



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

No. 27 Prot.

Tirana, on 15.09.2017

To: **Ms. Iva OBRETENOVA**
Secretary of the Bern Convention,
Democratic Governance Directorate,
Directorate General for Democracy, Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the Council of Europe
2 rue Waldteufel,
67000 Strasbourg

Subject: Proposal for listing of Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus*) in Appendix II of the Bern Convention

Dear Ms. Obretenova,

First of all, on behalf of the Albanian Ministry of the Environment, I would like to thank You personally and the Bern Convention for your valuable contribution and support provided to our Ministry.

I am hereby presenting to the Bern Convention Secretariat the proposal for the listing of the Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus*) in the Appendix II of the Bern Convention.

The study initially was carried out and completed in 2016 by PPNEA "Protection and preservation of the Natural Environment of Albania", a specialized association in cooperation with the Macedonian Ecological Society and under the auspices of the Balkan Lynx Recovery programme.

Furthermore the justification paper was drafted in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of Albania.

Please note that Albania as a State Party to the Bern Convention fully supports the proposal as it will serve for a better preservation of this flagship (sub)species for the Balkans Region.

Please find attached for your consideration at the nearest Bureau meeting and placement in the Standing Committee agenda for approval, as appropriate the following documents:

- Justification paper for the listing of Balkan lynx (*Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus*) in the Appendix II of the Bern Convention;
- Summary of findings from the Balkan Lynx Recovery programme (PPNEA, June 2016);
- Document T-PVS/Inf (2015) 28 of the 35th SC meeting on the International Balkan Lynx Symposium (Report of the symposium), that was held in Dajti National park in Tirana, on 21-22 October 2015, prepared by KORA experts.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my highest considerations for the Bern Convention Secretariat and you personally.

Sincerely,

Pellumb ABESHI

GENERAL DIRECTOR

