

Brown Bear in the Alps: III ° International Workshop

Triesenberg (FL) 14 – 16 Mai 2007

Proceedings: written by Paolo MOLINARI & Urs BREITENMOSER



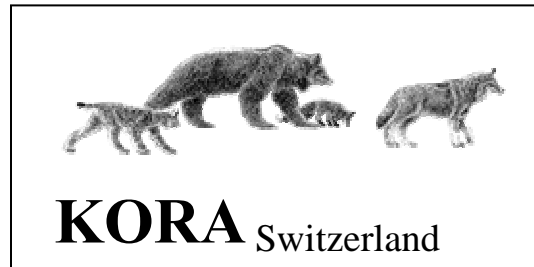
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Workshop organized by the AWNL (*Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft / National Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management*) of the Principality of Liechtenstein, with the co-operation of the KORA (*Koordinierte Forschungsprojekte zur Erhaltung und zum Management der Raubtiere / Coordinated research projects for the conservation and management of carnivores*) Switzerland.



AMT FÜR WALD, NATUR
UND LANDSCHAFT
FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN |



Proceedings written by P. Molinari and U. Breitenmoser in Triesenberg / Bern,
Draft Version - 25 May 2007 / Final Version – 21 June 2007

These proceedings should be cited as: - Brown Bear in the Alps: III° International Workshop, 2007, Proceedings. Triesenberg, Liechtenstein.

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ANNEX

- 1) Conclusions from the II° Workshop – Brown bears in the Alps / Chur (CH),
4 – 5 September 2006
- 2) Preamble in Alpine languages

Background

The return of the brown bear to the Alps gained a new dynamic in particular through the project of Adamello Brenta (Italy), where releases took place in order to support the remnant population. The conspicuous behaviour of some of the released individuals poses new challenges in living with bears. Dispersing young bears of this new occurrence reached astonishingly quickly distant areas. An example was the return of a brown bear to Switzerland in August 2005 – after 100 years absence.

This bear was a young male, well known to game biologists. It was a young of female Jurka, who was translocated in 2001 from Slovenia to the Trentino in the frame of the restocking project. Jurka's behaviour has ever since been conspicuous. Her missing shyness towards humans led to several critical encounters. Her son copied this behaviour. Indeed he was not aggressive, but due to repeated encounters between him and humans, one had to expect delicate situations to happen, perhaps even with an accident. The return of the brown bear to Switzerland caused a high media interest and the animal known to game biologists as JJ2 soon was baptized "Lumpaz".

In May and June 2006 another bear – the brother of JJ2, called JJ1, passed through South Tyrol and reached Austria and Germany, where the last bear dated back 170 years. The greater was the media coverage in Bavaria (D) where the bear was known as "Bruno". The limits in possible peaceful cohabitation between man and bear soon became obvious.

Immediately it was recognised how important it was that an appropriate management plan is necessary in order to minimize conflicts and the potential risk a bear may pose to human safety and to dispose of an action plan to outline the necessary steps and actions on how to deal with nuisance bears. Although a bear management plan can provide the frame for how to deal with such bears, each single situation needs a thorough and individual assessment and at the same time – taking the movement capacity of these animals into consideration – these concepts need to be internationally harmonized.

Even though the international cooperation between Italy, Austria and Germany started immediately during the stop over of JJ1, the demand for intensified cooperation emerged after JJ1 was shoot, due to becoming a potential risk for man. The incident showed the need for intensified cooperation and exchange of information between range states. This happened in July 2006 in Trento on invitation of the Province of Trento and the Italian Ministry of Environment where the *First International Bear Workshop* took place. Representatives of all Alpine countries got to know each other and discussed the country related problems. Soon it was recognized that more needs to be invested and a topic-related workshop was organized by the Swiss FOEN. This meeting took place in September 2006 in Chur (see Annex 1). The focus of the meeting was to get to know the persons relevant for decisions in bear management in the different countries, to discuss bear-management strategies across country borders, if possible, to harmonize the

guidelines to deal with problem bears and to facilitate the communication between countries and between wildlife managers, and the media.

