

Bosnia-Herzegovina (BA)

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Area: 51'129 km²

Forests & Woodland: 44.6 % (2000)

Human population: 3'922'205 (2001)

Population density: 76.7 / km²

1. Lynx distribution in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2001:



Geographic range of the population(s)

Dinaric population: West Bosnia; no subpopulations identified. In all marked areas the lynx is considered to be permanently present. No data available for sporadically present areas. There are no reliable information on the expansion of areas in recent years.

Methods: Information on animal mortality (mostly by hunting), sightings of live animals or spotted foot prints. Data were collected by hunters and foresters.

2. Lynx population(s):

Population	Pop. size (Ø 1996-2001)	Lynx distribution area [km ²]				[X] & [X+O] / country area [%]	Pop. density [lynx/100 km ²]
		[X]	[O]	[?]	[X+O]		
Dinaric	40	12'100	0	0	12'100	23.7	0.33
Total	40	12'100	0	0	12'100	23.7	0.33

3. Population size:

3.1. Estimations

Population	Year	Official estimation	Additional estimation	Accuracy	Tendency
Dinaric	1996		40	Best estimate or guess.	stable
	1997		40	Legislation on forestry and hunting	
	1998		40	still missing. This is also the	
	1999		40	reason why a constant network of	
	2000		40	information does not exist.	
	2001		40		
Ø 1996-2001			40		

3.2. Methods and institutions responsible for the estimations

Population	Official estimation	Additional estimation
Dinaric	-	The basis of information is animal mortality (mostly by hunting), sightings of live animals and tracks.
<i>Institution</i>	-	Forestry office

4. Legal situation, harvest and losses of lynx:

4.1. International treaties

EU Habitat Directive	Bern Convention	CITES
-	-	-

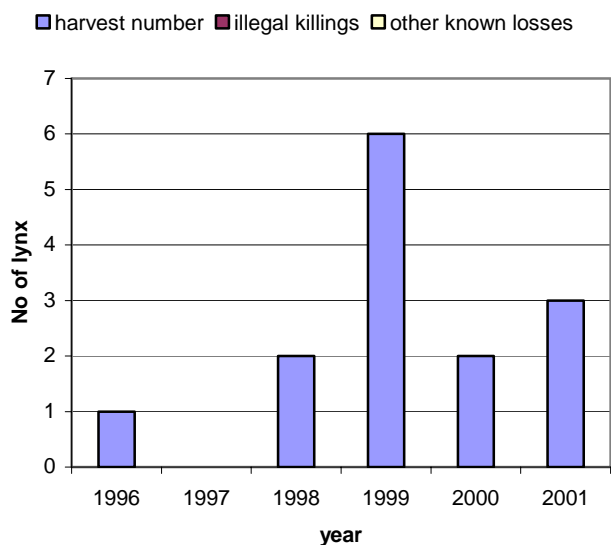
4.2. Legal status

There is no legislation about the lynx status neither in the area of forestry nor of hunting.

Hunting season: open
 Yearly quota: none, open
 Institution responsible: -
 Method quota setting: -

4.3. Harvest numbers and other known losses to the population(s)

Population	Year	Quota	Harvest number	Traffic	Other accidents	Illegal killings	Removal problem animals	Diseases	Unknown cause	Orphans	Other	Total	% of population-n
Dinaric	1996	no	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.5
	1997	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1998	no	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
	1999	no	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	15
	2000	no	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
	2001	no	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7.5
Total 1996-2001			14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	-
Yearly Ø			2.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.3	5.75
Known mortality / 100 km² [X+O]			0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02	-



Number of known losses to the Dinaric lynx population in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1996-2001.

4.4. Lynx management

Population	Authority in charge		Management / Conservation Plan
	National level	Regional level	
Dinaric	none	none	none

5. Depredation:

→ No depredation losses in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1996-2001. There are no compensation systems and prevention methods applied in the country.

6. Major threats to the lynx population(s) in the country:

Population	Past (<1996)	Present (1996-2001)	Future (>2001)
Dinaric	Legal hunting & trapping Shooting War / civil unrest	Legal hunting & trapping Shooting Vehicle and train collision Prey / food base Transport	Legal hunting & trapping Shooting Vehicle and train collision Prey / food base Population fluctuations Transport

Comment: The population is considered to be low mostly due to hunting and to the low prey availability.

7. Conservation measures:

Conservation measure	Lacking / proposed	Drafted / ratified	Implemented / applied
Legislation on an international level	X		
Legislation on a national level	X		
Management plans	X		

Comment: According to the valid law on hunting, lynx is not protected. Up to date, Bosnia-Herzegovina did not ratify any international agreement in the area of nature protection.

8. Judgement of the status of the population(s) within the country & most urgent actions needed:

Population	Judgement	Most urgent actions needed
Dinaric	vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define legal status Prepare a management plan for lynx Increase prey density

Comment: Bosnia and Herzegovina is combined of different units with their own laws.

9. Projects:

→ No current projects.

10. Contact:

Population	Name	Address
Dinaric	Vlado SOLDÓ	J.P. "Sume H-B" Mostar, Hrvatskih branitelja b.b., 88000 Mostar e-mail: vlados@tel.net.ba
<i>Collaborator:</i>	Ivica LUCIC	L.S. Herceg-Bosne Siroki Brijeg, Mihanoviceva b.b., 88000 Mostar e-mail: logotip@tel.net.ba

Country assessment:

In 1980, seven years after the re-introduction in Slovenia, the first lynx tracks were observed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, close to the Croatian border. An expansion along the Dinaric mountain range was observed, but a colonisation of the south-eastern mountains of the country has so far not been noticed (SOLDÓ 2001). Although the habitat features south-east of the potential distribution seem to be favourable, the Neretva River valley may act as a barrier. Nevertheless, lynx might already be present in the east and south-east as there are confirmed observations in Serbia and Montenegro (Western Serbia occurrence and Balkan population) along the country border. The real distribution in Bosnia-Herzegovina might in fact differ from the one indicated in the map: The area seems to be very uniformly settled. If really constantly occupied, one would rather expect lynx indications also along the mountains on the other side of the border in neighbouring Croatia. Data available is based mostly on hunting data (14 animals between 1996-2001, Table 4.3), and thus the information density is low. A more detailed survey, also covering areas in the south-east, is to be recommended, also in regard to the critical status of the Balkan population (see respective report). Collecting material for genetic analyses from lynx found dead in Bosnia-Herzegovina is to be recommended in order to clarify the taxonomic status of lynx found along the border with Serbia and Montenegro (see respective country report).

Of course, the political and economic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not in favour with conservation concerns. The country consists of two administrative divisions, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (further divided into 10 divisions) and the Serbian Republic, both with their own laws. Still, there will hopefully soon be a consensus for the implementation of national legislations regarding forestry and hunting. The improvement of the knowledge on the lynx in Bosnia-Herzegovina would allow to set up guidelines for the future existence of the lynx in the country and of the population as a whole, of which Bosnia-Herzegovina shares an important part. A sensible co-operation with Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro is needed.

References:

SOLDÓ, V. 2001: The lynx in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Balkan Lynx Population - History, Recent Knowledge on its Status and Conservation Needs. Ed. by Ch. Breitenmoser-Würsten and U. Breitenmoser, KORA Bericht No. 7: 6-7.