

Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme 2006-2015



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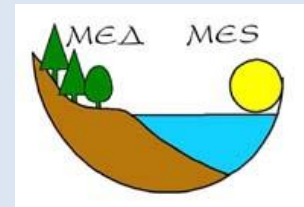
Shkodra, 13/05/2016



Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme



In 2006, in Albania and Macedonia started the programme for the recovery of the Balkan Lynx. This programme is a partnership project between regional and international organizations:



Supported by :



Situation of the Balkan Lynx



Distribution of Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe

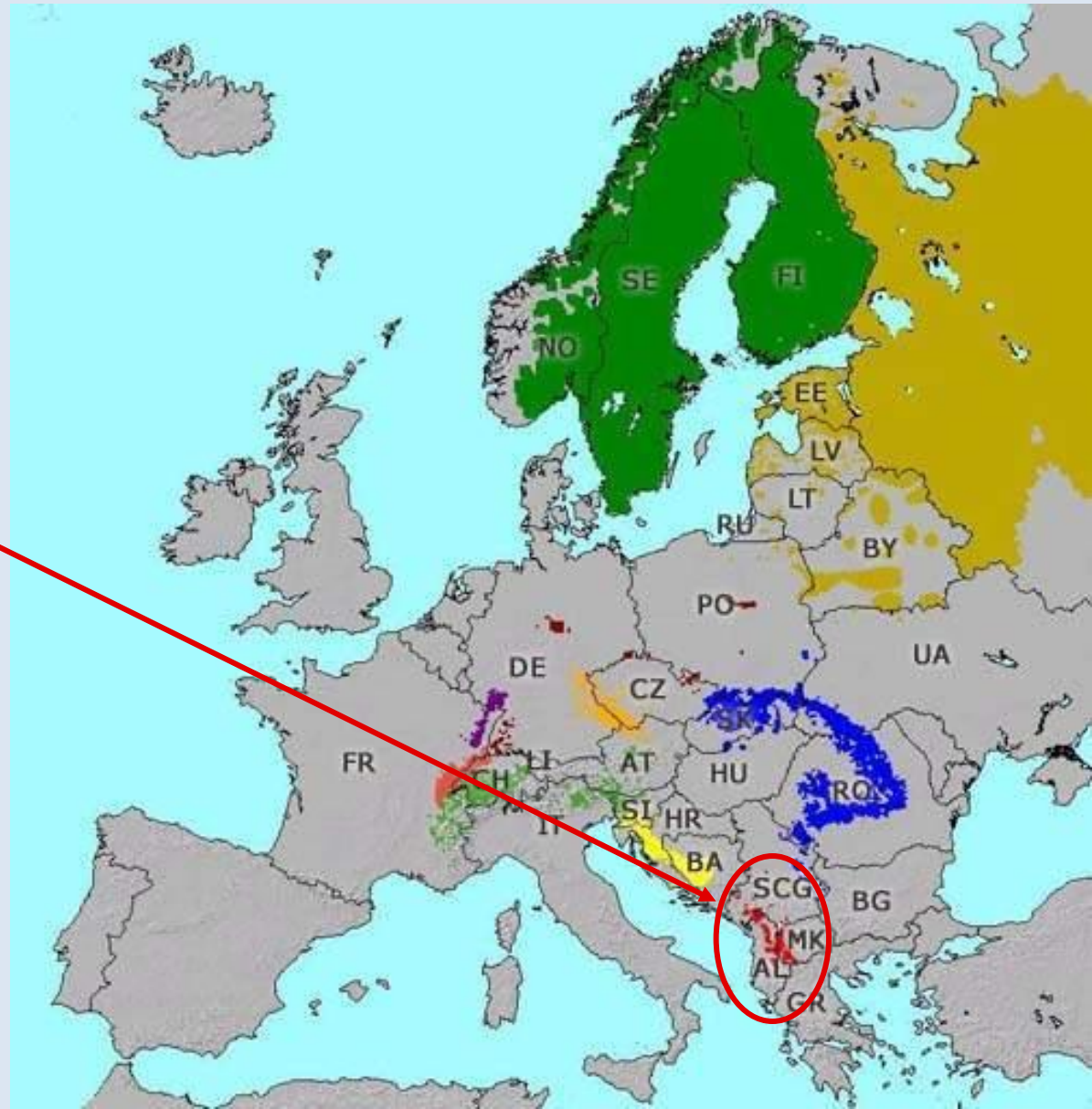
Most
endangered
autocton
population

Balkan lynx population:
40-60 estimated individuals

The Balkan lynx is considered

Critically Endangered

based on red list of IUCN



What is Balkan Lynx? How does it look like?



Wild mammal, carnivore with yellowish-gray color or redish to brown, dark spots and white belly

Body height 0.6-07 m

Body lenght 1-1.3 m

Body weight 15-25 kg

It lives 15-20 years

Main prey (roe dear, chamois, hares and birds)



Main activities of BLRP

Education/Training

Surveys and Monitoring

Protected area

Model project

Information and awareness



1. Training & Education

Students **trained in different wildlife monitoring methods** but also in **conceptual and organizational aspects**.

