

Review of Baseline Survey in Albania



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Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

Capacity Building Workshop
2 October 2012, Vevchani, Macedonia

Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

2006 - 2009

euRONATUR



PPNEA

Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania



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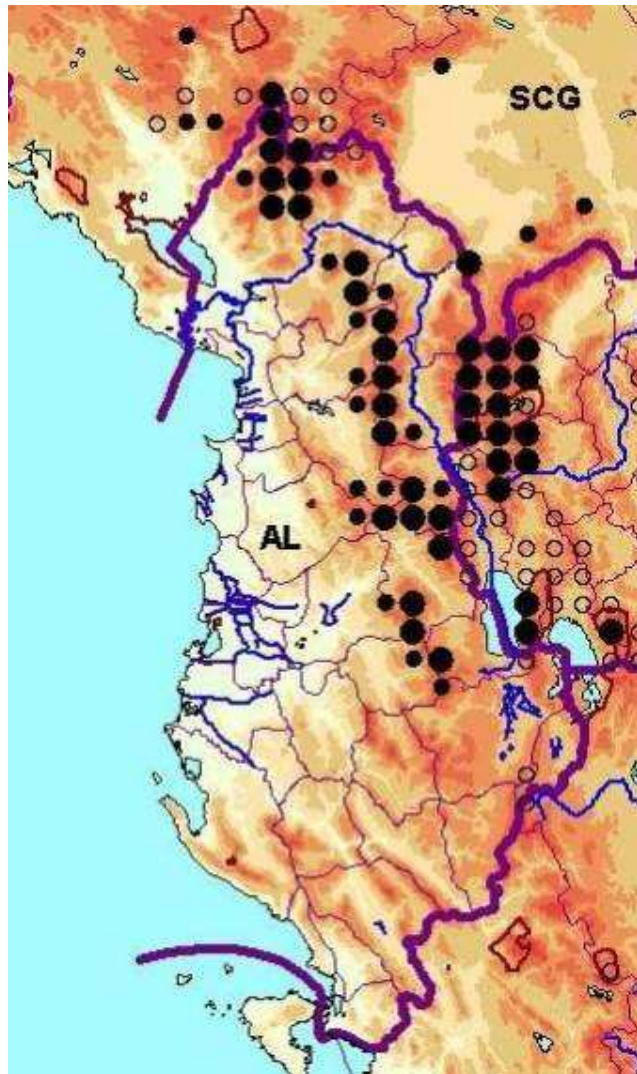


Sponsors:

M A V A Stiftung für Naturschutz
Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature
Research Council of Norway



State of knowledge prior to BLRP



Distribution of the Balkan lynx in Albania

- Based on *experts' opinion*
- Estimated population: 15–25 ind.
- Status: Critically Endangered
- Threats (potential): Poaching, habitat loss, low prey
- Scarce knowledge on lynx ecology
- Urgent need for conservation measures

ELOIS
(von Arx *et al.* 2004)

2006 – Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

Goals

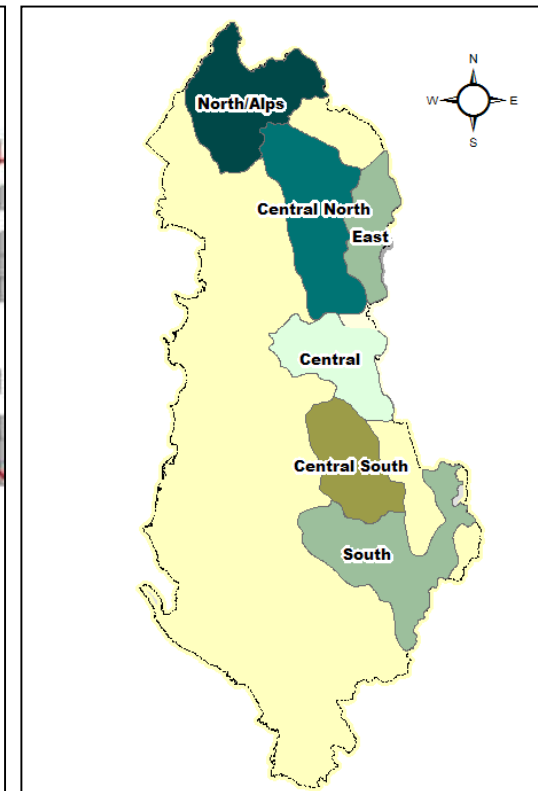
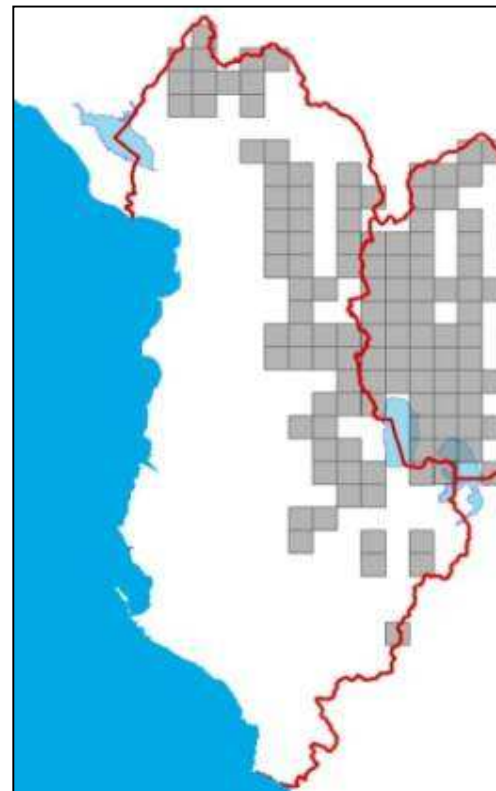
- 1. Conduct baseline survey of lynx, prey, habitat, conflicts**
- 2. Establish monitoring of lynx population**
- 3. Build national/international partnership for lynx conservation**
- 4. Create additional protected areas in Balkan lynx area**
- 5. Develop and implement national action plans for lynx conservation**

Baseline Survey on Lynx, prey and other carnivores in Albania

Purpose: *To collect systematically local knowledge on lynx, prey and carnivores in Albania*

