



Development of Balkan Lynx Conservation Strategy

Dime Melovski

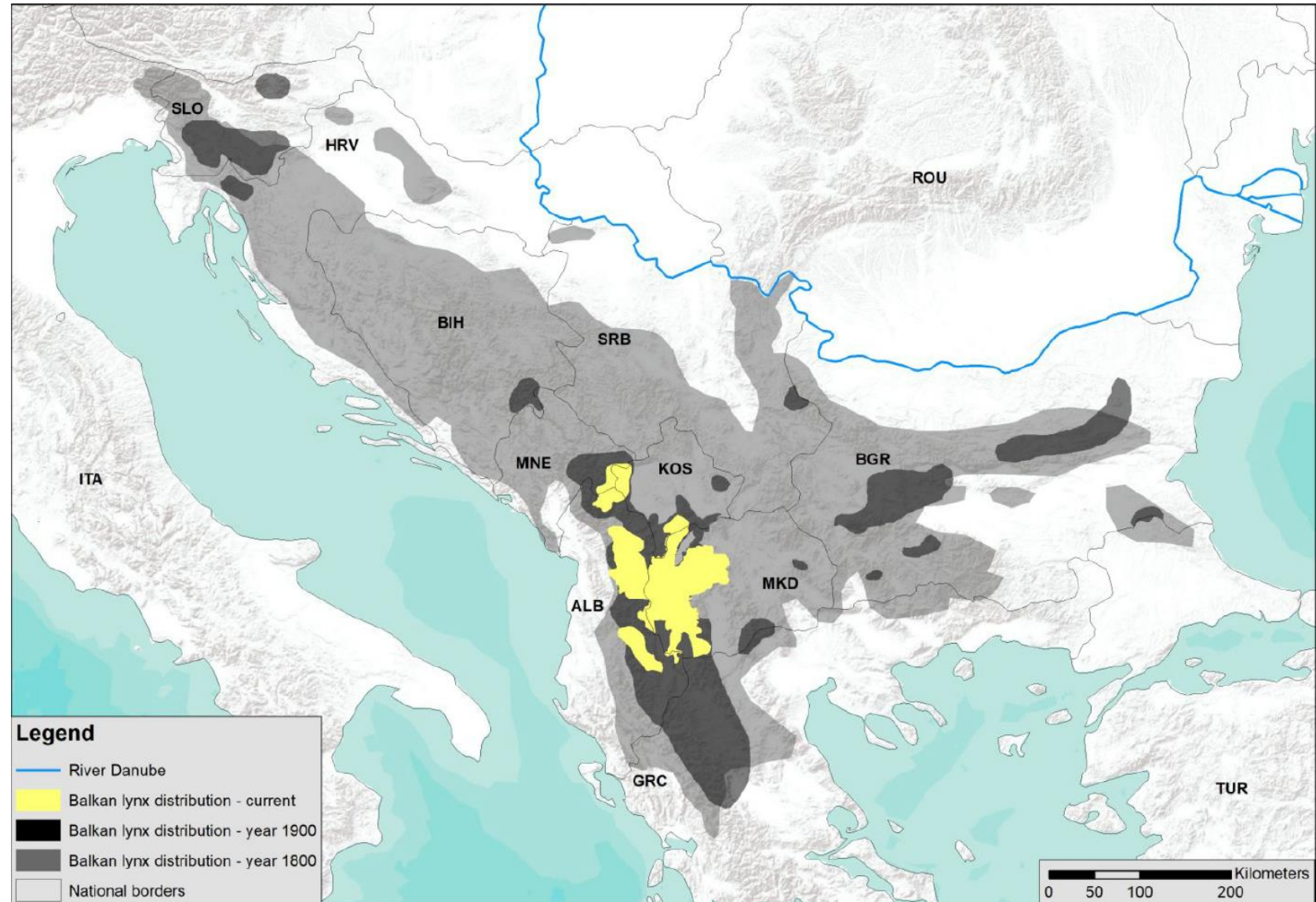
Transnational exchange platform for the management of large
carnivores
in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region

6th Meeting
19-22 May 2025, Ioannina, Greece





- The most **endangered** subspecies of Eurasian lynx
- Massive range contraction
- 20-39 individuals (2015)
- One of the **oldest extant lineages** of the Eurasian lynx
- Evolutionarily significant unit



