

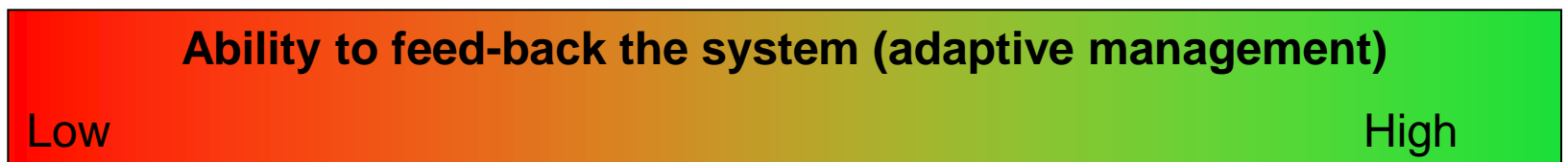
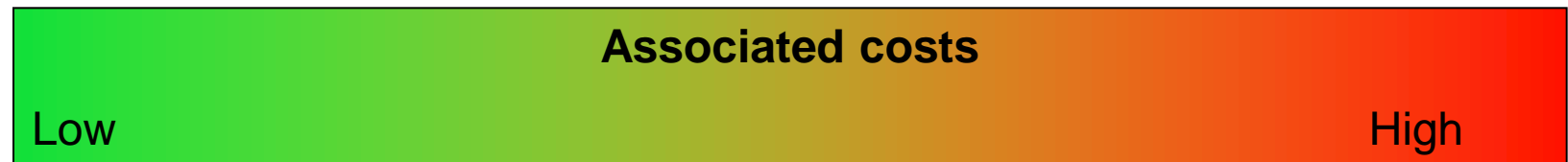
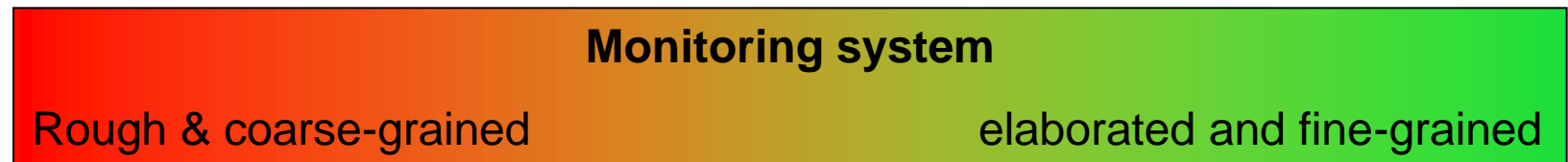
Monitoring working group

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Preliminary draft report
(to be consolidated)

- Guidelines WISO, page 10, §5a,
« development of an Alpine programme for monitoring large carnivores », but monitoring what for (questions, objectives, time scale and spatial frame ?)
- WISO research projects (Recovery of wolf & lynx in the Alps) need data to feed the modelling work (SEIBM for K_e , MVP for P_{extinct} , SDP for optimised management options... etc.)

Our best guess : WISO wants to monitor L.C. populations so as to implement evidence-based management