Despite the somewhat problematic situation due to a mix of political and technical interests, the workshop had great consequences for the further process. (Additional information on the Chur workshop can be found in Annex 3 - *SCHNIDRIG.pdf*.) Therefore it was decided to step back to separate discussions on the strategic/political level from the discussion of the technical management across borders.

Host of the III. International brown bear workshop in the Alps was the Principality of Liechtenstein. To improve efficiency a preparatory meeting was organized one month beforehand. One representative per country (Felix Näscher FL, Piero Genovesi I, Georg Rauer A, Thomas Keller D, Paolo Molinari CH and Urs Breitenmoser as facilitator) defined the common goal and the agenda after consulting the respective ministries.

The objective was to develop a common vision through analysis of the four main topics: 1) review of the existing bear management plans, 2) monitoring of bears, 3) practical cooperation in bear management and 4) international communication policy. Through the analysis of the differences between countries identify the minimum common denominator to establish a solid basis for an Alps wide management concept. We have to aim at managing bears on the population level and not the national occurrences.

Subsequently, from 14 to 16 May 2007, 20 experts from 8 different nations met for a closed meeting in Triesenberg (FL). The contents and results of this workshop are presented on the following pages.

Preamble

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF THE BROWN BEAR RECOVERY IN THE ALPS

A common statement by the participants of the Alpine Brown Bear Workshop in Triesenberg, Liechtenstein, 14–16 May 2007

The brown bear is making a comeback in the Alps. This is the result of the natural spread of the Dinaric population into the Slovenian, Austrian and Italian Alps, but also of the release of bears in Austria, and Italy (Trentino) to save the last remnant Alpine brown bear population. While the natural spread of the population with reproducing females is a slow process that must be expected to last for decades, dispersing offspring can be encountered far from the advancing population. Wandering young male bears have recently ventured into Austria, Switzerland and Germany, and may arrive in Liechtenstein and France in the future, too. The brown bear is part of the Alpine natural heritage, and the Alpine countries welcome its recovery, responding to the obligations of national laws and the Habitats Directive, and recommendations by the Berne Convention, the Alpine Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The recovery may be achieved by several ways – natural spread, restocking, or reintroduction – but at one time, all Alpine countries will share one large population that they need to manage under a common view and a transboundary concept.

Although the ecological conditions in the Alps are favourable for the brown bear and better than during the times of its eradication, the bears are returning into a different world than the one they left a hundred years ago. The forests have expanded and the natural food resources improved. But at the same time, the Alps are one of the most intensively used mountain range in the world. The habitat is increasingly fragmented as a consequence of intensified use of valleys and development of transport and tourist infrastructure. The general public is in favour of the return of the bears, but decisive is, above all, the acceptance of people living in the bear areas. The return of the large carnivore poses a number of challenges, which we must learn to handle. Brown bears can cause damage to livestock and other property, and they pose a potential risk to human safety. All this makes the conservation of the brown bear in the Alps a special challenge. Furthermore, we have to recognise that the present status of the brown bear is different from country to country, and will be so for many years to come. Slovenia faces considerable bear abundance and standard management includes population control through culling. Italy and Austria are challenged by the conservation of small and still vulnerable populations. In Germany, Liechtenstein, France or Switzerland, however, any bear showing up is a unique and exciting event causing huge public interest. The common focus of the Alpine countries is clearly on the conservation of the entire population, not on the individual. There can be no doubt that the maintenance of a brown bear population in a human-dominated landscape like the Alps implies active management measures such as awareness raising campaigns, mitigation of habitat fragmentation, damage prevention and compensation, application of aversion techniques,

and the removal of individual bears when all other options fail. The brown bear is still highly endangered in the Alps, however with different population status in the various countries. Removal of individuals therefore requires not only an in-depth assessment of the behaviour of the animal, but must also consider the national or local situation of the bear population and the public perception. It hence requires a case-to-case evaluation by the competent authorities and, in most cases, consultation across the borders.

