



## Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme

### NEWSLETTER

01/2015

### Lynx in Kosovo!

#### Confirmation of Balkan lynx in Bjeshkët e Nemuna

In March 2015, Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group confirmed the presence of the Balkan lynx in Bjeshkët e Nemuna, Kosovo, as part of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (BLRP).

The presence of the Balkan lynx in Kosovo was confirmed through three photos taken by a camera trap installed in the Rugova valley, Peja. The public reaction to these photos was sensational, as these were the first tangible facts from a study for the presence of the lynx in the region after nearly thirty years.



Fig. 1: One of the three pictures of Balkan lynx in the Rugova valley, Kosovo.

Although ERA group and the BLRP team has yet to determine whether the lynx was just passing through the Rugova valley, or whether there is an active lynx population that is reproducing in Bjeshkët e Nemuna, the con-

firmed presence of the Balkan lynx is a huge step for further research and to jump start conservation efforts in Kosovo and cross-border with neighbouring Montenegro and Albania.

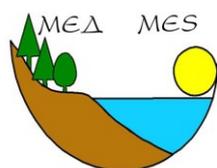
Currently ERA group through the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme has only five camera traps installed in Bjeshkët e Nemuna. More support is needed for the monitoring and the conservation of this critically endangered species.

*Bardh Sanaja, ERA group*

### Balkan lynx evidence from the Albanian Alps

#### Balkan lynx pictured in Thethi

The mountainous region of the Albanian Alps – part of the larger transboundary region of Bjeshkët e Nëmuna/Prokletije mountains spreading into Kosovo and Montenegro – is likely one of the wildest areas of Europe characterised by very high mountains and deep glacial valleys that are covered with vast expanses of forests on lower altitudes and diverse and rich alpine pastures on the higher parts. The Albanian Alps have been considered as a prime area for lynx presence in Albania since the beginning of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme. This was supported by the Baseline Survey conducted in 2006-07, when quantitative questionnaires indicated Valbona valley as one of the most promising areas for lynx within the Albanian Alps. However, camera-trapping surveys conducted in Valbona valley by PPNEA re-



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searchers and our local collaborator Catherine Bohne, from “Journey to Valbona” from 2011 onwards, had not unveiled any pictures of Balkan lynx in the area.

Sensational evidence however comes now from the adjacent valley of Thethi, where a photo of Balkan lynx was discovered by Catherine in May 2015. What makes this photograph even more amazing – besides proving the presence of Balkan lynx in the Albanian Alps – is that it was taken with a mobile phone camera by a local nature guide operator named Ardit Jubani. PPNEA has been in close contact with Ardit since the discovery of the photo and has learned more information on the circumstances of how it was taken. Ardit tells PPNEA that the photo was taken on 24 September 2014 and initially he wasn't aware on the importance it might bare. He was guiding a group of tourists along trails on the eastern slopes of Thethi valley (bordering with Valbona and Curraj valleys) and the lynx happened to run behind him just when he was preparing to take a group photo of the tourists. Ardit reiterated that it was pure luck that he had his mobile camera ready; otherwise he would have not had time to take the picture so clearly, as the lynx disappeared in a matter of seconds.

This evidence is good news in three directions for the Balkan lynx project in Albania. Firstly, it gives us a hard fact of lynx presence in a very important area of Albania. Secondly, it shows us that the monitoring network that PPNEA has worked towards in the past years is working efficiently as we were able to get the news from Catherine, our local collaborator in Valbona. Thirdly, it gives hope for positive wildlife attitudes by tourists and tourist operators as the sighting happened in such an extraordinary circumstance and was admired and enjoyed by a number of people.



**Fig. 2: A matter of seconds: Balkan lynx pictured in Thethi valley by a local nature guide.**

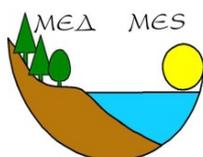
In the coming months, PPNEA will try to investigate further with camera-trapping methodology in and around the region of where the photo was taken to verify whether the occurrence belonged to a single dispersing or travelling individual, or whether it is a sign of a more established lynx sub-population in the Albanian Alps.