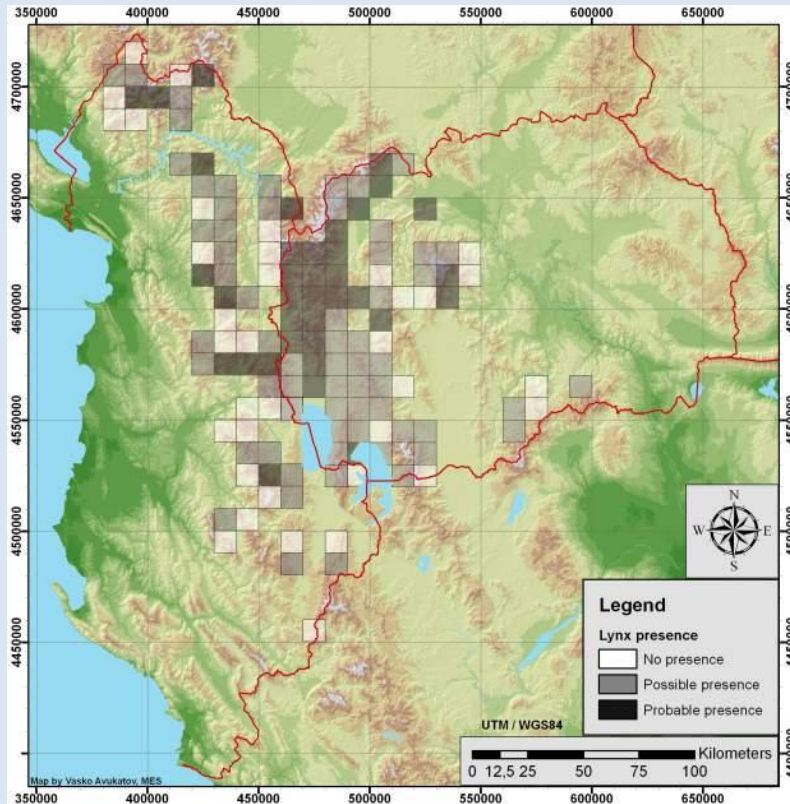
We also **inform and train anyone** interested in learning the methods to contribute to the project, for instance in the **monitoring network**.



2. Study & Monitoring

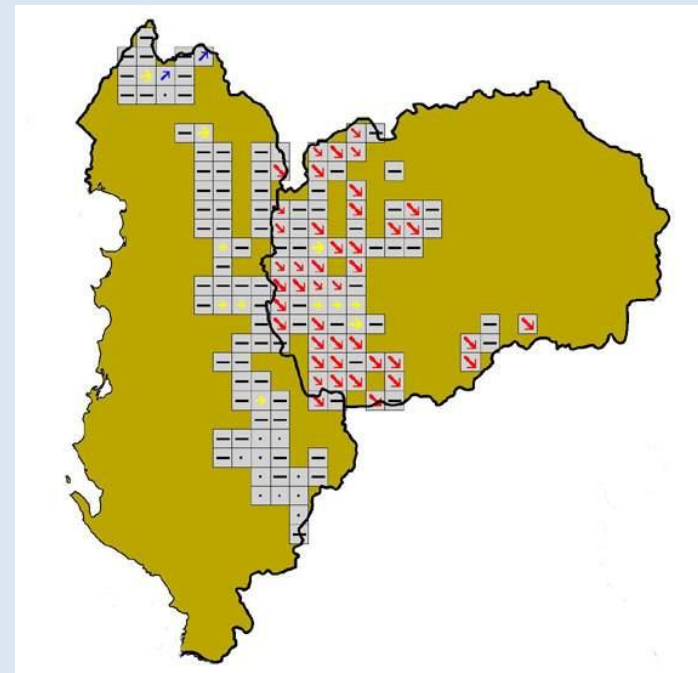


Base study:

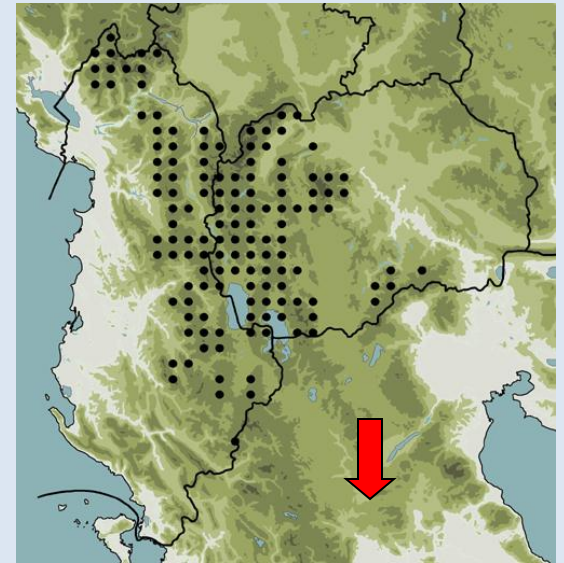
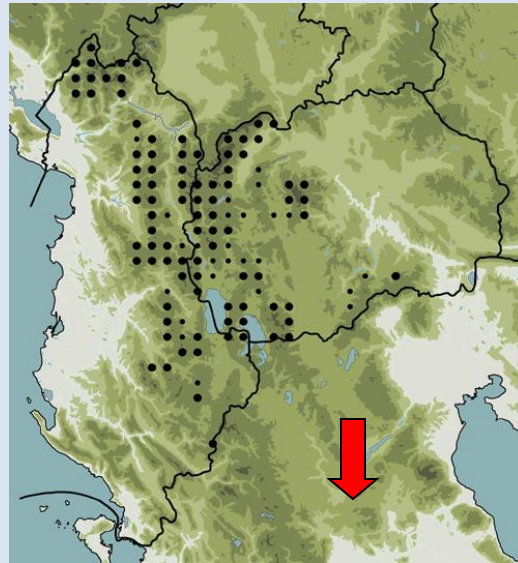
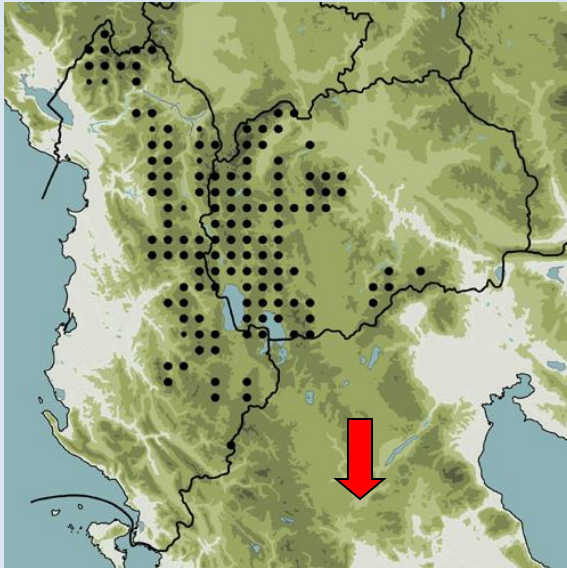


