



Platform “Large Carnivores and wild ungulates”
Information on the second meeting of the platform
Innsbruck, 1 -3 February 2010

At the second meeting of the Platform Large Carnivores and wild ungulates around 25 members of the platform took part; together with 15 representatives of different stakeholder groups from different Alpine Countries representing hunters, sheep breeders and nature protection organizations they met for fact finding session concerning the present management of large carnivores and wild ungulates in Innsbruck.

A questionnaire to collect data and information on the status of large carnivores and wild ungulates, alped livestock, game management etc. has been presented and commented at this meeting: it aims at demonstrating the need for transnational cooperation for the conservation and management of wildlife. Furthermore, the questionnaire aims at collecting the opinions of different stakeholders. A reviewed questionnaire will be sent to the parties of the Alpine Convention as well as to a large number of stakeholder groups on local, regional, national and international levels.

At the meeting the invited stakeholder-groups described their viewpoints concerning the current management of large carnivores and wild ungulates: weaknesses and strenghts, chances and threats for the future management of large carnivores and wild ungulates as well as priorities for future work have been discussed.

The presentations of the interest groups on their viewpoints are published on the Webpage of the Alpine Convention:

http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_WG_f_fr

http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_WG_f_sl

http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_WG_f_de.htm

http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/conv06_WG_f_it

General common discussion and first conclusions

Generally applying for large carnivores and wild ungulates is that regional approaches and a common perspective for the Alps is necessary but should not be too strict (“freedom in frames”). Data sharing and harmonization of management approaches are crucial. For finding solutions a coherent selection of partners for common work is important.

Possible objectives for management approaches are the installation / reinstallation of entire habitats and the connectivity of habitats with corridors in between them. Such approaches have to work for a viable “meta-population” consistent of many sub-population based on a

social carrying capacity (balance the different interests). „Damages“ shall be prevented as far as possible (losses in agriculture, browsing, ...) starting from today.

Background for such a management is the maxim of near natural management of forests as well as ungulates and large carnivores (which are a part of the ecosystem: ecosystem approach) means support of natural processes wherever possible.

This approach can be constructed on chances identified by the group as for example the experiences of parks and protected areas taking a role of centres of excellencies, the transborder character of the platform “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” of the Alpine Convention itself, projects or the exchange on good experiences.



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Synthesis of the meeting and outlook

The platform is still in the process of gathering data on the status of species, management, conflicts, concerns etc. The input by experts and interest groups was highly welcomed. Other interest groups that have not had the opportunity to participate at this meeting will be invited to outline their positions in the near future. One possibility is through responding to the questionnaire. The questionnaire is an important part during our fact finding process, as it will help to identify common goals that will be presented to the Alpine conference in March 2011.

The next meeting of the platform is scheduled for June 2nd to 4th 2010, where the feedback to the questionnaire will be discussed.