*Aleksandër Trajçe, PPNEA*

## **Fourth deterministic camera-trapping study in Mavrovo NP**

### **37 photos of at least 8-9 lynx**

From 15 March to 13 May 2015, MES in co-operation with Mavrovo NP conducted the fourth deterministic camera-trapping study within the territory of the Park. The main goal was to estimate the number and the density of the Balkan lynx population in the Park, as well as to see the population trend by com-



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paring the results with the ones from the previous three studies. 60 camera traps were installed at 30 different locations in an area of 332 km<sup>2</sup>. Camera traps were controlled every 10 days for functionality inspection, battery replacement, and checking the photos.

The study resulted with 37 photos of Balkan lynx from 11 different locations in the Park. Preliminary visual identification by comparison of the pictures reveals a number of 8-9 independent (adult & subadult) lynx individuals, which represents the minimum number present in the Park. Statistical population estimations by means of capture-recapture analysis are under way. Apart from Balkan lynx, we got many photos of the other large mammals present in the Park.



**Fig. 3: Photo of one of the other large mammals (though yet small) present in Mavrovo NP.**

During the study, the MES team had great help from the employees of Mavrovo NP who were actively involved in the camera-trapping activities by choosing proper locations, as well as the instalment and control of the camera traps.

*Aleksandar Stojanov, MES*

## Intensive camera-trapping survey in Puka-Mirdita and Kukës regions

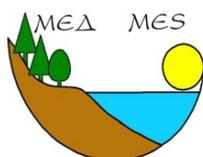
### At least 4 lynx present in northern Albania

Twenty one photos of Balkan lynx of at least 4 different individuals was the result of the intensive camera-trapping survey conducted in Albania by PPNEA during the winter 2014–2015. This survey came as a continuation of several extensive and semi-intensive monitoring surveys implemented in Albania during the last years (see earlier Newsletters).

The study area was located over the three regions Puka, Mirdita and Kukës, respectively in the Munella, Thirra and Zeba mountains. These mountains extend into the north part of Albania, which is the only area where PPNEA has observed several Balkan lynx (more than 4 different individuals) before. To clarify the status of the “population” in Munella, particularly to investigate whether there is reproduction, was a priority question this time.

The study area was 300 km<sup>2</sup>, divided into 48 grid cells of 2.5 x 2.5 km. 44 camera traps were spread in 22 cells, set face to face in every second grid. The camera traps were left to work for approximately 20 days and then were checked. The study lasted from 16 December 2014 to 6 June 2015 (due to heavy snow falls in winter) and was conducted by five people (PPNEA staff and locals).

The survey 2014–2015 brought good results with a large and diverse number of pictures of wildlife species. Our cameras obtained 805 photos, including 21 photos of *Lynx lynx balcanicus*, 28 *Martens foina*, 2 *Martes martes*, 13 *Felis silvestris*, 80 *Meles meles*, 85 *Vulpes vulpes*, 1 *Mustela putorius*, 19 *Sus scrofa*, 493 *Lepus europaeus*, 5 *Canis lupus*,



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25 *Ursus arctos*, 25 *Capreolus capreolus*, 1 *Rupicapra rupicapra*, 2 *Erinaceus roumanicus*, 3 *Sciurus vulgaris*, and 3 birds.



Fig. 4: Balkan lynx pictured in the Munella Mts.

It is very important to highlight that we took for the first time a photo and video of the Balkan lynx in Zeba Mt. (between Kukes and Mirdita region), which demonstrates that the distribution range of Balkan lynx goes beyond Munella Mt. Also, the Balkan lynx team found the tracks and scat of lynx in Munella and Thira Mt. Compared to the previous camera-trapping studies in Munella Mt in 2013–2014, there are higher numbers of brown hare, roe deer and wild boar photos. The number of fox pictures is however lower than last year. Some of these species (brown hare and roe deer) play an important role as prey species of lynx.

