

6.3. Legal status

6.3.1. European treaties

For the conservation of the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* in Europe two international treaties are especially relevant:

Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention, Council of Europe, 1979):

“The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States and to promote such co-operation” (Article 1).

Lynx lynx is listed in **Appendix III** (protected fauna species). “Each contracting party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix III. Any exploitation of wild fauna specified in this Appendix shall be regulated in order to keep the populations out of danger” (Article 7, <http://www.nature.coe.int/english/cadres/bern.htm>).

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitat Directive, 1992):

“The aim of this Directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies (Article 2.1). Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest (Article 2.2). Member States shall undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species (Article 11).”

Lynx lynx (except the Finnish populations) is listed in **Annex II** (Animal and plant species of Community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation) and in **Annex IV** (Animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection). *Lynx lynx* is however not considered a priority species.

“Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the species listed in Annex IV in their natural range, prohibiting (for instant) all forms of deliberate capture and killing, and disturbance of the species” (Article 12.1). The incidental capture and killing of animal species in Annex IV has to be monitored (Article 12.4, <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/>).

Table 2: The significance of the international treaties EU Habitat Directive, Bern Convention, and CITES for the individual countries sharing the range of the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx*. X (year) = year of ratification, (X) = signed, not yet ratified.

Country	EU Habitat Directive	Bern Convention	CITES
Albania	-	X (1999)	-
Austria	X (1995)	X (1983)	X (1982)
Belarus	-	-	X (1995)
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	X (1991)	X (2001)
Croatia	-	X (2000)	X (2000)
Czech Republic	(X)	X (1998)	X (1993)
Estonia	-	X (1992)	X (1992)
Finland	X (1995)*	X (1985)	X (1976)
France	X (1992)	X (1990)	X (1978)
FYR Macedonia	(X)	X (1998)	X (2000)
Germany	X (1992)	X (1984)	X (1976)
Greece	-	X (1983)	X (1992)
Hungary	(X)	X (1989)	X (1985)
Italy	X (1992)	X (1980)	X (1979)
Kaliningrad Oblast (RU)	-	-	X (1992)
Latvia	-	X (1997)	X (1997)
Liechtenstein	-	X (1980)	X (1979)
Lithuania	(X)	X (1996)	X (2001)
Norway	-	X (1986)	X (1976)
Poland	-	X (1995)	X (1989)
Romania	(X)	X (1993)	X (1994)
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	X (2001)
Slovakia	X (2002)	X (1996)	X (1993)
Slovenia	-	X (1999)	X (2000)
Sweden	(X)	X (1983)	X (1974)
Switzerland	-	X (1981)	X (1974)
Ukraine	-	X (1999)	X (1999)

* Reservation

6.3.2. Legal status and management

Table 3. Legal status and management of *Lynx lynx* in the individual European countries. Management level: nat. = national, reg. = regional.

Country	Legal status	Institution in charge	Action plan	Management level
Norway	(reg.) quota hunting 01.02.-30.04.	National Directorate for Nature Management	government White Paper	nat. / reg.
Sweden	quota hunting 10.01.-31.03.	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	yes (2000)	nat. / reg.
Finland	fully protected ^a	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	yes (1996)	nat.
Estonia	quota hunting 01.11.-28.02.	Estonian Ministry of Environment	yes (2001)	nat. / reg.
Latvia	hunting 01.10-15.03. ^b	State Forest Service	yes (2002)	nat. / reg.
Lithuania	fully protected	Ministry of Environmental Protection	no	nat. / reg.
Belarus	fully protected	Min. for Natural Resources and Nature Protection	no	nat.
Kaliningrad Oblast (RU)	fully protected	Region State Hunt Inspection	no	nat.
Ukraine	fully protected	Min. of Ecology and Natural Resources	prepared	nat. / reg.
Poland	fully protected	Ministry of Environment	no	nat.
Romania	quota hunting 01.09.-31.03.	Forest Dep. in the Min. of Agriculture, Food Industry and Forests	Minister order (2003)	nat. / reg.
Slovakia	hunting until 2001, since then protected	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture	in preparation	nat.
Hungary	fully protected	Ministry of Environment	prepared	nat. / reg.
Czech Republic	fully protected	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture	no	nat. / reg.
Serbia and Montenegro	fully protected	Bureau for Nature Protection of both, Serbia and Montenegro	no	nat. / reg.
Bulgaria	fully protected	Min. of Environment; Nat. Board of Forests (Min. of Agriculture and Forests)	no	nat. / reg.
Albania	fully protected	Gen. Directorate of Forest and Pastures	no	nat. / reg.
FYR Macedonia	fully protected	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	no	nat. / reg.
Greece	fully protected	Ministry of Agriculture	no	nat.
Bosnia-Herzegovina	no legislation	none	no	none
Croatia	quota hunting 15.11.-28.02., since 1998 fully protected	Ministry for environment and physical planning	yes (2003)	nat.
Slovenia	quota hunting 01.11.-28.02.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	no	nat.
Germany	fully protected	none (regional states = Bundesländer)	no	reg.
Austria	fully protected	none (regional hunting associations)	no	reg.
Switzerland	fully protected, removal problem lx	Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape SAEFL	yes (2000)	nat. / reg.
Italy	fully protected	Istituto Nazionale Fauna Selvatica	no	nat.
France	fully protected, removal problem lx	Min. de l'Environnement, Office nat. de la chasse et de la faune sauvage	implemented/ in prep. ^c	nat. / reg.
Liechtenstein	fully protected	Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft	no	nat.

