

Conservation of the Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in the West and Central Europe

Updates on developing the Carpathian Lynx Strategy

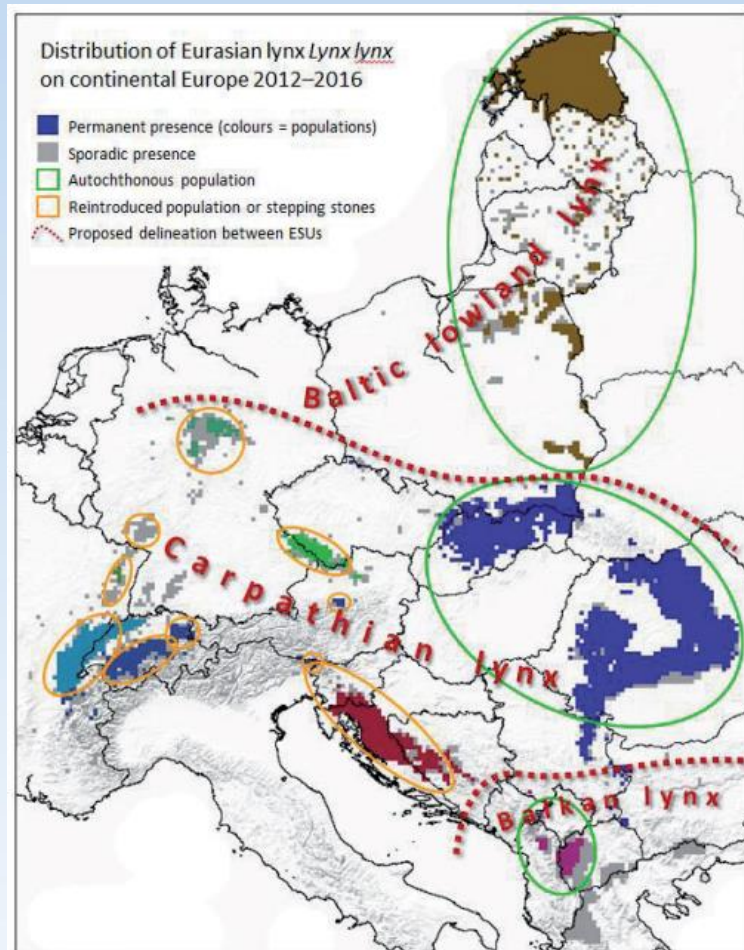
Kubala, J. Breitenmoser, U. & Bürki, R. IUCN Cat SG & KORA
Krebühl, J. Stiftung Natur und Umwelt Rheinland-Pfalz et al.



16th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity
13-14 May 2025, Veselí nad Moravou, Czech Republic

Carpathian Mountains: 209,256 km² — RO 50%, SK 17%, PL 10%, UA 10%, CZ 5%, HU 4%, RS 3%.