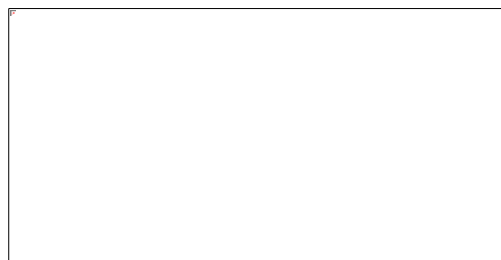


Balkan lynx Recovery Programme (2006-present)

Phase 2.0 (2023-2027)



euRONATUR





Balkan Lynx

Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus

ABSTRACT

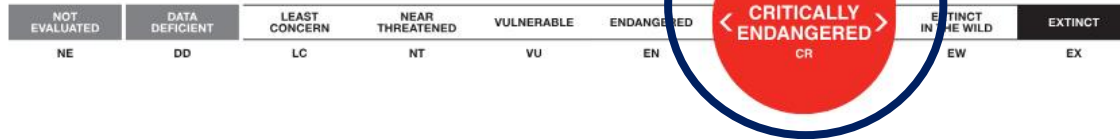
Balkan Lynx *Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus* has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2015. *Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus* is listed as Critically Endangered under criteria D.

Download Text Overview

[Errata version](#)

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Melovski, D., Breitenmoser, U., von Arx, M., Breitenmoser-Würsten, C. & Lanz, T. 2015. *Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus* (errata v...



LAST ASSESSED
08 January 2015

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT
Global

[Assessment in detail](#)

POPULATION TREND

Stable

NUMBER OF MATURE INDIVIDUALS

20-39

[Population in detail](#)

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE



Distribution data is not mapped for this species.



Preliminary Red List Assessment 2015-2024

Red List Assessment

Assess the taxon using the information and data recorded and following the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: version 3.1*, and current version of the *Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* for guidance on applying the IUCN criteria.

Assessment Information

Assessment Date:

DD	MM	YYYY
05	11	2024

Assessors' Names:	Given Name(s)	Family Name	Email Address	Institution
	Dime	Melovski	melovskid@mes.org.mk	Macedonian Ecological Society
	Bledi	Hoxha	b.hoxha@ppnea.org	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
	Fatos	Laici	fatoslajqi@gmail.com	ERA Group

Review Date:

DD	MM	YYYY

Reviewers' Names:	Given Name(s)	Family Name	Email Address	Institution
	Urs	Breitenmoser	u.breitenmoser@kora.ch	IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group
	Jakub	Kubala	kubala.zooojnice@gmail.com	



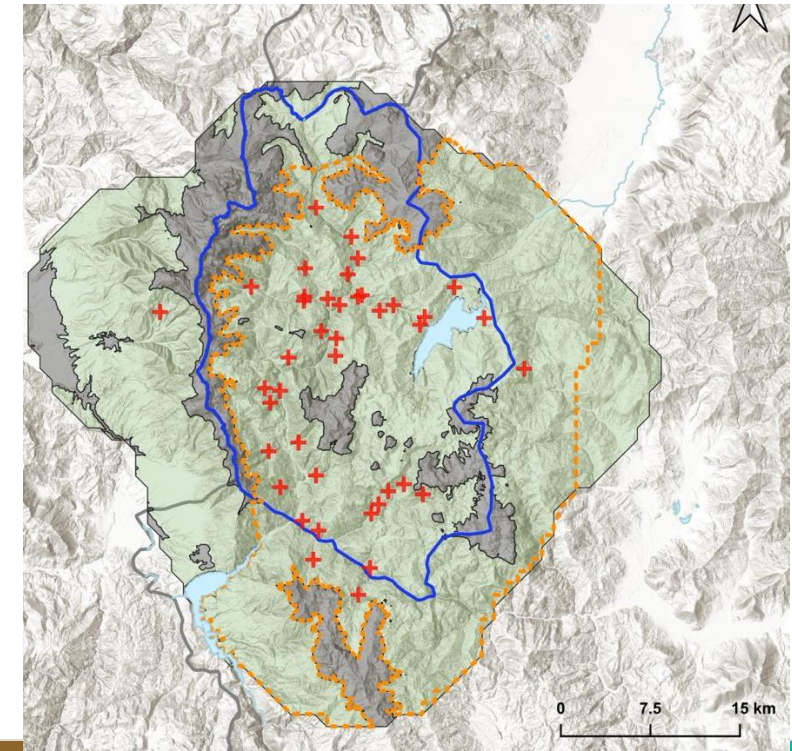
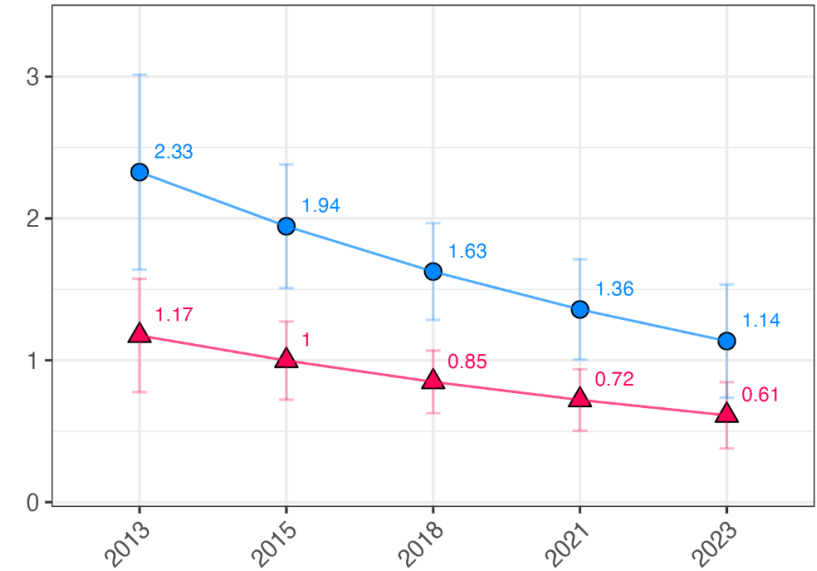
NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX





Population – 35-46

- A density of 1.26 ind/100km² in 2023 was used to calculate the population within the 1012 km² study area, which includes the national park and its immediate surroundings (Melovski, Moreno et al., in prep).
- This estimate was supplemented with data on known lynx individuals: 14 known mature lynx for North Macedonia, 7 for Albania and 2 for Kosovo.



Global Ecology and Conservation

Volume 60, August 2025, e03615



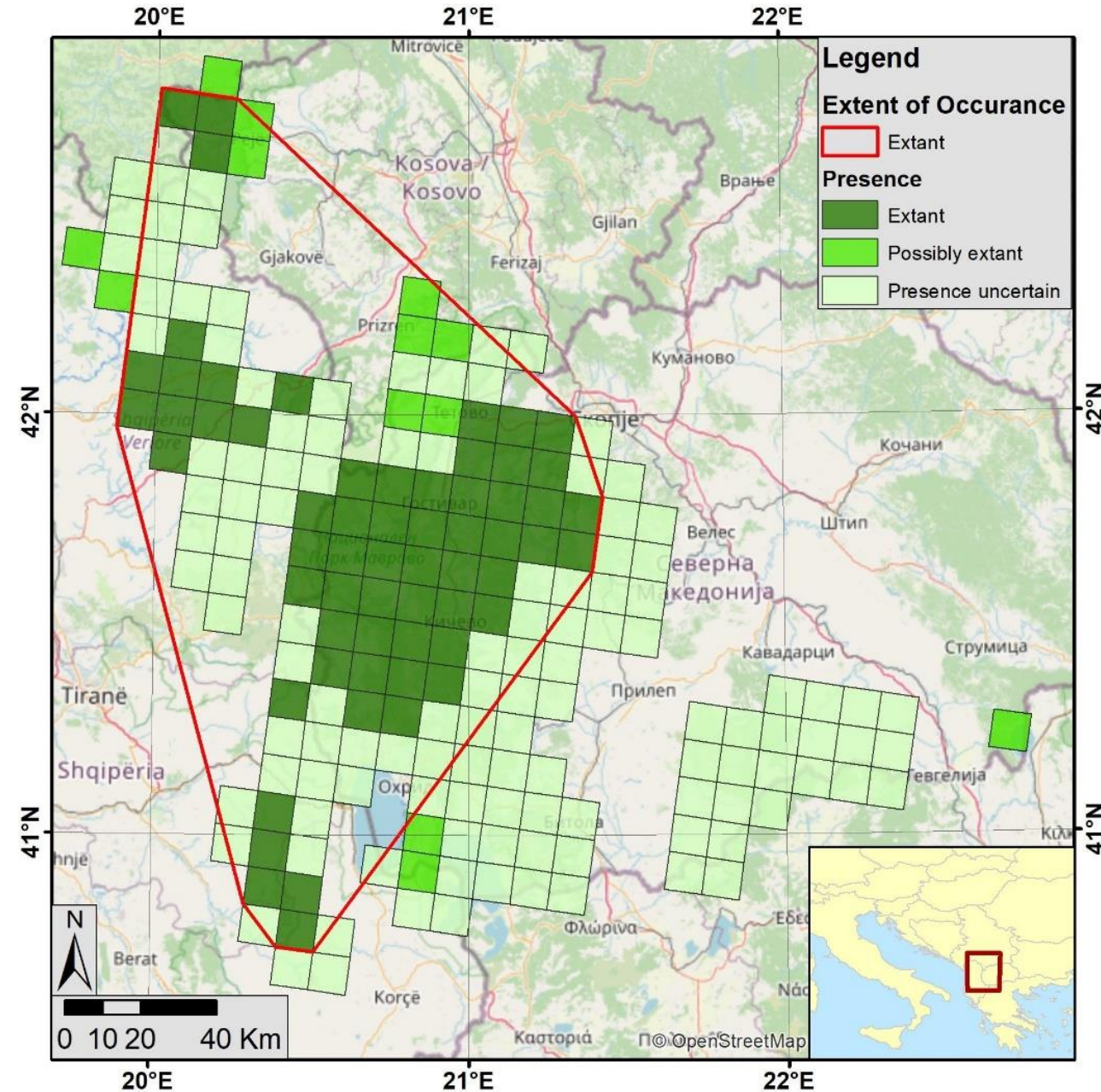
Original research article