Even though our camera-trapping did not yield a photo of a lynx mother with cub(s) or a couple of lynx together, we all the same found some evidence for lynx reproduction: Monitoring network members reported a dead lynx cub nearby Puka city. Although we were disappointed that the first cub found in the region concerned a dead individual, this observation raises the hope that a functioning small lynx subpopulation persists in the area.

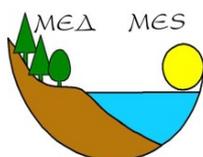
Bledi Hoxha, PPNEA

## Field activities in southern Kosovo

### Camera-trapping throughout Sharr mountain range & Koritnik areas

Finch is carrying out a camera trap survey throughout Sharr mountain range covering a general stretch of about 700 km<sup>2</sup> and around Koritnik mountain area, basically throughout all mountain ranges in southern Kosovo. We began our inaugural season (2014–2015) in October 2014 by installing all of our 6 camera traps. Eventually during the period 2014/2 three camera traps were stolen from locations far away of each other, thus forcing us to begin the 2015 season with only three camera traps. Considering this drawback, we focused in identifying the most promising sites for possible lynx and prey presence for these cameras. Thankfully, we were provided with four more camera traps and after some difficulties with the shipment we were able to install them in the field at the end of April 2015.

On one occasion during our field work, we met with a forest ranger who told us that a local hunter in the northern part of Sharr area killed and stuffed a lynx a few years ago. We were very insisting in order to convince that person to show us the stuffed lynx to at least take a picture of it, but it was not easy. Finally, he agreed to show us the stuffed animal, unfortunately however it was not a lynx but a wild cat. This is just an example to illustrate that people sometimes mix different animals and they call them differently depending on the region. In one region they for instance call lynx a wild cat, whereas in another they call it a tiger. Nevertheless, we are constantly in contact with forest rangers, hunters, wardens, local villagers, etc. who never hesitate to call us whenever they receive information on lynx presence however accurate it may be. As we entered spring and the weather got better, we saw human presence increasing drastically throughout the study area, causing camera



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traps to take more photos and increasing the chances of theft/damage to camera traps. However, despite many people seeing the cameras, fortunately nobody has touched them up to now.



Fig. 5: Photo of a chamois in southern Kosovo.

The results from the camera trapping study were satisfactory but fell short of confirming lynx presence. The total number of identifiable photos of wild animals from January to June 2015 is 325. The most abundant animal on captured images is the fox with 177 photos during this five month period (app. first four months with only three camera traps), badger (16), brown bear (16), birds (7), chamois (1, see Fig. 5), brown hare (19), hedgehog (9), marten (21), roe deer (42), wild boar (6), wild cat (4), wolf (7). Noteworthy, there are two photos with two wolves in each capture, two roe deer in another and a bear with cub in yet another.

*Azem Ramadani, Finch*

## Camera-trapping in Montenegro

### News from the field work of the BLRP Montenegrin team

Based on the baseline survey conducted in 2013 (see Newsletter 02/2013), National Park

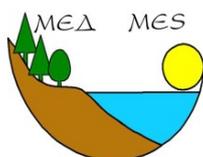
Prokletije and its surroundings is one of the most promising areas for finding lynx. NP Prokletije is situated in south-east Montenegro and lies in the border area with Albania and Kosovo. The last known lynx in MNE was killed in 2002 in the area of Prokletije which is a protected area since 2009.

From the end of December 2014 until middle of May 2015, the BLRP team has been setting up and checking 10 camera traps. All cameras were set up based on our suggestions and agreements with rangers of the NP, the forestry inspector responsible for Municipality Plav, Mr. Hakija Jasavić, and the director of NP Prokletije, Mr. Enes Drešković.

