

Baseline Survey

Compiling basic information for a cat conservation programme

**Urs Breitenmoser, Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten & Manuela von Arx
IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group**



Baseline Survey

Compiling basic information for a cat conservation programme

**Urs Breitenmoser, Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten & Manuela von Arx
IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group**

- 1. Aims of the survey**
- 2. Survey area and approach**
- 3. Field work**
- 4. Analyses and results**



1. Aims of the survey

→ What is a “baseline survey”?

Dictionary

Find in

Dictionary Thesaurus Translations

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

↑

- baseband
- baseboard
- baseborn
- Basedow's disease
- Basel
- baseless
- baseless bindings
- baseline
- ▶ **baseline survey**
- baseliner
- baseman
- basement
- basenji

baseline survey

base-line sur-vey (*plural* base-line sur-veys)

noun

Definition:

survey to set baseline: a survey designed to establish initial conditions against which the effects of a finished project can be compared

Typical:

- Limited knowledge
- Broad approach
- Simple (cheap) methodology
- Cat species presence/absence
- Prey species presence/absence
- Assumed trends of cat and prey
- Possible conflicts (e.g. depredation)
- Attitudes of (local) people



1. Aims of the survey

→ Why do we need a baseline survey?

1 - Shall we venture on a mountain hike together?

3 - Where do we want to go?

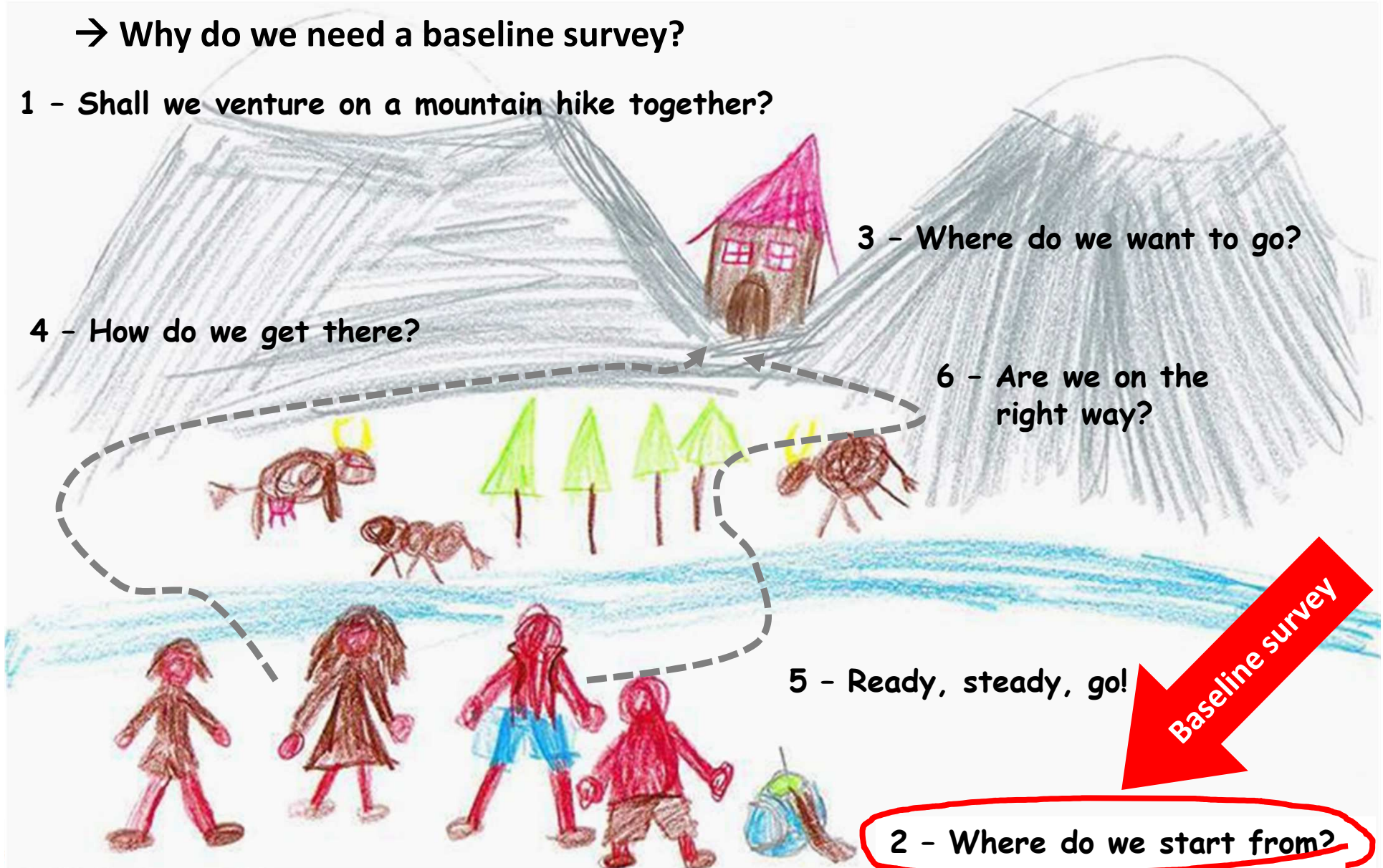
4 - How do we get there?