Balkan lynx presence

873 interviews with local people (553 MK, 320 AL)



Balkan lynx prey



Base study: Threats



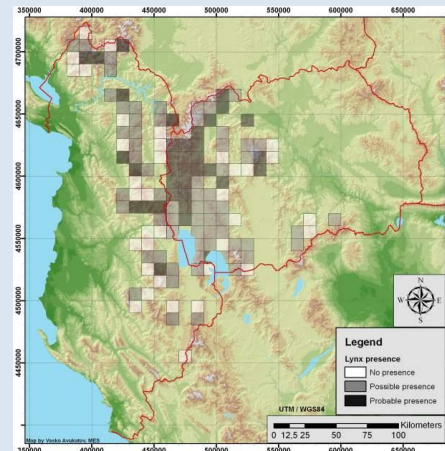
Illegal killing



Habitat degradation



Prey depletion



Small population and fragmentation



Research and study methods

- Literature review
- Transect walk
- Camera trapping
- Lynx capture and radio telemetry

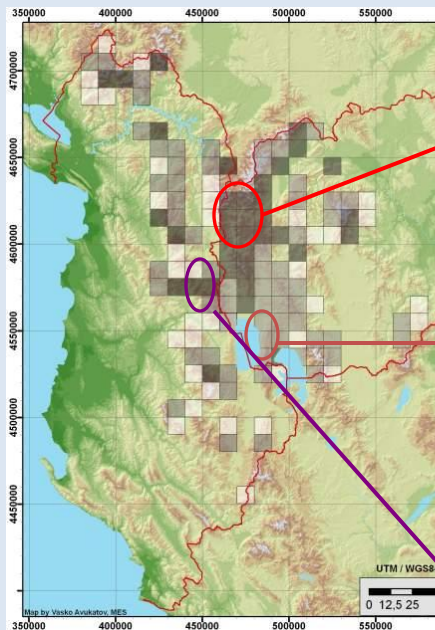


Camera-trapping method





Results (2006-2009)



Study area (size)	Date	No. cam.-traps	No. lynx pictures	Lynx population estimation	Other species (No. of pictures)
Mavrovo NP, MK (436 km ²)	26.02.- 26.04.08	32 sites x 2 = 64	29	$7 \pm 1,82$ independent lynx* $= 0,84 \pm 0,24$ lynx/100km ²	badger (12), brown bear (13), brown hare (30), chamois (28), red fox (10), roe deer (36), wild boar (47), wildcat (6), wolf (7)
Galichica NP and northern surroundings, MK (~ 250 km ²)	19.11.08.- 14.01.09	19 (13 sites)	0	-	badger (1), brown bear (1), brown hare (11), red fox (13), roe deer (10), wild boar (3), wild cat (8), wolf (2), [dogs (10)]
Shebenik-Jabllanica NP (340 km ²)	02.03.- 17.04.09	38	0	-	badger (1), brown bear (2), brown hare (5), red fox (15), roe deer (2), stone marten (7), wild cat (5), dogs

* Model Mh of programme MARK

SCOPES 2010-2012

Lynx capture and radio telemetry method:

- To learn about their home range
- Distribution and abundance
- Habitat preferences
- Social organization
- Predation and diet
- Health and genetic analyses

