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Species conservation and wildlife management: A conceptual and spatial model to save the Balkan lynx

Capacity Building Workshop Valbona AL, 25–29 June 2013

- 1. What do we need? Requirements for long-term conservation of Balkan lynx
- 2. How do we get it? Spatially explicit model for recovery of Balkan lynx
- 3. Win-win: Common interests of wildlife managers, hunters, and conservationists





1. What do we need? – Requirements for the long-term conservation of the Balkan lynx



Munella Mts. ALB, 22.10.2012





3. Protection from poaching

What does a lynx need?



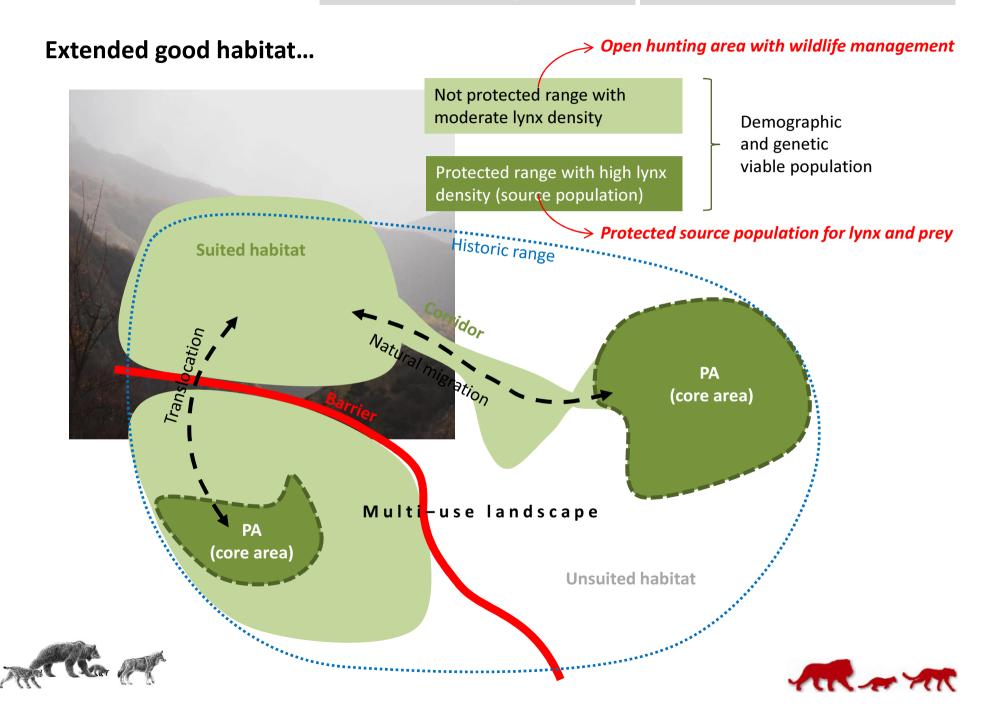


Habitat protection and landscape management

Sustainable wildlife management and law enforcement







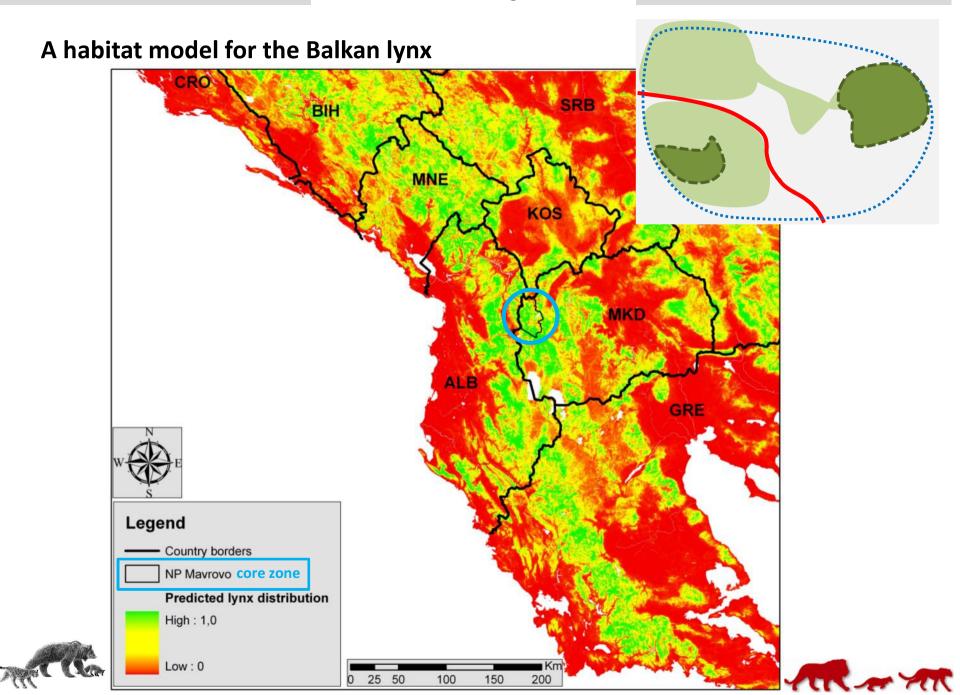
2. How do we get it? – A spatially explicit model for the recovery of the Balkan lynx