Study area

- Defined by available information on lynx in Albania
- Map overlaid with 10x10 km grid
- 63 grid cells selected for survey
- At least 1 visited village per grid cell

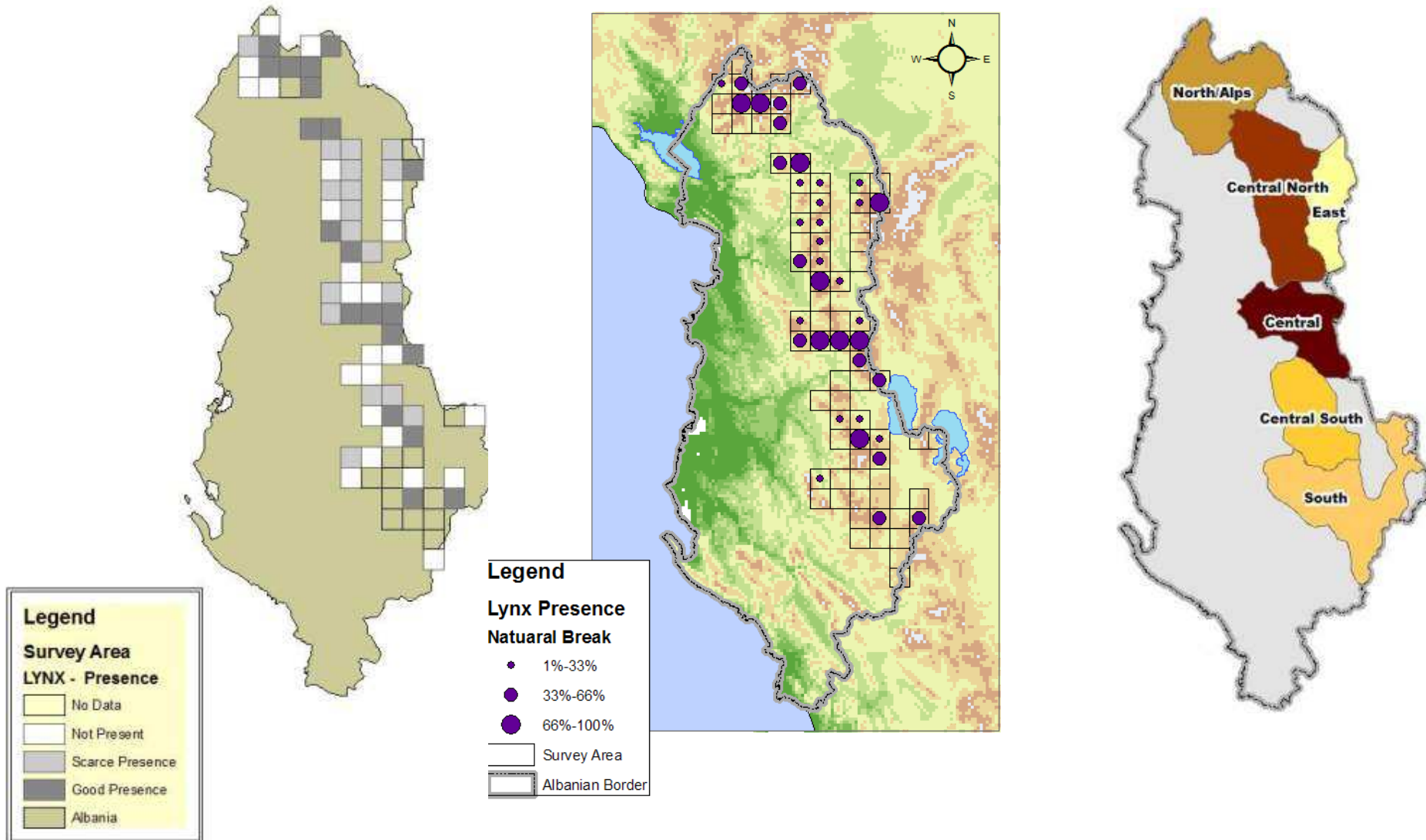


Questionnaire

- Direct (face to face) interviews
- NOT RANDOM; Specific target groups (hunters, foresters, shepherds, etc)
- Period of survey: August 2006-July 2007
- Number of interviews: 320
- Questionnaire includes:
 1. Presence & distribution of 13 species
 2. Humans-wildlife conflicts
 3. Animal husbandry details
 4. Socio-economic aspects of villages



