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**Standing Committee**

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**International Balkan Lynx Symposium**

Dajti National Park, Albania  
21-22 October 2015

**- REPORT OF THE SYMPOSIUM -**

*Document prepared by  
Ms Manuela von Arx and Mr Urs Breitenmoser, KORA*

**STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BALKAN LYNX – 10 YEARS  
BALKAN LYNX RECOVERY PROGRAMME AND BEYOND**

**Report of the International Balkan Lynx Symposium**

21-22 October 2015, Dajti National Park, Albania

*Document prepared by Manuela von Arx and Urs Breitenmoser, KORA*

**INTRODUCTION**

The critical status of the Balkan lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus syn. martionoi*) has been known since the 1990s but taking action was difficult due to the political situation in its range countries at that time. In order to launch a recovery programme, preparatory workshops were held in 2005 in Albania and “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (T-PVS/Inf (2005) 20). Subsequently, the “Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (BLRP)” was founded in 2006 and has since then been jointly implemented by EuroNatur Foundation, KORA (Carnivore Ecology and Wildlife Management), MES (Macedonian Ecological Society), and PPNEA (Society for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania). In 2013, the BLRP expanded its activities to Kosovo\* in co-operation with NGOs Finch and ERA (Environmentally Responsible Action group) and to Montenegro in co-operation with CZIP (Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro). Since its beginning, the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme has been financially supported by MAVA Foundation, Switzerland.

In the light of the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme, an International Symposium was organised on 21-22 October 2015 in Dajti National Park, Albania. The purpose of the Symposium was to bring together experts from Albania, Montenegro, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Kosovo\* and Greece in order to inform on the current status of the Balkan lynx and the BLRP, to assess the implementation of the strategy for the conservation and recovery of the critically endangered Balkan lynx (published as T-PVS/Inf (2008) 20, T-PVS/Inf (2011) 33, and T-PVS/Inf (2011) 34, and endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention) and to agree on future conservation actions.

The Symposium was attended by 74 participants (see Annex I). The programme (Annex II) was divided into four sessions. A summary of the content and discussions of each session is given hereafter:

**1. WHERE WE ARE – STATUS OF THE BALKAN LYNX AND THE BALKAN LYNX RECOVERY PROGRAMME (21 OCTOBER 2015, MORNING)**

The approach of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme has always been to combine species and landscape conservation while taking into consideration the human dimensions. The main objectives in the Protected Area Component were to support the establishment of protected areas along the European Green Belt, to improve site protection and habitat recovery, and to implement model projects for local sustainable development. The main objectives in the Lynx Component were to generate baseline knowledge, to establish the monitoring of lynx and prey, and to promote sustainable hunting and adequate wildlife management. Capacity development, communication, outreach, and public awareness raising were umbrella objectives spanning the BLRP.

In order to generate baseline knowledge on lynx, other carnivores and prey species, baseline surveys inquiring local people were conducted in all four range countries. In areas with the greatest potential of lynx presence according to this local knowledge, camera-trapping surveys have subsequently been carried out. The lynx situation in the four countries currently looks as follows:

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“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”): The Balkan lynx occurs in western Macedonia centred at Mavrovo National Park and its surroundings. This is actually the only area with a decent population of lynx in the entire range where reproduction has repeatedly been observed. It is therefore the stronghold of the Balkan lynx and the only source population. Four deterministic camera-trapping surveys have been carried out since 2008. While 6 independent lynx with a density of 0.8 lynx/100 km<sup>2</sup> were estimated in Mavrovo NP and surroundings in 2010, this number increased to 10 independent lynx and 2.02 lynx/100 km<sup>2</sup> in 2015. Lynx was occasionally pictured in Jasen PA, Jablanica and Pelister NP, however the presence of resident lynx in these areas was not confirmed. It has become clear that without the population in the Mavrovo National Park, the Balkan lynx is doomed. Therefore, there is concern about recent development plans within the park, e.g. the construction of hydropower plants. Representatives of A.D ELEM – Macedonian Power Plants were present at the Symposium and expressed their will to contribute to the conservation of Balkan lynx.