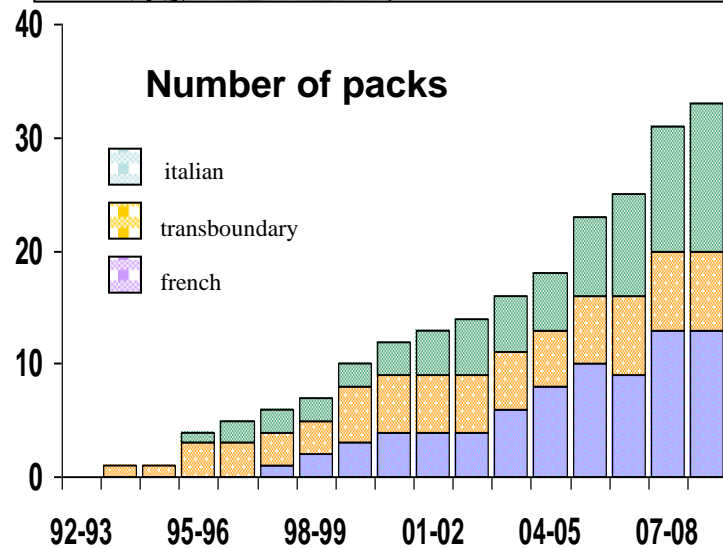
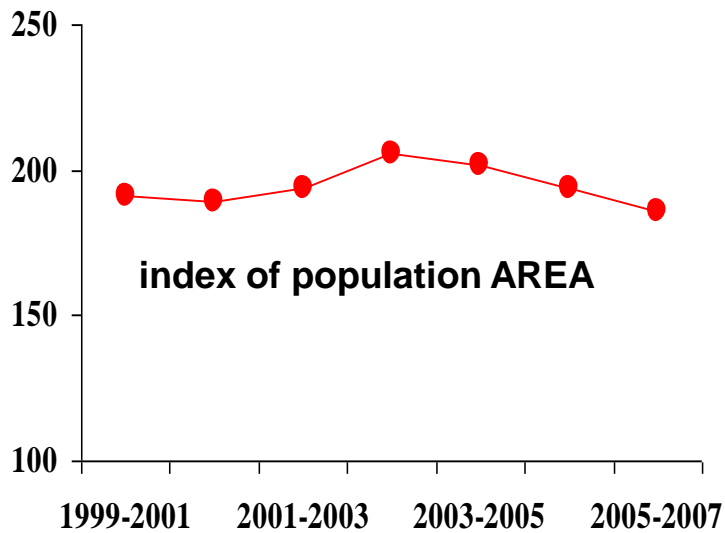
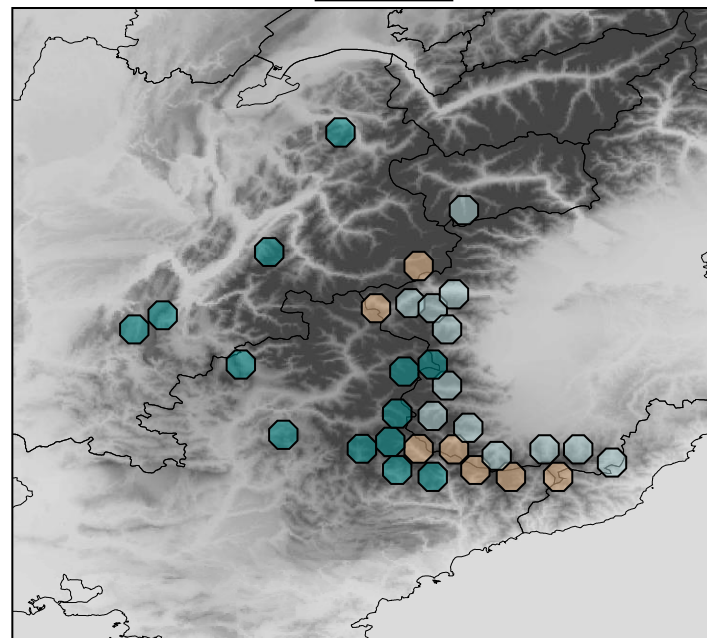
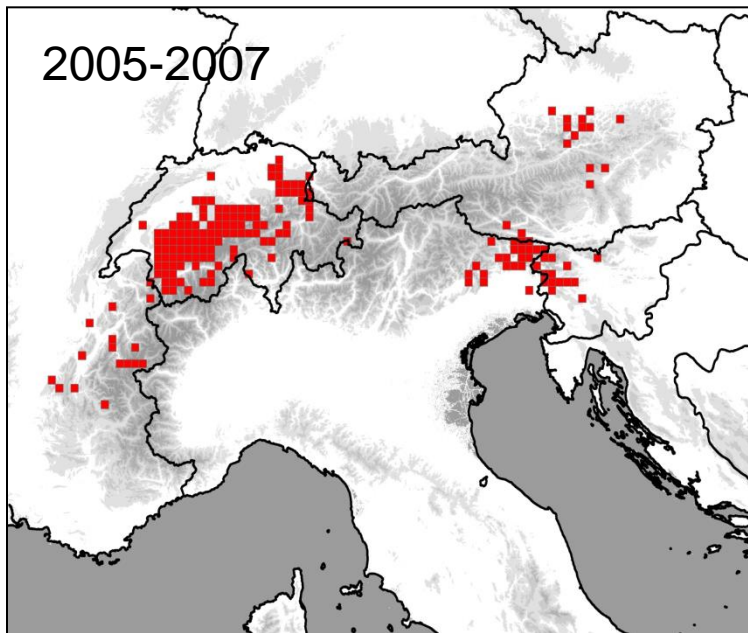


Review of state of the art in monitoring:

- What do we know?
- Who is doing what?
- How is cooperation organised?

