

# Report

## Training Workshop for Balkan Lynx Monitoring Network Members

Directory of Forest Services – Librazhd, Albania

21 March 2008

### Introduction

One of the objectives of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (BLRP) is to establish national monitoring networks in Albania and Macedonia with the purpose of systematic data collection for lynx and prey animals (Task 1.1.2 & 5.1.2). Target groups for such a network will be institutions, groups and individuals that deal with activities in forests and nature like foresters, hunters, environmentalists, etc. These have to be trained properly on lynx monitoring and field signs identification. In this regard, PPNEA in collaboration with the Directory of Forest Services (DFS) in Librazhd organized a training workshop with foresters of Librazhdi District. The purposes of this training were to familiarize the foresters with the work of the BLRP and to introduce some concepts on lynx monitoring and signs identification. Three presentations, previously prepared by project partners and translated into Albanian (Mavrovo Monitoring Workshop – 18.02.2008), were made and furthermore practical examples of camera-trapping were presented. Bearing in mind that this training was the first of its kind made in Albania, it represents a big and important step towards the creation of the monitoring network.

### Programme

During the training the following presentations were made:

1. Presentation “**Balkan Lynx Status & Recovery**”: Situation of the Balkan lynx, Strategic Planning for its Conservation, Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (Spase Shumka), where general goals and objectives of the project were

- presented together with a short introduction about the Balkan Lynx status and conservation.
2. Presentation “**Lynx Biology**”: Description & Morphology, Biology & Life history, Habitat & Land tenure system, Feeding ecology (Kujtim Mersini)
  3. Presentation “**Identification of field signs**”: Field procedure, Lynx kills, Fox kills, Wolf and dog kills, Others (Aleksandër Trajçe) – Field techniques including track and kill identification were presented.

Furthermore monitoring field handbooks, information leaflets and posters about lynx were given to the participants and to the DFS Librazhd. Camera-trapping techniques were also presented to the participants together with some animals photos obtained so far with the trapping activities conducted in Albania and Macedonia.

After the training a lunch was offered to the participants and they were invited to follow in the field the procedures of camera-trapping in the next two days. Camera-traps are set in Shebenik region since beginning of March 2008. In general the expression of interest was high and participants showed enthusiasm about these activities. The next day (22.03.2008) one of the participants (Bashkim Koçi – see list) joined us in the field for the checking of two cameras set in Qarrishta region. To him, the camera-trapping methodology was directly explained in the field, including aspects of setting and checking.

## **Conclusions**

The training came out to be really successful and a step forward towards the creation and consolidation of the national monitoring network. This was an experience to be implemented in other regions of the country and with more target groups involved. It was informally agreed that the foresters would help the project through data collection and information about new events related to lynx. In addition PPNEA will share the information obtained during the fieldwork and camera-trapping with the DFS Librazhd and we would offer more training and support about wildlife monitoring. Although we already had good relations with the DFS in Librazhd, this training served to reinforce this cooperation and to open other ways for working together towards the conservation and protection of the Balkan Lynx.

## **Annex**

### List of Participants:

1. Bajram Kullolli – Chief of Forest Management Section
2. Enver Koçi – Supervisor in Qendër sector
3. Qerim Facju – Forest warden in Babje sector
4. Dilaver Blloshmi – Responsible for Protected Areas
5. Abdyl Bahiti – Forest warden in Kuturman sector
6. Reshit Halili – Forest warden in Rrajca sector
7. Bashkim Koçi – Forest warden in Qarrishta sector
8. Kujtim Alia – Forest warden in Letëm-Stebleva sector
9. Mehmet Hoxha – Inspector of Forest Police
10. Lavdim Qoshi – Inspector of Forest Police
11. Mitat Biçaku – Supervisor in Qarrishta sector

### Speakers:

1. Spase Shumka – PPNEA
2. Kujtim Mersini – PPNEA
3. Aleksandër Trajçe – PPNEA