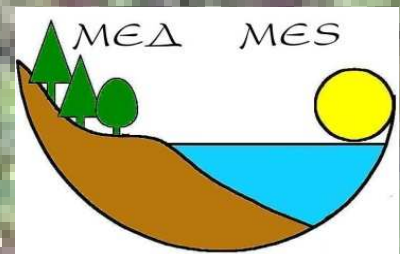


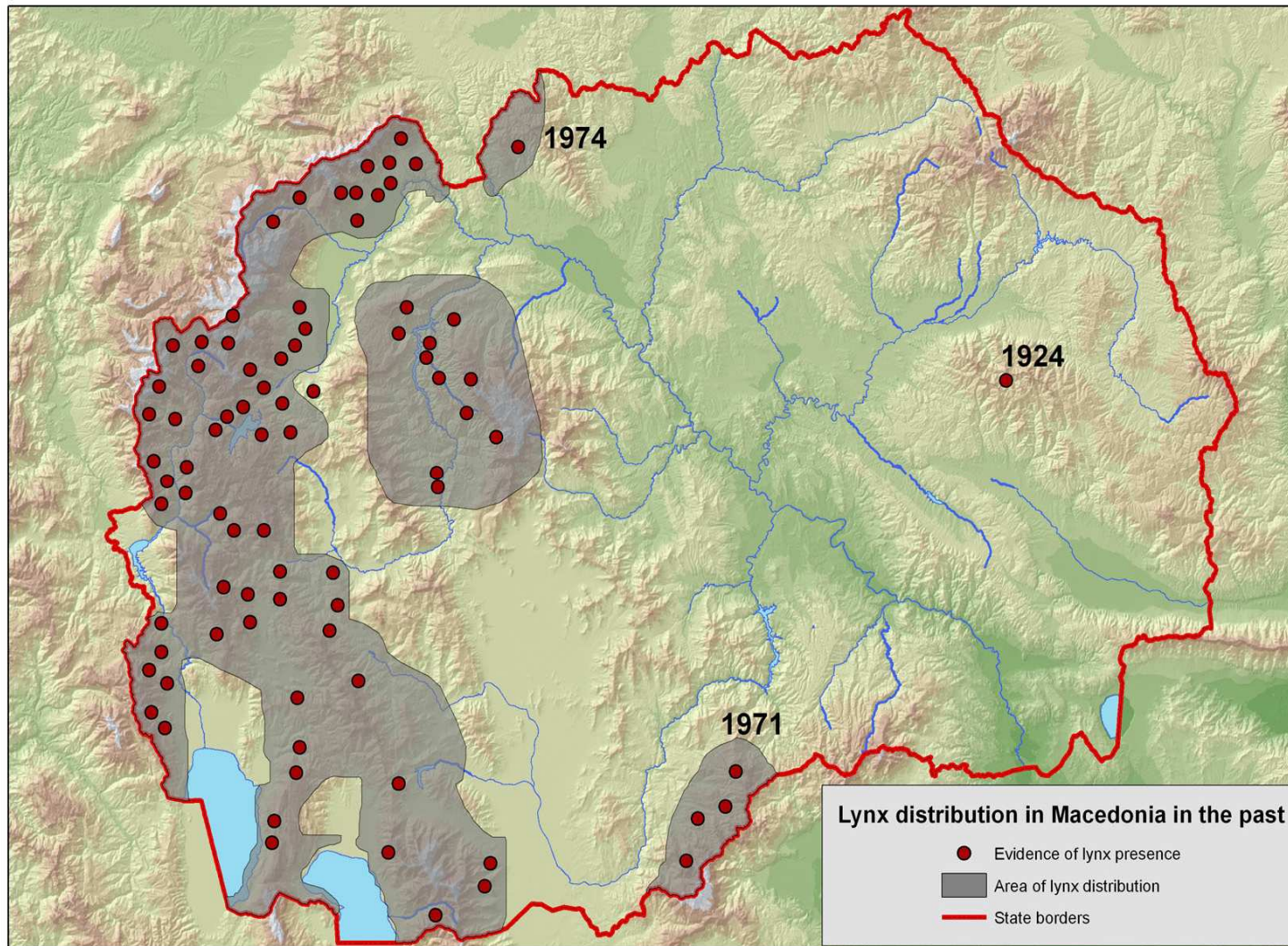
# Status of the Balkan lynx in the Republic of Macedonia



