tourism, agriculture and civil society sectors) on topics such as cohabitation.
- Organise a symposium on exchange of the best practice examples about adapting the wild ungulates' management according to the presence of the large carnivores.

7. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Description of how the proposed objectives and activities shall contribute to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (biodiversity and ecosystems / climate action / quality of life / interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs of the aforementioned areas)

The actions foreseen by the mandate will contribute to the implementation of Priority area 1 "Conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems" of the Multiannual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference 2023-2030. WISO members will share the available monitoring methods and data for large carnivores, underlying the understanding of the viability of populations per contracting parties – thus contributing to the priority area by better monitoring the state of this segment of biodiversity in the Alps.

8. Chair

The Chair will be held by Slovenia.