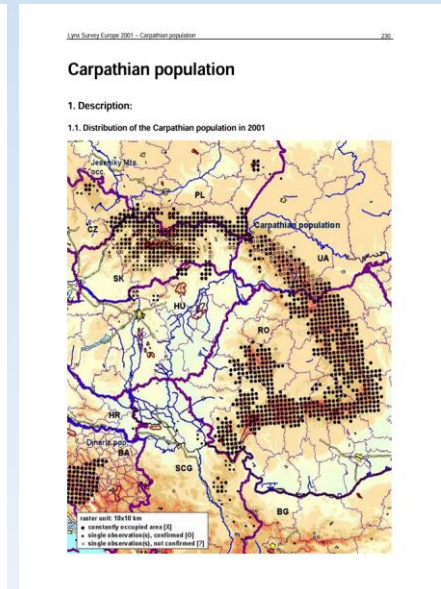
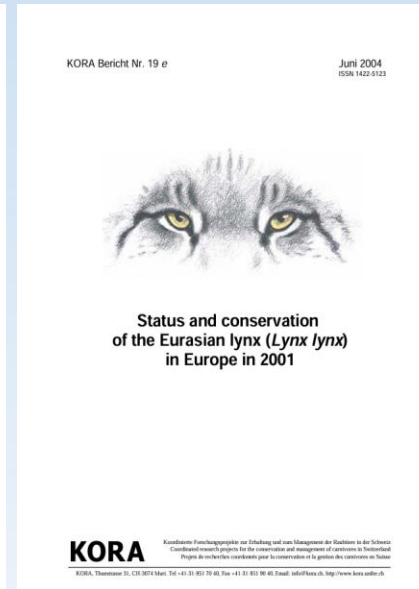
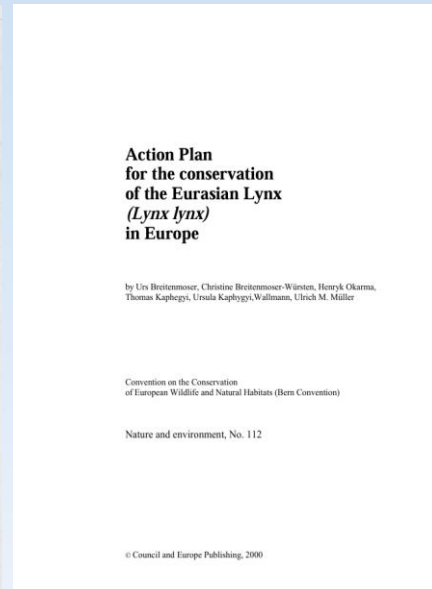
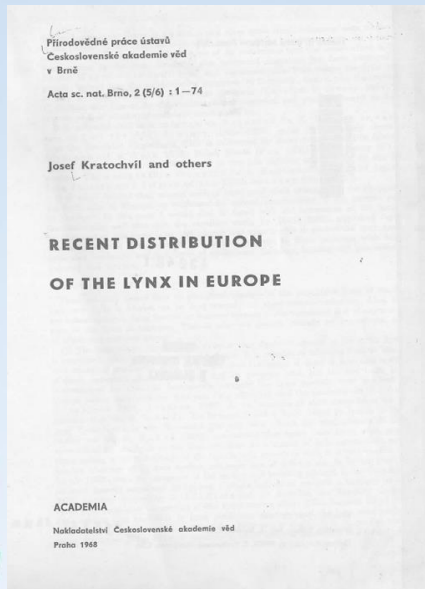
Estimated lynx population: 2,687 across 168,800 km² (141,500 km² permanent, 24,900 km² sporadic, 2,400 km² unknown; Kaczensky et al. 2024).



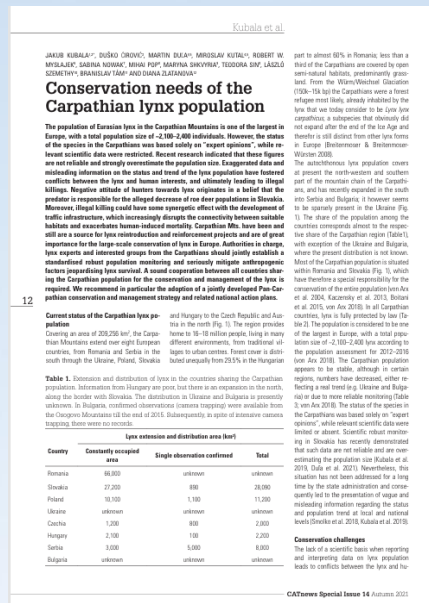
Bonn Lynx Expert Group (2021)

Initial assessments of the Carpathian lynx population:

1. Recent Distribution of Lynx in Europe (Kratochvíl et al. 1968);
2. Action Plan for the conservation of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe (Breitenmoser et al. 2000);
3. Status and conservation of the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe in 2001 (von Arx et al. 2004).



