



PPNEA

Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

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Press release

Balkan Lynx presence proved in Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park

The Association for Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) is pleased to inform you that on August 7th, 2012, the first Balkan Lynx picture was taken in the area of Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park. This picture is the culmination of several years of wildlife monitoring conducted from PPNEA in the frame of the SCOPES project and the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme which are sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation/Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the MAVA Foundation, respectively. According to the field researchers Aleksandër Trajçe and Bledi Hoxha two intensive monitoring sessions have been carried out during 2009 and 2011 within the national park territory, but they both failed to prove the presence of the Balkan lynx there. On the other hand, in 2012 a sporadic monitoring session was conducted, which even though limited in time and space, resulted to be successful.



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Shebenik was proclaimed a protected area precisely because of its regional values as an important habitat for large carnivores and especially because it was assumed that Balkan lynx might be present as well. Therefore, the first proof of the Balkan lynx existence inside the boundaries of the park gives us hope that in the future this species will be more protected, and widely known as the symbol of the natural heritage of the area.

PPNEA invites all the stakeholders of the National Park to cooperate and coordinate in management and conservation actions, so that we can be optimistic that the Balkan lynx will continue to wander free in the Albanian forests, and will remain a source of inspiration and pride for the next generations as well.

May you have further inquiries, please feel free to contact PPNEA in the address below:

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