

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY
WORKING GROUP (WISO)
FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE XV AND XVI MEETINGS OF
THE ALPINE CONFERENCE (April 2019 – December 2020)**

1. Overview of the mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Summary of the main tasks according to the 2019-2020 mandate (for Working Groups) or decision ACXV/A6 of the XV Alpine Conference (for Boards)

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

1. 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 for large carnivores.
2. To foster dialogue among the relevant Alpine stakeholders (including authorities, civil society, wildlife managers, hunters, foresters and farmers).
3. To promote an exchange on wild ungulates management, with a focus on the issues relevant for a joint transnational management at Alpine level.
4. To draft, also based on the outcomes of the activities carried out in the mandate 2016-2019, a report on lessons learned through the experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores.

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 (date, place, main topics and outcomes)

The WISO Working Group met twice during its 2019–2020 mandate (one meeting was cancelled in April 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease). In these meetings, all topics foreseen by the mandate were tackled.

1. Bled (Slovenia), 22-23.10.2019. Topics: presentation of the mandate and its finalisation; update and information exchange among Contracting Parties and Observers; presentation

of the project on Alpine-wide knowledge transfer on the wolf by CIPRA; presentation of the draft report for Slovenia on lessons learned through experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores; workshop on defining the key objectives and structure of the report. The meeting also included an excursion visiting a farmer using preventive measures for the livestock and a beekeeper using preventive measures for the beehives.

2. Online, 13-14.10.2020. Topics: update and information exchange among Contracting Parties and Observers; presentation of the LIFE WOLFALPS EU project and discussion about a cooperation between WISO and the project; presentation of the 3lynx project and BBA CS strategy; presentation of the intermediate results of the project on co-adaptation strategies by CIPRA; presentation of the reports of the member states on lessons learned through experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores and final confirmation of the report; exchange on wild ungulates management.

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic report on 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 every Working Group meeting 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 and maintain connections with relevant organisations and stakeholders, different projects and their outputs were presented at the two meetings.

3. Exchange on wild ungulates management: based on the report of the INTERREG Alpine Space project ALPBIONET2030, the member states presented their approaches, monitoring methods, data processing and evaluations systems during the virtual meeting (13-14.10.2020). Based on the outcomes of the presentations, the Working Group produced a summary focusing on the overview of the different approaches, indicating the similarities and differences, assessing the kind and amount of data available and the possibility of joining it, and pointing out the recommendations for further research.

4. Report on lessons learned through the experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores: on the first meeting (Bled, 22-23.10.2019), the draft report for Slovenia was presented and the template for the other countries discussed. During the workshop, the debate focused on three main questions:

- which themes do we want to tackle with the report?
- what do we want in the technical description of the preventive measures?
- how to control the use of the preventive measures?

Responsible persons prepared the draft national reports till spring 2020. Since the meeting in April 2020 was cancelled, member states' reporters sent their national reports to the Slovenian presidency that compiled all into a draft version. This comprehensive document was sent to all members of the WG on 1st September 2020 to comment and correct. The final version of the report was presented by the member states and the presidency at the second (virtual) meeting (13-14.10.2020) and confirmed by the members of the Working Group.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs 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 wild ungulates management: the summary was produced by the Working Group.
4. Report on lessons learned through the experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores: the report was produced by the Working Group.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

The Working Group cooperated with the following organisations and projects:

- CIPRA project "Making complexity visible – Alpine wide knowledge transfer in the wolf debate", presentation and workshop at the meeting in Bled, Slovenia (22-23.10.2019) and presentation of interim results at the online meeting (13-14.10.2020).
- LIFE WOLFALPS EU project, through the presentation and the discussion about the cooperation, online meeting (13-14.10.2020).

- 3lynx INTERREG Central Europe project, through the presentation of the BBA conservation strategy, online meeting (13-14.10.2020).

The Working Group presented its work and results during the 69th session of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Conference (online, 7-8.7.2020).

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVI Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports etc.).

1. Report on lessons learned through experiences of application of prevention measures for damages by large carnivores
2. Summary of the exchange on wild ungulates management.