6 - Are we on the right way?

5 - Ready, steady, go!

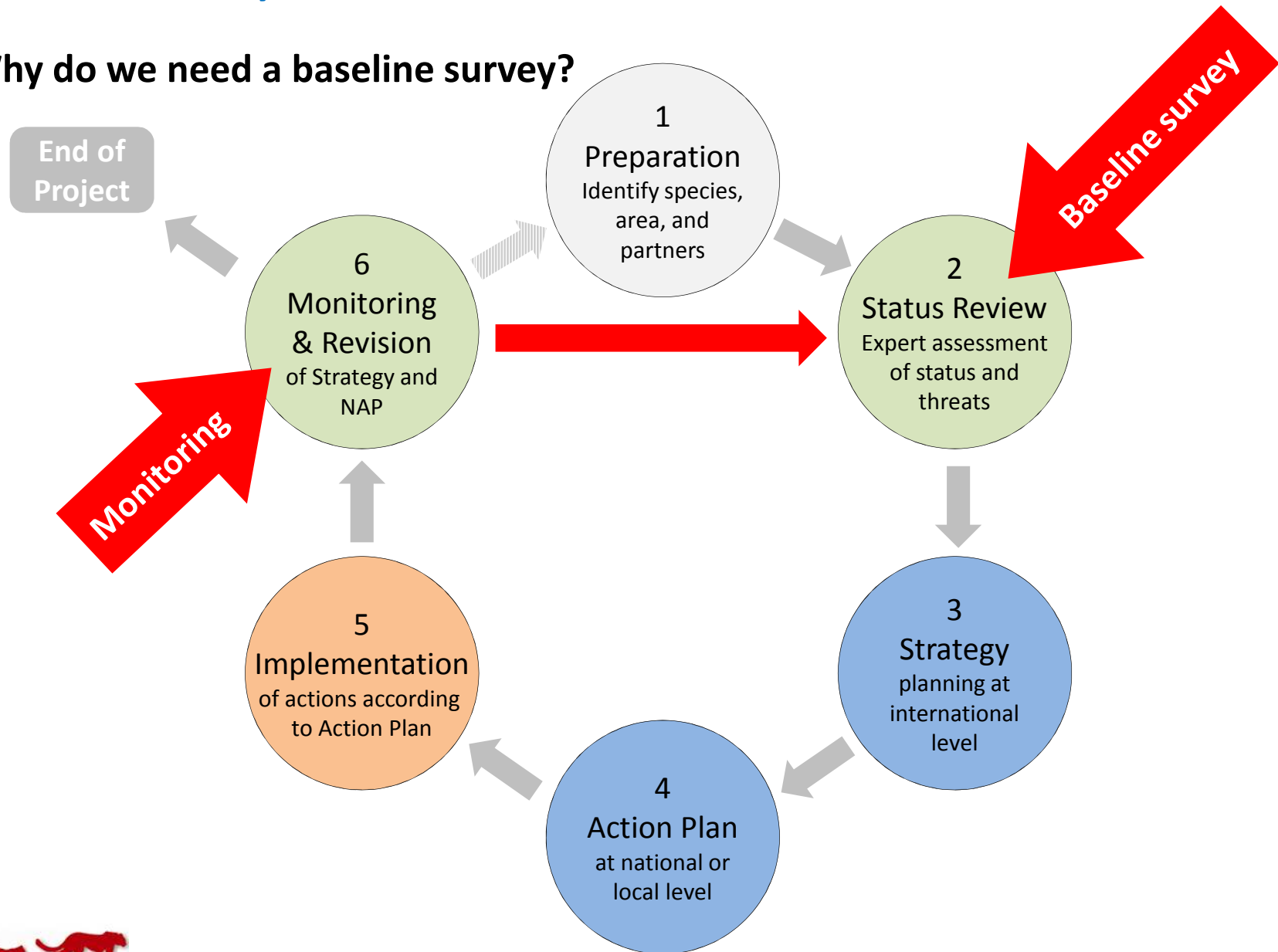
Baseline survey

2 - Where do we start from?



1. Aims of the survey

→ Why do we need a baseline survey?



1. Aims of the survey

→ How are baseline surveys done?

