

Fear of the unknown: local knowledge and perceptions of the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* in western Macedonia

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MANUELAVON ARX and URS BREITENMOSER

APPENDIX Interview guide used in the survey of informants in Mavrovo-Rostushe municipality during April–June 2008.

Herding practices¹

- Do you give a name to the ewes? For example?
- Are you able to recognize the ewes individually?
- Do the different sheep have different behaviours?
- Do you direct the sheep movements or do you just follow them and watch them?
- How do you choose the place to graze?
- In the flock, do you have an animal that is leading? Does it have a special name?
- Do you put bells on sheep? For which purpose?
- Do you put talismans or lucky-charms on sheep? Why?
- Do you sell your products to firms or individuals?

Predation on livestock¹

- Are your sheep attacked by wild animals on pasture?
- What is approximately the frequency of attacks? By year?
- What do you do when your sheep are attacked?
- Is there a variation of attacks according to the season, to the weather?
- Are there some places in the pasture where the sheep are more vulnerable? Why?
- Can you/do you avoid these places?
- Are your sheep attacked in winter? During the day, the night?
- Is the predation a big problem for livestock breeders here?

Livestock guarding dogs¹

- Are the dogs able to protect your flock?
- Do you give a name to your dogs? Which name?
- How do you feed the dogs? Does it cost a lot to feed the dogs?
- When you are on the pasture, are the dogs around you or around the flock?
- Do you buy the dogs? What is the price of a dog?
- How do you train the dogs?
- How do you know if a dog is efficient or not?
- Do you keep the dogs that are not efficient?
- If there were no predators, would you keep the dogs anyway?

The future of livestock breeding in Macedonia¹

- Do you enjoy the life of livestock breeder/shepherd? Why?
- Have you chosen to be a livestock breeder?
- Was your father also a livestock breeder?
- Will one of your children be a livestock breeder?
- What is the main problem for livestock breeding in this region?
- How do you see the future of livestock breeders in this region?
- What could be done to improve the situation of livestock breeding?

Hunting²

- What kind of animals do you hunt?
- In which period do you hunt these animals?
- How do you hunt (rifle, trap, snare, poison)?
- Do you have hunting dogs? For which game animals?
- What do you do with the harvested animals (keep them, sell them, give them away)?
- Which part do you take from the animals (meat, fur, skin, organs)?
- Do you know if some organs/bones are used in traditional medicine?
- Who taught you to hunt (e.g. father, uncle, friend ...)?
- Do you hunt alone or in a group?
- What do you think about the hunt's organization in this region?

Outdoor activities

- Do you go to the mountains or to the pasture to gather mushrooms, wild herbs, berries? Which ones and in which season?
- Do you go to the forest to harvest wood?

Knowledge³

- Have you ever seen a bear (a wolf, a lynx)?
- If not, have you ever seen bear's (wolf's, lynx's) tracks, scats or marks?
- How old were you the first time you saw a bear (a wolf, a lynx)?
- How did it happen? How did you feel?
- Since that time, do you often see the bear (wolf, lynx)? How many times a year?
- What does a bear (wolf, lynx) eat?
- Can a bear (wolf, lynx) catch wild animals? Which ones?
- How does the bear (wolf, lynx) catch wild animals?
- Do you think that the bear (wolf, lynx) is using strategies/plans to hunt?
- Does the bear (wolf, lynx) attack domestic animals? Which ones? How often? When (season, day/night)?
- When does the bear (wolf, lynx) have its breeding season?
- Outside this season, does the bear (wolf, lynx) lives alone or in group?
- When does the bear (wolf, lynx) have its birth season?
- How many cubs does the she-bear (she-wolf, lynx female) have?
- Who is taking care of the cubs, the male, the female, or both of them?
- How long do the cubs (pups) stay with their mother/parents?
- Do the parents stay together during their entire life?
- How long does a bear (wolf, lynx) live?

APPENDIX (Continued)

In which kind of landscape it is possible to see the bear (wolf, lynx)?

Does the bear (wolf, lynx) live (1) outside, (2) in a natural cave or (3) in an excavated den?

If (3) does the bear (wolf, lynx) excavate the den themselves?

Does the bear (wolf, lynx) have a territory where the other bears do not enter?

What is approximately the surface of the bear's (wolf's, lynx's) territory?

Perceptions³

Do you think there are a lot of bears (wolves, lynx) in this region?

Is it good to have bears (wolves, lynx) in this region?

Do you think that bears (wolves, lynx) are harmful for livestock?

Do you think that bears (wolves, lynx) are dangerous for humans?

Do you think that we have to eliminate bears (wolves, lynx)?

From the region? From the country? From the world?

Perception of changes

Did the creation of the Mavrovo National Park (MNP) have an impact on livestock breeding?¹

Did the creation of the MNP have an impact on game animals?²

Did the creation of the MNP have an impact on predators?

Did the creation of the MNP have an impact on people's way of life?

Has the landscape changed in this region in recent decades?

Is there more forest than before? Why?

Did the area of pasture decrease in recent decades? Why?

Do you think that the development of forest favours the development of certain wild animals?

Are wild boars more numerous than before? Are they harmful for the pastures?

Perception of nature and animals

What is nature for you?

Do you think that humans belong to nature?

What does not belong to nature?

Do the predators belong to nature?

Does the wolf belong to nature?

What is the difference between humans and animals?

Do animals have consciousness?

Do animals have a soul? The same as humans have?

What is, for you, the most intelligent animal (among wild and domestic ones)?

¹Question or group of questions only asked of livestock breeders.

²Question or group of questions only asked of hunters.

³The questions in the knowledge section were asked successively for bears, then for wolves and then for lynx. The questions in the perception section were asked successively for lynx, then for wolves and then for bears.