

## Bringing it back from the brink - a programme for the recovery of the Balkan lynx



PPNEA

EURONATUR



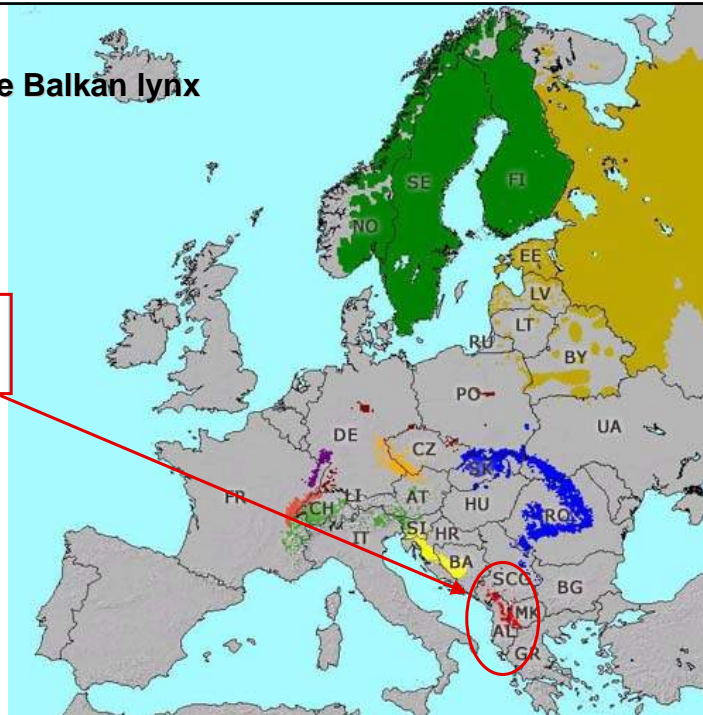
Aleksandër Trajçe, Manuela von Arx, Gjorgji Ivanov, John Linnell, Dime Melovski, Aleksandar Stojanov, Kujtim Mersini, Spase Shumka Gabriel Schwaderer, Annette Spangenberg, Urs Breitenmoser

