



SCALP News

April 2007

SCALP News is meant to be a forum for scientists, conservationists, wildlife managers, and policy makers, intending to facilitate the collaboration and to improve the exchange of information.

The project *Status and Conservation of the Alpine Lynx Population* (SCALP) is an ongoing programme aimed to co-ordinate the lynx monitoring and the conservation activities in the Alps.

Anja Molinari-Jobin
SCALP coordination

Female lynx radio-collared on Snežnik plateau in Slovenia

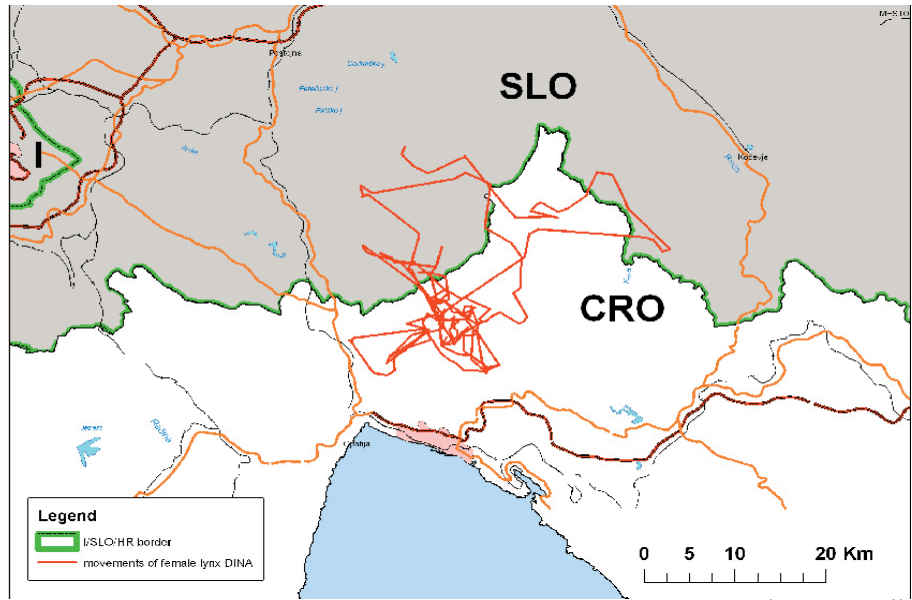
Miha Krofel and Ivan Kos
University of Ljubljana

In the end of the year 2006 a female lynx was caught in a box-trap on Snežnik plateau in southwestern Slovenia. The 15 kg female named "Dina" was estimated to be 1.5 years old. It became the first lynx to be equipped with a new lightweight (285 g) Televilt Tellus GPS collar with remote GSM download technology. Her movement is being monitored by biologists from Department of



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biology, University of Ljubljana as part of the “DinaRis” project (www.dinaris.org - financed partly by the EU funds through INTERREG III A Slovenia/Hungary/Croatia Neighbourhood Programme). In only three months the lynx already covered area of 650 km² (minimal convex polygon). After initial wanderings over the Snežnik plateau, it crossed Slovenian-Croatian border and roamed over Gorski Kotar all the way to Kočevska region in southeastern part of Slovenia. Afterwards it returned to the east and in the last two months it is mostly staying in the forests between Rijeka Bay and Mt. Snežnik.



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Transmitter was scheduled to attempt to locate 7 GPS positions per day (6 locations during night and one during daytime) and send an SMS for every 6 attempts via GSM signal. So far the success rate of GPS positioning in the rugged karstic terrain of Dinaric mountains was 67 %. With the help of precise locations we were also able to locate prey remains of 13 ungulates in three months. We

use this data to estimate lynx predation rate, as well as the sex and age structure of killed animals. We are also collecting marrow samples to determine the fitness of prey. In addition we use remote video system to monitor lynx feeding behaviour and study influence of kleptoparasitism by other species, as well as to assess the importance of lynx predation for scavengers in Dinaric forest ecosystems.

Female and male lynx caught to support the reintroduction project in North-eastern Switzerland

Anja Molinari
SCALP coordination

In April a female lynx was caught in a box trap in the Alps of Vaud and a male in the Jura Mountains of Solothurn. Both lynx will spend a short period of quarantine in a state wildlife centre, before they will be transported to the release site in north-eastern Switzerland. This will be the fifth lynx couple since 2001 to be translocated to north-eastern Switzerland in order to improve the expansion of lynx towards the east in the frame of the LUNO project (www.luno.ch), as monitoring results of the past two years have revealed that the state of the new occurrence is still critical. Both lynx will be equipped with GPS/GSM radio-collars in order to be able to follow their movements.



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Male lynx radio-collared in the Carnic Prealps, Italy

Anja Molinari
SCALP coordination

In the frame of an Interreg IIIa project between Italy and Slovenia, researchers from the University of Udine captured a lynx in March 2007 in a box trap in the Carnic

Prealps (http://www.uniud.it/ricerca/strutture/dipartimenti_scientifica/dian/wildlife/index_html/cattura_lince/). The male lynx is the first lynx equipped with a radio-collar in Italy. For the next two years, his radio-collar will provide valuable information about habitat use and movement behaviour.