A decade of monitoring the critically endangered Balkan lynx in its core area: Insights from spatial capture recapture models

Dime Melovski ^{a,1}, Inès Moreno ^{b,1} ✉, Aleksandar Stojanov ^a, Aleksandar Pavlov ^a,
Andrej Gonev ^a, Vasko Avukatov ^a, Yon Halotel-Diez ^c, Gjorge Ivanov ^d, Fridolin Zimmermann ^{b,e}

Distribution – geographic range

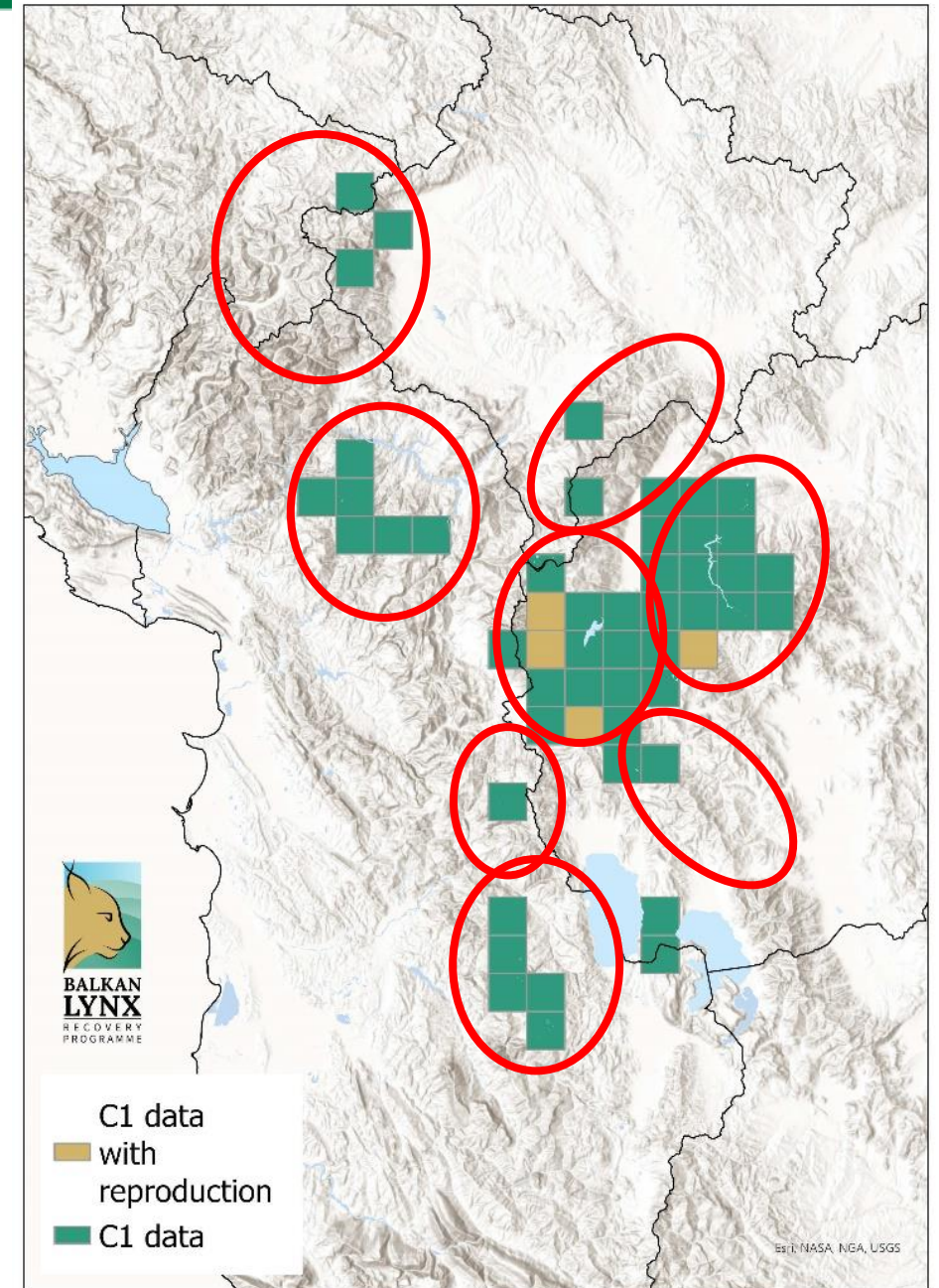
- LCIE guided distribution maps
- 6200 km² – C1 and C2 from 2015 to 2024
- Telemetry data from 12 lynx
- 17438 km² - MCP of AOO