Albania: Despite several camera-trap surveys in northern and eastern Albania, it took much longer to find the first evidence of lynx presence in the country. It was only in 2011 when a lynx was pictured in the Puka-Mirdita region. Since then, a small nucleus of at least 4 lynx individuals was confirmed by means of camera-traps in the Munella Mountains, Puka-Mirdita region. The reproductive status of this nucleus remains yet unclear as the only juvenile lynx observed so far concerns an individual found dead in March 2015. Nevertheless, the population nucleus in the Munella is of outermost importance for the survival of the Balkan lynx as it is the only area outside of Mavrovo National Park where a resident group of Balkan lynx persists. Despite its considerable biodiversity, Munella is an area presently heavily exploited by human activities. There is an urgent need to give Munella some status of protection in order to preserve the lynx. Besides Munella, one lynx was pictured in the Shebenik National Park in 2012 and one in the Albanian Alps in 2014 but no further evidence exists from these regions.

Montenegro: The most promising areas for lynx presence in Montenegro are the Prokletije and Durmitor regions. The last hard fact of lynx presence dates back to 2002 when a lynx was killed in the area of Treskavac, Prokletije. The camera-traps have so far not resulted in any lynx picture. A lot of awareness raising activities have been conducted (newspaper articles and TV presence). Nevertheless, the lynx is not a legally protected species by the Hunting Law adopted in autumn 2015 and is not recognised on the National List of endangered and rare species. Participants of the Symposium found the Montenegrin Government should reconsider this decision, particularly also as a lynx was pictured a few month ago just across the border in Kosovo\* (see below). This lynx might easily roam within the boundaries of Montenegro.

Kosovo<sup>†</sup>: The activities of the BLRP concentrate on western and southern Kosovo\*. While in Sharri National Park bordering to “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” no evidence of lynx presence was found so far, the partners in western Kosovo managed to get three pictures of a lynx in the Rugova gorge, Bjeshkët e Nemuna, in March 2015. Whether this concerns a resident or just dispersing individual is not yet clear and requires further investigations.

The conservation status of the Balkan lynx was assessed according to the IUCN Red List criteria using the Species Information Service (SIS) toolkit. With a total population size of only 19-36 mature individuals, *Lynx lynx balcanicus* is Critically Endangered – CR (D). In all range countries illegal killing of lynx and prey species, decreasing prey populations due to unsustainable wildlife management and habitat degradation and fragmentation were identified the most relevant threats to the Balkan lynx.

Genetic analyses comparing Balkan lynx with neighbouring lynx populations clearly demonstrate its genetic distinctiveness from other European lynx populations including the Carpathian lynx which is the closest population. The genetic difference to the Carpathian lynx is most likely a result of a different post-

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glacial radiation. *Lynx lynx balcanicus* was assessed to be a valid subspecies of the Eurasian lynx by the IUCN Cat Classification Task Force (A. Kitchener et al., in preparation) and will be integrated into the IUCN Red List as a Critically Endangered subspecies in its next update (probably in November 2015).

## **2. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK (21 OCTOBER 2015, AFTERNOON)**

Due to the transboundary range and conservation status of the Balkan lynx, the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) is of particular relevance, given the Convention's aims of conserving (sub)species which are endangered and require the cooperation of several countries for their conservation. Albania, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Montenegro and Greece are contracting parties to the Bern Convention and have therefore a legal obligation to take the measures required to bring the Balkan lynx back to a viable level. Since 1988 the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention has adopted 17 Recommendations on large carnivores, of which several are relevant to the Balkan lynx (No. 20 (1991), 74 (1999), 82 (2000), 115 (2005), 137 (2008), and, in particular, 162 (2012)). Significantly, the Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Balkan lynx in Albania and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as well as the Action Plans for the lynx in these two countries have been endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (see Introduction). The Convention continues to be the pre-eminent forum for international cooperation regarding the Balkan lynx, providing an appropriate overarching framework for the elaboration and implementation of further measures by the various (current and potential) range states.