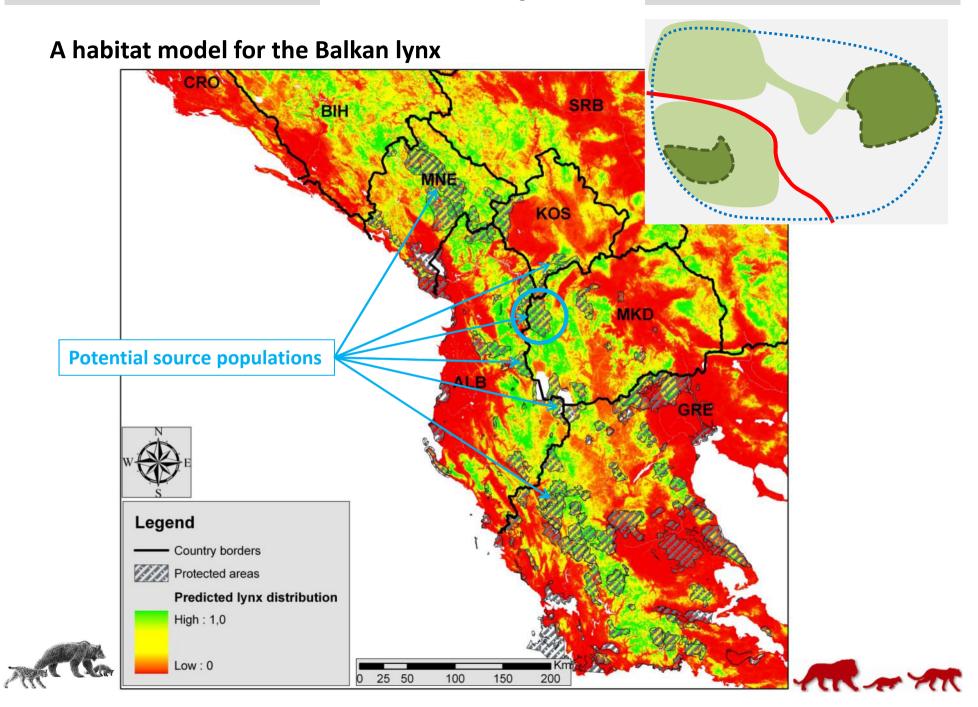


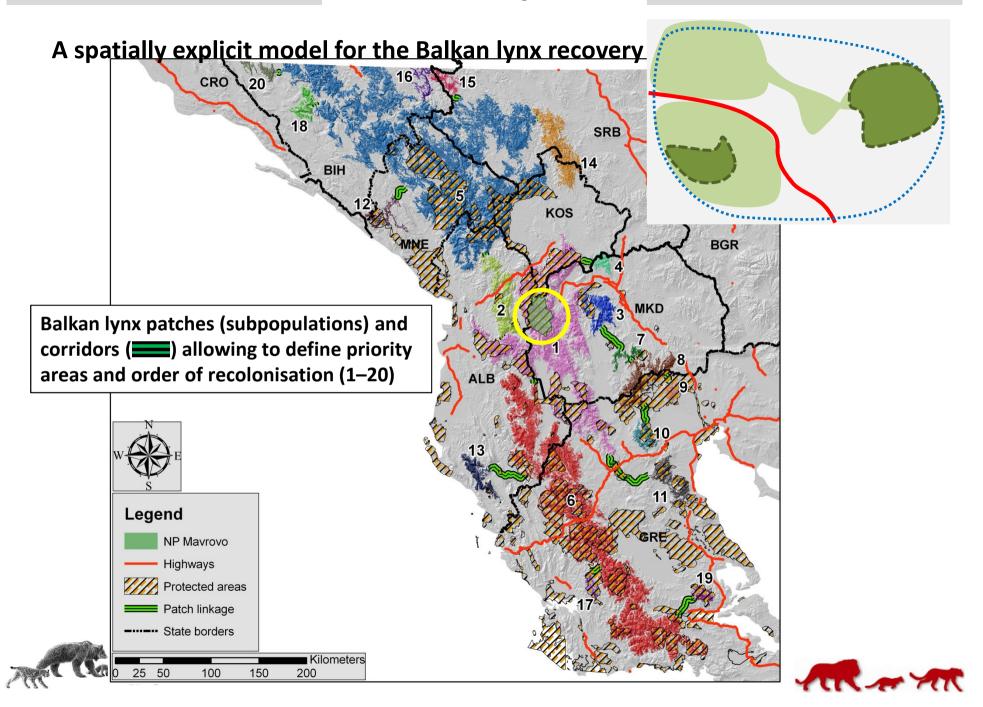
Mavrovo NP, MKD, 28.09.2012



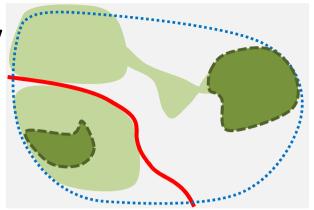








A spatially explicit model for the Balkan lynx recovery



Recovery steps:

 Stop decline and stabilise population in core area (→ "Mavrovo plus")

2. Enlarge population to adjacent suitable regions and PAs ($\rightarrow 1^{st}$ recovery phase)

3. Expand population to other suitable regions and PAs (\rightarrow 2nd recovery phase)

4. Translocate lynx to not connected suitable regions and PAs (\rightarrow 3rd recovery phase)

IUCN Category: Number of mature lynx:

CR – critically endangered

EN – endangered

VU – vulnerable

NT – near threatened

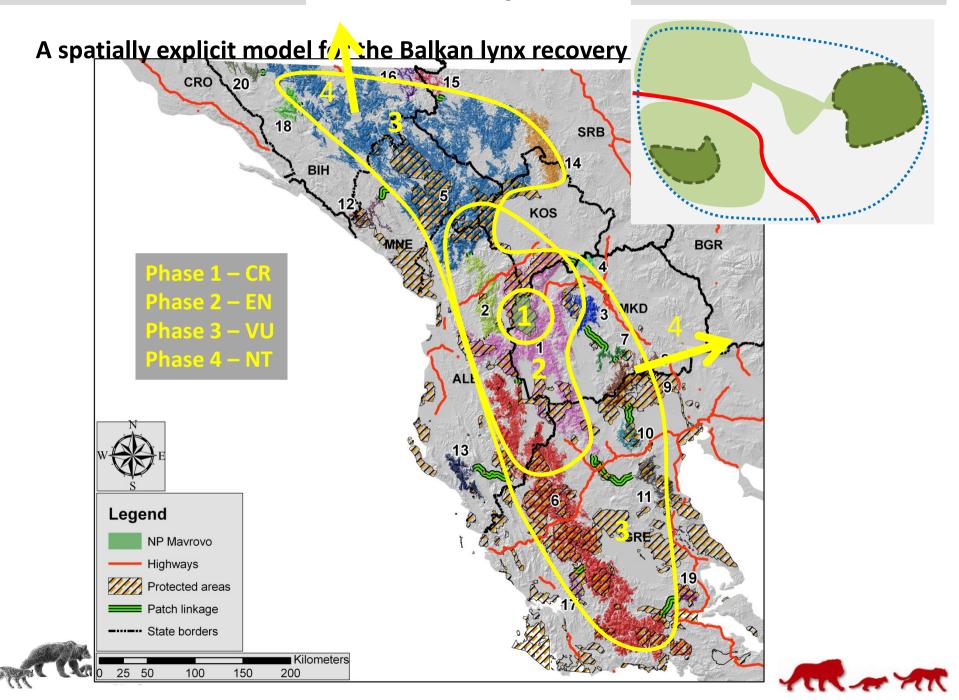
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3. Win-win situation: Common interests of wildlife managers, hunters and conservationists







3. Win-win situation

Where do we have common interests?

- 1. Healthy and abundant ungulate populations (e.g. roe deer)
 - → Prey base for Balkan lynx
 - → Base for long-term harvest (hunting)
- 2. Conservation of habitats and habitat connectivity
 - → Precondition for healthy, demographic and...
 - → ...genetic viable wildlife populations
- 3. Sustainable management of wildlife populations
 - \rightarrow Essential for securing ecological resources for Balkan lynx
 - → Essential for avoiding over-exploitation and securing longterm hunting harvest











Where do we have possibilities for cooperation?



- 2. Law enforcement
 - → Supressing of poaching (lynx, prey) to foster wildlife recovery
- 3. Capacity building and education
 - → Educated and trained wildlife managers and hunters for monitoring, planning and sustainable management of wildlife populations



What are possible concrete steps for cooperation?

1. Mutual information:

- → Regular exchange of information between BLRP, hunting associations, and wildlife authorities (e.g. ministry, park administrations)
- → Establishment of a joint monitoring and a shared database (e.g. BLRP Lynx Monitoring Network)
- 2. Education and training in...
 - → Wildlife monitoring
 - → Wildlife management and harvest planning
 - → Law enforcement and anti-poaching measures
- → Establishment of a contact group as a first action!