After a couple of camera-trapping controls, the results were interesting, but there was no indication of lynx presence.

Fox (35), wild boar (1), brown bear (1), badger (1), hare (16), wolf (1), otter (1), and roe deer (1) were registered on the camera traps. Beside this, 12 hunting dogs and 7 hunters were also registered. We therefore concluded that this area is not as promising as we hoped. This unfortunately was proven with the loss of two camera traps in the field.

In the late afternoon of 11 January 2015, we received several calls from hunters and locals who stated that they were seeing lynx on multiple occasions in the region Piva in north-west Montenegro. Based on this information, we visited this area but did not find any lynx or other animal tracks due to a severe snow storm during the previous night. Anyway, we decided to set up two camera traps there.



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Fig. 6: In the field with rangers.

In the vicinity of the locations used for setting these camera traps the BLRP team noted tracks of foxes (5), wolves (2), wild boar (1) and roe deer (1).

After checking the camera traps, we found out that hunters were pretty close in their identification of the lynx since there was an animal with a short tail. However, it was not a lynx. It was short tailed fox! After this discovery we decided to remove the camera traps.

When we got the great news from our colleagues in Kosovo that they got a photo shot of Balkan lynx on the border area with Montenegro (see article on page 1), we decided to set up the camera traps in the area close to the Kosovo border. Now, they are in the most promising locations (sedle Čakor, valleys Šekular & Kaludra, mt. Mokra) and we hope that we will have a successful session.

*Aleksandar Perović, CZIP &  
Marina Đurović, National parks of Montenegro*

## Update from the Field

### Camera trapping in Bjeshkët e Nemuna (Kosovo)

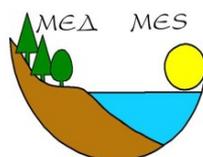
The Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme's local partner in Kosovo, Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group, has been camera trapping in Bjeshkët e Nemuna since August 2014. The main goal of the camera trapping survey has been to confirm the presence of the Balkan lynx in Kosovo. This result was successfully achieved in March 2015 with the first pictures of Balkan Lynx in Kosovo (see article on page 1).

While the main target has always been capturing a photo of the elusive lynx on the camera traps, the process of camera trapping has been a great opportunity to capture photos of other medium and large-sized mammals that are living in western Kosovo. These camera trap photos are some of the first hard facts in recent years on the mammals that are living in the mountains of Kosovo.



Fig. 7: Photo of three roe deer at the same location as the Balkan lynx on Fig. 1.

To date, ERA group has captured more than 160 photos ranging from wild cat to wolf to brown bear to chamois to wild boar to even the Balkan lynx, itself. With the highest num-



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ber of photos being of roe deer, wild boar, red fox and brown bear.

These photos have been captured by using only 5 camera traps in the field. The camera traps are spread over a 10 x 10 km grid. The camera traps have been used thus far to monitor three different areas/grids in Bjeshkët e Nemuna, including the Rugova Valley, over a period of less than a year. All areas that have been monitored are within the new National Park of Bjeshkët e Nemuna.

While the photos have been a great way to raise awareness on the mammals that are living in Bjeshkët e Nemuna, the local community has expressed a desire for more environmental education, awareness raising and conservation efforts to protect these species and their habitats.

*Ellen Frank-Lajqi, ERA group*

## Workshops in Mavrovo NP

### Improving collaboration with the park

During the camera-trapping session (see pages 2-3), 5 workshops took place with the employees of Mavrovo NP, the most important protected area for Balkan lynx conservation. The workshops featured: camera-trapping from A to Z; GIS and data base management; project application and implementation. All the trainings were part of the previously signed Conservation Action Plan drafted by BLRP and the Park at the end of 2013.