Given that *Lynx lynx balcanicus* is recognized as a separate subspecies of *Lynx lynx* with Critically Endangered IUCN Red List status, participants of the Symposium discussed the merits of explicitly including *Lynx lynx balcanicus* as a subspecies in Appendix II of the Bern Convention. There is precedent for this, as the appendices to the Convention already list various taxa at the subspecies level. Clearly, Appendix II status would be much more compatible with the precarious conservation status of *Lynx lynx balcanicus* than the Appendix III status which currently applies to all *Lynx lynx*.

The Balkan lynx range countries are all in processes for EU accession. This requires adaptation to the EU legislation of which the Habitats Directive with the Natura 2000 network is the most relevant for the lynx and other large carnivores. Lynx is on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. It's a complex document and key concepts remain poorly defined. However, there is guidance, e.g. the Guidelines for the Population Management of Large Carnivores, developed by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), an IUCN Specialist Group. Large carnivore conservation requires careful and proactive planning using pragmatic approaches, the participation of stakeholders and cross-border coordination. It needs to be integrated into wider land-use planning and sustainability issues. A clear political will and thus the active engagement from governments is a prerequisite.

Croatia was presented as an example of a country which recently entered the EU and what this meant for the management of large carnivores, particularly brown bear. In Croatia, hunting of brown bears used to be a key management tool for its acceptance. Therefore, the country wanted bears to be included as game species in the Habitats Directive, which was not allowed by the European Commission. However, derogations under Article 16 are given, which allow the removal of a number of bears each year. Public acceptance for bears is thus still high. There are four management bodies: (1) National large carnivore committee (provides expertise to relevant Ministries), (2) Brown bear management committee (produced the Croatian bear management plan and yearly Action plans (including quotas)), (3) Brown bear emergency team, and (4) Carnivore damage inspectors. Croatia has management plans for all three large carnivore species. Since 2005, Slovenia and Croatia are cooperating to save the Dinaric lynx population whose number has decreased strongly. The cooperation started with common projects. A joint rescue, monitoring and management plan is now proposed.

### **3. MANAGING THE RECOVERY OF THE BALKAN LYNX (22 OCTOBER 2015, MORNING)**

For its survival and recovery, lynx needs extended good habitat, sufficient prey and protection from poaching.

In the frame of the BLRP, a habitat model was developed to map the potential Balkan lynx distribution and to outline the area of recovery. Suitable habitats, fragmentation and connectivity of distinct patches with the source population in the Mavrovo National Park were identified to predict the re-colonisation process. There are 20 distinct patches with suitable habitats with a total surface of 42'420 km<sup>2</sup>, which is only 17% of the study area. They could nevertheless hold a total of 275 resident (= mature) lynx. Out of the 20 patches, 3 patches are so large that they could hold 80% of the future recovered population. The smaller patches and corridors would allow connection of the distinct patches for the recovery process.

The core area of Balkan lynx, Mavrovo National Park, was presented to the audience. The importance of the Park for both the persistence of the Balkan lynx until now and for its future survival was acknowledged as well as the good cooperation with the BLRP, which the Park is willing to intensify. The Park's ranger system and the training of rangers were of interest to the participants.

The status of lynx prey and other wildlife species has particularly been of concern in Albania. Due to the delicate status of wildlife, the Albanian government decided a moratorium on hunting in 2014 to allow the game species to recover and to revise the hunting legislation. Improvements will be made by defining hunting areas, limiting hunting seasons and defining a set of sanctions and penalties for law breaking. Hunting shall no longer be allowed in protected areas of all IUCN categories. The Bern Convention and its European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity were taken into consideration when deciding on hunting methods. According to the government, wildlife populations have started to increase since the implementation of the moratorium.

The BLRP will continue its efforts towards the establishment of a network of Protected Areas. The aims are to preserve high-quality habitat in Protected Areas to secure breeding populations as source pools, to preserve dispersal corridors between areas of suitable habitats to allow gene flow and range expansion, and to preserve smaller patches of medium-quality habitat as stepping stones. In "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", the last National Park was established in 1963 and the establishment of Protected Areas is completely blocked for a while. The BLRP has therefore also started to strengthen the cooperation with private hunting grounds. In all range countries, the support to sustainable local development will be continued.