Simple/cheap methodology:

- Rapid assessment methods
- Compilation of existing information (statistics)
- Questionnaires (mail or interviews)

Broad approach:

- Total potential area → e.g. Raster Survey
- Consistent sampling → interviews/questionnaires per unit
- Not detailed information, but complete overview



1. Aims of the survey

→ Who is involved in a baseline survey?

Researchers and conservationists (senior/students):

- Study design, analyses and reporting
- Unbiased data collection (neutral position in conflicts)
- Overview of entire study area
- Contact with local people

Local people:

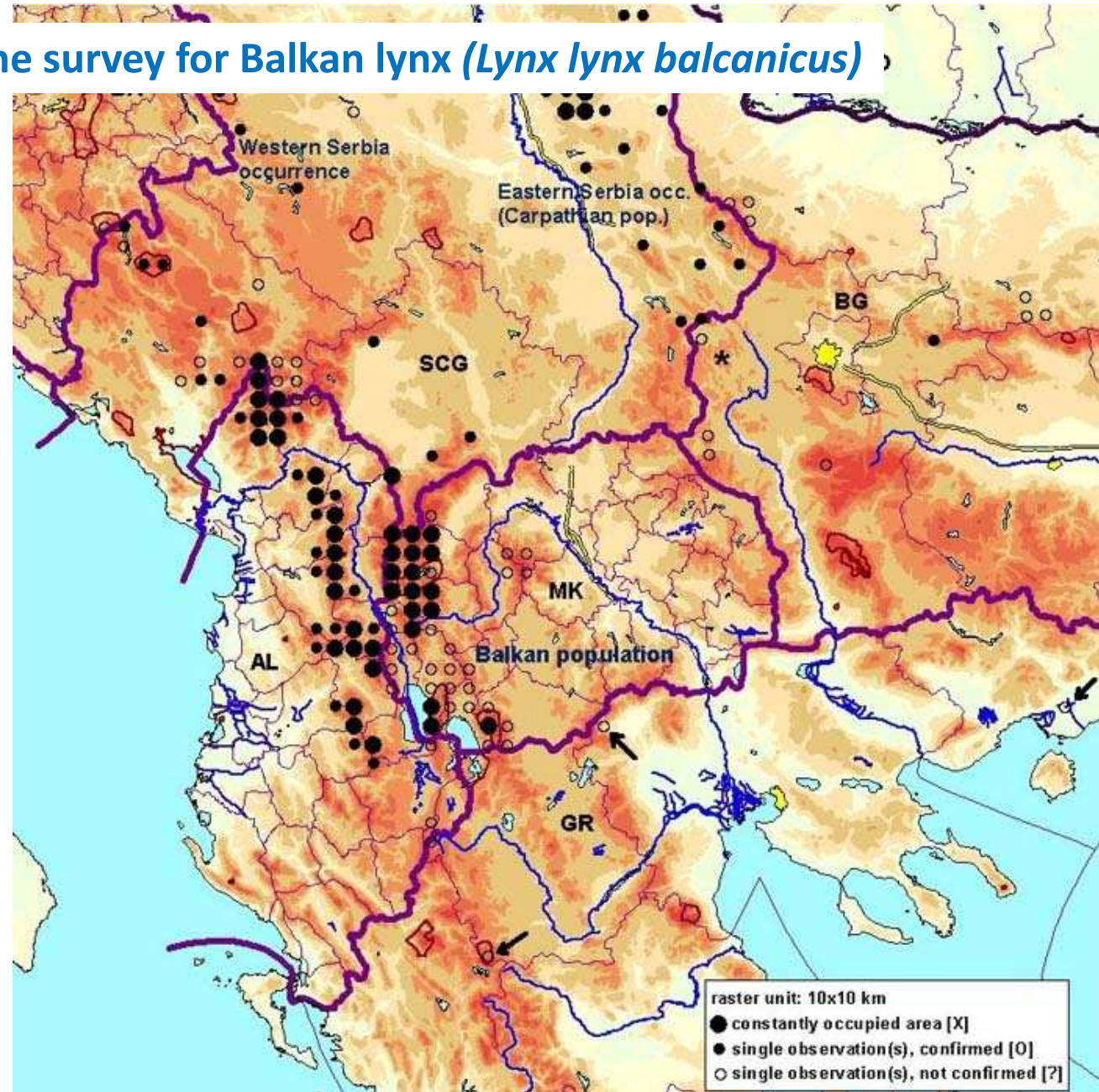
- Main source of information
- Learn about the conservation programme
- Get in contact with researchers/conservationists
- Can express their views and concerns



1. Case study: Baseline survey for Balkan lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*)

Situation before Baseline Survey:

- AL, MK, (MN), (KO)
- ELOIS 2004: 80 – 105
- Critically Endangered
- Expert opinion
- No field survey