Several of the Alpine countries have already developed and implemented guidelines or concepts for dealing with brown bears, which all share generally accepted principles of conservation and wildlife management, but may differ in details depending on the situation in each country. There is, however, a clear consensus that the Alpine bear population can only recover and be maintained in a close cooperation among all Alpine countries. This cooperation requires a tight consultation between the national and regional institutions responsible for wildlife conservation in the different countries. The two young male bears (known as JJ1 alias Bruno and JJ2 alias Lumpaz), which recently wandered from Italy to Austria, Germany and Switzerland, have demonstrated the need for such collaboration. It also includes a mutual learning process leading to an adaptive management. In the future, the Alpine countries will further combine efforts and strengthen cooperation in order to develop a transboundary policy for the conservation and management of the brown bear. Cooperation will focus on sharing of information, compatible monitoring, maintenance of common databases, and harmonising management measures. It should result in a framework of coherent measures for the conservation and management of the Alpine brown bear population. Regular meetings will be held to exchange experiences and discuss questions of common interest such as to agree on how to deal with bears crossing international borders.

Therefore, after an initial Alpine brown bear meeting in Trento, Italy, and a follow-up in Chur, Switzerland, in 2006, national wildlife authorities and brown bear experts gathered in Triesenberg, Liechtenstein, from 14–16 May, 2007 where participants agreed on the above document. The next meeting will take place in Bavaria, Germany.



**THE TRANSLATION OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO ALL
ALPINE LANGUAGES CAN BE FOUND IN: - ANNEX 2.**

Keynote Presentation

- Living with bears - combining science, conservation, management and human dimension.

Prof. Djuro Huber (HR) presented his many years of experience studying bears and outlined that bear behavior may be very different from individual to individual. Although mostly vegetarian, bears are the largest terrestrial carnivore. They are skillful, unpredictable and strong. Prof. Huber showed what aspects these traits of bears have on management, conservation and human dimension with the example from Croatia.

Presentations

- Conclusion from the Chur 2006 meeting

Dr. Reinhard Schnidrig (CH) outlined the premise leading to the Chur workshop. He presented the goals and the strategy to reach the goals. After the results obtained at Chur, also the problems have been analysed in a self-critical manner. The precious conclusions served as basis to relaunch the whole process.

- Learning from JJI experience.

Dr. Felix Knauer (D) outlined what was to be learnt in Austria, Germany and all the Alps from the events 2006. After bringing forward some comments, the experiences were analysed in detail and categorised as positive or negative for the following categories: 1) experience with authorities, 2) media work, 3) internal work of Austrian emergency team, 4) collaboration with Trento/Italy and 5) bear JJI. The conclusions not only manifested what was learnt but give also important hints on what is needed in the future.

- Bear hunting management and conservation at the gate to the Alps.

Dr. Marko Jonozovic (SLO) talked about the long tradition of brown bear conservation and management in Slovenia. He explained the Slovenian system of combining brown bear hunting and conservation, but also stressed the recent problems in the management. Besides problems in relation to acceptance and agriculture (in particular sheep farming), especially habitat fragmentation was mentioned. Although the *Management Strategy for Brown Bear in Slovenia* gives the cooperation with Croatia and the Dinaric population the priority, it is emphasized that the support to sustain the Alpine recolonisation is

granted as well. At the end some measures were suggested to improve the dispersal towards the Alps.

- Educating bears and people in the Italian Alps

Dr. Piero Genovesi (I) and Dr. Claudio Groff (I) stressed that creating the basis for coexistence between bears and people is a major challenge. They presented how the brown bear management in Trentino is structured and explained how the monitoring, communication, the emergency team and especially the decision process function. “Bear management requires substantial financial resources” was a key statement. The authorities in the Trentino manifest a huge commitment. A demoscopic test on human attitude toward bear presence showed that acceptance remained similar as before the restocking project.