### Situation of the Balkan lynx

Distribution of Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe

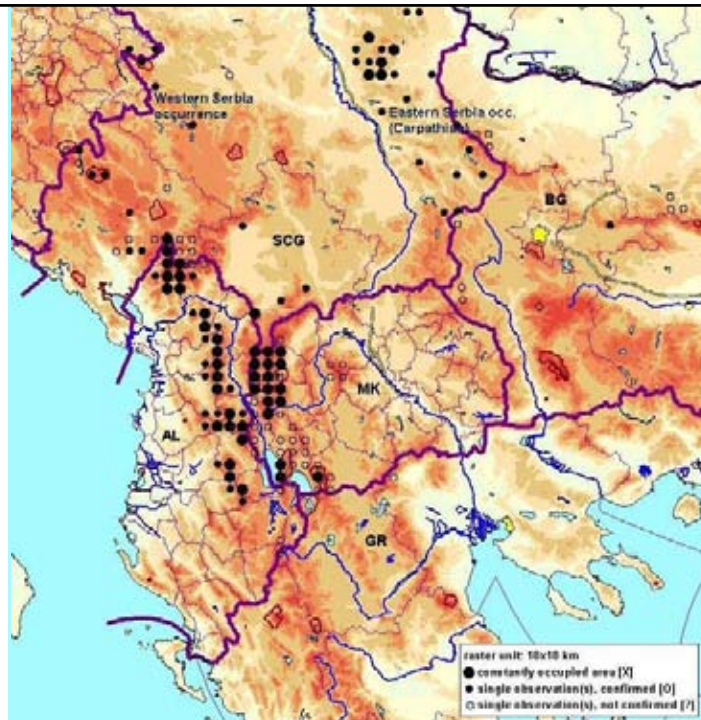
Most endangered indigenous population

Balkan population: 70 – 100 estimated individuals



**Distribution of  
the  
Balkan lynx  
(1996-2001)**

**ELOIS**  
(von Arx *et al.* 2004)  
based on  
**expert opinion**



**What is the „Balkan lynx“?**

Buresch 1941:  
*Lynx lynx balcanicus*

Mirić 1978:  
*Lynx lynx martinoi*



2007  
Macedonia  
Mavrovo NP

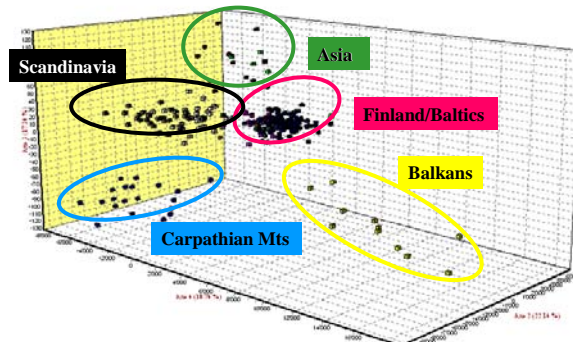
Bures, I. 1941. Risove v Macedonija [Lynx in Macedonia]. *Priroda*, 42 (3): 51.52 (in Bulgarian).

Mirić, D. 1978. *Lynx lynx martinoi* ssp. nova (Carnivora, Mammalia) . Neue Luchsunterart von der Balkanhalbinsel. Bulletin de muséum d'histoire naturelle, Belgrade, Série B, Livre 33, pp. 29.36.

## What is the „Balkan lynx“?

Buresch 1941:  
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Miric 1978:  
*Lynx lynx martinoi*



Whether as subspecies or regional metapopulation -

**Critically Endangered**

according to IUCN Red List criteria

Genetic differentiation in Eurasian lynx based on microsatellite analyses (Breitenmoser-Würsten & Obexer-Ruff, 2003)

## Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

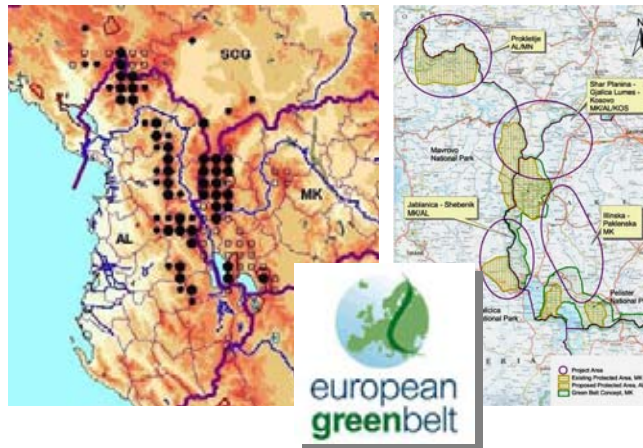
2006 - 2009



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

## Approach – How do we do it?

Species conservation and landscape conservation



and considering the human dimension

### Aims of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

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

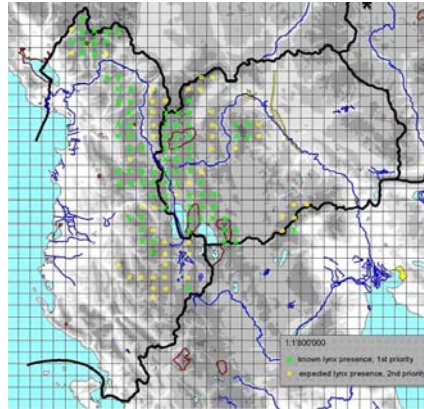


## Baseline Survey

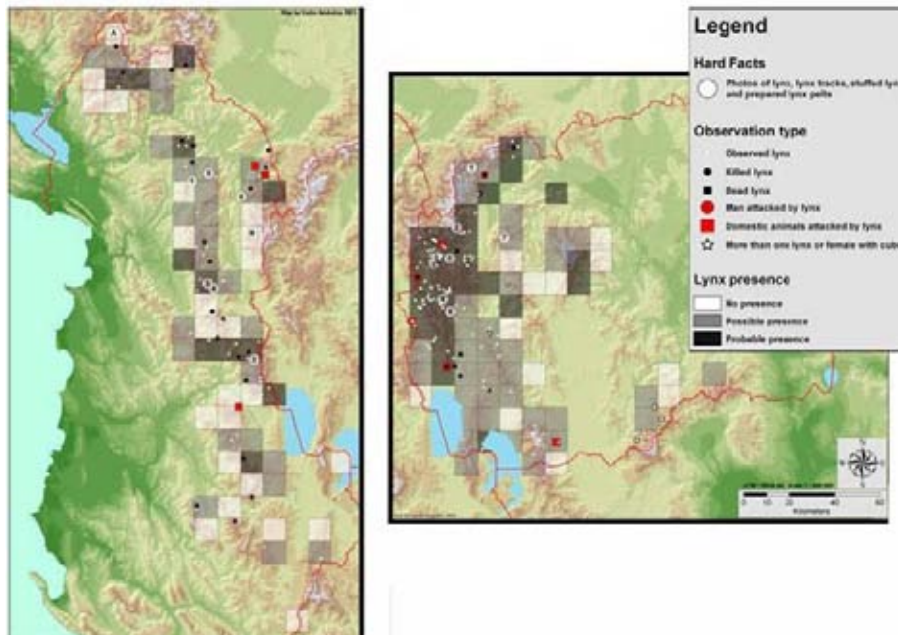
**Purpose:** *To systematically collect local knowledge about lynx, their prey, and other carnivores in Albania and Macedonia using questionnaires*