The Balkan lynx occurs in areas with human presence and they share the same environments which serve as livelihoods for local people. Talking to these people reveals that the lynx is mostly an unknown species but luckily it is not regarded as source of conflict and the support for its conservation is high. Because of the still traditional way of living in rural Albania where small livestock is guarded by shepherds and livestock guarding dogs, the conflict with large carnivores seems very low to non-existent. However, this traditional knowledge is getting lost as more and more people are abandoning the rural areas. These socio-economic changes could influence the coexistence between people and large carnivores in the future, but it might also offer new opportunities for nature conservation.

### **4. WHAT WE AIM FOR – A SPATIALLY EXPLICIT CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE BALKAN LYNX (22 OCTOBER 2015, AFTERNOON)**

The spatially explicit model for the Balkan lynx recovery (see above), allows setting concrete goals for the recovery of Balkan lynx in several steps reflecting its down-listing according to the IUCN Red List categories. To maintain the current status, the population in the core area (Mavrovo NP and surroundings) has to be stabilised. In order to down-list it to Endangered, the population has to be enlarged to immediately adjacent suitable regions and Protected Areas. In a second recovery phase (down-listing to Vulnerable) the population should expand to other suitable regions and PAs. The status of Near Threatened (>1000 mature individuals) is only possible when the lynx regains considerable areas of its

historical range. Mavrovo (MK) and Munella (AL) are the only areas with reproduction and are therefore considered as core areas. Other areas in Montenegro, Kosovo\* and Greece need to be prepared for re-colonisation (dispersers become residents). The next steps are to secure the survival of the population in the core areas, and to establish a monitoring for lynx and prey species in the whole recovery area. A strategic plan for the recovery at local, national and regional level has to be developed. This however requires the buy-in and commitment from the governments and the state institutions. State institutions, conservation NGOs, and scientists play different roles in a conservation project, but must work together to reach these goals. How can we strengthen and organise the cross-sectoral cooperation?

This question was discussed in the plenum. As a matter of fact, the response of the governments and governmental agencies to the Symposium was disappointing. Only the Ministries of Environment of Albania and of Kosovo\* were represented by one delegate. The Albanian Ministry of Environment expressed their will to contribute to the recovery of the Balkan lynx. Participants concluded that the support of the Council of Europe and the European Commission might be needed to facilitate the involvement of the governments of all range countries to bring the Balkan lynx back from the brink of extinction.

### CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

The Balkan lynx with an estimated 19-36 mature individuals is Critically Endangered according to IUCN Red List standards and its status is therefore most alarming. Its genetic distinctiveness from the Carpathian lynx (*L. l. carpathicus*) implies that the Balkan lynx must be conserved as an own Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU), and the desirability of up-listing *Lynx lynx balcanicus* in the Appendices of the Bern Convention has been raised by the participants of the Symposium.

The efforts of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme over the past years have helped to stabilise the core population. Indeed, the Mavrovo core population has recently shown an increasing tendency. Nevertheless, this situation must not be allowed to last. On the one hand, each additional threat could push the Balkan lynx over the edge of extinction, and on the other hand, the longer the population remains in the present bottleneck situation, the higher the risk of loss of genetic diversity through genetic drift. It is therefore important to immediately convert the stabilisation into expansion.

The Regional Strategy for the conservation of the Balkan lynx from 2008 included only the two present range countries and based on then still limited information. With our advanced understanding, a new Recovery Strategy needs now to be developed in a participatory process integrating all relevant stakeholders, taking into consideration the findings of the past years work and integrating other range countries like Montenegro, Kosovo\* and Greece. The Bern Convention clearly provides the appropriate overarching framework to guide this transboundary effort. We would be grateful for the support of the Bern Convention for this endeavour.

Such a new Recovery Strategy including all five potential range countries will then have to be implemented in each country by means of National Action Plans. These APs will have to take into consideration the present status, but also the particular needs and organisational structures of the respective country. However, the implementation of the APs and the funding of the entire recovery programme will be much more likely if they are based on a common understanding, strategic goals and sensible co-operation.