The current « state-of-the-art »: existing groups (SCALP, WAG, italian bear PACOBACE, no name alpin bear group !) having their own « way-of-life », their relation to institutions (E.C., C.o.E) and other groups (LCIE/IUCN), and using classical protocols to monitor large carnivores (low density, large range, low encounter rate)

- One coordinator for SCALP appointed to coordinate and field biologists in charge of monitoring within their respective countries.
- PACOBACE coordinated by Ministry of Env.; at least one yearly meeting
- WAG: a mostly I-CH-F group, with one meeting every 2 years, but no coordinator
- No name alpine bear group: occasionnal meetings, more regularly 2006-2009, now irregularly (like yesterday)



Identify fields of further activities:

- Gaps of knowledge in monitoring
- Where do we need to improve cooperation?
- How can we achieve a more consistent cooperation?

Gaps of knowledge:

- Sampling related issues such as: uncontrolled observation effort (false positive signs → SCALP categories?; false negative → occupancy)

Where do we need to improve cooperation?

SCALP → OK

Enlarge the wolf alpine group to all potentially interested countries of the Alps (not only I, F and CH)

For the bear try to improve technical reporting (distribution map)?

How can we achieve a more consistent cooperation?

Success stories analysis (to see why it works well and some times not)

Win-win strategy

Recommend concrete activities to the WISO Platform:

Additional tasks

- Define clear management objectives before implementing any monitoring scheme
- A lot of reporting to different organizations (EU, LCIE, SPOIS, WISO,...): could WISO help to harmonize the reporting system (time frame, content)?

Involvement of the WISO network

Could WISO mandate somebody (technical coordinator) to do these tasks?

Which tasks should be tackled first in the MAVA project

- To start feeding the models → Build up a common data base of (already existing) geo-referenced presence signs for all three carnivore species across the Alps
- Identify what ideal data would be required (GPS telemetry data)?

Specific questions:

- **SCALP, Alpine Wolf Workshop and Alpine Bear Workshop relation to WISO Platform?**

Implement an internal consulting process (SCALP, WAG,...) to check how far already existing members could collaborate with WISO in a win-win framework

- **Harmonization of genetic protocols for identification of LC species and individuals?**

Check with genetic labs

Minimum species specific tool kit for monitoring

Caution: management objectives so far unknown

Two step approach based on biological issues:

- Core area: elaborated methods to survey breeding units
- Implement a good network of field observers to improve efficiency in documenting population changes and detection rates of vagrants

In core areas:

Bear tool kit:

Genetic and systematic sampling (hair traps, rub trees)

Wolf tool kit:

Genetic
Wolf howling?
Snow tracking?

Lynx tool kit:

Camera-trapping in reference areas
Genetic

Every where:

- define a common protocol to analyze animals found dead (diseases, genetics, poison)
- Collection of signs of presence

A review of current state of the art

- An « historical » founding event (without genetic bottleneck 😊): the SCALP (lynx)
- More or less (more > less) standardized validation protocols to compile field data (presence only data) to build and compare over time presence maps (how to switch to P/A maps: occupancy modelling ...)

First thoughts (1/2)

- Get explicit objectives for monitoring as a function of WISO/Alpine Convention objectives / strategies
- Get feedback from « modelling working group » in order to check what we should ideally « feed » them with, and how to make already existing data available to them?
- How to favour transboundary approaches? Analysis of key-factors explaining success stories (e.g. having a SCALP coordinator, win-win strategy ... etc.).

A review of current state of the art

- Another « outbreeding » group: the WAG (wolf)
- No common protocol to validate presence signs data, but genetic data «on the road again, again, again », so only and robust basic outputs (e.g. number of packs) are provided.

First thoughts (2/2)

- Should already existing groups get « closer » to WISO/Alpine Convention and how far (change name, simply provide data, formalize collaborations – F-I-CH political agreement)
- Should new groups be implemented (e.g. bear group)? Should all groups be somehow to some degree pooled under a common WISO umbrella (e.g. LCAG: Large Carnivores Alpine Group) ?
- Many other and more interesting suggestions from you all I hope 😊 ?