^a protection can be derogated in accordance with article 16 of the EU Habitat Directive [resulting in a kind of quota hunting]

^b new regulations since 2003: hunting season is now from 01.12.-31.03. with a yearly quota set

^c implemented: protocol for the elimination of problem animals / in preparation: restoration plan

6.3.3. Harvest and other known losses

Table 4. Harvest numbers and known losses due to illegal killings, traffic, and other causes. All numbers are mean annual values for 1996-2001. Whenever numbers were available per population; they are separated, and the relative annual loss for the population indicated. "-" = not applicable, n.a. = not available, n.d.a. = no data available.

Country	Population	Legal killings	Illegal killings	Traffic accidents	Other losses	Total losses	% of population
Norway	Nordic	89.5	(incl. in other losses)		15.8	105.3	25.9
Sweden	Nordic	94	0	11.5	3.8	109.3	7.3
Finland	Nordic	58.8	0	0	0	58.8	7.1
Estonia	Baltic	168.7	0	0.17	1.17	170	15.5
Latvia	Baltic	87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	(87)	12.7
Lithuania	Baltic	-	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	-
Belarus	Baltic	-	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	-
Kaliningrad Oblast (RU)	Baltic	-	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	1-3	n.a.
Ukraine	Carpathian only	-	2 (4 y)	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Poland	Carpathian only	-	7 (1 y)	1 (1 y)	3 (1 y)	11 (1 y)	n.a.
Romania	Carpathian	7.2	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	(7.2)	0.36
Slovakia	Carpathian	14.7	0.3	0.5	2.7	18.2	4.55
Hungary	Carpathian	-	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	n.d.a.	-
Czech Republic	Boh.-Bav.	-	6.5	0	0.66	7.2	10.3
	Carpathian	-	0.3	0	0	0.3	0.8
Serbia and Montenegro	(unknown)	-	1.83	0.17	0	2	-
Bulgaria	(unknown)	-	0.67	0.17	0	0.83	-
Albania	Balkan	-	3.8	0	0	3.8	~19
FYR Macedonia	Balkan	-	0	0	0.33	0.33	0.94
Greece	Balkan	-	0	0	0	0	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Dinaric	2.3	0	0	0	2.3	5.75
Croatia	Dinaric	7 (96-98)	3.67	0.17	0.17	7.5	7.5-15
Slovenia	Dinaric/Alpine	1	0	0.5	0.33	1.83	3.66
Germany	Boh.-Bav. only	-	0.17	0.17	0.33	0.67	1.2
Austria	Boh.-Bav. only	-	0.3	0.17	0	0.47	8.3
Switzerland	Alpine	-	1.8	1	6.87	9.7	13.9
	Jura	-	0.17	0.5	0.97	1.7	8.5
Italy	Alpine	-	0	0	0	0	-
France	Jura	-	0.33	2.5	2	4.83	10.3
	Vosges-Palat.	-	0	0.17	0.17	0.33	2.1
	Alpine	-	0	0.17	0.17	0.33	-
Liechtenstein	Alpine	-	0	0	0	0	-