Lynx Presence



Lynx Presence



Shebenik - Martanesh

Lynx Presence



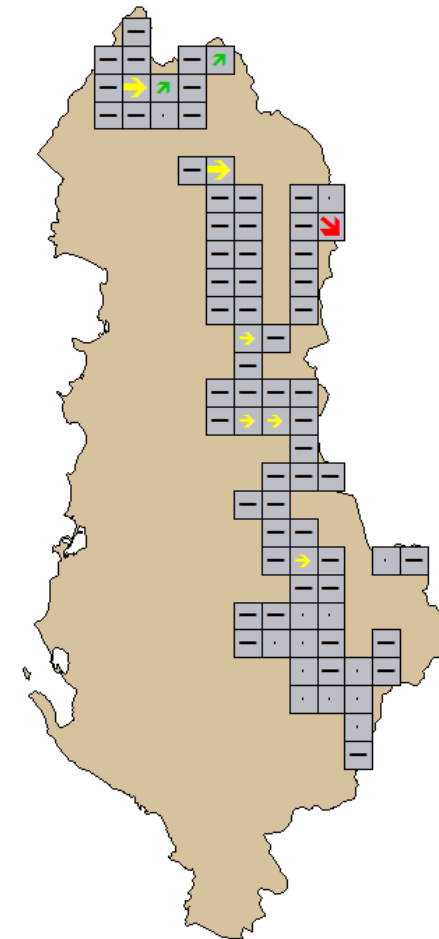
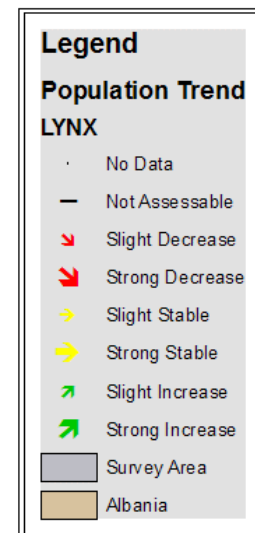
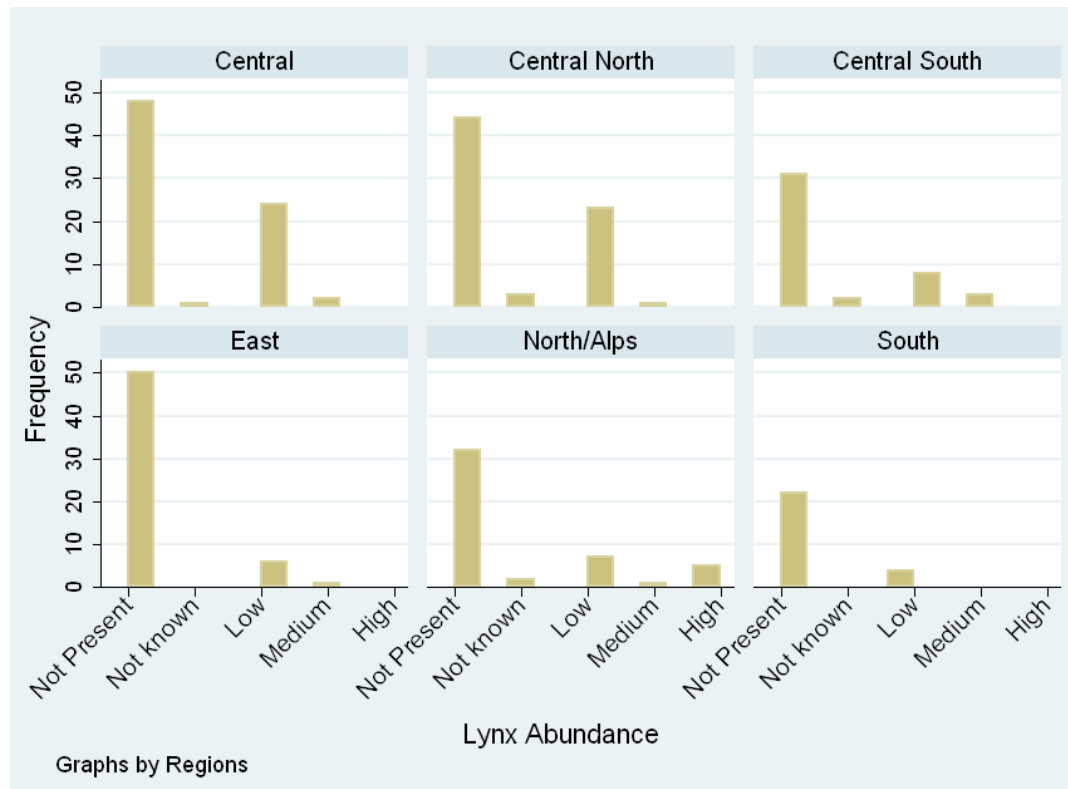
Balgjaj - Mbasdeje

