

Cat News Special Issue: Status and Conservation Needs of the Iberian lynx



The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is the only cat species currently listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Fewer than 200 Iberian lynx remain in the wild and a captive breeding program has not yet seen successful reproduction.

In 2002, the Cat Specialist Group initiated the first *International Conference on the Conservation of the Iberian Lynx* in Andujar, Spain. This conference was a turning point in the history of the Iberian lynx, marking the start of collaboration between the Cat Specialist Group, the Council of Europe/Berne Convention and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe. Since 2002, these partners have assessed the efforts being made to preserve Iberian lynx habitat and restore rabbit populations, the main prey of the Iberian lynx.

To continue momentum in 2004, the Cat Specialist Group co-organized the second conference in Córdoba, Spain, in partnership with the Government of Andalusia and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The conference aimed to identify common priorities and strategies among key interest groups involved with the Iberian lynx. Participants included the European Union LIFE Project for the Sierra Morena and the Director of the Iberian lynx captive breeding center in El Acebuche, Doñana National Park.

The Iberian Lynx special issue of *Cat News* will present summaries of working group discussions, including highlights of the major issues currently facing the Iberian lynx and recommendations for future conservation efforts.

The Cat Specialist Group believes that cooperation and knowledge sharing are critical for the effective conservation of wild cat species. Such collaboration prevents the duplication of efforts and avoids any waste of resources or time, both of which are extremely valuable and scarce.

The Cat Specialist Group is currently seeking funds to produce this special issue. To become a supporting partner of Iberian lynx conservation, please contact our office at the details below.

The 2004 *International Conference on the Conservation of the Iberian Lynx* started with an overview of current projects and status updates on prey and predator populations. Participants then organized into six working groups to discuss ideas, determine priorities and set direction for future work. Organizers plan to continue this conference series in 2006, so to again promote cooperation and share enthusiasm among those working to save the Iberian lynx.

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Printing (600 copies x 40 pages).....	\$4,000
Postage.....	\$1,200
Editing, layout.....	\$3,000
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<i>Secured to date.....</i>	<i>\$6,300</i>
Funds needed	\$1,900

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