

**MANDATE OF THE  
LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND  
SOCIETY  
WORKING GROUP (WISO)  
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026  
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

**1. Introductory remarks**

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group (WISO) aims at finding solutions to manage large carnivores and wild ungulates harmoniously with society. Knowing and sharing the monitoring strategies and methods, the status of the populations of large carnivores and the possibilities for their management, as well as the application of derogations to the strict protection and the evaluation of their effectiveness, the best practices for damage prevention, and the attitudes of society/stakeholders towards the presence of large carnivores represent the firm basis for the continuing work in international coordination towards increasing political and social acceptance and promotion of cohabitation between large carnivores and society in the Alpine region.

WISO, in all its work, is committed to an integrated approach, combining ecological, social and economic aspects of large carnivores and wild ungulates' management.

This mandate will draw the main attention on brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and golden jackal.

**2. Planned topics and activities**

**Topic No. 1: Regular updates**

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

Promote the exchange among the WISO members of information, scientific data and experiences regarding brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and golden jackal, in order to support decision-making processes as well as the coordination of management actions. Updates about the actions on the EU, international and national levels (publications of studies, political decisions) will be part of this exchange.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

*Description*

*Tentative timeline*

Exchange on two meetings (in-person) with presentations	Once a year
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Minutes of the meetings, presentations	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continuation of the same format in the next mandate of WISO.	

<b>Topic No. 2: Interpretation, implementation and evaluation of the derogations of the Berne Convention and the Habitats Directive</b>	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
<p>Enhancing the exchange of experiences among countries regarding the management of large carnivores offers significant value to all involved. Therefore, WISO will continue to share evaluations and experiences of the derogation conditions 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 (Habitats Directive) regarding large carnivores, as exemption to the strict protection in reducing damage to domestic animals, risks to human safety (especially in relation to the brown bear), and managing hybridisation, and sharing practices in lethal/non-lethal removal.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Desk research per countries and presentations at the first meeting	Spring 2025
b. Collection of practices from countries	Until spring 2026
c. Preparation of the note, presentation at the second meeting	Autumn 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Note on the exchange of experience of the use of derogation regimes	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	

<b>Topic No. 3: Human dimension in relation to large carnivores' presence</b>
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Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
In order to better understand the human dimension of the large carnivores' issues and the societal attitudes in relation to the presence of large carnivores, members of WISO will design outlines for the questionnaire which will address these issues on the Alpine level.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Desk research per countries, identification of target groups, preparation of outlines for the questionnaire	Until spring 2026
b. Presentation and finalisation of the outlines at the third meeting	Spring 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Outlines for the questionnaire for a shared human dimension study	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Implementation of the study, in the event of the acquisition of funds necessary for the realisation	

### 3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
The Working Group will meet four times during the mandate period, with each meeting dedicated to one or two topics. The meetings will take place in spring 2025 and 2026 (in-person meetings) and in autumn 2025 and 2026 (online meetings).

### 4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
Cooperation with the Alpine Biodiversity Board will focus on the engagement of WISO in the preparation of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan. WISO will cooperate with the Transport Working Group and the Alpine Biodiversity Board on the ecological connectivity issues. Closer collaboration with the EU Platform on Coexistence between people and large carnivores and its platform members will be explored, to allow WISO to follow the discussions regarding large carnivores at the European level and be actively present with its outputs and work on the Alpine level. Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention to continue exchanging on common issues.

## 5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Foster dialogue with relevant Alpine stakeholders (including stakeholders from tourism, agriculture, nature protection and civil society sectors) on topics such as cohabitation – sharing the most important messages of WISO via social media (with the support of the Permanent Secretariat)</li><li>- Communication with the European Commission to share the outputs of WISO.</li></ul>

## 6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)
<b>MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems:</b> <i>Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies</i>
WISO members will share the available monitoring methods and data for large carnivores, underlying the importance of the viability of populations per contracting parties – thus contributing to the priority area by better monitoring the state of this segment of biodiversity in the Alps.
<b>MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action:</b> <i>Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector</i>
Ecosystem resilience is an essential element in adapting to climate change. Large carnivores and their proper management contribute directly to the health of Alpine ecosystems and their ability to adapt to changes.
<b>MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life:</b> <i>Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels</i>
Breeders (primarily of livestock and cattle) living in the areas with large carnivores present face different farming conditions; the set-up of protection measures against the predation could be eased with the recommendations and expert knowledge of WISO and its outputs in all three topics of the mandate.

## 7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Slovenia.