Lynx Presence

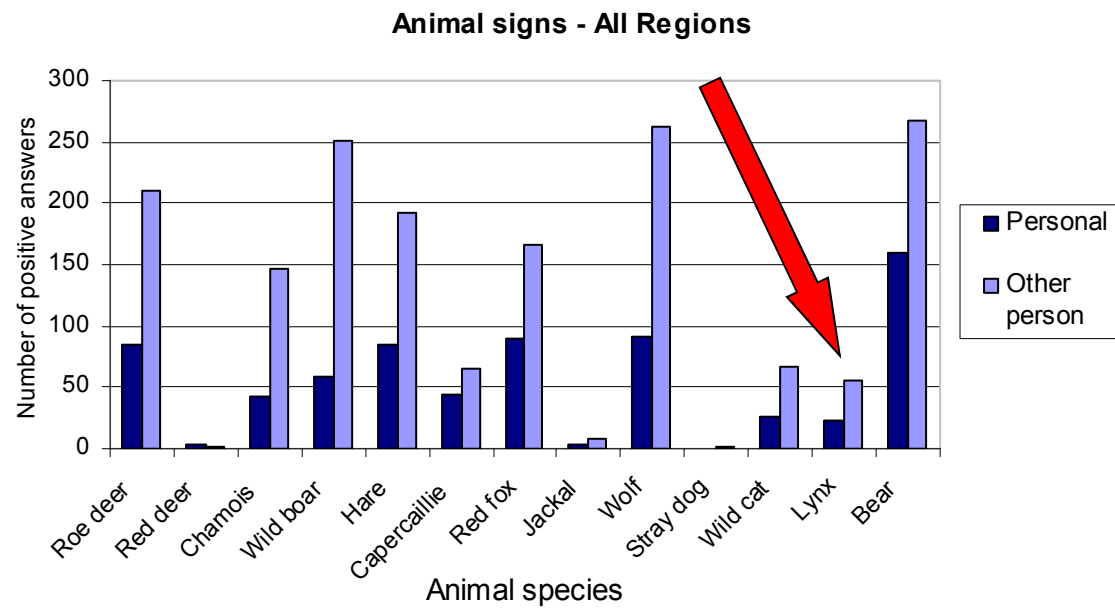


Theth - Valbone

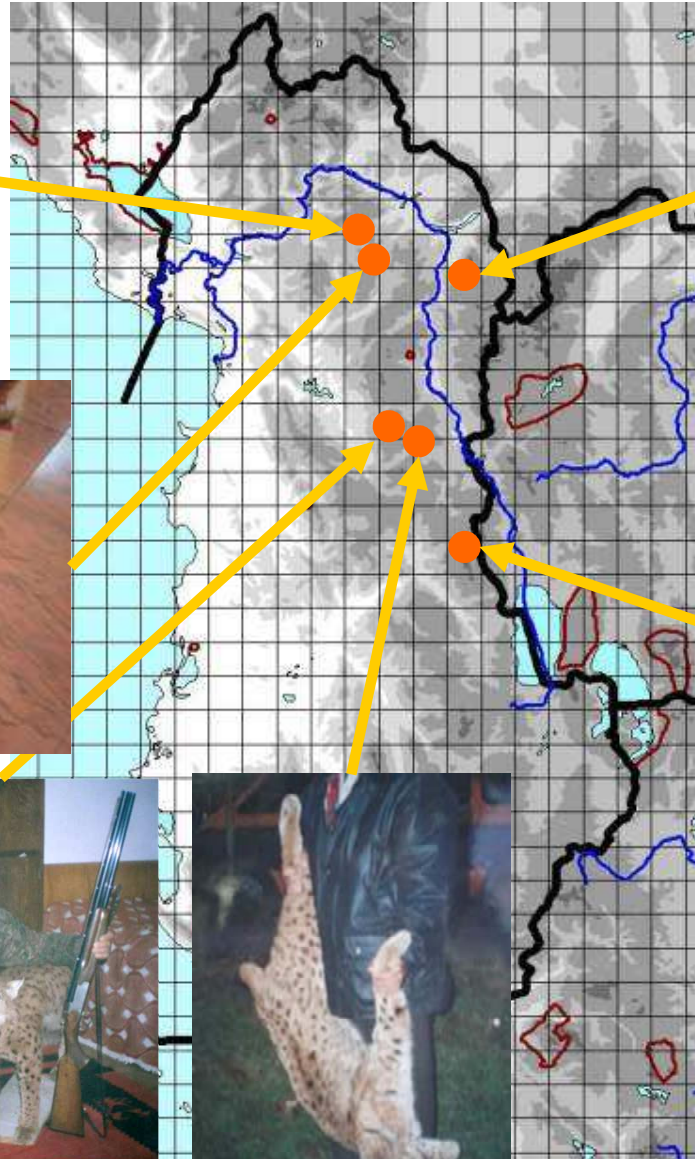
Lynx abundance & trend



Lynx signs



Lynx hard facts



Lynx & Prey



Lynx & Brown hare



Lynx & Roe deer



Lynx & Chamois

Legend

Lynx presence

- No presence
- Possible presence
- Probable presence

Prey presence

- No presence
- Possible presence
- Probable presence

Prey - considerations

Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) – overall good presence in the country but with **decreasing** trend in Central-South and South regions

Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) – predominantly present but with **low** abundance and **decreasing** trend

Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) – predominantly present but with **low** abundance (high abundance and *increasing* trend in North/Alps region)

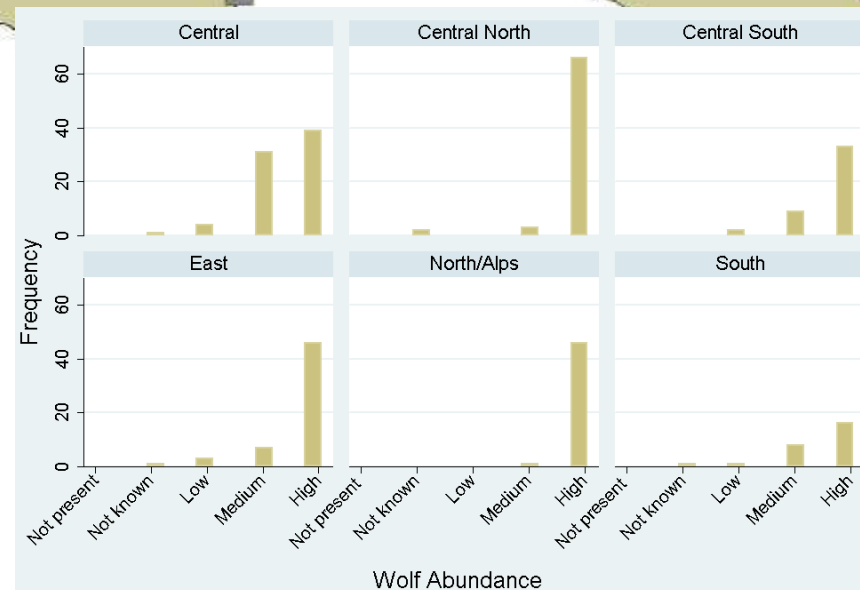
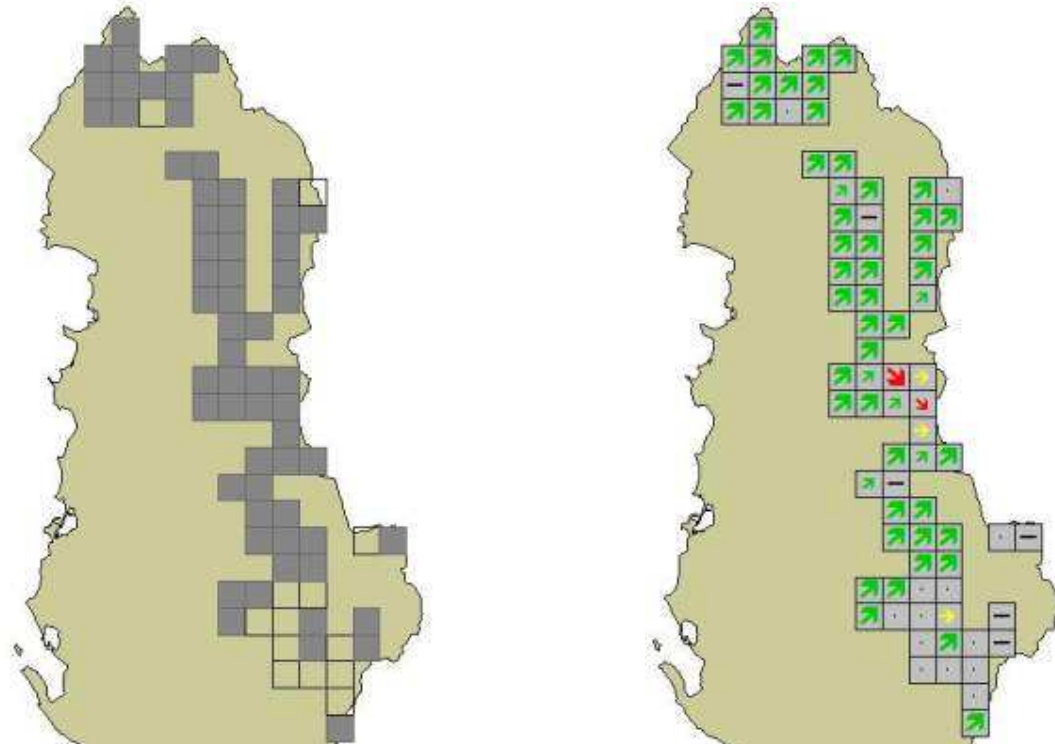
CONTINUOUS AND ONGOING ILLEGAL POACHING ON PREY ANIMALS