1. Aims of the survey

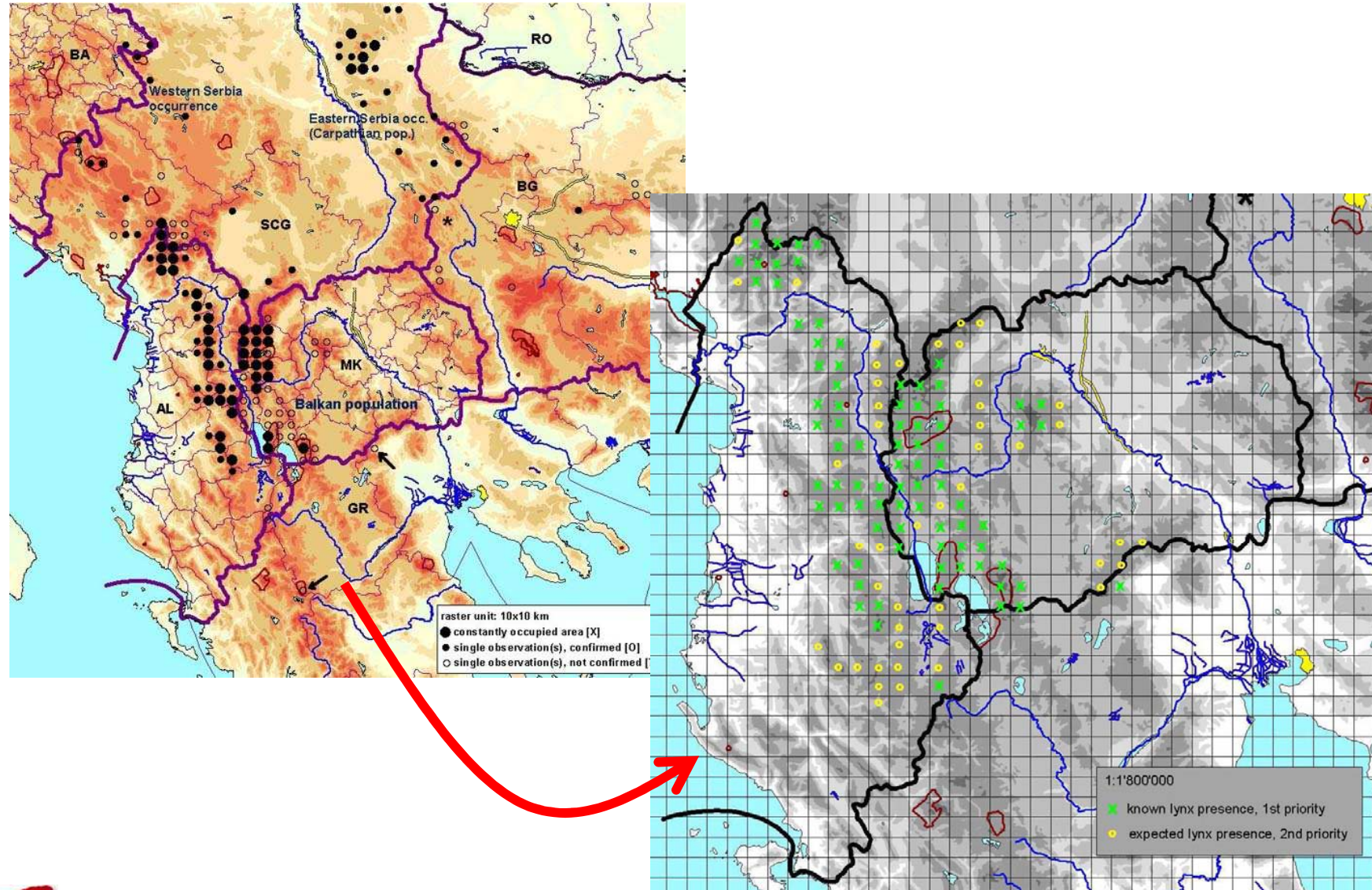
Collect systematically and consistently information on:

- Lynx presence/absence and perceived trends
- Co-predator presence/absence and perceived trends (control)
- Potential prey presence/absence and perceived trends
- Conflicts between rural people and carnivores/wildlife
- Peoples attitudes towards large carnivores
- Knowledge of (protective) laws and hunting practices
- Livestock populations and livestock husbandry
- Living conditions and general use of nature and wildlife

Each individual local person may be wrong, but the compiled knowledge of local people brings a wealth of information!