The two camera-trapping trainings were organized in order to further familiarize the game-wardens of the park with the method. We decided to give 2 workshops, one as the session commenced and one after it. The first

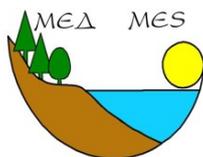
workshop took place on 26 March and the data set were the photos from the 2013 camera-trap session. The wardens had the task to compare and identify the lynx pictures, make their camera-trap calendar and prepare a capture history. After that we approached the statistical program MARK for density and population size estimates.

The second workshop of this kind happened on 3 June and this time the wardens dealt with the photos from this year's session. They renewed their knowledge of the method and came up with the first preliminary results.



Fig. 8: Mavrovo game wardens identifying lynx pictures.

The GIS-data management workshops aimed at training the park staff in systematic collection of field data and database management, working with GPS device, basic training in QGIS for viewing and interpretation of field records. The workshops were organised for seven staff members from the park that showed interest and/or had previous experience in GIS software and techniques. The agenda of the training consisted of a theoretical part, field demonstration and practice. The whole training was conducted using free software like: QGIS, Google Earth, Memento Database, and Orux Maps which are easily operational.



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We organized a one day workshop with the topic “From idea to successful project” at the info point of Mavrovo NP on 21 May. In total 4 representatives from the park took part in this workshop with the main goal to familiarize themselves how their idea can be transformed into a successful project and the opportunities in applying for the available funds. Irena Andreevska, MES collaborator and experienced facilitator who was in charge of this workshop, has prepared guidelines (in Macedonian) with practice examples on project application and implementation.

Trainings and capacity development activities are a crucial and inseparable part of conservation work.

*Dime Melovski & Gjorgje Ivanov, MES*

## Balkan lynx have youth ambassadors in Albania

### Education programme successfully started

In the framework of the BLRP, PPNEA designed and started to implement in May 2015 an educational programme with schools in the northern part of Albania. “Ambassadors of Balkan Lynx” is an educational programme, which was conducted according to the peer learning methodology of teaching, and was first organized in two pilot schools – in “Rreshen High school” and “Migjeni” Primary school in Puka.

The overall objective of this programme was to create a network of active young students in Puka-Mirdita region and to equip them with good knowledge of Balkan lynx in order to promote this further with their peers, with younger school children and to their families. Eventually, a closed group of twelve young students from the two selected schools was

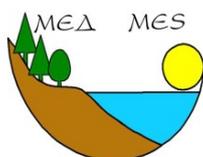
trained for two days on Balkan lynx characteristics, habitat and prey and of course human impact on it. The high school students had to complete six hours of training on the specifications, habitat, history and cultural history of Balkan lynx, a critically endangered subspecies. Furthermore, in order to be certified trainees the students had to provide the following facts about lynx:

- Size (height and weight), diet, hunting behavior, breeding behavior, necessary habitat. Trainees were also able to present a story, skit or poem about the lynx.
- Demonstrate the ability to teach about the lynx by educating younger students.

The trainings took place in their school environment, specifically in Rreshen High school and Puka Primary School. The programme content focused on learning by doing exercises, trust-building games and especially the identification exercise with pictures of lynx, which was considered of interest from the participants. They learnt how to identify one or more individuals of lynx from printed photos from our camera traps. Also, we demonstrated how to set the camera traps, their testing and in the end checking the pictures with a laptop afterwards. These last two exercises were especially appreciated by students and they enjoyed them a lot.



Fig. 9: The “Ambassadors of Balkan Lynx” in Albania.



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The composition of student participants was such that brought together a harmonic group of students with different talents e.g. good students in biology, good communication skills, talents on painting, creating songs or poems, handcraft, love for the environment. This kind of selection is done on purpose in order for the group to exchange good practices and work together continuously after the programme and to serve as “Ambassadors of Balkan Lynx” in their region and beyond.