Carnivores



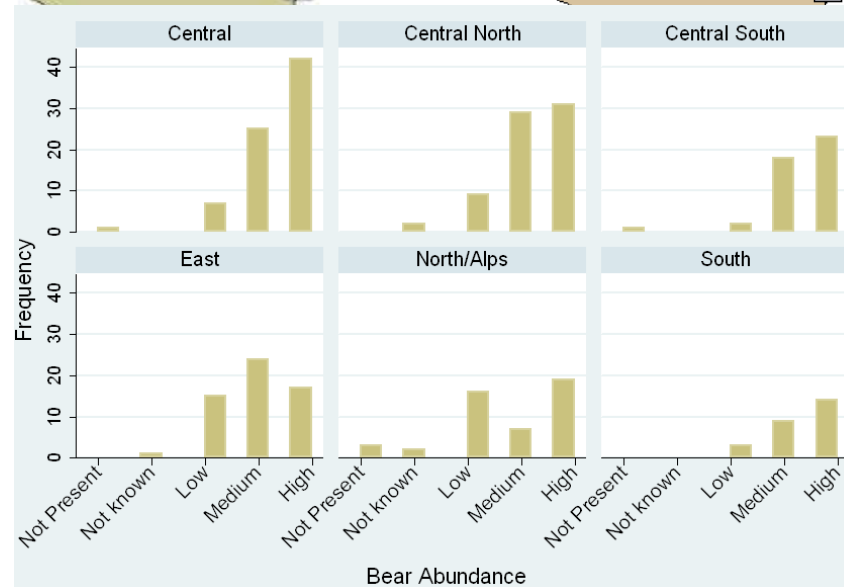
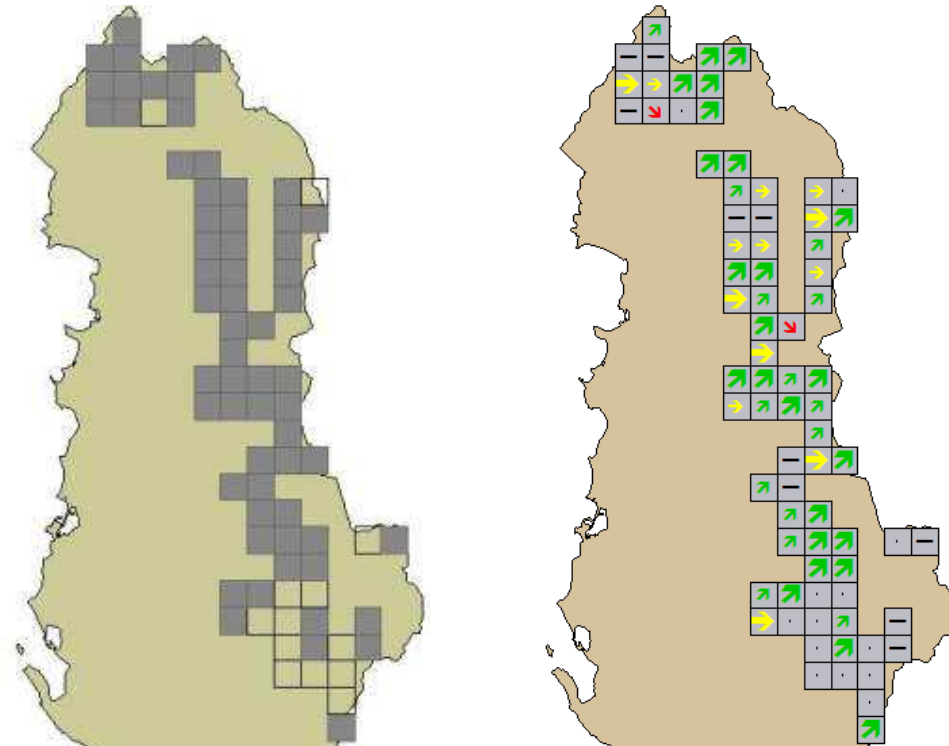
Wolf (*Canis lupus*)



Carnivores



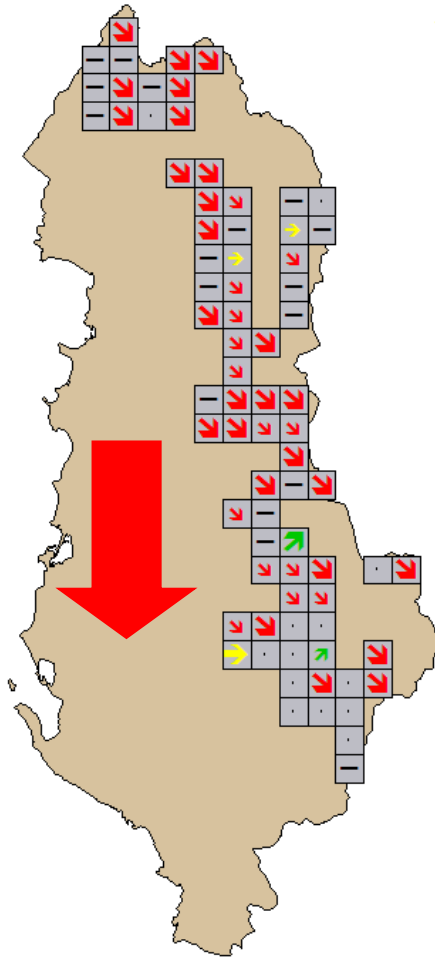
Bear (*Ursus arctos*)