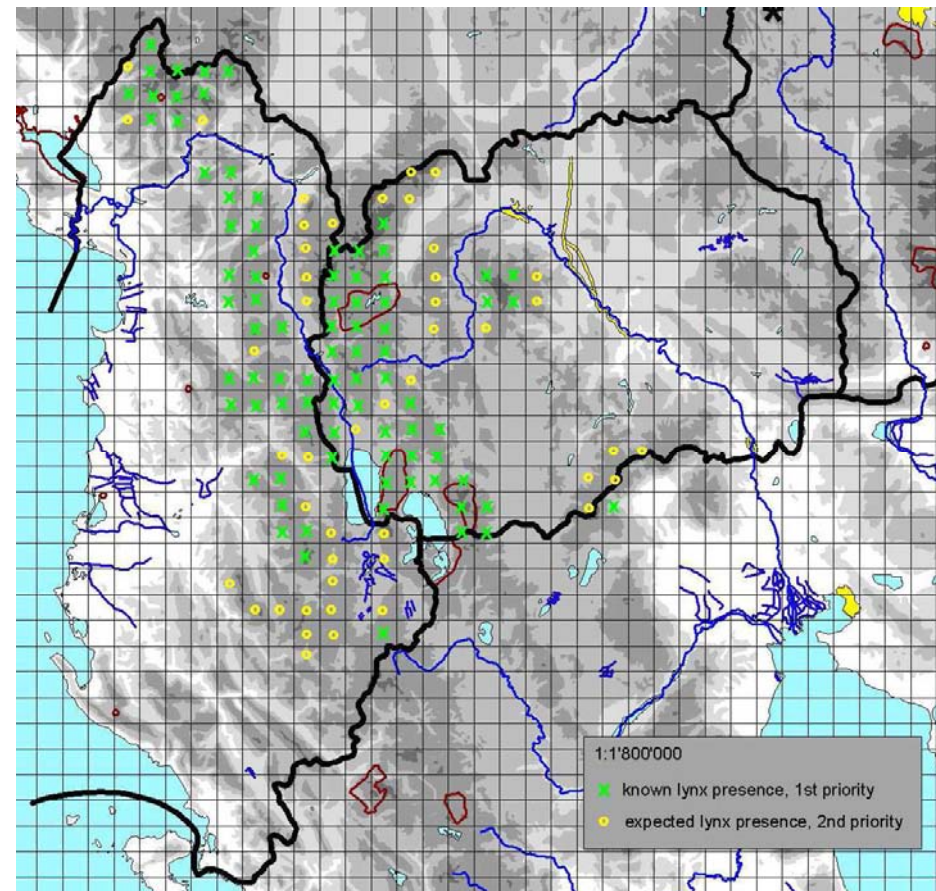
2. Survey area and approach



2. Survey area and approach

Defining the study area

- Study area defined as „ELOIS plus“
- Overlaid with 10x10 km grid → 73 cells in MK and 63 in AL
- ≥ 1 village randomly selected per cell
- ≥ 5 interviews per village or cell
- Predefined target groups: hunters, game wardens, foresters, shepherds, farmers, shop-owners



2. Survey area and approach

Questionnaire with 4 main parts:

1. Presence and distribution of large mammals (carnivores & ungulates)
2. Existence of conflicts related with these species
3. Animal husbandry details
4. Information on socio-economic environment of village

Distribution of species

We are interested in collecting information on the distribution of a range of species in Macedonia / Albania

?		Roe deer	Red deer	Chamois	Wild boar	Hares	Capercaillie / grouse	Red fox	Jackal	Wolf	Stray dogs	Wild	Lynx	Bear
Is it present in your area	y/n													
How common is it	1-3													
Are there more now compared to 5 years ago	+/=/-													
Have any been found dead in last 12 months	p/o/n													
When was the last one found dead	p/o/n													
Have any been killed in last 12 months	p/o/n													
When was the last one killed	p/o/n													
Have any been observed in last 12 months	p/o/n													
When was the last one observed	p/o/n													

