Working group: Monitoring

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Abstract: Monitoring

Reliable estimates of abundance of lynx populations are key in understanding the species' life history and demography and are required for policy and decision-making (e.g. Fauna-Flora-Habitat directive).

In Central Europe, camera trapping has become the standard tool for collecting systematic data about present lynx populations, enabling us to estimate the basic demographic parameters, such as abundance. At the same time, opportunistic monitoring often represents the first information about lynx in yet unexplored areas, as well as guide the future monitoring programs. In case of reintroduction or reinforcement of lynx populations, telemetry is essential for tracking the translocated animals and evaluating the overall success of the conservation actions. With the use of genetic surveys, we can assess parameters such as inbreeding, a pressing issue for many lynx populations in Central Europe. However, the decisions about the specific criteria for the implementation of different methods vary between study areas and influence the quality and comparability of the data collected on a continental scale.

As lynx is spreading in Central Europe due to reintroduction programs or natural recolonization, the significance of standardized monitoring and comparability of obtained parameters is increasing. Especially the camera trap monitoring faces enormous challenges concerning data merging and large-scale individual comparisons.

Introduction: Monitoring working group

How can we meet the future demands of lynx monitoring in Central Europe?

Within the monitoring working group, we will discuss:

i) The requirements for a successful intra- and inter-population lynx monitoring, focusing on camera trapping mainly in terms of data standardization.

ii) The minimum standard for evaluating the effectiveness of the reintroduction programs, defining the specific criteria for the application of each method for lynx surveillance available (opportunistic surveys, camera trapping, telemetry studies, genetic sampling).

iii) What are the measurements of success in a lynx monitoring? And which factors apart from the study design contribute to or affect the success of monitoring?

iv) The most recent examples of good practice of lynx reintroductions and population-level monitoring programs and the latest lessons learnt.

v) What support can existing networks offer to tackle the future needs and challenges?

The participants are invited to share their experience and collaborate with their own ideas or suggest additional topics to be discussed. We look forward to an open and lively discussion.