

Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme:

Where are we, and where do we go from here?

Some question for the final discussion at the BLRP
Range Wide Meeting prepared by Urs Breitenmoser,
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1. What have we achieved?
2. Where have we failed?
3. What are the challenges ahead?



1. What have we achieved?

1. *Awareness, partnership and fundraising:*

- Good national media coverage; Some international awareness (e.g. Mavrovo dam projects)
- National: [GOs, NGOs, interest groups] ; international: ...
- Fundraising: MAVA Foundation, SCOPES (SNF), Norway, others...

2. *Balkan lynx biology and ecology:*

- Baseline survey MK, AL: distribution, trends, threats, attitudes
- Camera trapping Mavrovo (density); AL, MK (presence)
- Two male lynx radio-collared in Mavrovo

3. *Protected area establishment:*

- Proclamation of Shebenik-Jabllanica NP (AL) 2008
- Proclamation of Korab-Koritnik Nature Park (AL) 2011

4. *Planning and implementation conservation actions:*

- Balkan lynx recovery strategy (AL, MK → Bern Convention=
- National Action Plans AL, MK
- Monitoring and Networks



2. Where have we failed?

1. *Awareness, partnership and fundraising:*

- Awareness for Balkan lynx, but not for “conservation environment” (habitat, development, prey, wildlife management)
- No reliable commitment of state institutions
- Narrow funding base and no long-term funding secured

2. *Balkan lynx biology and ecology:*

- No significant radio-telemetry sample, lack of important biological/ecological information
- No detection of functional population outside Mavrovo (does it exist?)

3. *Protected area establishment:*

- No establishment of new PAs in Macedonia
- Lack of capacity and administrative bodies, no consistent management

4. *Planning and implementation conservation actions:*

- No agreement AL–MK
- Very limited support for development and none for implementation of NAPs



3. What are the challenges ahead?

1. *Awareness, partnership and fundraising:*

1. Improve outreach at national/international level
2. Partnership with national GOs/NGOs, interest groups (e.g. hunters) and int. org.
3. Secure long-term funding (national: monitoring, international: conservation)

2. *Balkan lynx biology and ecology:*

1. Complete baseline surveys in northern areas (Montenegro, Kosovo)
2. Advance ecological (radio-telemetry) and genetic research on lynx
3. Improve knowledge on prey population

3. *Protected area establishment:*

1. Secure support of local communities for PAs within Green Belt
2. Implement models for sustainable use/management of natural resources in PAs
3. Continue lobbying/secure support of GOs and European institutions

4. *Planning and implementation conservation actions:*

1. Secure national commitment through multi-lateral agreement under int. facilitation (Bern Convention, EU (Habitat Directive), IUCN)
2. Include sustainable wildlife management into Balkan lynx conservation planning
3. Include entire area (present, future distribution) into conservation Strategy
4. Update/develop and implement National Action Plans