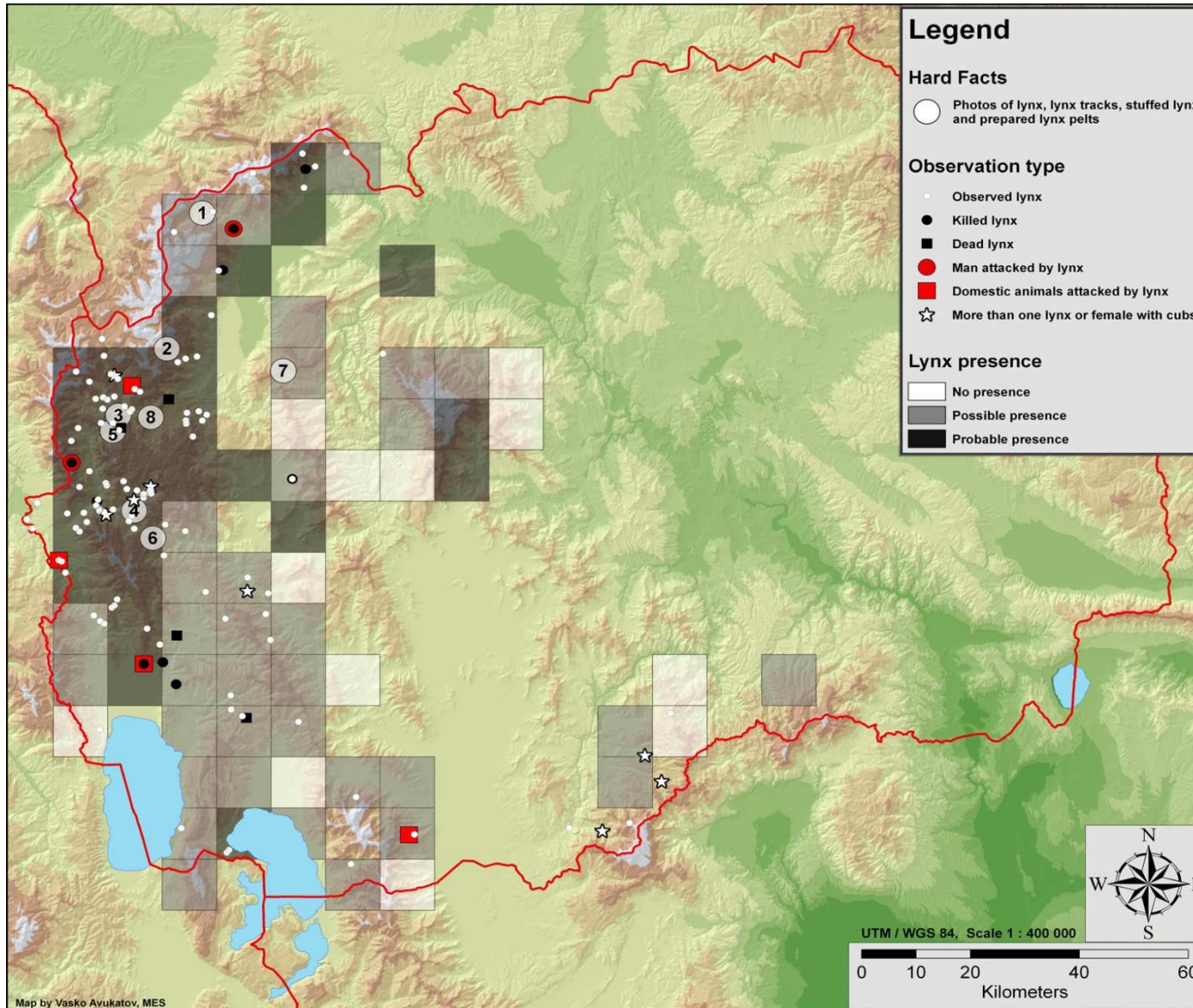
Aleksandar Stojanov  
Dime Melovski  
Gjorgje Ivanov