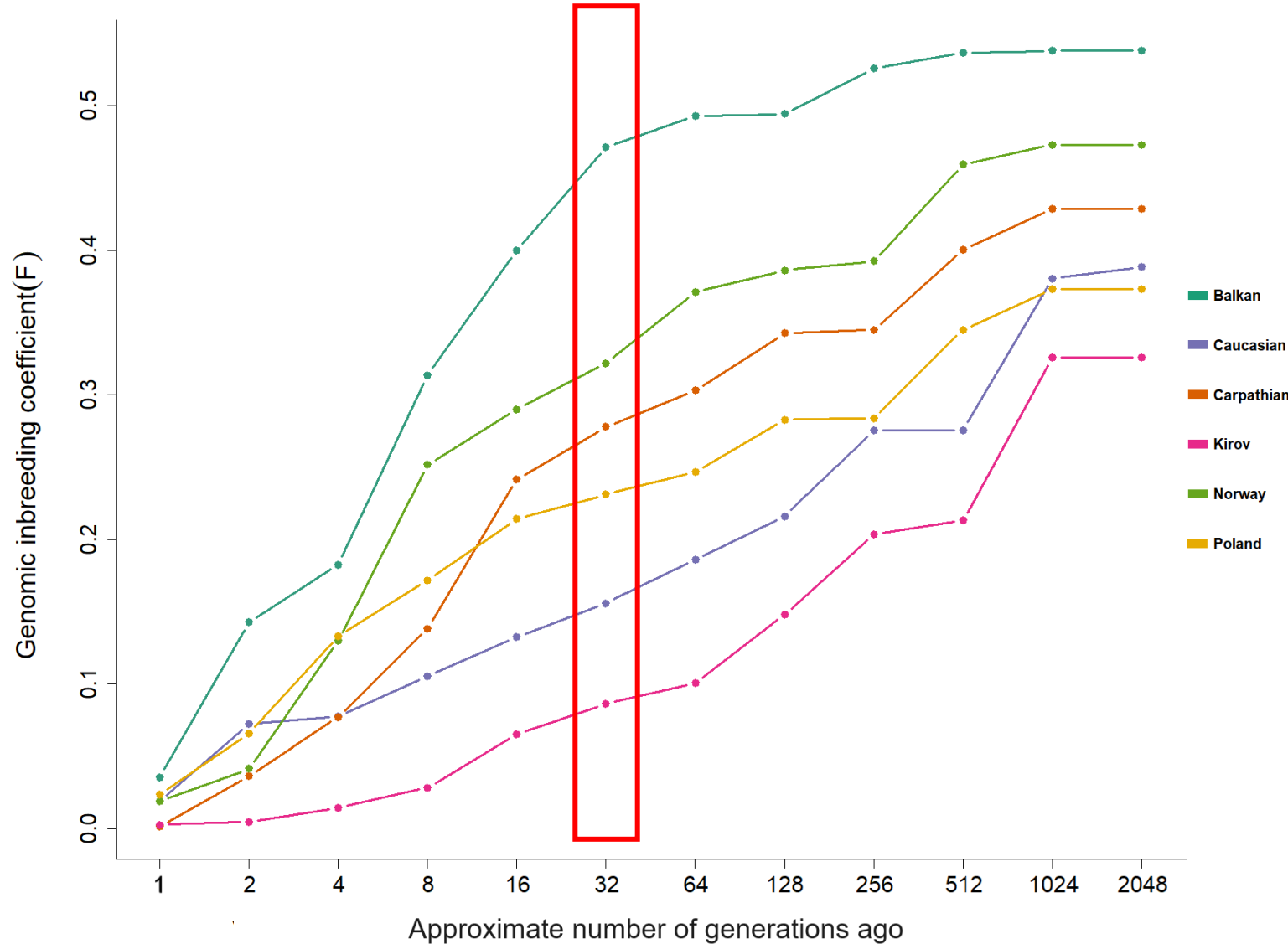
Conservation

Protected by law in all range countries
Percentage of population protected by PAs is 60-70%
CITES Appendix II, protected under the Bern Convention (Appendix II) and strictly protected under the EU Habitats and Species Directive (Annexes II and IV) and Bonn Convention (CMS) Appendix I.
Strategy to be developed in 2025
National Action Plans planned for 2026
Several areas important for future conservation





Genetics



Mean inbreeding coefficients $F_{(G=32)}$

- $F_{\text{Balkan}} = 0.471$
- $F_{\text{Caucasian}} = 0.156$
- $F_{\text{Carpathian}} = 0.278$
- $F_{\text{Kirov}} = 0.086$
- $F_{\text{Norway}} = 0.322$
- $F_{\text{Poland}} = 0.231$



Balkan lynx strategy and action plan history

- First Strategy developed in 2008 involving around 50 experts from Albania and Macedonia working in the field of nature conservation and management
- Separate action plans for both countries developed in 2009
- No endorsement





EN ▾

Search site



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

About

Convention Bodies

Documents

Activities

Topics

Species

Publications

CMS instruments

[Home](#) / [Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx \(Lynx lynx\) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx \(Lynx lynx balcanicus\) in Appendix I of the Convention](#)

Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (Lynx lynx) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (Lynx lynx balcanicus) in Appendix I of the Convention

ENGLISH

 [Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx and Balkan Lynx](#)

