



Species

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## Iberian lynx: Population & Distribution

### Only scattered groups remain

#### Problems

- Habitat loss
- Human-Animal Conflict
- Unsustainable Trade
- Climate Change
- Bycatch
- Invasive Species
- Pollution

#### Our Solutions

WWF Classifications

#### Threatened Species

- Giant Pandas
- Elephants
- Tigers
- Cetaceans
- Rhinoceros
- Great Apes
- Marine turtles

#### Other Species:

- A-Z Species Index\*
- Species by Country\*

#### Programmes

- African Elephants
- African Great Apes
- African Rhinos
- Asian Rhinos & Elephants
- LAC Marine Turtles
- Tigers

#### Policy

- Wildlife Trade
- CITES
- IWC

#### What You Can Do

- News
- Successes
- Stories
- On The Ground
- Publications



From left to right: Previous (undated) and current distribution of the Iberian lynx. © WWF

#### Previous Population and Distribution

There has been a fast and accelerating decline of this species over the past two hundred years. Whereas the Iberian lynx was once present in Spain, Portugal, and parts of southern France (early 19th century), by 1914 it was confined to the southern half of Spain and Portugal. In the 1960's, the population contracted to an area of 57,000 km<sup>2</sup> (about 10% of the surface of Spain). In Portugal, a 1989 survey estimated some 40 to 50 individuals across 2,400 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### Current Population and Distribution

The current recruitment rate of the lynx is low, due to the scarcity of rabbits, which reduces the species reproductive potential. Population maintenance depends upon low levels of adult mortality and a relatively long lifespan. Lynx populations are therefore extremely vulnerable to additional stresses such as non-natural mortality.

The most recent comprehensive survey, in 2002, revealed only two isolated breeding populations, containing just 120-155 individuals over 350 km<sup>2</sup>, both in Andalucía, southern Spain. The population includes scattered groups, of which only two are considered to have populations which could be viable in the long term.

#### Introduction

#### Ecology and Habitat

#### Population and distribution

#### Threats

#### What We Do

#### Iberian lynx

\* WWF only provides detailed information on the 'priority' and 'flagship' species that it is focusing on.