

PROTECTED AREAS IN SPECIES CONSERVATION – THE PA COMPONENT WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE BALKAN LYNX RECOVERY PROGRAMME

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Protected areas can play an important role in species conservation. Therefore, the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme, jointly implemented by EURONATUR and KORA as international partners and the NGOs PPNEA and MES as the main national partners, does not only focus on generating more and new information about the Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx martinoi*), its distribution and population status, but also includes measures for the designation of new transboundary protected areas and the development of sustainable land use schemes in and outside protected areas.

This presentation puts the contents of the protected area component within the project in an international context by highlighting its importance within the European Green Belt, respectively the Balkan Green Belt initiative and depicting its role within the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme itself.

Subsequently, objectives and actions of the protected area component and the reasons for selecting the project sites – namely the Jablanica-Shebenik mountain range between Albania and Macedonia, the Albanian Alps in northern Albania close to the border of Montenegro, the Shar Planina-Korab mountain range at the border triangle of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo as well as Illinska-Paklenska corridor in Macedonia - are presented.

Finally, the activities which have been implemented in the field to date are described in detail.