

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE  
LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY WORKING  
GROUP (WISO)  
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024  
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

**1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVII Alpine Conference**

Summary of the objectives according to the 2023-2024 mandate

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

- 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 concerning large carnivores (LC).
- To share the available/applied monitoring methods and data for LC, underlying the understanding of the viability of populations per Contracting Parties.
- To compare the use and interpretation of the derogation regimes of the Berne Convention and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (The Habitats Directive) regarding the management of LC.
- To present the national schemes for the use of the EARDF for prevention measures (under the current and next Common Agricultural Policy – CAP).
- To exchange best practice examples about adapting the wild ungulates' management according to the presence of LC, via a discussion in a broader circle of experts/stakeholders on a symposium.

The WISO Working Group was chaired by Mr. Rok Černe from Slovenia Forest Service, by authorization of the Slovenian Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.

**2. Meetings**

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

The WISO Working Group met five times during its 2023–2024 mandate. In these meetings, the following topics were tackled:

1. Online, 24 February, 2023. Topics: review of the mandate, work plan with attributed tasks and time plan.
2. Mutters (AUT), 5-6 June, 2023. Topics: country updates regarding LC, presentations by country representatives of the use of the EARDF or national funds to protect livestock.
3. Online, 16 October 2023. Topics: presentation of the applied monitoring methods and data for wolves in the Alps by F. Marucco (UNITO), presentation of the applied monitoring

methods and data for lynx in the Alps by A. Molinari Jobin (KORA), presentation of the draft programme of the joint conference of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention by Slovenia Forest Service.

4. Nice (France), 3-5 June 2024. Topics: country updates regarding LC; exchange on the European Commission's proposal to lower the protection status of the wolf; presentation and confirmation of the joint report of WISO and LIFE WOLFALPS EU project on the CAP and prevention of damages caused by LC by T. Berce (SFS); presentation of the draft report showing the population of brown bears in the Alpine region by C. Groff (PAT); discussion on the next mandate. The meeting also included the excursion visiting the farm in the Regional Natural Park of the Pre-Alpes d'Azur (damage prevention from LC, coexistence) and presentation from the French Biodiversity Office (OFB).

5. Online, 6 September 2024. Topics: discussion on the next mandate; presentation of the situation with problem bears in Trentino by C. Groff (PAT).

### 3. Activities carried out

Activities carried out with their outputs and results, highlighting their contributions to the relevant priorities of the [Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030](#)

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 the Working Group meetings once a year in order to allow for a regular exchange among members on the status of LC, ungulates and the main news related to their management as well as on other events relevant for WISO.

Underlying the importance of the viability of populations per contracting parties, this activity contributed to the MAP priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems by better monitoring of the state of this segment of biodiversity in the Alps.

2. Presentations of monitoring methods and data for LC in the Alps: for wolf, F. Marucco presented the LIFE WOLFALPS EU and Wolf Alpine Group (WAG) report – "[The wolf alpine population in 2020-2022 over 7 countries](#)". WISO recognised the high quality and significance of the report and confirmed its importance for the Alpine region.

For lynx, A. Molinari Jobin presented [the SCALP methods and data for the Alpine countries](#). WISO recognised the high quality and significance of these results and confirmed their importance for the Alpine countries.

C. Groff prepared the report for the bear in the Alpine region for WISO, based on the data provided from PAT (Italy) and SFS (SI).

This activity contributed to the MAP priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems by comparing the experiences with the use of monitoring methods and results.

3. Co-organization of the joint conference of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention for the exchange of practices on management of LC: together with the LECA (Interreg Central Europe) project and the Carpathian Convention, the first joint conference focused on the management of LC in the scope of both conventions provided an opportunity to meet relevant actors from across Europe and get an insight into different aspects of

management of LC. A report was prepared, sent to all the participants. It includes a comparison of the use and interpretation of the derogation regimes of the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive regarding the management of the large carnivores.

This activity contributed to the MAP priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems by comparing the experiences, best practices and challenges faced within the management of LC.

4. Preparation of the joint report of WISO and LIFE WOLFALPS EU project on the CAP and prevention of damages caused by LC: report based on data gathered and presented by country representatives on the 2nd meeting. Edited by SFS, the report was sent for two rounds of commenting to the members and presented on the 4th meeting of WISO. It is an update of the WISO report from 2018 “Preventing damage by large carnivores”.

The various preventive measures and means for the reimbursement of damages to the breeders are presented in the report by countries, offering the breeders that face different farming conditions with the presence of LC a set of guidelines. Thus, enhancing their quality of life and contributing to the MAP priority area 3.

#### 4. Cooperation

Cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and resulting benefits

The Working Group cooperated with the following organisations and projects:

- LIFE WOLFALPS EU project, through the preparation of the joint report on CAP and prevention of damages caused by LC.
- LIFE WOLFALPS EU project and (WAG), through the presentation of the applied monitoring methods and data for wolves in the Alps, online meeting (16. 10. 2023).
- KORA, through the presentation of the applied monitoring methods and data for lynx in the Alps, online meeting (16. 10. 2023).
- CARPATHIAN CONVENTION and LECA (Interreg Central Europe) project, through the organisation of the joint conference of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions for the exchange of practices on management of large carnivores.
- L'OFFICE FRANÇAIS DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ (OFB), through presentation of its work at the 4th meeting (3. 6. 2024).

The Working Group presented its work and results at the 77th meeting of the Permanent Committee (Bolzano, 7.-8.11.2023), at the meeting of the chairs of the AC Thematic Working Bodies (Maribor, 14. 5. 2024), on the 3rd conference of the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos platform (Skopje, 27.-28. 3. 2023), on the joint conference of the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention at Brdo, 7.-8. 3. 2024, at the conference Joint action for the Alps - conserve, connect and restore (Kranjska Gora, 12.–14. 6. 2024), and at the final conference of the LIFE WOLFALPS EU project (Trento, 17.–19. 5. 2024).

#### 5. Communication

Communication measures and outreach activities carried out, specifying their respective target groups

WISO activities and outputs were presented at the events listed in point 4. Sharing the best practice example and experience regarding the working group's organisation, levels of cooperation and document preparation process, with the new Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos platform is highly appreciated and valuable in the first steps of this platform.

Communication regarding the joint conference of the Alpine Convention and Carpathian Convention for the exchange of practices on management of large carnivores – the conference was presented to the relevant public through the channels of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, promoted and also reported. Also, the report was sent to all the participants. The conference had a big reach – more than 80 participants shared their views, experiences and best practices, discussed the challenges and presented their visions for the future. Following its successful implementation, participants expressed their hope that this form of cooperation between the two Conventions would be continued.

## 6. Attachments

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

- *Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and prevention of damages caused by large carnivores, joint report from WISO and LIFE WOLFALPS EU project*
- *Joint Conference of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions for the exchange of practices on management of large carnivores, REPORT OF THE EVENT*
- *Report on the Monitoring, Status And Management of the Brown bear in the Alps*