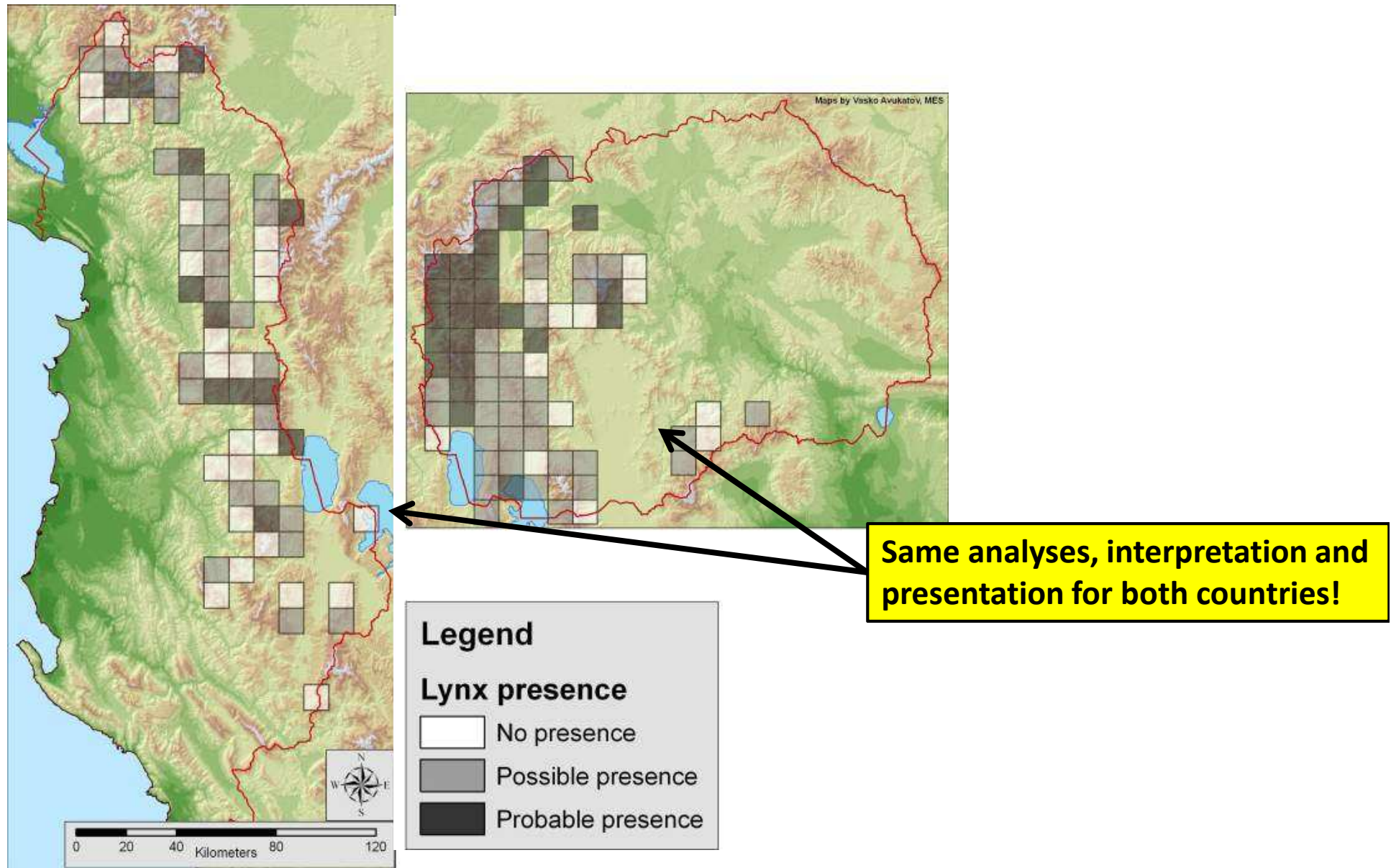


3. Field work

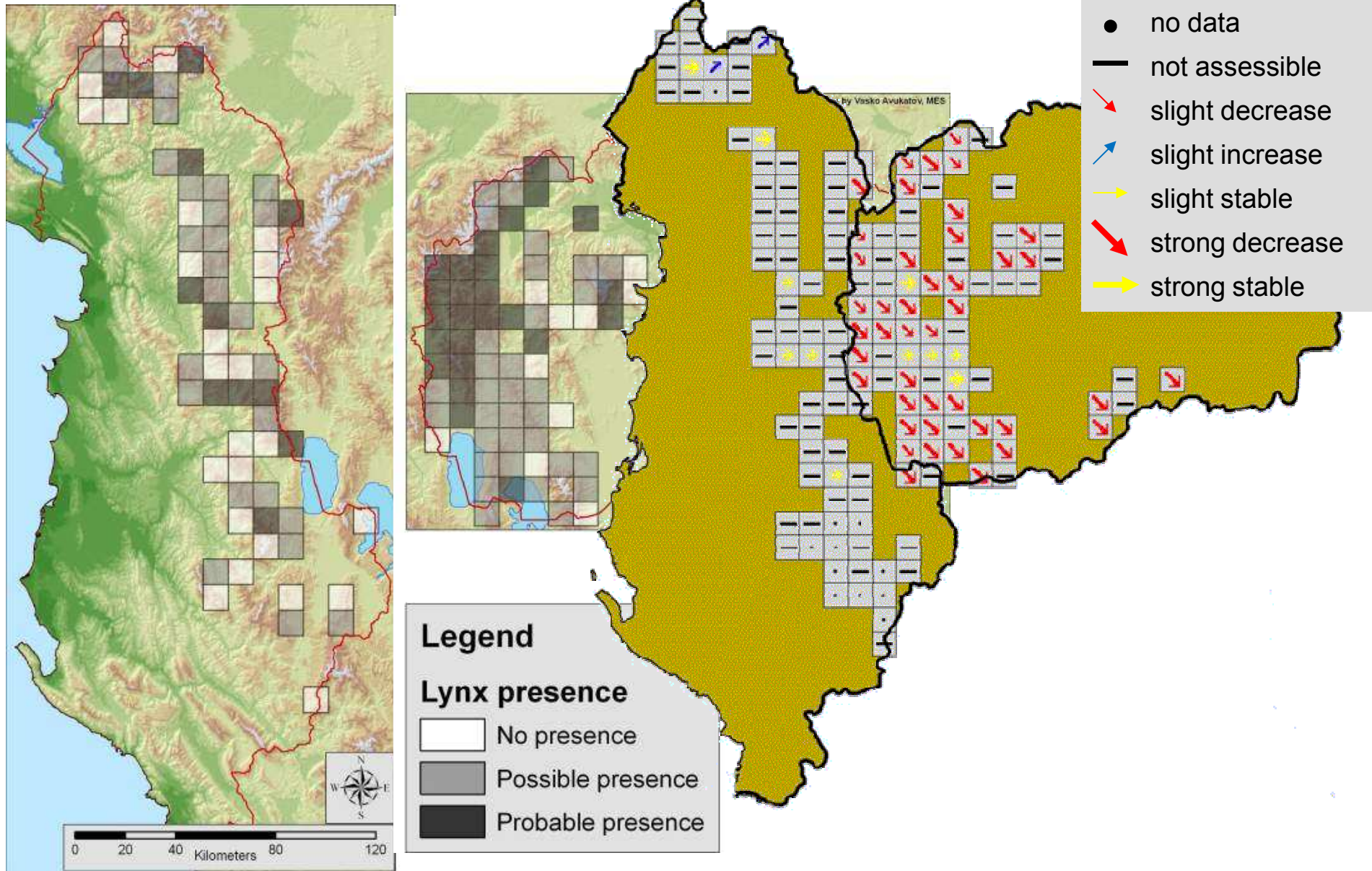
- Period of survey: August 2006 – July 2007
- Sample size: 553 interviews in Macedonia and 320 in Albania