**The first lynx caught in Mavrovo NP
on 14th of March 2010 -Marko**

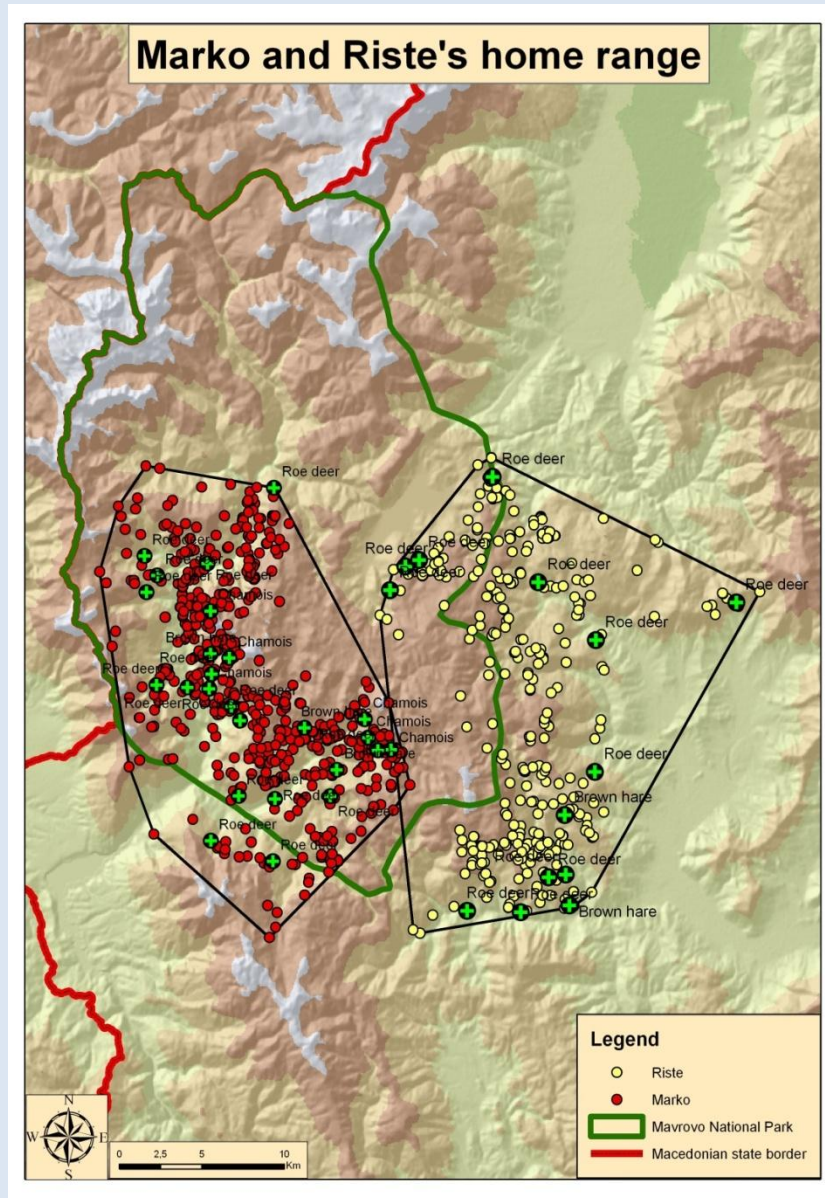




Marko



Riste



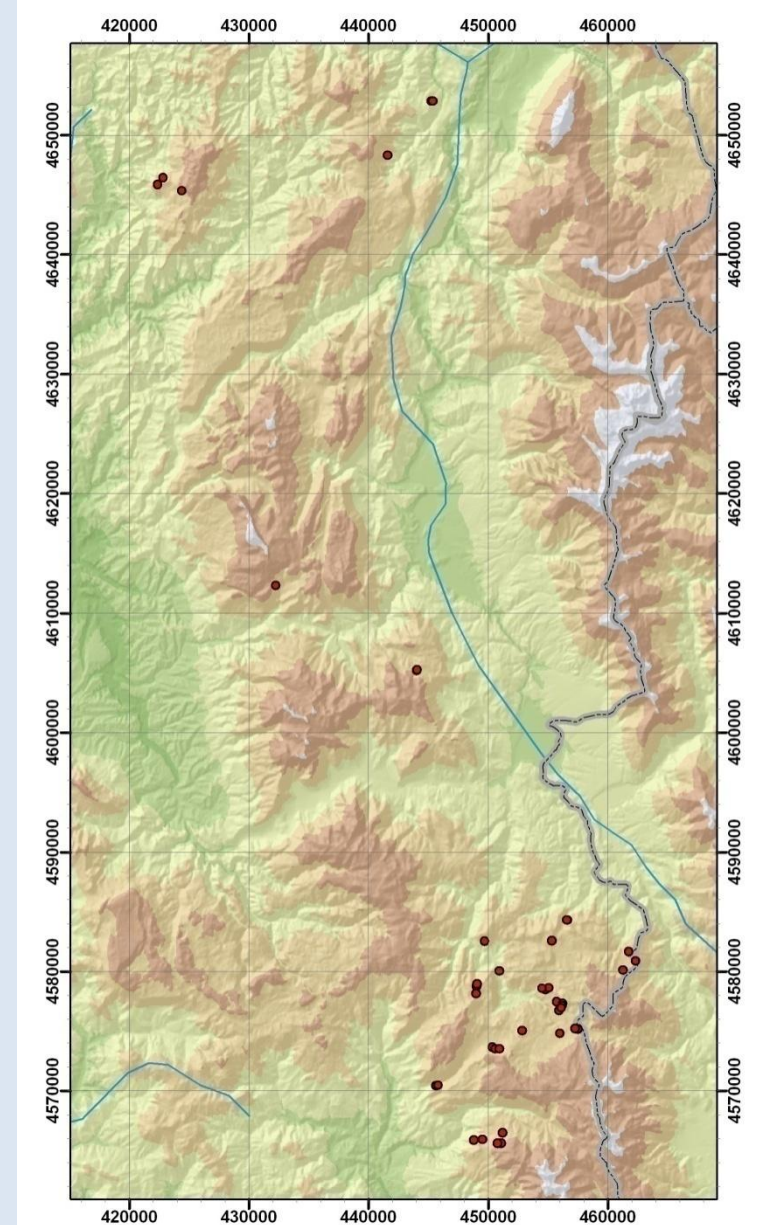
Extensive monitoring with camera-trapping (2010-2011)