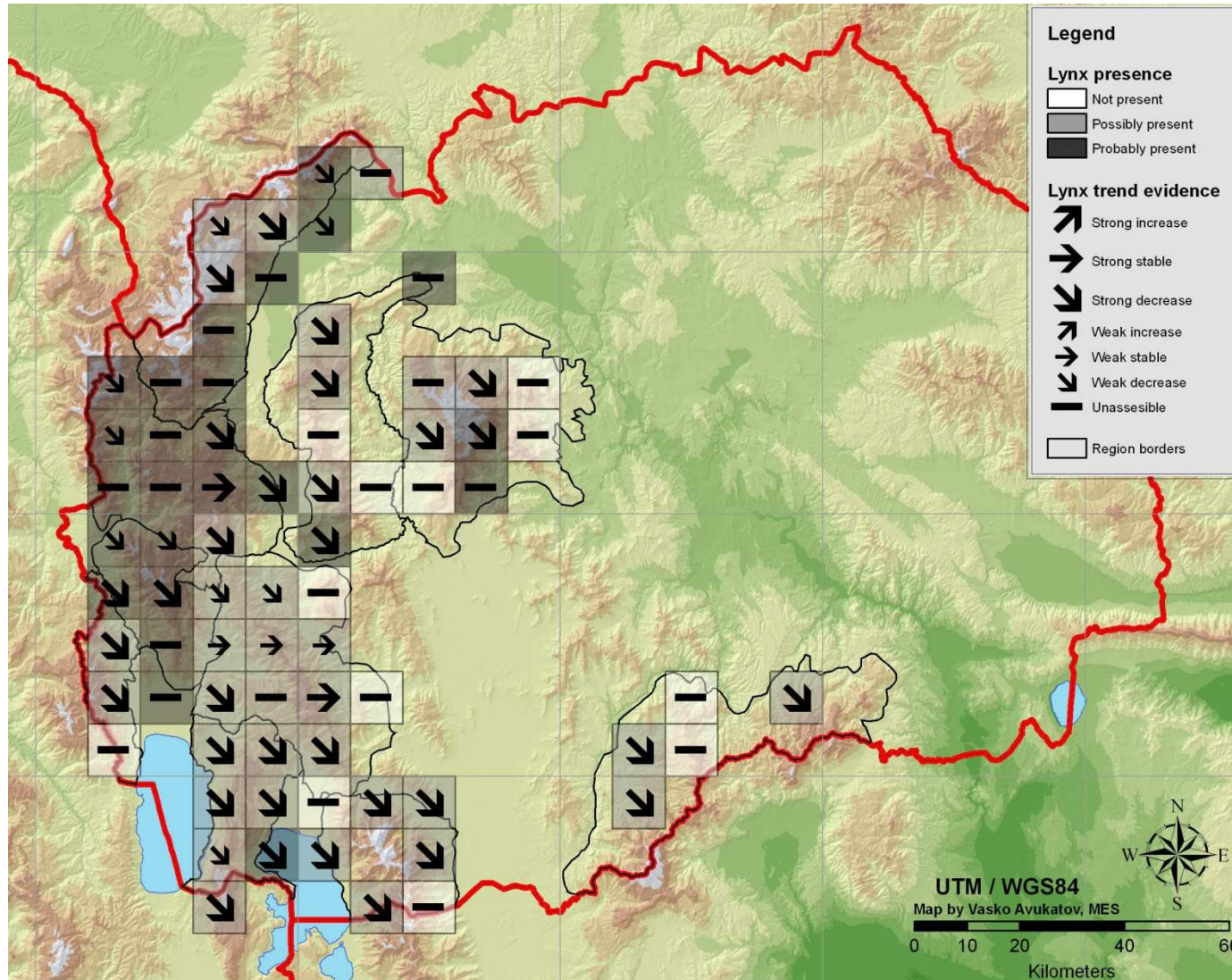
# Lynx distribution in the Republic of Macedonia in the past



# Current lynx distribution in the Republic of Macedonia (BLRP 2006-2009)



# Lynx population trend in the Republic of Macedonia (according to the LEK; BLRP 2006-2009)



# Population size

- **Miric (1981)** - there were approximately 120 specimens in Macedonia in 1974.
- **Micevski (1997)** - the total number of lynx individuals in the Radika gorge is estimated at 54 specimens.
- **Hristovski & Angelovski (2001)** - the total number is approximately 35 specimens.
- **Grubac (2002)** - population number of Balkan lynx in area of Macedonia can be estimated at about 35 to 40 specimens.
- **BLRP 2006-2009 (2009)** – population number for Mavrovo NP, Macedonia can be estimated at about  $7 \pm 1.82$  independent individuals, or less than 30 individuals for entire Macedonia

# Legal basis

- **Law on Hunting (Official Gazette of RM 26/2009)**
  - Defines Lynx as game animal and categorizes it as strictly protected game species (Article 9) and its hunting is permanently banned (Article 13).
  - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy can give permission for hunting of strictly protected game species for scientific and educational purposes, or for disease prevention (Article 15).
  - The damage caused by the game under permanent or temporary closed season is subsidized by the state budget (Article 69).
- **Law on Nature Protection (Official Gazette of RM 67/2004)**
  - In general, protection of rare, endangered and strictly protected species and their habitats (Articles 4,5, 21, 23, 24, 28, 37, 38, 39,40 and 47).