- Review of brown bear management plans

Dr. Georg Rauer started to show the common grounds as well as the differing situations in the Alpine nations that led to the management/action plans. The single documents were analyzed, and the national legal backgrounds and the responsible structures discussed. Two topics were presented in depth: dealing with problematic bears and damage compensation.

Workshop

The outline of the Workshop was designed by the Programme Committee during a preparatory meeting held in Vaduz (FL) 25 – 26 April 2007.

Programme Committee: Felix Näscher, Paolo Molinari, Piero Genovesi, Georg Rauer, Thomas Keller and Urs Breitenmoser.

Goal of the Alpine bear workshop:

To identify common goals and promote international cooperation in conservation and management of the recovering Alpine bear population.

Objectives of the workshop (4 working groups (WG):

- | | |
|-------|--|
| WG 1. | Review of existing bear management plans |
| WG 2. | Monitoring of bears |
| WG 3. | Practical cooperation in bear management |
| WG 4. | International communication policy |

1. Review of existing bear management plans
 - Evaluate common goals of the management plans
 - Review consistency in bear behavioural categories and proposed responses
 - Identify needs for and propose adjustments in regard to cross-border issues
2. Monitoring of bears
 - Review present monitoring schemes for bears in the Alpine countries
 - Identify need for standardisation and synchronisation of bear monitoring
 - Evaluate the need for compatible and/or centralised databases
 - Explore possibilities for common reporting on status of the Alpine bear population
3. Practical cooperation in bear management
 - Recommend procedures for the continued international cooperation

- Propose measures for improving the cooperation in the case of “individuals of special concern” moving between countries
 - Define roles and responsibilities for ensuring effective co-operation in emergency situations
4. International communication policy
- Identify key information and propose ways and means to ensure exchange of information between the relevant institutions
 - Identify key messages and develop a media communication strategy for emergency situations

Facilitator’s agenda

| | TUESDAY, 15 th MAY 2007 | | | Comments/Remarks |
|--------------|---|----------------------|----------------|--|
| 10:30 | Introduction to the workshop | Facilitator | 15 min. | PPT presentation, hand out memo sticks |
| 10:45 | Coffee break | | 15 min. | |
| 11:00 | Group work | WG 1–4 | 120 min. | |
| 13:00 | Lunch | | | |
| 14:00 | Group work | WG 1–4 | 60 min. | |
| 15:00 | First findings / open questions Discussion of the draft preamble | Plenary | 90 min. | |
| 16:30 | Coffee break | | 30 min | |
| 17:00 | Group work | WG 1–4 | 60 min. | Reporters hand in results on memo-sticks |
| 18:00 | End of work day 2 | | | |
| | WEDNESDAY, 16th MAY 2007 | | | |
| 09:00 | Group works: Presentation and discussion of results | Plenary Reporters | 120 min. | |
| 11:00 | Coffee Break | | 30 min. | |
| 11:30 | Summary and conclusions | Facilitator | 30 min. | |
| 11:45 | Presentation of the final document of the workshop | Chair | 30.min | |
| | Next steps and farewell | | | |

Rules for working group (WG):

1. Organisation of working groups:

- Select WG 1–4 according your interest and expertise
- Make sure that all countries are represented in all groups
- Each WG elects facilitator (*time*) and reporter (*notes*)

2. Tasks for each group:

- Discuss objective/sub-point and make recommendations to plenary
- Sub-points only suggestion – groups adapt work where needed
- Review draft preamble and provide feedback (Tuesday 15:00)
- Time available: 2 + 1 + 1 = 4 h

3. Deliverables:

- Results of group work as Word or PowerPoint file (Tuesday evening!)
- Presentation of group work results on PowerPoint Wednesday 09:00

4. Follow-up:

- Organisers/facilitators summarise workshop results
- Participants review and comment draft results
- Final version distributed as PDF

The working groups had roughly four hours to accomplish their tasks and then presented their findings to the plenary. After the discussion, the working groups integrated the recommendations of the plenary into their reports.

To grant an optimized group composition with representatives from different countries and experiences, after a plenary discussion and general agreement, groups 3 and 4 where merged in one single WG.

