



Lynx lynx

Taxonomy

Kingdom	ANIMALIA
Phylum	CHORDATA
Class	MAMMALIA
Order	CARNIVORA
Family	FELIDAE
Common Name/s	EURASIAN LYNX (E) LYNX (F) LINCE (S)
Species Authority	(Linnaeus, 1758)
Images	 Search Google for related images.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria	NT ver 3.1 (2001)
Year Assessed	2002
Assessor/s	Cat Specialist Group
Evaluator/s	Nowell, K., Breitenmoser, U., Breitenmoser, C. & Jackson, P. (Cat Red List Authority)
Justification	Based on estimates of density and geographic range (Nowell and Jackson 1996, Breitenmoser <i>et al.</i> 2000), the lynx's total effective population size is estimated at below 50,000 mature breeding individuals, with a declining trend due to degradation of its habitat and prey base, and may possibly qualify as Vulnerable if these trends persist, or if better information on its status and range were available.
History	1996 - Lower Risk/least concern (Baillie and Groombridge 1996)

Distribution

Country Names	Afghanistan Albania Armenia Austria Azerbaijan Belarus Bhutan Bulgaria [RE] China Croatia Czech Republic Estonia Finland
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France
 Georgia
 Germany
 Greece
 Hungary
 India
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)
 Iraq?
 Italy
 Kazakhstan
 Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
 Kyrgyzstan
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of
 Moldova, Republic of
 Mongolia
 Nepal
 Norway
 Pakistan
 Poland
 Romania
 Russian Federation
 Serbia and Montenegro
 Slovakia
 Slovenia
 Spain
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 Tajikistan
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Uzbekistan

Summary Documentation

Biome

Terrestrial

Major Habitat/s([terms](#))

1.1 Forest - Boreal
 1.4 Forest - Temperate
 3.4 Shrubland - Temperate
 8.2 Desert - Temperate

Major Threat/s([terms](#))

1.3.3.3 Habitat Loss/Degradation - Extraction - Wood - Clear-cutting (ongoing)
 3 Harvesting (hunting/gathering) (ongoing)
 8.3 Changes in native species dynamics - Prey/food base (ongoing)

Population Trend



Conservation Action/s ([terms](#))

1.2.2.1 Policy-based actions - Legislation - Implementation - International level (in place)
 1.2.2.2 Policy-based actions - Legislation - Implementation - National level (in place)

Detailed Documentation

<p>Range and Population</p>	<p><i>L. lynx</i> ranges through much of Europe, Central Asia, Siberia and East Asia. The lynx is rare in Europe. It was widely extirpated within the past several hundred years, but populations were reintroduced from the late 1970's onward, and the total is now estimated at only about 3,000, with little connectivity between subpopulations localized around mountain ranges (Breitenmoser <i>et al.</i> 2000). There are larger populations in northern Europe and the Baltics, and the lynx's stronghold is a broad strip of southern Siberian woodland stretching through Russia from the Ural mountains to the Pacific. Little information is available from the remainder of the lynx's wide Asian range (Nowell and Jackson 1996).</p>
<p>Habitat and Ecology</p>	<p>Throughout Europe and Siberia, lynx are associated primarily with forested areas which have good ungulate populations (Nowell and Jackson 1996). In Central Asia lynx occur in more open, thinly wooded areas. The species probably occurs throughout the northern slopes of the Himalayas, and has been reported both from thick scrub woodland and barren, rocky areas above the treeline. On the better-forested southern Himalayan slopes, the only record is a sighting in alpine tundra (4,500 m) from the Dhaulagiri region of Nepal. Lynx occur locally over the entire Tibetan plateau, and are found throughout the rocky hills and mountains of the Central Asian desert regions. Small ungulates are the lynx's primary prey, although it will also take small prey when ungulates are scarce (Nowell and Jackson 1996).</p>
<p>Threats</p>	<p>Lynx are vulnerable to destruction of their ungulate prey base. Hunting pressure may also play a role in lynx population declines. Habitat destruction through clear-cutting can have a negative effect on lynx abundance. There is no information beyond harvest reports on which to base an assessment of the biological impact of commercial trapping for furs, and thus its significance as a threat is difficult to judge (Nowell and Jackson 1996).</p>
<p>Conservation Measures</p>	<p>Included on CITES Appendix II. Hunting of this species is prohibited in Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Hunting regulations apply in China, Finland, Slovakia, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Russia and Turkey (Nowell and Jackson 1996)</p>
<p>Data Sources</p>	
<p>Data Sources</p>	<p>Baillie, J. and Groombridge, B. (compilers and editors) 1996. <i>1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals</i>. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.</p> <p>Breitenmoser, U., Breitenmoser-Wursten, C., Okarma, H., Kaphegyi, T., Kaphegyi-Wallman, U. and Muller, U.M. 2000. Action Plan for the conservation of the Eurasian Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>) in Europe. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.</p> <p>Cat Specialist Group. For more information, see the Specialist Group website</p> <p>IUCN. 2002. <i>2002 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i>. . Downloaded on 8 October 2002.</p>

Nowell, K. and Jackson, P. (compilers and editors) 1996. *Wild Cats. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. ([online version](#))

Citation: Cat Specialist Group 2002. *Lynx lynx*. In: IUCN 2004. *2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. <www.redlist.org>. Downloaded on **08 December 2004**.

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