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## Annex I: List of participants

### Albania:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
Abazi Ledi	Albaglobal (Translator)
Bego Ferdinand	University of Tirana, Department of Biology
Bica Danjel	Shoqata Ekspertet e Rinje Mjedisor (SHERM), Chairman
Bohne Catherine	Journey to Valbona & Valbona Tourism Association
Brazhda Fatmir	Regional Administration of Protected Area, Director
Buhaljoti Elkonis	PPNEA
Bylyku Elda	Albaglobal (Translator)
Dedej Zamir	National Agency of Protected Areas, Director General
Furler Andrea Irina	Veterinarian
Ghirurghi Andrea	IUCN, Consultant
Halimi Ermal	Ministry of Environment, Expert of Fauna
Hoxha Bledi	PPNEA
Imeraj Petrit	“Preservation of Forests and Green Environment” (PFGE)
Kadilli Genci	Albanian Society for Protection of Birds & Mammals
Koçi Klaudja	PPNEA
Koçi Spartak	PPNEA
Lleshi Roland	PPNEA
Mersini Kujtim	PPNEA
Qosja Bekim	Administrata e Zonave te Mbrojtura, QarkuDiber, Drejtor
Scott Bonnie	PPNEA, Volunteer
Selimaj Alfred	Journey to Valbona & Valbona Tourism Association
Selmani Durim	AZKM Tirane
Starja Kliti	National Environment Agency, Director of Forestry
Shkurti Elisabeta	PPNEA
Shumka Spase	PPNEA
Shyti Ilir	Forest Engineer, Puka Region
Toni Pjeter	Drejtor AdZM te Qarkut Lezhe
Trajçe Aleksander	PPNEA
Tusha Xhovalin	Policeman, Police Inspectorate in Mirdita region
Tusha Vesel	Specialist of Protected Area
Vardhami Edit	Ministry of Environment, Expert of Biodiversity
Xherri Xhemal	PPNEA, Volunteer

**“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
Arsov Antonio	A.D ELEM - Macedonian Power Plants
Avukatov Vasko	MES
Cvetanovski Pece	National Park Pelister, Chef of Department
Ejupi Ikmet	National Park Mavrovo, Department of ecology
Hristovski Slavco	MES
Ivanov Gjorge	MES
Janakievska Gordana	JP JASEN & travel consultant
Janevski Robert	Ministry of Interior, Forensic Department, Head of biological investigations Unit
Josifov Vladimir	Hunting Federation of Macedonia
Jovanovich Sasha	Hunting Federation of Macedonia, member of the expert council of the Federation
Jovanovska Vera	(Translator)
Kovachevik Goran	A.D ELEM - Macedonian Power Plants
Malahov Michail	JASEN, Director
Melovski Dime	MES
Mihailova Elena	(Translator)
Milosevski Jordanco	ZOO Garden Skopje, Director
Simonoski Ugrin	National Park Mavrovo, Ranger
Sterjovski Iljo	National Park Pelister, Ranger - Responsible for division
Stojanov Aleksandar	MES
Trpkoski Goce	Journalist, Nova Makedonija

**Kosovo\* :**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
Arifi Myzafer	NGO Finch
Bajraktari Fadil	Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection
Dana Hazer	National Park “Sharr”, Director
Elezi Rafet	Finch
Frank Ellen	ERA
Grapci-Kotori Linda	University Haxhi Zeka, Peja, Professor of Ecology, Vice Rector for International Cooperation
Jenuzi Salim	Mayor of Dragash
Lajci Fatos	ERA
Ramadani Azem	Finch
Ramadani Nexhmedin	Finch

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Sanaja Bardh ERA

**Montenegro:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
Bolević Tino	Hunting organization "Ivangrad"-Berane, forestry inspector
Stojović Igor	CZIP
Perović Aleksandar	CZIP

**Greece:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
Giannakis Nikos	Prespa National Park Management Body
Kominos Theodoros	CALLISTO
Koutseri Irene	SPP, Conservation Co-ordinator
Malakou Myrsini	SPP, Director
Psaroudas Spyros	CALLISTO, Director