Urs Breitenmoser acted as facilitator and was supported by Felix Näscher and Paolo Molinari, who all gave some input in the different working groups.

As a decision maker of the Italian delegation was unable to participate at the workshop, he was represented by Paolo Molinari (meeting guide and co-organisator of the workshop) and Claudio Groff (representative of Trento). Especially for the discussion about the final version of the “*Preambles – a common statement by the participants of the workshop*” Piero Genovesi (INFS - National Wildlife Institute of Italy) was contacted several times via eMail and phone, as he was mandated by the Italian Ministry of Environment. Therefore, all participating countries officially agreed on the results of the workshop.

Report Working Group 1: Review of existing bear management plans

Group members: G. Rauer, C. Groff, M. Jonozovic, M. Wöfl, U. Wotschikowski & R. Schnidrig (*reporter*).

1. Evaluate common goals of the management plans:

- Plans would need to talk about goals, roles and procedures.
- General population goals cannot be found at the moment...
- ... but all countries are willing to work towards contributing to establish a viable Alpine population (we need however a definition for this).

2. Review consistency in bear behavioral categories and proposed responses

- Categories are needed for sound communication! It remains to be defined whether the categories describe types of bears or specific behaviors or respective actions?
- The category „surveyed bear“ is not necessary and can be deleted¹.
- Removal of a bear just causing damages is not an option in the Alps.
- Bear categories have to be harmonized between countries (Alpine bear countries should speak with one tongue).
- At least the German speaking countries should agree on common categories of bears to avoid confusion in the public.
- Proposal: Behaviour assessment list (4 categories of dangerousness towards human).
- In case of bears causing damages apply prevention measures and aversive conditioning.

¹ This refers to the categories as proposed in the conclusions from the second Alpine bear workshop in Chur, Switzerland, 5/6 September 2006 (*see Annex 1 – this document*).

3. Identify needs for and propose adjustments in regard to cross-border issues

- Goals on the population-level with time scales are needed.
- Feasibility studies in the different countries (habitat quality, conflicts, social carrying capacity, etc.) should be done.
- Roles and responsibilities in some countries need to be clarified (decision makers versus advisers). Bear management responsibility (including decisions) is up to a specific GO.
- Integrate the decision-makers into the international cooperation process about Alpine bear management in all countries.
- International review process for national or regional management or action plans is recommended.

Report Working Group 2: Monitoring of bears

Group members: M. Marence, U. Brendel, D. Huber, P. Molinari (*input*)
& F. Knauer (*reporter*).

Monitoring was reviewed and assessed for four different topics or levels: - 1) Population, 2) Problem individuals, 3) Habitat, and 4) Human attitudes.

A) REVIEW PRESENT MONITORING SCHEMES FOR BEARS IN THE ALPINE COUNTRIES

1) Population

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| SLOVENIA: | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |
| | <i>How/who:</i> | GPS-radiocollar, population estimates by hunting clubs, by SFS (10-20 people); |
| | <i>Funding:</i> | national money, project money, volunteer work. |
| AUSTRIA: | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |
| | <i>How/who:</i> | genetic monitoring, by bear advocates (4) and local experts (~20); |
| | <i>Funding:</i> | state money, WWF, project money. |
| D (BAVARIA): | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |
| | <i>How/who:</i> | genetic monitoring, by bear advocates (2) and local experts (~10); |
| | <i>Funding:</i> | state money. (Remark: not established yet, but intended). |
| SWITZERLAND: | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |
| | <i>How/who:</i> | genetic monitoring, by BAFU (KORA), cantonal wildlife services; |
| | <i>Funding:</i> | federal and state money. |
| I / (TRENTO): | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |
| | <i>How/who:</i> | genetic monitoring, by Province of Trento, PNAB, Hunter's Association; |
| | <i>Funding:</i> | provincial money. |
| I / (FRIULI V.G.): | <i>What:</i> | dead bears, damages, signs; |

How/who: genetic monitoring, by Region Friuli V.G. /
University of Udine, National Forest Service (CFS);
Funding: regional, provincial (UD) and project money.

