

# Training Workshop for Balkan Lynx Network members: Game wardens from the Mavrovo National Park, Macedonia

National Park Office, Mavrovi Anovi, February 18, 2008



Fig. 1: Workshop participants

## Content:

Introduction .....	2
Programme .....	2
Results .....	3
Outlook .....	3
References .....	4

## Annex:

List of participants.....	5
---------------------------	---

## Introduction

The Balkan Lynx Networks, being established in Albania and Macedonia in the frame of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (Task 5.1.2.), aim to support the monitoring of lynx and prey and to enhance the public involvement. They consist of institutions and individuals involved in nature conservation and management, and thus being able to collect signs of wildlife presence in the field. In addition, they help to disseminate information to the local population. Interested field staff need to be trained in survey and monitoring techniques and field sign identification. To do so we offer workshops using the approach developed for the international seminar in Mavrovo in November 2005 (Breitenmoser *et al.* 2005).

A first such one-day workshop has now taken place on Monday, February 18, 2008 in the Mavrovo National Park, Macedonia. It was mainly addressed to the game wardens and other staff members of the park. We considered them as already relatively well trained test group, best suited for this first workshop which also served to train the trainers and as model for similar courses foreseen in the frame of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme. A few additional interested people from local hunting societies and NGOs were also invited. In total 17 people were present. For a complete list of participants see page 5.

The aims of the workshop were:

- to familiarize network members in survey & monitoring techniques as well as field sign identification
- to teach them about the procedure of data collection and transmission to the monitoring centre (in Macedonia this is the Macedonian Ecological Society).

To achieve this, we used the following tools:

- Presentations (see Programme below)
- Plaster casts of tracks (different species), demonstration of camera-traps
- Macedonian version of the Guidelines for the Monitoring of Lynx (Breitenmoser *et al.* 2006)
- Macedonian version of the Balkan Lynx Field Handbook (Breitenmoser *et al.* 2005)

Both, guidelines and field handbook, were distributed to all participants of the workshop (Fig. 2).

From the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme were leading through the workshop:  
Dime Melovski & Aleksandar Stojanov, Macedonian Ecological Society MES;  
Manuela von Arx & Fridolin Zimmermann, KORA, Switzerland;  
Aleksandër Trajçe, PPNEA, Albania.

## Programme

The morning was dedicated to presentations about the status, conservation and biology of the Balkan lynx and the monitoring of lynx and prey including field sign identification. The presentations from Manuela von Arx and Fridolin Zimmermann, KORA, were translated into Macedonian by Dime Melovski and Aleksandar Stojanov from MES. After lunch, we treated the more practical aspects like demonstration of material and discussion about the participation in the monitoring network.

*Morning:*

1. Presentation “**Balkan Lynx Status & Recovery**”: Situation of the Balkan lynx, Strategic Planning for its Conservation, Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (*Manuela von Arx*)
2. Presentation “**Lynx Biology**”: Description & Morphology, Biology & Life history, Habitat & Land tenure system, Feeding ecology (*Aleksandar Stojano*)
3. Presentation “**Monitoring methods**”: Monitoring types, Passive Monitoring, Active Monitoring (with emphasis on camera trapping due to the start of an intensive session in the Mavrovo national park) (*Fridolin Zimmermann*)
4. Presentation “**Identification of field signs**”: Field procedure, Lynx kills, Fox kills, Wolf and dog kills, Others (*Dime Melovski*)

*Lunch* (offered by the project)

*Afternoon:*

5. Demonstration of camera traps and other material like plaster casts (*Fridolin Zimmermann*, Figs. 3 & 4)
6. Practical aspects concerning the network, discussions: Collection of chance observations and validation of field signs, information of and collaboration with MES (*all*)



**Fig. 2:** Distributing field handbooks and guidelines.



**Fig. 3:** Demonstration of a camera trap.



**Fig. 4:** Small plaster casts exhibition.



**Fig. 5:** With game wardens in the field.

## Results

The workshop participants were very interested and many of them offered to join the project staff from MES in their field activities - currently mainly camera-trapping. During the setting of the camera traps (February 17-25) for the intensive session in the Mavrovo National Park we could already profit from the game wardens' knowledge on potential good sites. They occasionally accompanied us in the field (Fig. 5). At the site where this photo was taken, two lynx have been pictured in mid March. Network member Panajot Chorevski, a hunter, managed this winter to take pictures of lynx tracks around Lopushnik, south of the Mavrovo National Park. As these nice examples demonstrate, the efforts of building up a monitoring network already bear fruits.

Macedonian Television MTV was also present at the workshop and made an interview with Dime Melovski from MES. There is thus increasing public awareness of the work carried out by the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme.

## Outlook

Both in Albania and Macedonia, several workshops like the one now hold in Mavrovo will be organised and carried out by PPNEA and MES, respectively, in the coming months. Different target groups and regions will be addressed. PPNEA & MES will adapt the exemplary presentations prepared by KORA

to local conditions and needs (translation into Albanian/Macedonian, exchange pictures and maps). KORA will investigate into the development of further material that can be used in repetition courses, e.g. in national network meetings (Task 5.1.2 of the Programme).

### References:

Breitenmoser, U., Breitenmoser-Würsten, Ch., von Arx, M., Zimmermann, F., Ryser, A., Angst, Ch., Molinari-Jobin, A., Molinari, P., Linnell, J., Siegenthaler, A., Weber, J.-M. (2006). Guidelines for the monitoring of lynx. KORA Bericht No. 33e: 1-31.

Breitenmoser, U., Breitenmoser-Würsten, Ch., Molinari, P., Ryser, A., von Arx, M., Molinari-Jobin, A., Zimmermann, F., Siegenthaler, A., Angst, Ch. & Weber, J.-M. (2005). Balkan Lynx Field Handbook. KORA & IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group: 1-92.

Breitenmoser, U., Schwaderer, G., von Arx, M., Zimmermann, F., Spangenberg, A., Breitenmoser-Würsten, Ch. and Linnell, J. (2005). The Conservation of the Balkan Lynx – Seminar on Large Carnivores in the Balkans and Workshop on the monitoring of the Balkan Lynx. Council of Europe Publishing, T-PVS/Inf (2005) 20.

BALKAN LYNX RECOVERY PROGRAMME

**WORKSHOP BALKAN LYNX MONITORING NETWORK**

18.02.2008

Mavrovi Anovi, Macedonia

Participants:

1. Dragi Apostolovski – game warden in Hunting Society “Elen”- Demir Hisar
2. Bobi Siljanovski – game warden in Hunting Society “Elen”- Demir Hisar
3. Panajot Chorevski – hunter from Hunting Society “Elen”- Kichevo
4. Almin Osmanovski – ecology student - Mogorche
5. Dobre Spireski – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
6. Pero Veljanovski – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
7. Trpe Novakoski – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
8. Hamlet Ahmedi – NGO “Info Point” – Rostushe
9. Dragan Blazheski – NGO “Info Point” – Rostushe
10. Vesna Lazareska – forest engineer in NP “Mavrovo”
11. Fuat Hodza - game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
12. Muamet Ramadani – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
13. Mijadin Elmozovski – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
14. Goce Anastasoski – forest engineer in NP “Mavrovo”
15. Tonche Stefanov – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”
16. Ilko Lazareski – chief forest engineer in NP “Mavrovo”
17. Velko (Vehi) Lazarevski – game warden in NP “Mavrovo”