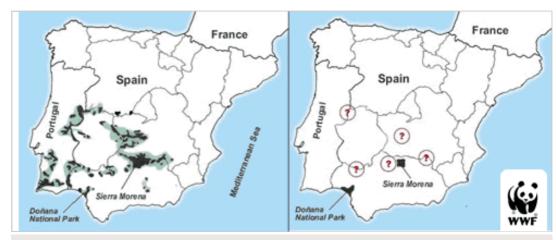
Home > About_wwf > What_we_do > Species > Critically Endangered species: Iberian lynx | Population & Distribution

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*

Species by Cou

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

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

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 km² (about

Introduction
Ecology and Habitat
Population and distribution
Threats
What We Do

Iberian lynx

10% of the surface of Spain). In Portugal, a 1989 survey estimated some 40 to 50 individuals across 2,400 km².

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 km², both in Andalucia, southern Spain. The population includes scattered groups, of which only two are considered to have populations which could be viable in the long term.