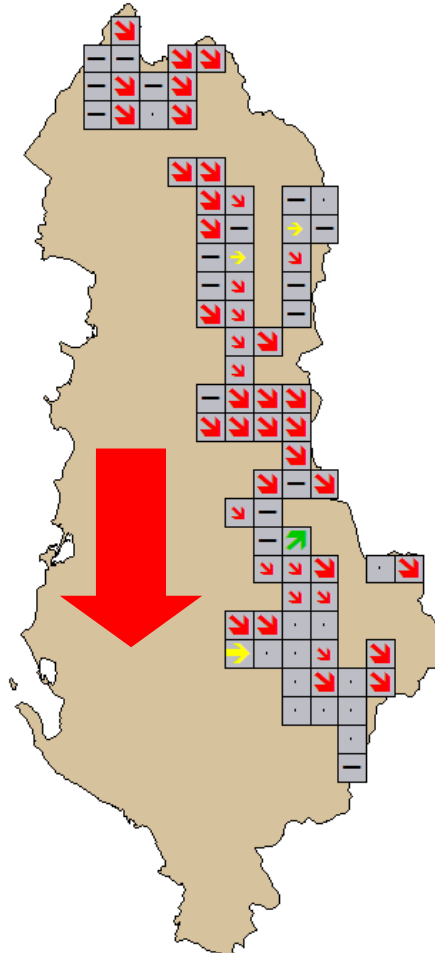
Conflicts



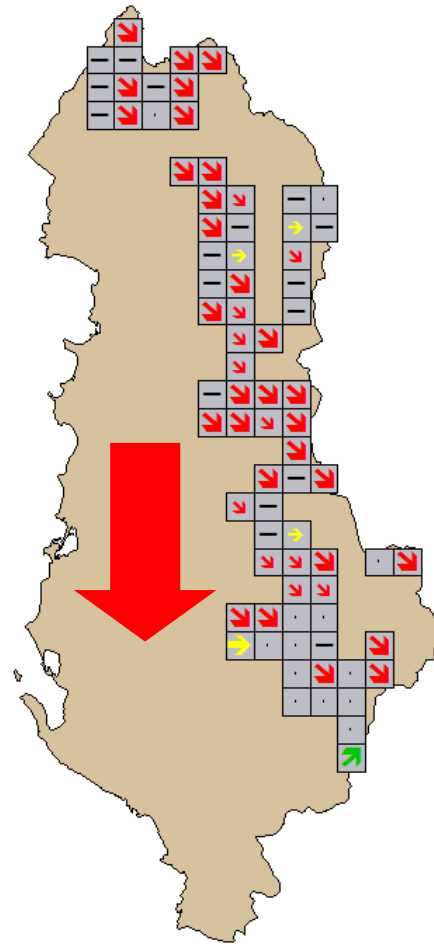
Livestock



Sheep trend

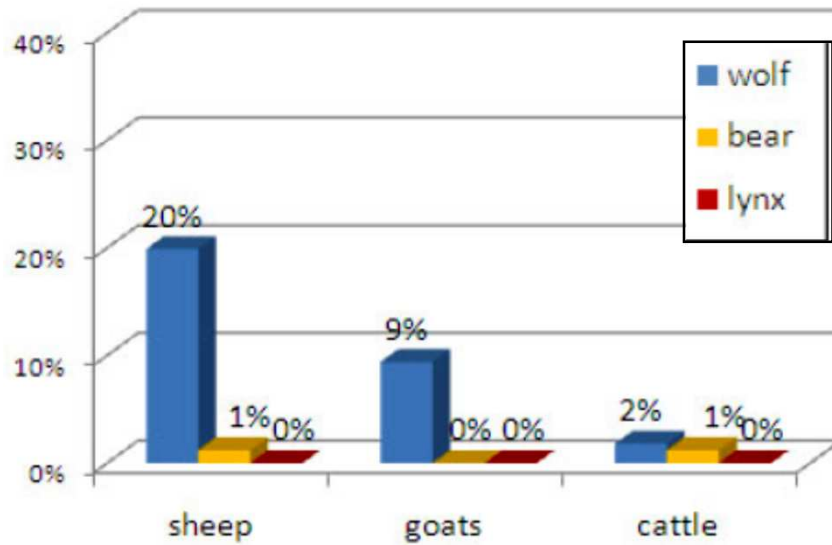


Goats trend

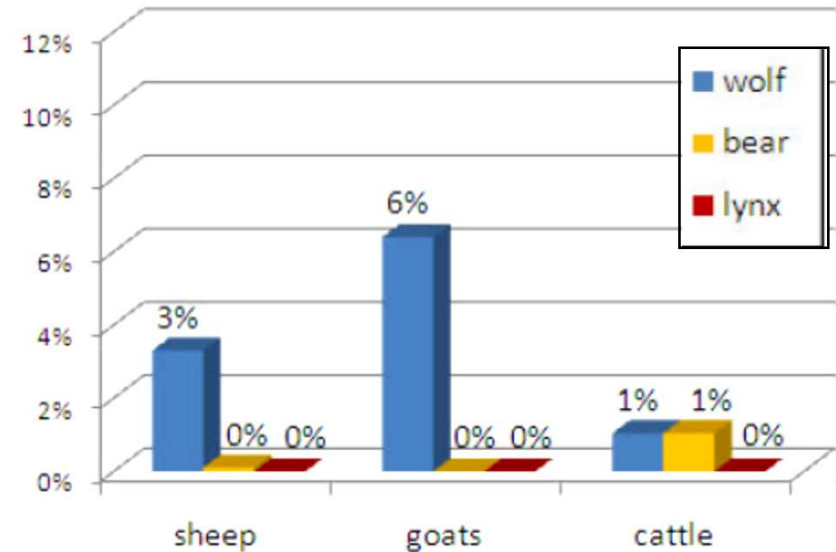


Cattle trend