2) Problem individuals

SLOVENIA: damages, cases of habituated and food-conditioned bears in or around settlements, aggressive bear behaviour; by intervention group; national money;

AUSTRIA: damages, events with nuisance bears; by bear advocates; state money;

D (*BAVARIA*): damages, events with nuisance bears; by bear advocates; state money;

SWITZERLAND: damages, events with nuisance bears; by cantonal wildlife services, KORA; federal and state money;

I / (*TRENTO*): damages, events with nuisance bears; by Province of Trento; provincial money;

I / (*FRIULI V.G.*): damages, events with nuisance bears; by Region Friuli V.G. and National Forest Service; national, regional and provincial money.

3) Habitat

Studies exist on habitat evaluation, barriers and corridors, but no continuous monitoring of habitat quality and changes in all Alpine countries.

4) Human dimension

Existing studies: SLO Dinarics (Kaczensky et al., Korenjak, media clippings!); TN (at least 2 studies); A: WWF, Styrian hunters; CH: several general inquiries included bear.

B) – D) STANDARDISATION, SYNCHRONISATION, COMPATIBILITY AND REPORTING

1) Population

- Standardize genetic and molecular methods (markers, etc.);
- Centralize (at least compatible and accessible) genetic database on individual level;
- Radio-collar all bears in hands (GPS-GSM), at least in all areas without established bear populations²;
- Standardized reporting scheme (e.g. SCALP³ criteria).

2) Problem individuals

- Radio-collar all nuisance bears as pre-condition for successful aversive conditioning;
- Common evaluation scheme for problem individuals.

3) Habitat

There is a need for compatible and centralised database concerning the habitat suitability and changes in time.

The Alps provide adequate habitat for bears in many areas. However, those areas are fragmented through human-made structures. The main problem for population expansion and establishment is limited connectivity. The habitat monitoring (including analyses and modelling) is expected to provide a sound basis for the identification of suitable expansion corridors and critical barriers.

Common reporting on status of the bear habitat is needed, regarding to the development and establishment of the bear population in the Alps.

4) Human dimension

- General baseline information study needed for all countries in the Alps;
- Detailed studies on particular problems;
- Regular monitoring of media events/articles.

Report Working Group 3-4: Practical cooperation and international communication

² The conclusion from the plenary discussion was that – besides specific research projects – there is no need to radio-tag every resident bear, that however bears dispersing (across international borders) should be radio-collared as early as possible.

³ Monitoring standards developed for the *Status and Conservation of the Alpine Lynx Population* - see (MOLINARI-JOBIN, A., P. MOLINARI, C. BREITENMOSER-WÜRSTEN, M. WOELFL, C. STANISA, M. FASEL, P. STAHL, J.M. VANDEL, L. ROTELLI, P. KACZENSKY, T. HUBER, M. ADAMIC, I. KOREN & U. BREITENMOSER 2003: Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the Lynx. Nature and Environment 130, Council of Europe Publishing, 20 pp.).

Group members: C. Peter, S. Mancic, C. Jäggi, C. Walder, T. Borchers,
F. Näscher (*input*) & T. Keller (*reporter*).

Objectives of the joined WG 3 – 4

- ***Recommend procedures for the continued international cooperation***
- ***Propose measures for improving the cooperation in the case of “individuals of special concern” moving between countries***
- ***Identify key information and propose ways and means to ensure exchange of information between the relevant institutions***
- ***Define roles and responsibilities for ensuring effective co-operation in emergency situations***

Regular procedures (between authorities)

- Secure permanent contact and name an “institution” responsible;
- Decide on an appropriate framework for maintaining the cooperation (e.g. under the Alpine Convention, Bern Convention, CMS, protocol, etc.);
- Distribute list of responsible authorities and relevant persons to Alpine countries.
- Exchange monitoring data.
- Communicate management decisions and rational.
- Exchange information on political developments related to bears;
- Establish cooperation, information exchange, training, and updating between ETF (*Emergency Task Forces*).