On 22 May 2015, Biodiversity Day, an excursion was organized by the PPNEA team to the mountain Munella with the Ambassadors of Balkan Lynx from Rreshen, their teachers, PPNEA staff and local collaborators from Puka-Mirdita region. The students presented a role-play theater for their peers and performed outdoors their work based on the training they received from our educational team. In the end, a certification ceremony took place for Ambassadors of Balkan Lynx.

The two trained group of students from Rreshen and Puka city will follow up their role as Ambassadors of Balkan lynx by presenting the information to local schools in their region. We are planning to continue this “school tour” in autumn 2015 and we are very enthusiastic with the Ambassadors and their engagement and passion to look after their role in the community and in the region. These trainings resulted in a great potential for awareness raising and protection of the lynx and this is our overall goal – to instill passion for nature and species protection.

*Klaudja Koçi, PPNEA*

## Learning about Balkan lynx at school

### Educational kit lunch in 4 primary schools in Mavrovo NP

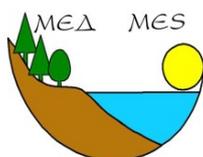
MES in collaboration with educational staff at four schools in Mavrovi Anovi, Rostushe, Trebishte and Velebrdo conducted educational activities about the Balkan lynx. Around 280 pupils ages 6 to 14 years old attended these courses. The aim was to expand and widen the general knowledge of this critically endangered animal.

The three different components of these trainings complemented one another in order to produce a clear picture of the Balkan lynx. They were packed into an educational kit and were implemented in two consecutive visits to each of the four visited schools in May 2015.



**Fig. 10: Third component of the education activities: field excursion with the BLRP team.**

During the first visit we organized age-adapted lectures (1st component of the kit) containing information on lynx ecology and biology. Several days later we facilitated exercises where pupils had to solve different tasks on the base of what they have learned during the lectures (2nd component). Each pupil received a folder with exercises. The third component involved a field excursion



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with the MES lynx team demonstrating interesting monitoring methods.

The results and the experience from the conducted activities demonstrated that the children not only recognize the lynx as highly endangered species, but also showed great interest for deepening their knowledge. They also felt much concern for the future survival of the Balkan lynx.

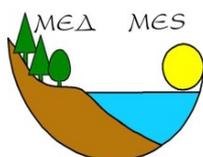
We will continue to spread the educational kit with the start of the new school year in September 2015. We plan to visit schools in other target areas of the Balkan lynx project such as: Ilinska-Plakenska, Jablanica and Mt. Shar Planina.

*Svetlana Pejovikj, MES*

## Infographic and video documentary

### Information about Balkan lynx and the BLRP

Exactly 10 years have passed since our first steps towards the conservation of one of the most endangered mammal taxa in the world – the Balkan lynx (see also page 12). In order to mark this anniversary, the BLRP decided to produce a short promotional documentary demonstrating the most important activities throughout the past 10 years. The film will also emphasize the great deal of help the team receives from the monitoring network – interested people in wildlife monitoring and conservation. Stunning and devastated landscapes in this film will try to capture both the amazing nature that the Balkans are still proud of and the awful transition most of the countries are going through. This threat is slowly but surely becoming the most relevant as the nature in the Balkans is shrinking at a fast pace.



The video documentary will be released in September 2015.



Fig. 11: Balkan lynx infographic.

The trend of presenting information using data visualization has largely increased with the boom of social networks. Infographics are now a powerful tool to quickly reach people's attention and to raise their awareness for an issue. The first Balkan lynx infographic has just been published: <http://visual.ly/balkan-lynx-big-cat-standing-little-chance>. It represents an online poster containing general information about the Balkan lynx and more detailed facts on radio-telemetry research. Moreover, it will be printed as a panel and placed in Skopje's zoo in front of the lynx cage.