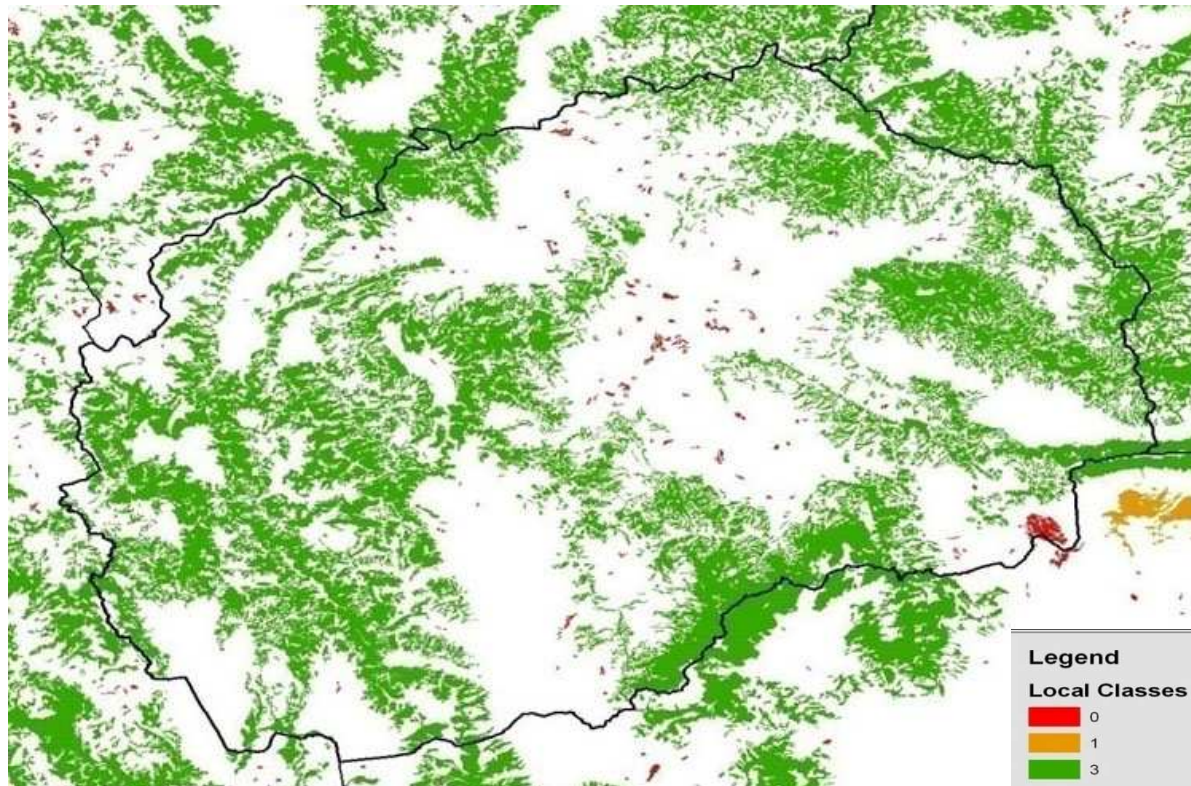
# Legal basis

- International Agreements/Convention for protection ratified by the Republic of Macedonia:
  - Bern Convention, Annex II & Annex IV, convention on the conservation of european wildlife and natural habitats
  - EU Habitats & Species Directive, Appendix III (Protected fauna species)
  - CITES, Appendix II, Annex A



# Habitats in Macedonia

- Generally, the habitats in Macedonia occupied by large carnivores are in good condition.
- Social changes such as migration in 50s and 70s led to decrease of every kind of agriculture, livestock raising, abandoning of villages that were close to the habitats and also poor road infrastructure have low effects on habitat fragmentation (Melovski 2002).