Rapid response procedures (between authorities)

- Country concerned to contact responsible authorities and relevant persons in neighboring countries.
- Regular and rapid exchange of information (i.e. daily reports on incidents, damages, actions taken, press releases etc.) in case of a problem bear.
- Ad-hoc inter-country consultations. Meetings to harmonize management and external communication as far as possible.
- Communicate management decisions and rational.
- Cooperation, information exchange and updating between concerned ETFs.

Key messages and media communication strategy for emergency situations

Communication should be transparent, based on facts, and timely. Existing communication strategies, e.g. the Life-Coop SLO/ITA/AUT should be taken into account.

- The brown bear is part of the Alpine natural heritage.
- Large carnivores are part of natural ecosystem of the Alps and play important role.
- The brown bear is recovering and spreading in the Alps.
- The brown bear is still highly endangered in the Alps and of high conservation priority.
- There are suitable habitats for brown bears in the Alps.
- The brown bear is a wild animal and can be dangerous to humans.
- It can cause damage to livestock and other properties.
- There are means to prevent, reduce and mitigate damages.
- There is a set of measures to deal with individual problem brown bears.
- The brown bear is dependent on the acceptance of people.

Summary of the plenary discussions and conclusions

- The “Alpine brown bear population” is, at the moment, rather a vision than a fact. There is, however, a consensus that the goal must be a viable population, spread across the Alpine Arc, and that this can only be achieved if all Alpine countries work together and contribute in solidarity to this goal.
- Distribution and abundance of this population needs to be evaluated under the aspect of the principle of “favorable conservation status” and the concept of “viable population”. It is however important to emphasize that the long-term goal goes beyond a “minimum viable population”; the brown bear is an important part of the Alpine ecosystem and should be able to regain its ecological position in all suitable habitats in the Alps.
- A future Alpine brown bear population will be a management-dependent meta-population. It is, at the time being, impossible to outline exactly neither how such a meta-population can be recovered nor how it will be conserved and managed in the future. It is however clear that it can only be done in a sensible transboundary cooperation between the Alpine countries. The *Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores*, prepared by Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe prepared for the European Commission could provide conceptual and practical support for the future planning. These guidelines will be further discussed by a series of workshops in the European countries hosting large carnivore populations to channel comments on the guidelines from responsible authorities and key interest groups to the Commission.. The Alpine bear workshop will explore the possibilities to join efforts with the LCIE who is mandated to facilitate these workshops.
- More consistent habitat suitability models for the whole of the Alps would considerably support the conservation planning. Models would also need to predict the potential abundance of brown bears in specific areas or sub-populations. The participants of the Triesenberg meeting however agreed that the ecological carrying capacity of the cultivated landscapes of the Alps for the bear is high and probably exceeds the “social carrying capacity” (the amount of bear being tolerated by resident people). It is hence important to consider people’s attitudes in the models and conservation planning and to balance between the ecological potential and the socio-economic reality.
- The “Alpine brown bear workshop” is so far an informal think tank made up by wildlife managers of the national institutions and bear experts. The possibility of a more formal embedment and collaborations was discussed. Three lines of connections have to be considered:
 - A formal “host” for the *Alpine Brown Bear Workshop*, e.g. the Alpine Convention, the Bern Convention, or others.

- Synergetic cooperation with other groups working on the recovery of large carnivores in the Alps, e.g. the LCIE (*Large Carnivore Initiative of Europe*), the SCALP (*Status and Conservation of Alpine Lynx Population*) or the AWW (*Alpine Wolf Workshop Group*).
- Creation of a superior task force made up by the decision makers of the responsible institutions of the Alpine countries that could transfer the technical/scientific recommendation of the Workshop on the political level.

Next step

The next meeting of the Alpine brown bear workshop will take place in Bavaria, Germany. Based on the proceedings (minutes) from the Triesenberg meeting (this document), an organizing committee should prepare the agenda in the frame of a preparatory meeting (like in Vaduz) and identify the concrete topics and goals according to the need for actions listed in the working group reports or in this summary conclusions.

