

MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP *on Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society (WISO)* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII Alpine Conference

1. Introductory remarks

The Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group (WISO) aims at finding solutions to manage large carnivores and wild ungulates harmoniously with society. Increasing populations of large carnivores, especially wolves, skepticism in parts of the population and political pressure demonstrate the urge to find appropriate measures to ensure the continued existence of healthy populations of large carnivores and wild ungulates while strengthening prevention measures and 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 objectives

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 responding actions concerning large carnivores. Additionally, the topic of genetic monitoring harmonization of wolves in the Alps will be a part of this exchange, facilitated by discussing results of the LIFE WOLFALPS EU project.
2. 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".
3. 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.
4. Continue the exchange and discussion about wild ungulate management.

3. Tasks

Description of outputs

1. Regular updates of the Working Group members on news, issues, measures and developments in the Alpine countries and regions 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. Map showing existing habitats and ecological corridors and identifying missing ones, to be developed into recommendations on connectivity of habitats and corridors. Results from other projects and initiatives will be taken into consideration. Results will be communicated with working groups or initiatives dealing with similar issues.
3. Report on the status of the implementation of recommendations in the respective reports from past mandate periods.

4. Short report (summary) about the wild ungulate management discussion.

Work plan

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

4. Cooperation

Cooperation with other Working Groups/Boards and partners

Cooperation with the Alpine Climate Board in the sector of activity "Ecosystems and Biodiversity" of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.

Cooperation, as appropriate, with the Alpine Biodiversity Board.

5. Communication

Communication activities of the Working Group

- Foster dialogue with relevant alpine stakeholders (including stakeholders from the tourism, agriculture and civil society sectors) on topics such as cohabitation.
- Present the spatial map of habitats and corridors on the ministerial level
- Include the presentation/workshop presenting (of) WISO in an event organized within the Alpine Convention

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference

Contribution to and coherence with the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Conference as well as the Convention and its Protocols

The actions foreseen by the mandate will contribute to the implementation of Priority 3 "Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape" of the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference 2017-2022.

7. Chair

The chair will be held by Slovenia.