- Direct interviews (face to face, questionnaire filled in by researcher)



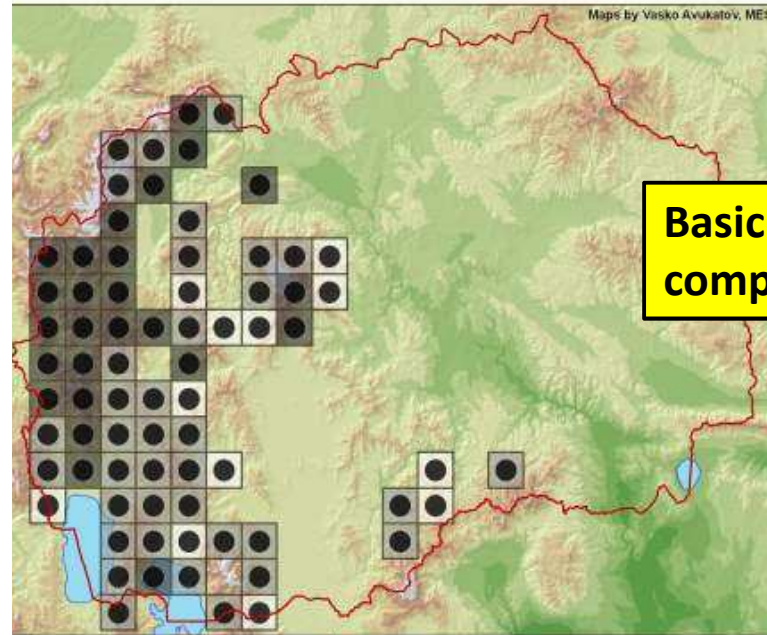
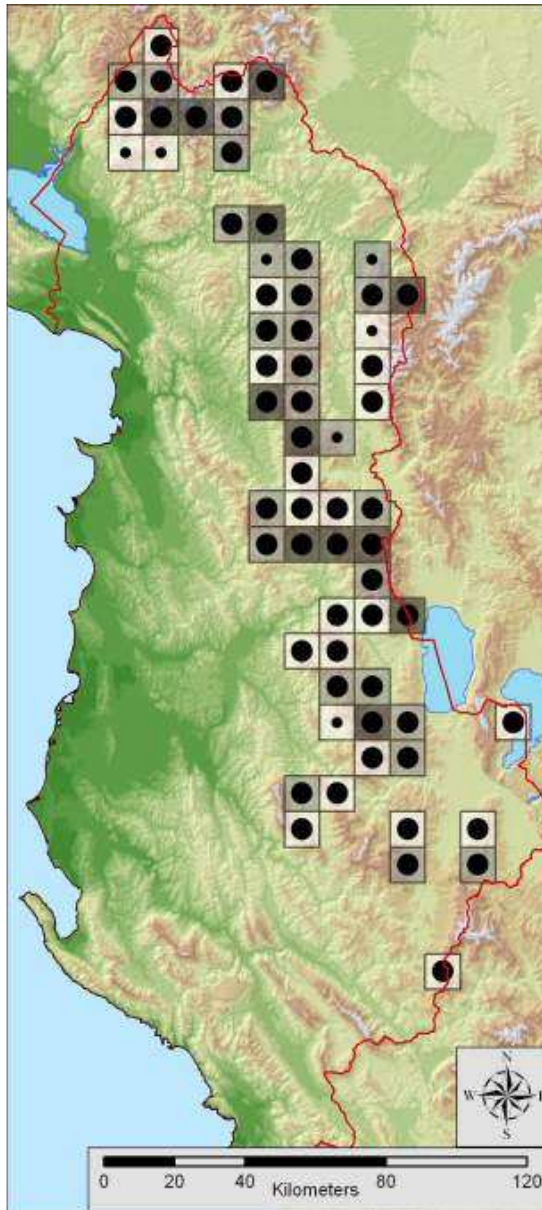
4. Analyses and results