1.34 MB

Published date:
23 November 2023

Number

UNEP/CMS/COP14/
Doc.31.4.1/Rev.1

CMS Instrument

[CMS](#)

Type

Proposals for amendment of CMS
Appendices

Publish date

23 November 2023

FRENCH

 [Proposition pour l'inscription du lynx commun et du lynx des Balkans](#)

1.27 MB

Published date:
29 November 2023

SPANISH

 [Propuesta de inclusión lince euroasiático y del lince Balcánico](#)

1.35 MB

Published date:
29 November 2023



Balkan lynx Conservation Strategy 2025

Vision:

The long-term existence of a viable Balkan lynx population in harmony with and supported by local communities..

- A long-term perspective (25–50 years)
- Focused on coexistence and ecological stability
- A shared vision across borders

Goal:

By 2040, the Balkan lynx is downlisted to Endangered based on IUCN criteria, with:

- Increased genetic diversity
- A stable and sufficient prey base
- Well-connected and secure habitats
- Reduced human-induced mortality





Group 1: Research & Awareness & Socio-Economic Constraints – 4 objectives

Group 2: Illegal killing & Prey availability – 2 objectives

Group 3: Habitat quality & fragmentation & infrastructure & roads – 2 objectives

Group 4: Diseases & Genetic – 3 objectives

Besides range countries, experts from Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia participated





Next steps

- Develop the Strategy in a physical meeting in Skopje on 03-04 June 2025
- Final corrections, draft and input from participants
- Finish and send the Strategy to the Bonn secretariat by end of September
- National Action Plans due to 2026 with MoEPP