**International:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Organisation</b>
von Arx Manuela	KORA, Switzerland
Breitenmoser Urs	KORA, Switzerland
Geertz Thies	EuroNatur, Germany
Huber Djuro	Croatia
Linnell, John	NINA, Norway
Pokrajac Sonja	IUCN ECARO, Belgrade
Schwaderer Gabriel	EuroNatur, Germany
Trouwborst Arie	Tilburg Law School, Department of European and International Law, The Netherlands, on behalf of the Council of Europe

## Annex II: Programme of the Symposium

### 1. Wednesday, 21 October 2015, Morning:

#### *Where we are – status of the Balkan lynx and the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme*

09:30h Welcome (National and regional authorities)

10:00-11:00h Presentations (15 minutes + 5 minutes questions)

- 1.1. Introduction: 10 years of Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (Gabriel Schwaderer, EuroNatur & Manuela von Arx, KORA)
- 1.2. Status of the Balkan lynx in the range countries
  - 1.2.1. Macedonia (Aleksandar Stojanov, MES)
  - 1.2.2. Albania (Bledi Hoxha, PPNEA)

11:00-11:30h Coffee break

11:30-13:30h Presentations (15 minutes + 5 minutes questions)

- 1.2.3. Montenegro (Aleksandar Perovic, CZIP)
- 1.2.4. Kosovo (Ellen Frank, Bardh Sanaja, ERA & Azem Ramadani, Finch)
- 1.3. Status of the Balkan lynx: IUCN Red List Assessment (Dime Melovski, MES)
- 1.4. Is the Balkan lynx a subspecies? Insights from genetics (Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten & Urs Breitenmoser, KORA)
- 1.5. *Facilitated discussion:* What are the main achievements and drawbacks? Where are gaps?

13:30-14:30h Lunch

### 2. Wednesday, 21 October 2015, Afternoon:

#### *International framework*

14:30-16:00h Presentations (30 minutes + 10 minutes questions)

- 2.1. The protection and management of large carnivores under the Bern Convention (Arie Trouwborst, Tilburg Law School, The Netherlands – on behalf of the Council of Europe)
- 2.2. EU activities on large carnivores and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (John Linnell, NINA, Norway)

16:00-16:30h Coffee break

16:30-18:30h Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes questions)

- 2.3. Croatia's large carnivores entering the EU and transboundary cooperation to save the Dinaric lynx population (Djuro Huber, Croatia)
- 2.4. IUCN ECARO's engagement in the Balkan lynx range (Sanja Pokrajac, IUCN)
- 2.5. *Facilitated discussion:* How do the Balkan lynx range countries integrate into this framework?

20:00h Dinner

### **3. Thursday, 22 October 2015, Morning:**

#### ***Managing the recovery of the Balkan lynx***

*09:30-11:00h Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes questions)*

- 3.1. Spatial concept for the recovery of the Balkan lynx (Gjorge Ivanov, MES)
- 3.2. Importance of the Mavrovo core population and the role of Mavrovo NP in the conservation of the Balkan lynx (Ikmet Ejupi, Mavrovo NP)
- 3.3. Lynx need prey: Revision of the hunting legislation and system in Albania (Ermal Halimi, Ministry of Environment)

*11:00-11:30h Coffee break*

*11:30-13:00h Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes questions)*

- 3.4. Developing a protected area network for the recovery of the Balkan lynx – strategies of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (Thies Geertz, EuroNatur)
- 3.5. Living among people: the role of social sciences in the preservation of Balkan lynx (Aleksandër Trajçe, PPNEA)
- 3.6. *Facilitated discussion:* How are the conditions for the recovery of the Balkan lynx?

*13:30-14:30h Lunch*

### **4. Thursday, 22 October 2015, Afternoon:**

#### ***What we aim for – a spatially explicit conservation strategy for the Balkan lynx***

*14:30-15:30h Presentation (20 minutes + 10 minutes questions) & workshop*

- 4.1. Turning back the wheel: Recovery of the Balkan lynx in space and time according to the IUCN Red List approach (Urs Breitenmoser, IUCN Cat SG / KORA)
- 4.2. *Facilitated workshop:* From a Balkan Lynx Strategy to National Action Plans?

*15:30-16:00h Coffee break*

*Facilitated workshop continuation:* From a Balkan Lynx Strategy to National Action Plans?

*17:00h End of symposium*