*Dime Melovski, MES*

## PrespaNet strategy for the Prespa lakes

### BLRP team members attended strategy workshop in Laimos, Greece

On 3–4 February 2015, PrespaNet members PPNEA, SPP and MES met in Laimos, Greece, to discuss a Transboundary Conservation Strategy for Prespa. This meeting also brought together five other international organisations: EuroNatur, KORA, FZS (Frankfurt Zoological Society), Plantlife, and the



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SAVE Foundation. These NGOs have been active in the Balkan region for many years and have implemented a variety of projects. For this reason, PrespaNet members considered it important to invite these organisations to be part of the Transboundary Strategy for Prespa and to join forces in realising projects with relevance to the Prespa lakes and Park.

During the two-day workshop, the participants worked through the Strategy document step by step. In working groups they discussed the biodiversity of the Prespa lakes, the threatened status of the species living there, the transboundary strategy, the socio-economic situation and many other issues concerning the ecosystem of Prespa. As a result, the strategy document for the Prespa lakes will now be further elaborated by taking into consideration the results of the workshop.



**Fig. 12: Participants of the PrespaNet strategy workshop in Laimos, Greece.**

An important outcome of the meeting was the establishment of five working groups with members from each NGO who will work together to create strategies and action plans for Prespa's nature conservation. Among them is a "Wildlife monitoring" group with members from PrespaNet and the international NGOs KORA, EuroNatur and FZS. This group is part of the strategic planning and will work to establish a transboundary monitoring

system to gather data on large carnivores present in Prespa.

The Transboundary Strategy for Prespa is very important since the PrespaNet organisations PPNEA (Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania), SPP (Society for the Protection of Prespa) and MES (Macedonian Ecological Society) will refer to this document when planning future initiatives in Prespa.

*Klaudja Koçi, PPNEA*

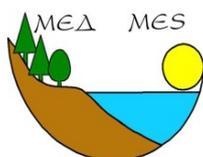
## Regional awareness raising on Balkan lynx

### BLRP at the Regional workshop of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Several BLRP team members were invited to the first regional workshop of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores on 22 April 2015 in Pravets, Bulgaria. The workshop was hosted and organized by platform member CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) as a side event to its annual general assembly.

The main goal of the workshop was to present examples on transboundary cooperation and/or conflict resolution regarding large carnivores. We had the chance to present the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme to an audience of around 120 participants, the majority hunting representatives. In addition, the Balkan lynx travelling exhibition and project leaflets were exposed in the lobby in front of the meeting room.

Other presentations were on brown bear and wolf in the Balkan and Carpathian regions. After each workshop session participants had



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the chance to discuss issues raised by the presentations and to express their own viewpoints. A summary of the discussions is provided in the workshop report (see below).



**Fig. 13: Presenting the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme at the EU Platform workshop in Pravets, Bulgaria.**

In the afternoon, participants split into three working groups to analyse the [Key Actions for Large Carnivore Populations in Europe](#). They were asked to rank the actions for each carnivore species in the regions. In the lynx working group, the actions “Law enforcement with respect to illegal killing” and “Institutional capacity-building in wildlife management agencies” were ranked highest for the Balkan region.

The workshop report and all presentations are available here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events\\_sub\\_workshop\\_bulgaria.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events_sub_workshop_bulgaria.htm)

*Manuela von Arx, KORA*

## 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the BLRP

### International Balkan Lynx Symposium will be held on 21-22 October

Two national workshops in Macedonia and Albania in April 2005 and the first regional workshop in Mavrovo in November 2005

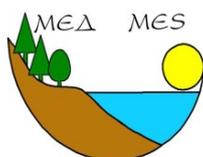
were the starting point of what developed into the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme. In order to celebrate this anniversary and to inform all relevant stakeholders on the current status of the project and to agree on future plans we will hold an International Balkan Lynx Symposium on 21-22 October 2015 in Dajti National Park, Albania. We particularly invite national authorities from the Balkan lynx range countries to participate.

We will have representatives from relevant European organisations like the Bern Convention, the IUCN Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe and potentially also from the European Commission giving key note presentations.

We are looking forward to this very important event!

*Manuela von Arx, KORA*

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