4. Analyses and results – lynx distribution and trend



4. Analyses and results – lynx and roe deer presence



Basic information for direct comparison in the field!

Legend

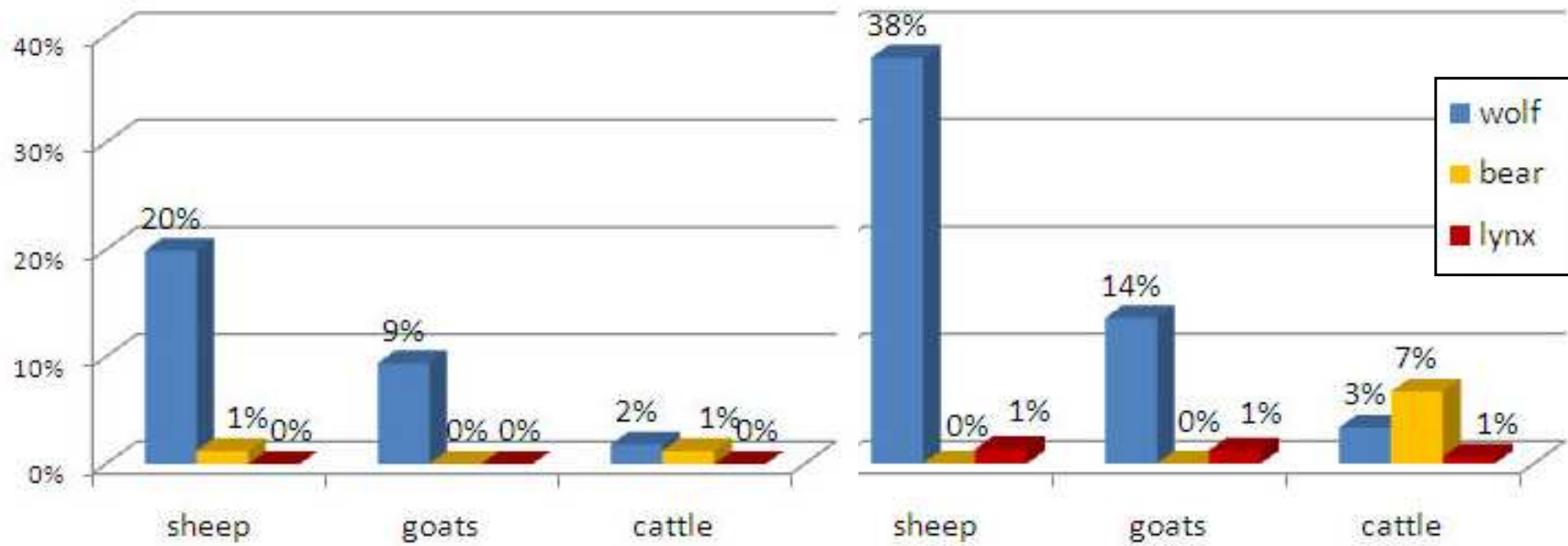
Lynx presence

- No presence
- Possible presence
- Probable presence


Roe deer presence

- No presence
- Possible presence
- Probable presence

4. Analyses and results – depredation on livestock by large carnivores



Albania 

Macedonia 



Conclusions

Baseline survey

- ... was the first systematic “challenge” of expert opinions;
- ... confirmed some of the knowledge/beliefs, but corrected others;
- ... provided qualitative and semi-quantitative information across the entire potential range;
- ... helped raising awareness among local people and administrators;
- ... introduced researchers and students to local people (and their problems);
- ... allowed to plan the subsequent field work more accurately.

