

Draft - Minutes: Meeting of the LYNX Group

Kasperske Hory; 14.11.2005, 12.00-16.00

Participants: Ludek Bufka general homework indication = red color and name
Jaroslav Cerveny
Thomas Engleder
Wolfgang Epple (Wolfsnetzwerk)
Martin Forstner
Marco Heurich
Petra Nova (Czech Agency of Nature Conservation)
Manfred Wöfl

1. CELTIC approach: next steps

Jaroslav Cerveny spoke with Peter Urban, head of Slovak conservation agency. A meeting will take place in April/May 2006 on Slovak/Czech border. This meeting will be divided in one day of lectures and discussions and one day of summary/next steps/excursion.

Ideas of contents:

- status and monitoring system (10min) in countries
- common monitoring standards
- common publication
- extensive study of big predators (comparison of core areas and population edge)
- meeting should deal with lynx but could have some side discussions about wolf and bear

List of possible participants:

- John Linnell (LCIE) - sponsorship
- Lynx Group
- Hungary, Poland, Sachsonia

Possibly we should start the meeting in the early afternoon (long travel by some participants) and have the status and distribution lectures first. In the evening we could have a discussion about the next steps. On the second day we could finish with the next steps, have a summary and then start with the excursion which might end around 17 pm.

Everybody: Send ideas of contents to Jaroslav not before first week of January 2006

Manfred will contact John Linnell

2. LYNX-GIS bohemian forest

Review of general data in all three countries: until end of 2003 data are gathered and digitalised (on GIS level).

CZ: all data for the region until October 2005 are available in GIS (point data)
questionnaires for 2004/2005 will be available in April/May 2006
SCALP categories are not yet applied

A: data for the period 1995-2004 are digitalised
SCALP and CELTIC data will be mutually interchanged
if data are to be published close cooperation with all data input people is mandatory

D: data until end of 2003 are digitalised and in a common data base (with the exception of
Nationalpark data)
if data are to be published close cooperation with all data input people is mandatory

Thomas will try a synthesis for the different grids with data of year 2000

Everybody: please send to Thomas point-data from the year 2000 as **GIS-layer** (all files like: *.dbf, *.prj, *.sbn, *.sbx, *.shp, *.shx) **or** send your **reference-chart** with x- and y-coordinates (please give parameters: used coordinate-system, ellipsoid, ...)

Manfred has to complete data base (end of 2004) and initiate the analyses process within the LfU and all relevant interest group

Landesamt für Umwelt has to ask Nationalpark to give data

Agency for Nature Conservation will categorize Czech data using SCALP-categories

3. Discussion about radiotracking

Nationalpark Bavarian Forest:

In March GPS radiotracking of Milan began; batteries for the GPS sensor lasted until the end of August; afterwards groundtracking have been done every day or even two times a day; during the past few weeks extensive roaming behaviour made it difficult to do locations.

On 5th of November a killed red deer female (2 years old) could be found near the Schwarzbachklause; Milan could be captured in foot snares and recollared with the second GPS/GSM collar which has been used for testing at a tame lynx in CZ before; its weight has been 22.3 kg. Results: 35 % of locations were successful (from 800 fixings) [In Switzerland more than 50 % come through right now]

The proposal for the main project has passed the "Jagdabgabe"-procedure. The official permission to begin the project is to be expected very soon. T-mobile is sponsoring staff (trainees);

Box traps for deer have been set, for lynx they are installed but not yet set because the regional government does not give the permission up to now. It might be difficult to find kills for catching other lynx so road kills will be used to attract lynx. An expert group is to be installed to accompany the project (first meeting will take place in spring next year).

New collars (promised for December) are maybe lighter, have a different weight distribution and more battery capacity.

Project goals:

Radiocollar in total 5 lynx (only males) [Swiss project will catch females next year as well; Nationalpark will wait for the results] and 30 roe deer each within the two Nationalparks; on Bavarian side red deer and roe deer will be couted with thermal imaging; the project might include the vegetation layer as well. Planned are 2 fixings per day, alternating with 1 months of 6 fixings per day

Sumava Nationalpark:

Setting box trapes next week to trap roe deer and lynx (males GPS, females conventional collars);

Naturpark:

Research on lynx in cultural landscape of the lowlands will start this winter. In total one pair of lynx (adult male and female) and subadult lynx will be collared with conventional equipment to document home range use, prey selction and dispersal. A meeting with the regional hunting groups yielded promising results indicating close cooperation.