42 Camera-trapping in 4 different areas

- Shebenik-Jabllanicë
- Balgjaj Mt.
- Munella Mt.
- Surrej region (Kukës)

Time study : December 2010 – May 2011





The first photo of the Balkan lynx in Albania, Puka-Mirdita region



486 photos of wildlife with 13 species

Martes sp. 55, *Mustela nivalis* 1, *Meles meles* 69, *Vulpes vulpes* 136, *Sciurus vulgaris* 2, *Lepus europaeus* 155, *Canis lupus* 12, *Ursus arctos* 20, *Felis silvestris* 9, *Erinaceus roumanicus* 4, *Capreolus capreolus* 22, *Sus scrofa* 2.

Good indication of the prey presence (Roe deer, Brown hare, Fox).

Monitoring season with camera-trapping 2012



22 Camera-trapping in 3 different areas

- Valbona valley
- Munella Mt.
- Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP

Time study: July– December 2012

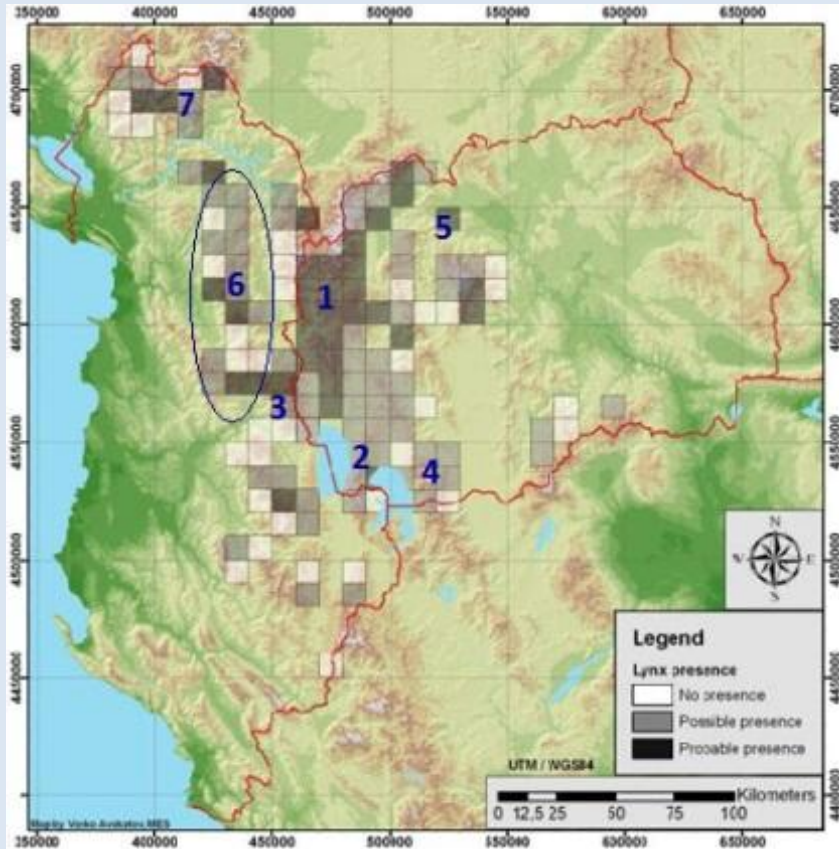
The first photo of the Balkan lynx in Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP



710 photos of wildlife (13 species)

Lynx lynx balcanicus 4, *Vulpes vulpes* 306, *Capreolus capreolus* 5, *Felis silvestris* 27, *Canis lupus* 9, *Meles meles* 44, *Ursus arctos* 76, *Lepus europaeus* 96, *Martes martes* 20, *Martes foina* 67, *Sus scrofa* 2, *Rupicapra rupicapra* 50, *Erinaceus europaeus* 4.

Camera-trapping:



1. Mavrovo PK (MK):

7 ± 1.82 lynx ; $0.84 \pm 0.24/100 \text{ km}^2$ (2008)

9 ± 3.24 lynx ; $0.84 \pm 0.29/100 \text{ km}^2$ (2010)

2. Galichica PK (MK): 0 lynx

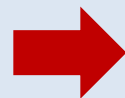
3. Shebenik-Jabllanica PK (AL): 1 (2) lynx

4. Pelister PK (MK): 0 lynx

5. Jasen PA (MK): 2 lynx

6. NE Albania: 2 (3?) lynx

7. Valbona valley, Albanian Alps: 0 lynx



Mavrovo NP is the region where the population of the Balkan lynx reproduction



20-44 estimated individuals !

Images from camera trapping season in Albania 2012



Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*)



Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)



Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)



Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)



Camera-trapping 2013-2015



16 Camera-trapping

2 different areas

**Time study : 20 March– 22 June
2013**

13 photos of the Balkan lynx in 2013!