### Study area & Methods

- Defined by available information on lynx presence in two countries
- Map overlaid with 10x10 km grid
- 136 grid cells selected for survey
- At least 1 visited village per grid cell
- Direct (face to face) interviews
- Period of survey: August 2006-July 2007
- Number of interviews: 873



### Lynx presence according to baseline survey



## Camera-trapping in Mavrovo NP, Macedonia and Shebenik NP, Albania

- To proof of the presence of lynx in the area
- To estimate numbers using capture-recapture analysis
- Get information on other wildlife species

(Stojanov et. al. Estimating the population size of the Balkan lynx in the Mavrovo National Park)



## Protected areas approach

### Working for trans-boundary protected areas

Enhancement of international cooperation for lynx conservation

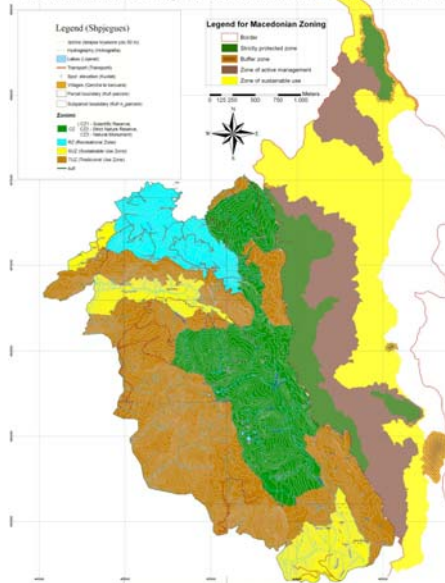
Protection of large and complex ecosystems

Protection of sub-populations of lynx



Jabllanica Mt.

Jabllanica Mt. zoning overview Albania and Macedonia



## Human dimensions approach

- Balkan lynx live in an environment that is dominated by humans.
- The motivation to conserve them comes from humans.
- Many of the main threats to their survival come from humans.
- Need to understand how people interact with the lynx.

Mainly based on talking to people

- Quantitative questionnaires
- Qualitative interviews



## Results

Wolf, Bear and Lynx are 3 very different species!

### Wolf

Associated with most conflict with livestock and hunters

Extremely negative attitudes among shepherds and hunters



### Bear

Associated with fewer conflicts

Respected, belief that conflicts are due to a few specific individuals



### Lynx

Lack of interactions and experience – invisible

Lack of accurate knowledge


Not regarded as a major problem = low conflict



For more information:

[www.catsg.org/balkanlynx](http://www.catsg.org/balkanlynx)

IUCN/SSC - Cat Specialist Group - Balkan Lynx Compendium




Проект Статус Држави Најважна земја Ден на свет Заштита Библиотека Помощ Помощ

Програма за закрепнување на балканскиот риз

Вести	Информации за проектот	Секularни активности	Артикли од списанија	Летоци и постери	Мониторинг	Составци
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News — Вести — Lajme



**January, 2008: First Balkan lynx pictured with camera-traps**

The Macedonian lynx team managed to catch the first pictures of the Balkan lynx. Camera-traps were set in promising areas according to the results of the Baseline Survey (see [News](#) below), especially in and around Mavrovo National Park. These pictures are promising news for the future activities of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme.

[More information about camera trapping and additional pictures](#)

Although the coat pattern of both lynx looks similar, it is not possible to make a final assessment whether it concerns one or two individuals. For a clear identification good pictures of the same flank are needed.

Picture: © Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

## Conclusion

Balkan lynx still exist ...

... but are on the verge of EXTINCTION

First phase of the project ends in September 2009

The recovery of Balkan lynx...

... will be a loooooong lasting assignment!