A possible cooperation of all three projects could be that all subadults caught might be fitted with conventionel radiocollars - in case of dispersal into the Bavarian/Austrian lowlands locations can be done by Naturpark/LfU and Austria (INTERREG III).

4. Austria: Impact of Lynx meeting and INTERREG III

What were the impact of the meeting? Good feeling; initiative of the government of upper Austria to go for a corridor from Bohemian Forest through Upper Austria to the Alpes. Moreover the new construction of the road between Freistadt and Budejovice is discussed under the aspect of animal movements on both sides.

Ludek: ask relevant people for new road construction in the area of lake Lipno

InterregIII-project has been started in October and will last until end of 2007. Main goals:

- Sustain the lynx population
- Rise the acceptance of the hunters
- Improve the monitoring
- Increase cooperation within and outside Austria.

5. New Bavarian organization of Large Carnivores Issues

Bavarian wide steering group will be founded beginning of 2006. There Ministries of environment and forestry and relevant NGOs will set the framework for large carnivore management, define goals, ways and steps to achieve these goals. In the region working groups will then do project work within the bavarian wide context.

6. Wolf Network

Wolfgang Epple: The network has been founded after the unlucky circumstances of the shot wolf of Thalberg (spring 2004). In short all three large carnivore species should be handled together; however nowadays for lynx and wolf we deal with completely different situations. The idea of the network is to link NGOs and Gosand to prepare a welcome. The network does not want to push the wolf (e.g. reintroduction) but to enable natural immigration. Somebody has to act as a firebrigade if the next wolf is coming. Additionally on the longterm more knowledge about the species might lead to more acceptance within the hunters/farmers.

The Lynx group will not actively join the public relation work for the wolf. The group is fearing negative effects of its participants' acceptance if engaging in wolf PR. Apart from hunters a new battlefield with the farmers is to be expected.

However, the group will continue to give sound information about the situation of wolf (as done with the publication) and give help in creating certain scenarios how to deal with the next wolf immigrating. A open discussion and close information about activities of LYNX Group and Wolfnetwork should continue.

The information of Michael Eichhorn, that the wolves of Eric Ziemer broke out twice (in total 16 animals) is known within the Wolfnetwork.

Manfred/Karl: shortening and translating the publication (homework from last meeting)

7. Improvements of our flyer

Vaclav Pollack will be asked by **Thomas** to make improvements (Czech language).

Martin will ask if the pdf-file of the flyer could be send around. Improved version will be printed 200 times for CZ.

8. Update of acta theriologica publication

Manfred will send around rough outline for discussion before next meeting.

9. Publications about (conventional) radiotracking

Begin with basic publication (refer to tracking data): home ranges, spatial use and social organization then see what else can be done (prey items, habitat analysis (GIS layer only for the Nationalparks))
CORINE/classified LANDSAT data / ATKIS

Which journal? which topics?

Acta theriologica; similar to Polish publications

Additional publication on a more popular level

Manfred and Ludek will start with a list of possible themes.

10. Publications about kittens

Manfred and Ludko spreading tables and data (see attachment to the minutes).

11. Other issues

In case of problems of communication with Marco, Czech people please use his private account:
marco.heurich@t-online.de

Information of Jaroslav Cervený concerning the “Rotwildgatter Zachenberg” case:

Mr. Wurzer send first scats to the friend of Petr Koubek (Mr. Dohacek); after negativ results (dog- and foxlike scats) another set of items came (scat, hairs and pictures) to Petr Koubek given by the friend; Mr. Wurzer urged to have all items back immediately “for the jugde” (apart from the scat item which was destroyed during examination); the fotos showed obvious scratchmarks and a throatbite on a skinned calf (*Cervus dama*).

12. Next meeting

Monday, 20th of March 2006, 10 am in Haslach, Austria.