**4-5 different individuals of lynx in Puka-
Mirdita region!**

Extensive monitoring with camera-trapping 2013-2014

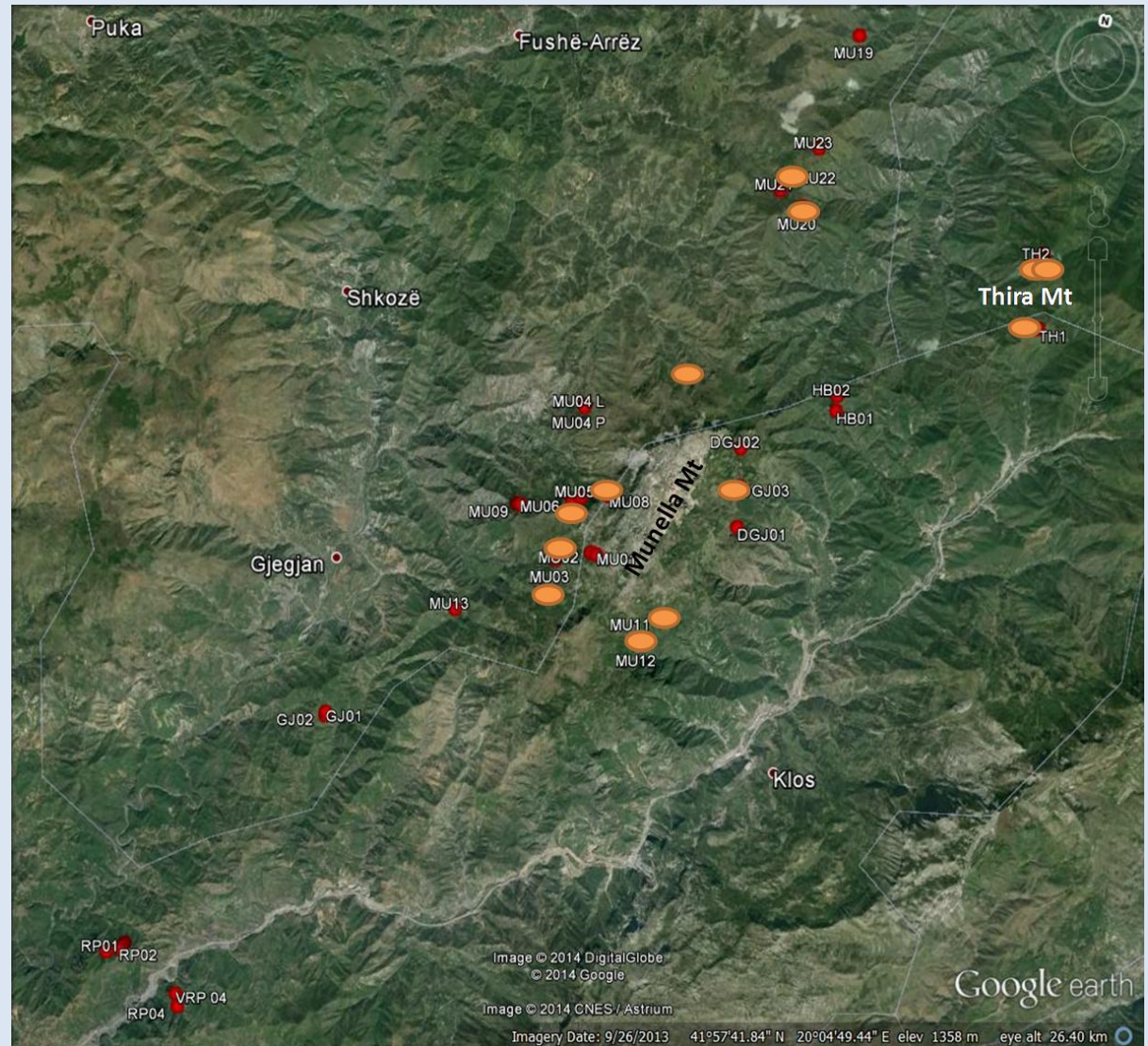


44 Camera-trapping

Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP & Munella Mt.

December 2013-May 2014

27 photos of *Lynx lynx balcanicus*, 28 *Martens foina*, 1 *Martes martes*, 42 *Felis silvestris*, 49 *Meles meles*, 227 *Vulpes vulpes*, 1 *Mustela putorius*, 6 *Sus scrofa*, 496 *Lepus europaeus*, 21 *Canis lupus*, 55 *Ursus arctos*, 6 *Capreolus capreolus*, 1 *Erinaceus europaeus*, 3 birds sp.