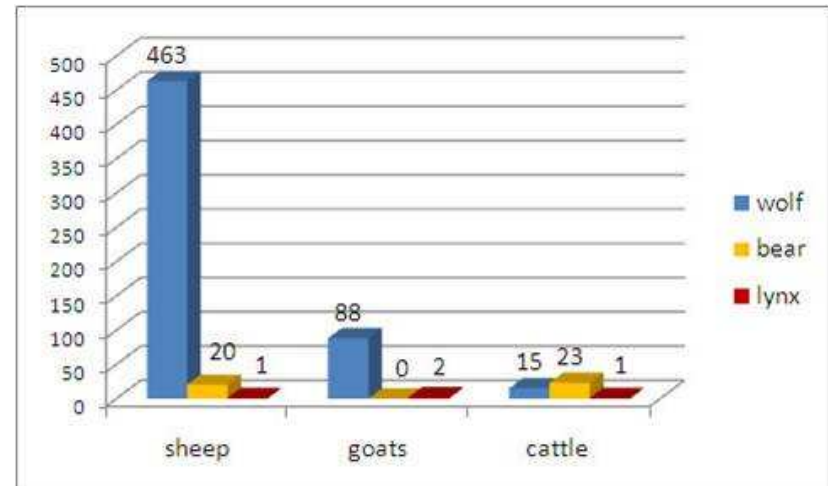


Habitats derived from CORINE 2000 (all types of forests)



# Public opinion

- Generally, people in the lynx regions have positive opinion about lynx. It is not considered as a pest or dangerous animal.
- Lynx is popular animal in Macedonia. It is considered as a national symbol. Therefore, it is put on the 5 denar coin as well as a stamp.
- Most of the local people claimed that lynx is not causing damage on livestock. However, there are some unconfirmed and isolated cases of lynx attacks on livestock (BLRP 2006-2009).



## **Main threats to Balkan lynx population in Macedonia**

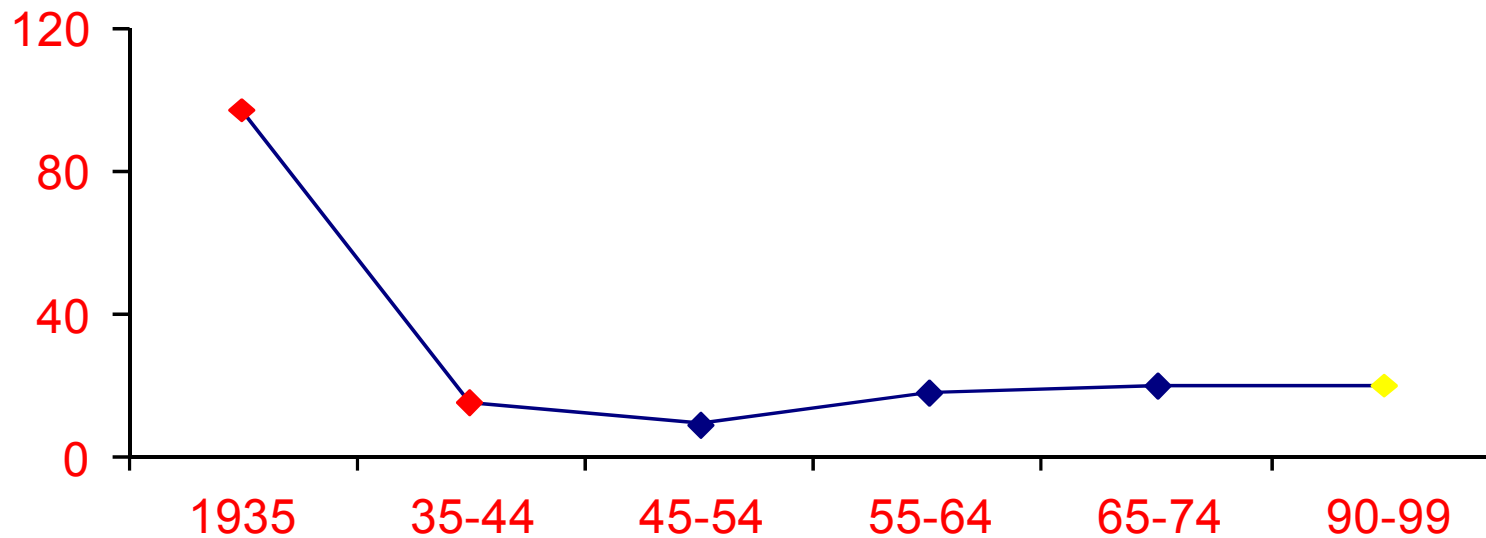
Main threats to its survival are:

- Direct persecution
- Habitat degradation
- Decreasing population of prey

# Direct persecution



# Hunting/poaching



## **Number of killed Lynx specimens in Macedonia in 20th century**

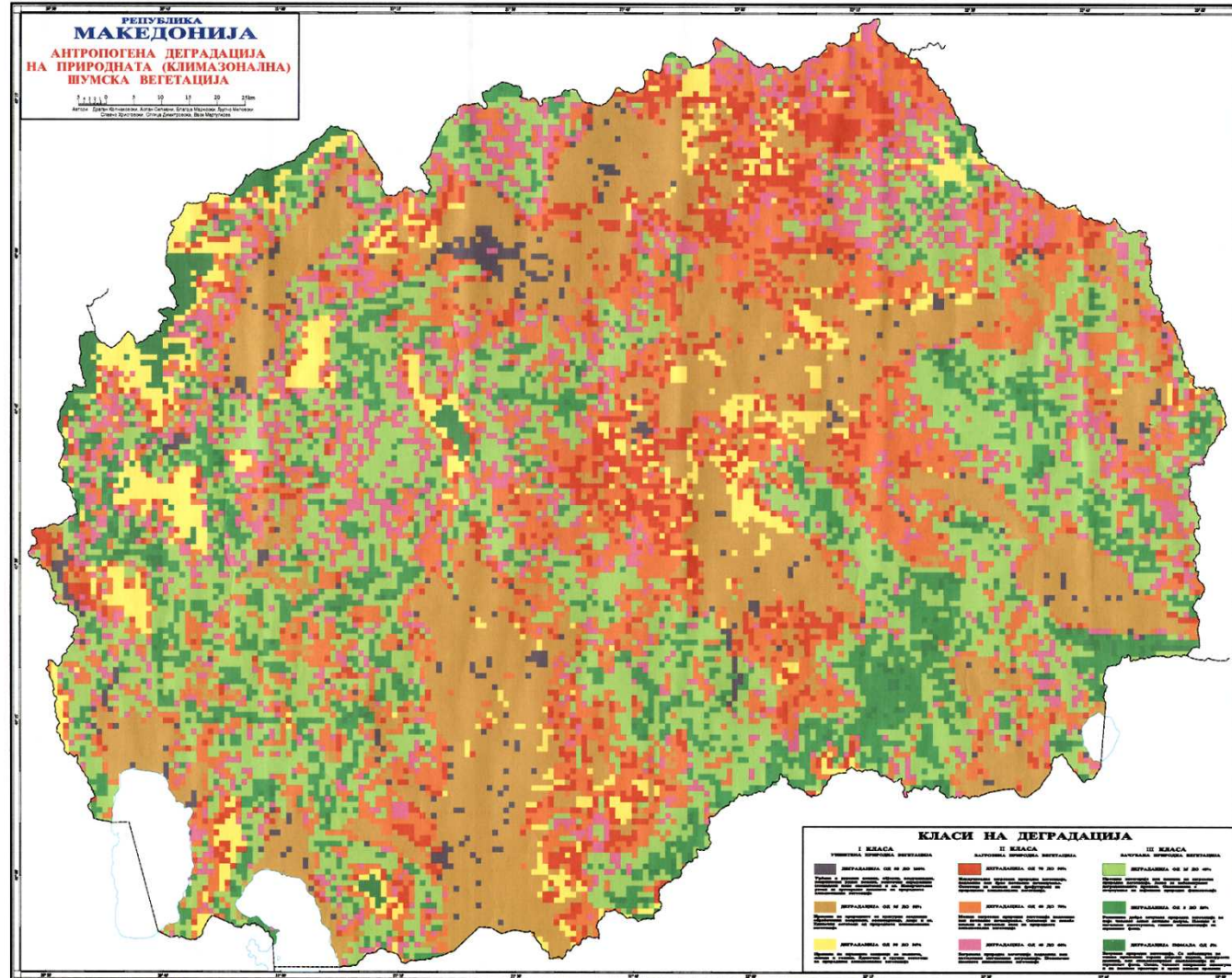
Data from official statistical book of RM and other data from Miric (1977) and information gathered from questionnaires.

# Habitat degradation



# Habitat degradation

The most preserved forests (green areas) still support the existence of large carnivores in Macedonia



# Habitat fragmentation/road infrastructure



# Declining prey population