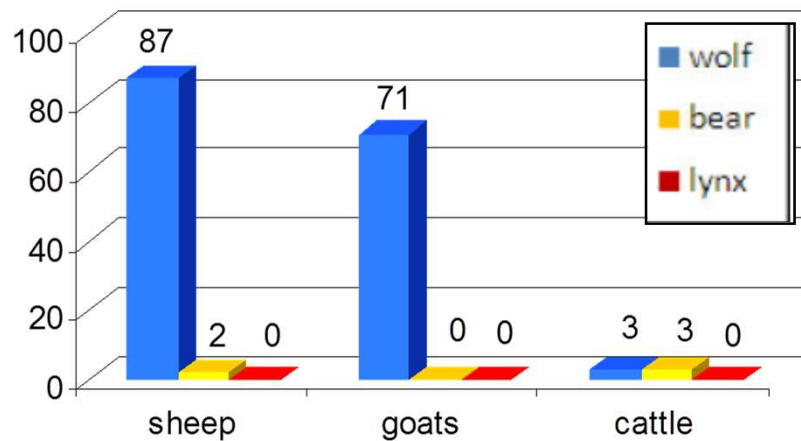
Livestock - depredation



Owners reporting depredation

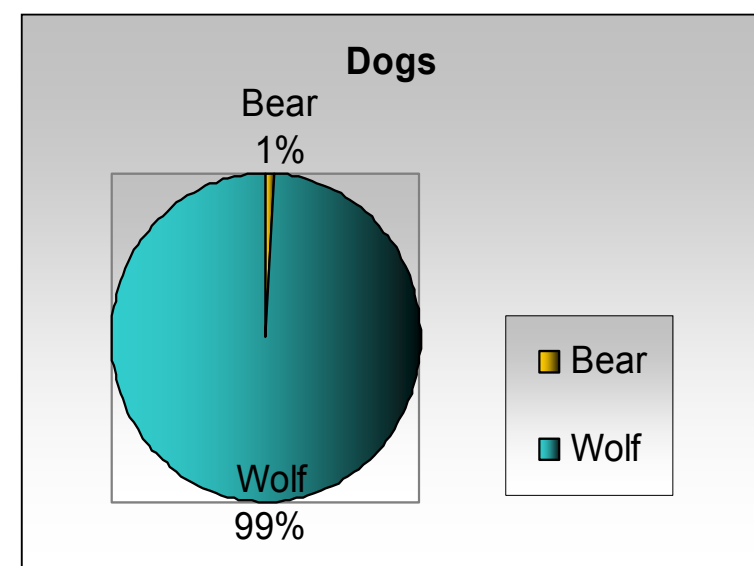
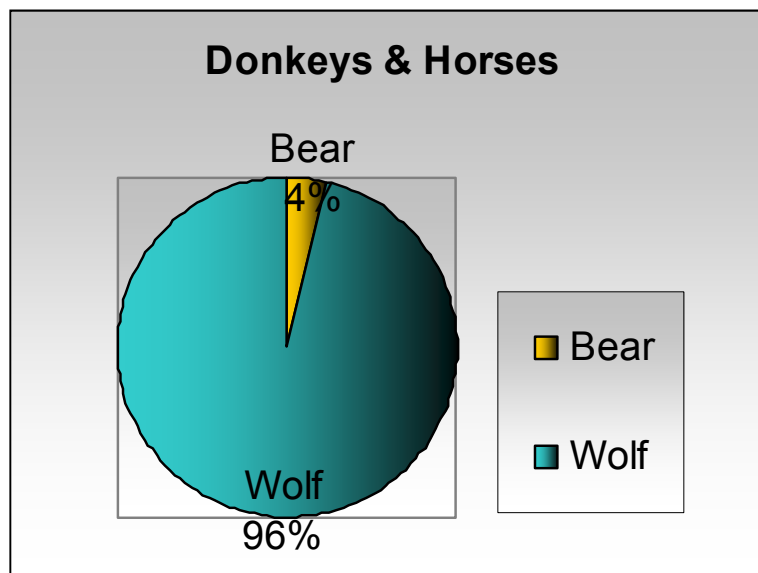
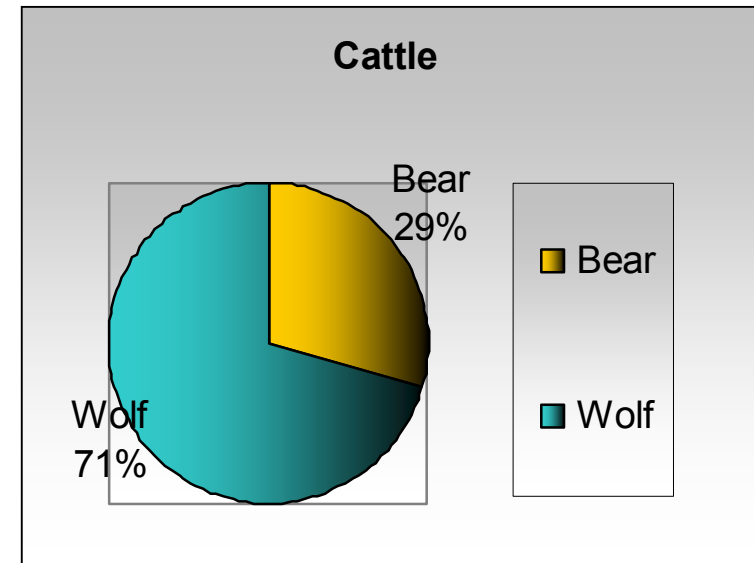
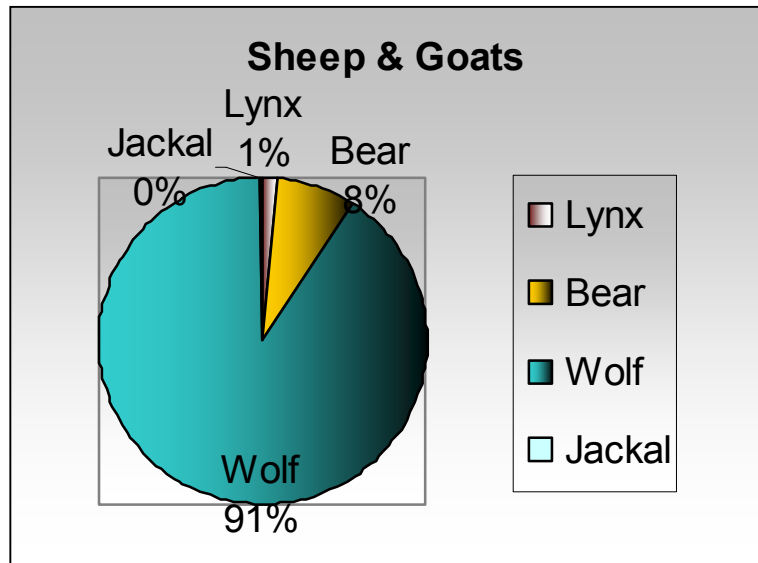