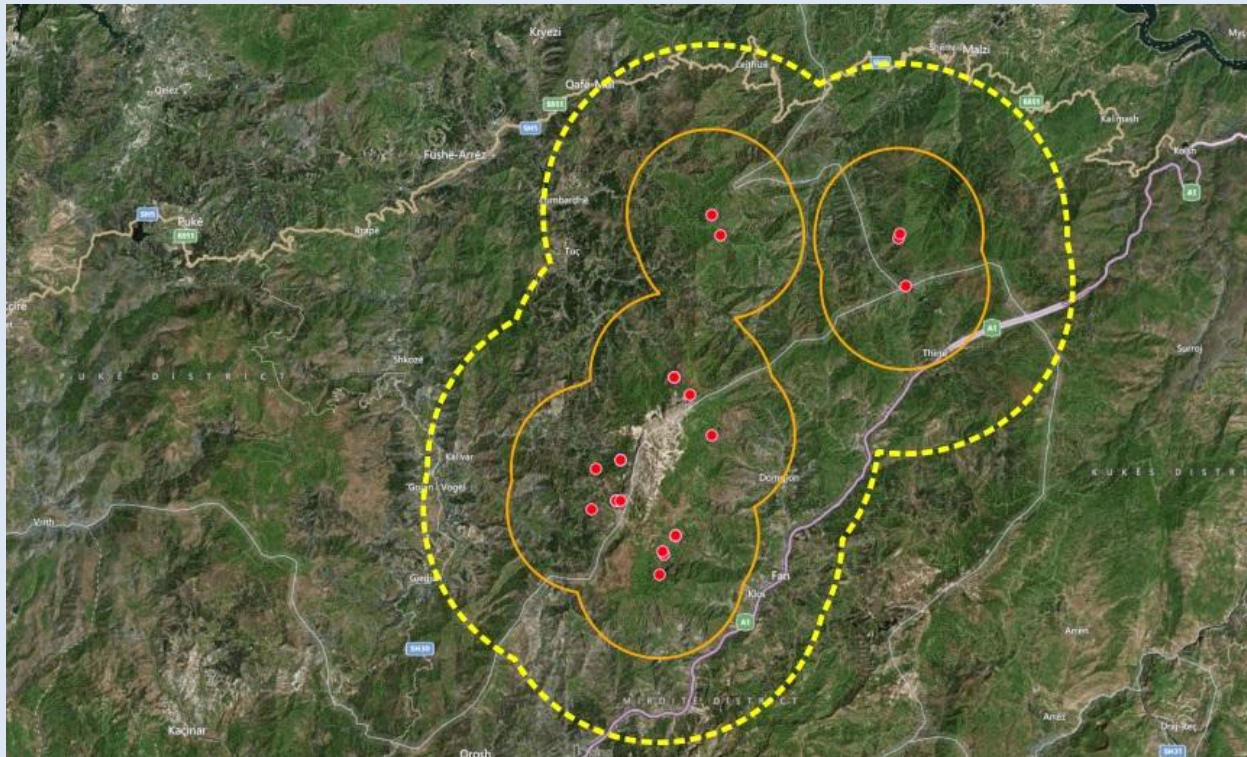


In total 45 photos of Balkan lynx

5-6 individuals in Puka-Mirdita region

2 new individuals are photographed during this season

Munella Mt is the second area in Balkan where the Balkan lynx is present



Images from camera trapping season in Munella Mt. 2015



Images from camera trapping season in Puke Mirditte region 2016



3. Protected areas

Protected areas can play an important role in species conservation.

Shebenik-Jabllanicë is proclaimed **National Park** in 2008

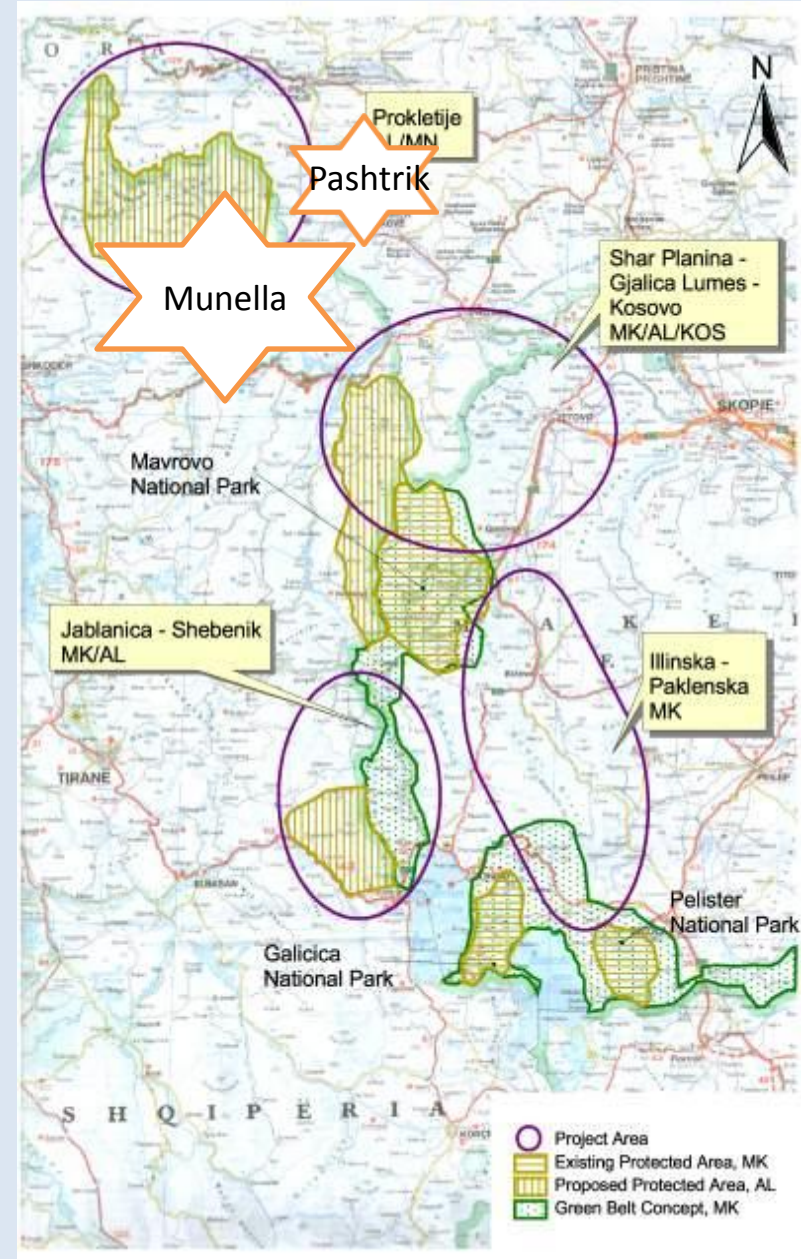
Korab-Koritnik is proclaimed **Natural Park** in 2011.

