



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement für
Umwelt, Verkehr, Energie und Kommunikation UVEK

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Abteilung

WISO Platform Activities

WISO Conference
Innsbruck
26th – 28th April 2012



Caroline Nienhuis



Overview

- What is the Alpine Convention?
- What is WISO?
- Objectives
- Activities
 - presidency Liechtenstein
 - presidency Switzerland
- Current projects





Alpine Convention

- International treaty for **protection of Alps**
- Entered into force March 1995
- Contracting parties: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland, EU
- Alpine Conference every two years
- Permanent Committee
- Platforms, working groups, committees
- Permanent Secretariat in Innsbruck
- Research Institute in Bolzano





Alpine Convention

- **Aim:** integrated policies & approaches for sustainable use of Alpine space
- **Topics & protocols:** nature protection & landscape conservation, mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, ...





WISO – Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates & Society

- **Manage Alpine populations of lynx, wolf & bear harmoniously & in accordance with transboundary strategy**
- WISO established by 10th Alpine Conference, March 2009
- Members:
 - 9 contracting parties
 - observers from NGOs (i.e. CIPRA, FAUNALP)
- Political relevance due to ministerial decisions at Alpine Conferences





Objectives

→ Conservation & management of large carnivores & wild ungulates

- Solutions to balance conflicting interests & views
 - spatial planning, agriculture & forestry, nature conservation & hunting
- Goes beyond ecological approach → takes economical & socio-cultural aspects into account
- Cooperate with GOs & NGOs





Main activities

According to mandate

- **International cooperation:**

- exchange of knowledge & experience
- establishment of forum → preservation, management & use of large carnivores & wild ungulates



- **Cooperation in terms of content** → cross-border protection & management of wildlife at **population level**

- ascertain needs of single species
- understand readiness to tolerate large predators
- consider needs of local stakeholders
- determine common long term goals for preservation
- develop common action & communication strategy



Activities – 1st presidency Liechtenstein

Common guidelines

- Adopted by 11th Alpine Conference, Brdo 2011
- **Aim** was to identify:
 - Balanced system of objectives for future work
 - Options as a base for project ideas reflecting holistic approach



GUIDELINES

“LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY”

PREPARED BY THE PLATFORM WISO
(LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY)
OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION
ADOPTED BY THE 11TH ALPINE CONFERENCE, BRDO SLOVENIA, MARCH 2011



© Karl-Heinz Volkmar, Uwe Anders, WWF Switzerland, Regional Tyrolian Forest Service, Sheep breeders association Tyrol



Common guidelines – main goal

Large carnivores and wild ungulates are preserved in balance with their habitat, other wildlife and human interests. Conflicts with human interests are addressed and negative impacts are counterbalanced.



Common guidelines – subgoals

1 – Dialogue: We inform, sensitise, and promote dialogue concerning the relations between wildlife, habitat, and society;

2 – Wildlife populations: We respect the intrinsic value of our wildlife as central components of our environment and steer the development of native wildlife populations in harmonisation with their habitat and human interests, with the goal of securing viable wildlife populations;

3 – Wildlife habitat: We support close to nature land-use forms when using mountain pastures, agricultural areas and forests and aim for the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats in terms of surface and quality;

4 – Integrative sustainable use: We use our wildlife sustainably, in recognition of and in harmonization with the various human interests in protection and use, and we further develop the various land use forms in a balanced manner;

5 – Cooperation: We cooperate transboundary in a cross-sectoral way and harmonize measures, as far as it is needed to reach common objectives, such as the amelioration of living conditions for wildlife species or the prevention of conflicts as regards different user interests as well as compensation of damages.



Activities – 2nd presidency Switzerland

- Switzerland entrusted with presidency until 2012
- Current Projects:
 - I) Develop options for transboundary conservation & management of wolf, lynx & bear in Alps
 - II) Consolidate genetic monitoring of large carnivores across Alps
 - III) Alpine ibex: distribution & abundance across the Alps





Project I: Transboundary conservation & management of wolf, lynx & bear in Alps

- **Goal:** Present practical conservation & management options for wolf & lynx in Alps to ministers at Alpine Conference in 2014
→ objective basis for political decision making
- **Objectives:**
 - 1) Model distribution & abundance of future Alpine wolf & lynx populations
 - 2) Analyse conflict potentials & socio-economic constraints
 - 3) Develop management options for wolf & lynx conservation



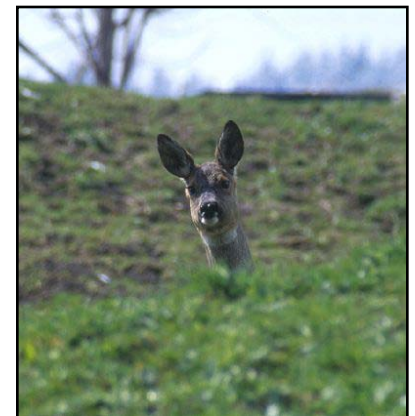


Project I: Transboundary conservation & management of wolf, lynx & bear in Alps

- **Approach:**

- Model minimal viable population size for wolf & lynx in the Alps, based on habitat suitability & connectivity
- Evaluate trends of wolf & lynx expansion & claims of society regarding agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism etc.
- Demonstrate consequences of proposed management scenarios
- Show strategies to cope with conflicts
- Describe financial approaches & magnitude of existing practices

→ results applicable to conservation & management of brown bear





Project II: Consolidation of genetic monitoring of large carnivores across Alps

- **Goal:** Establish standardised genetic monitoring programme for wolf, lynx & bear across all Alpine countries
- Non-invasive genetic sampling across Alps
 - Urine, regurgitations, tissue, faeces, hair
 - Species identification & origin
 - Recolonisation dynamics
 - Individual & sex identification
- Establishment of standardised allele nomenclature between Swiss, French & Italian genetic laboratories
 - Development of common genetic database
 - Improve monitoring of individuals & packs





Project III: Alpine ibex – distribution & abundance across the Alps

- **Goal:** Create map with distribution & abundance of Alpine ibex
- Thematic working group WISO Conference



Questions