Proportion of flock lost

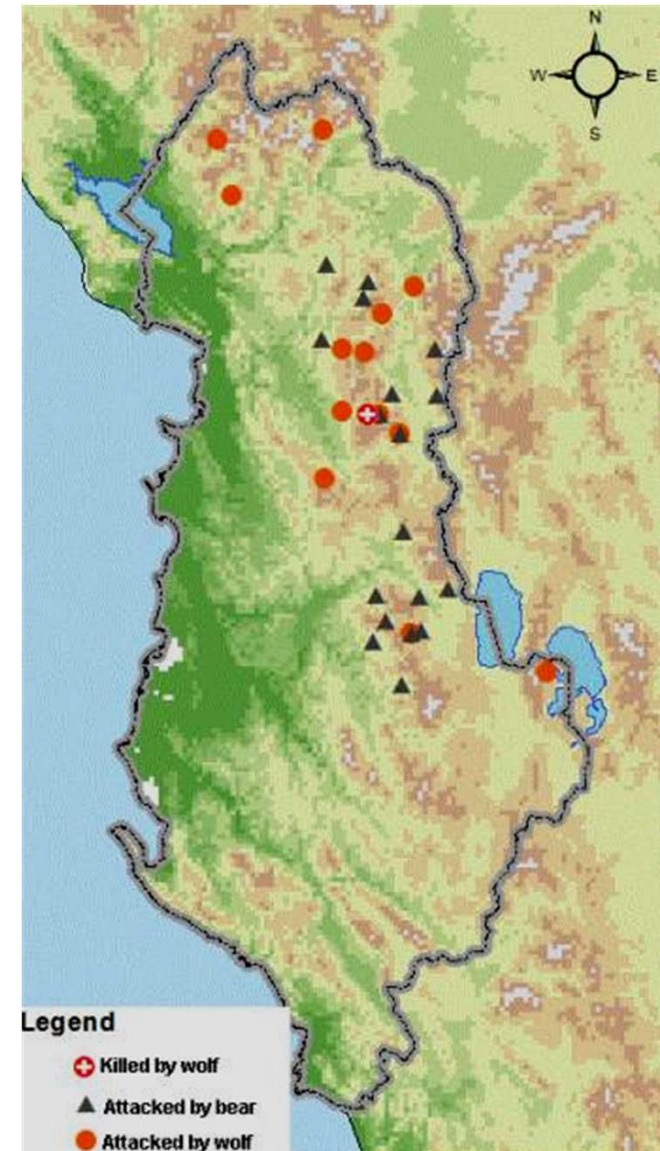
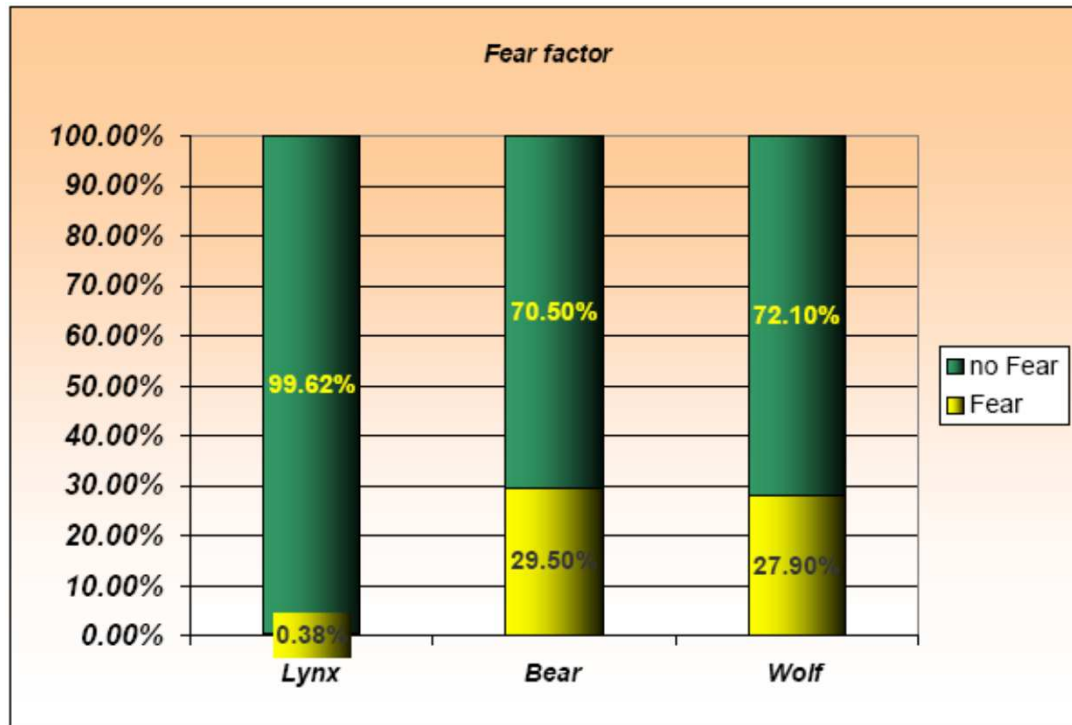


Number of livestock lost

Depredation



Attacks on people and fear



Conflicts - considerations

- Livestock numbers are decreasing
- Conflict potential is low to moderate
- Wolves are responsible for most depredation
- Depredation levels are low to moderate

- Lynx cause almost **no depredation**
- Wolves and bears are believed to attack people
- Levels of fear are low
- Almost **nobody** is afraid of lynx

Conclusions

Balkan lynx still exists ...

... but is on the verge of EXXTINTION

Small and fragmented nuclei seem to remain in some parts of Albania

Main threats identified:

- **Direct persecution (6 killed lynx discovered during the survey and several confirmations on killed individuals)**
- **Habitat degradation**
- **Decline of prey base (prey populations facing high hunting pressure)**

Lynx-humans conflicts are practically inexistent and most likely won't affect its conservation

Further research on lynx is needed for:

- **Assessment of population number**
- **Ecology and behavior**
- **Land tenure system**



THANK YOU!