In the 3rd phase of the BLRP (2012-2015), two other areas are under focus:

➤ **Munella Mountain**



➤ **Pashtrik-Morina**





4. Small Grant projects

To create **awareness** for the natural value of the region and the need for the **preservation certain areas** as well as the careful use the of the natural resources, we encourage locals to **submit their ideas** for small projects related to local sustainable development.



Projects such as:

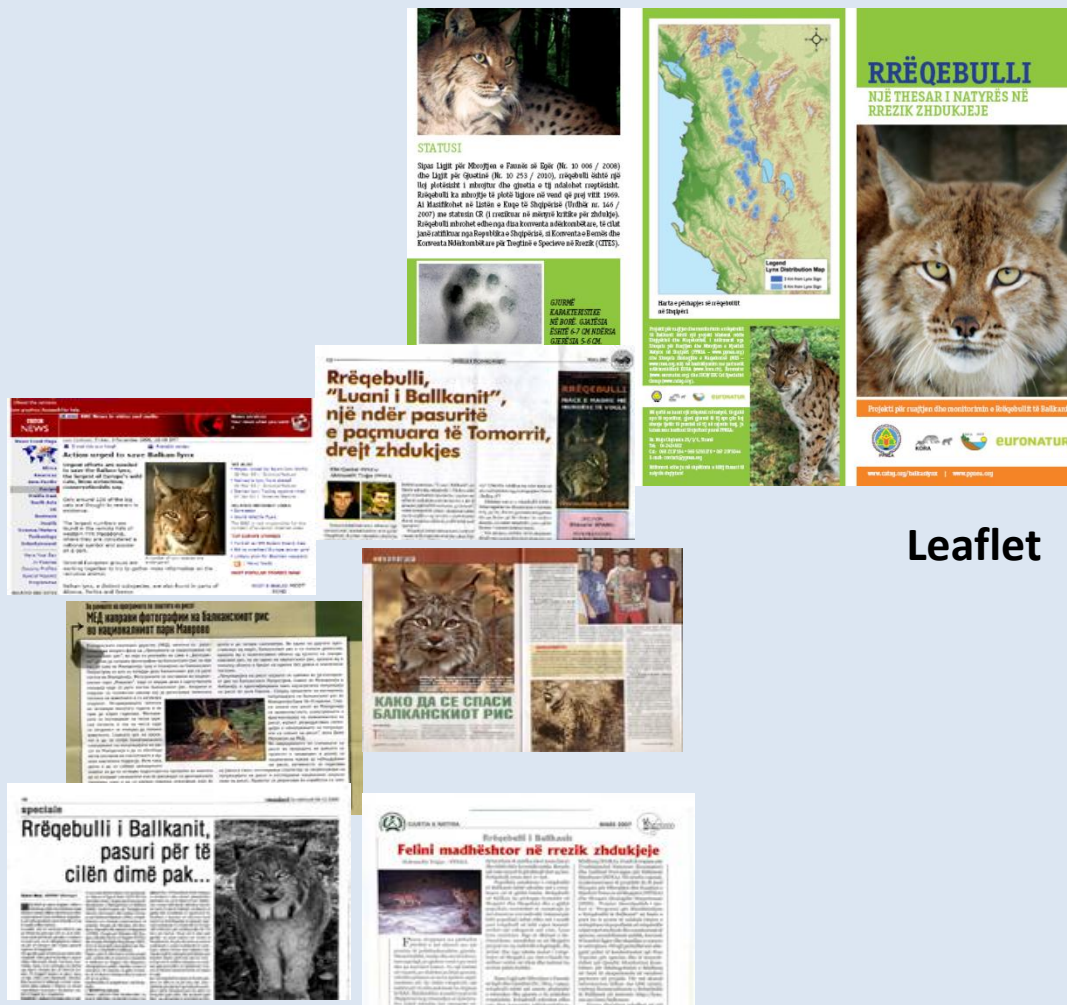
- Promotion of the natural values
- Sustainable development
- Education and Awareness



5. Information & awareness



Information about lynx and the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme are spread with leaflets and posters, via the media, articles and presentation.



Leaflet

Articles



5.1. Education program

“Balkan Lynx Ambassadors”- A peer learning wildlife program with school childrens in the Puke-Mirdite region





Main challenges and obstacles

- Lack of **capacities and expertise** of local NGOs, GOs and lack of human resources
- Opportunistic NGOs, **adopting their scope** on the funding prospects that arise
- Lack of, weak **coordination and collaboration** between national/local organizations
- Lack of **continuation/sustainability** of the activities
- **No access** to information or **limited access** to unreliable data on lynx and its prey



Lessons learned

- **Motivation, trust, solidarity** and strong **commitment**
- **Involvement** of all partner organization's
- **Collaboration** and **exchange of experiences** at national/international level
- Need to enhance the **abilities** and **capacities**
- It is crucial to **strengthen the collaboration** with GIs, and national governments

Thank you for your attention!