Programme

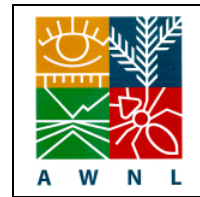
BROWN BEAR IN THE ALPS - Liechtenstein Workshop, 14 -16- May

- *Meeting Guide – Logistics, introduction of people and setting of the meeting:*

Paolo Molinari

- *Chair of the meeting:*

Felix Näscher



AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

Monday, 14th May 2007 → *Afternoon: Arrival of participants*

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|---------|
| 18:30 | <i>Welcoming address / general goals</i> | F. Näscher, FL | 15 min. |
| | <i>Keynote presentation</i> | D. Huber | 45 min. |
| 20:00 | <i>Free dinner at Hotel Kulm or surrounding restaurants</i> | | |

Tuesday, 15th May 2007

| | | | |
|-------|--|---|---------|
| 09:00 | <i>Presentations (5 X 15 Min.)</i> | R. Schnidrig F. Knauer M. Jonozovic C. Groff J. Rauer | 75 min. |
| 10:30 | <i>Introduction to the workshop</i> | Facilitator | 15 min. |
| 10:45 | <i>Coffee break</i> | | 15 min. |
| 11:00 | <i>Group work</i> | Working groups: 1 – 4 | 120 min |
| 13:00 | <i>Lunch at Hotel Kulm</i> | | 60 min. |
| 14:00 | <i>Group work</i> | Working groups: 1 – 4 | 60 min. |
| 15:00 | <i>First findings / open questions</i> | Plenary | 90 min. |
| 16:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> | | 30 min. |
| 17:00 | <i>Group work – completion of task</i> | Working groups: 1 – 4 | 60 min. |

18.30 *Guided tour at the Liechtenstein Museum of Art - theme: "Hunting – myths and reality"*

20:00 *Reception given by the Liechtenstein government (location announced)*

Wednesday, 16th May 2007

| | | | |
|-------|--|----------------|----------|
| 09:00 | Group works: | Plenary | 120 min. |
| | Presentation and discussion of results | Reporters | |
| 11:00 | Coffee Break | | 30 min. |
| 11:30 | Summary and conclusions | Facilitators | 45 min. |
| 12:15 | Next steps and farewell | F. Näscher, FL | 15 min. |
| 12:30 | End of the meeting – lunch - departure | | |

DETAILS OF PROGRAMME - PRESENTATIONS / INVITED SPEAKERS

Monday, 14th May 2007 – Keynote Presentation

Duro Huber: Living with bears – combining science, conservation, management and human dimension.

Tuesday, 15th May 2007 Introductory presentations

R. Schnidrig: Conclusions from the Chur 2006 meeting;

F. Knauer: Learning from JJ1 experience;

M. Jonozovic: Bear hunting management and conservation at the gate to the Alps;

P.Genovesi & C. Groff: Educating bears and people in the Italian Alps;

G. Rauer: Review of brown bear management plans.

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The participants of the of the Triesenberg (FL) III^o International Brown Bear Workshop

Acknowledgements

Dr. F. Näscher and the Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Land Use Planning, Agriculture and Forestry / National Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management of the Principality of Liechtenstein for the logistic and financial support;

The Swiss FOEN for financial and logistic support;

Barbara Flad – secretary of the general director for the professional and appreciated cooperation during the preparatory phase and during the workshop itself;

The commitment of Dr. Piero Genovesi, who despite not being able to participate though kept contact via eMail or telephone, was most appreciated;

Anja Molinari-Jobin for a critical revision of the Proceedings;

Last but not least all participants for the constructive spirit during the workshop and their enthusiasm to work for a common vision.

ANNEX

- 1) Conclusions from the II^o Workshop – Brown bears in the Alps / Chus (CH), 4 – 5 September 2006
- 2) Preamble in Alpine languages