2. The Status of the Lynx Population in the Carpathians (Kubala et al. 2023).



Management

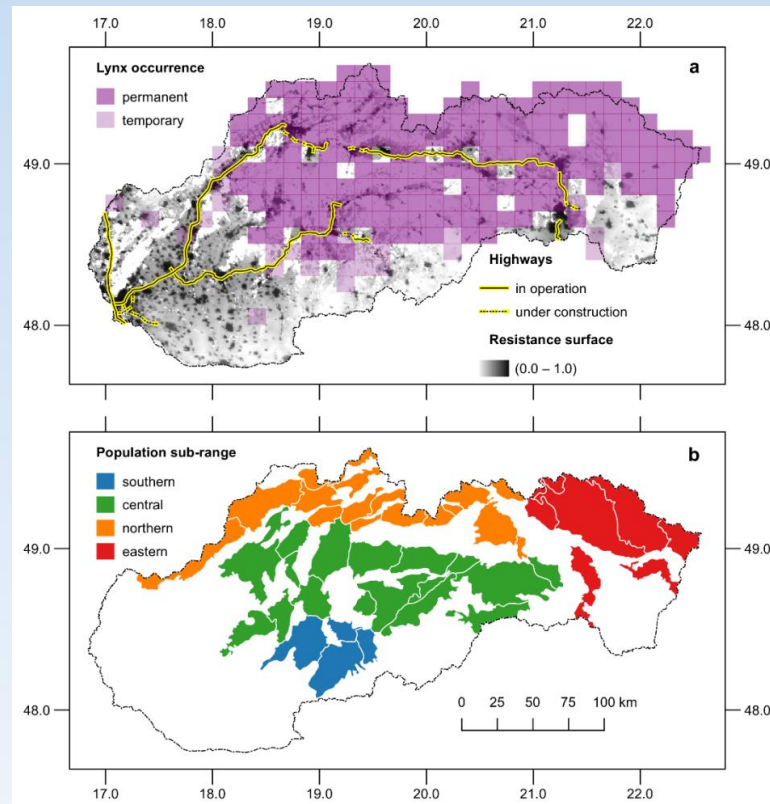
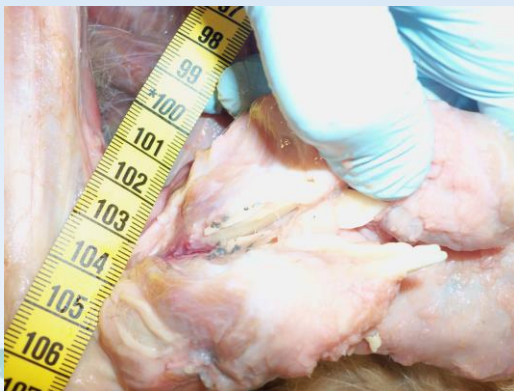
Country	Legal status	Conservation / Action / Management plan status 2011	Conservation / Action / Management plan status 2019	Conservation / Action / Management plan status 2023
Romania	fully protected	none	none	none
Slovakia	fully protected	none	Managementplan ^A	Managementplan ^A
Poland	fully protected	none	none	none
Ukraine	fully protected	none	none	Managementplan ^A
Czechia	fully protected	none	none	none, in preparation
Hungary	fully protected	Management plan ended in 2011	no concrete plan, revision is planned	none
Serbia	fully protected	none	Managementplan ^B	Managementplan ^B
Bulgaria	fully protected	none	none	none

A Implementation of the ongoing plan

B Available but not implemented

Main threats to the Carpathian lynx population:

1. Illegal killings (poaching);
2. Declining habitat quality and connectivity, driven by expanding transport networks and rising human-caused mortality.




Key Conservation Priorities:


1. Foster cross-border collaboration among all Carpathian-range countries;
2. Establish a harmonized, systematic monitoring framework for lynx populations;
3. Implement education and prevention programs to prevent illegal killings;
4. Ensure all future development projects undergo rigorous planning to minimize impact on lynx habitats (e.g., through EIA);
5. Develop and adopt a comprehensive Carpathian-wide conservation and management strategy, supported by national action plans.




The Pan-Carpathian Conservation and Management Strategy, led by the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group and the Carpathian Convention Secretariat, will be developed by late summer 2025 with support from Range States and international partners, and adopted by consensus at the COP.



COP 14
CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
SAMARKAND
UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

UN environment programme  **CMS**

 **CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.4
12 June 2023
Original: English

14th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 – 17 February 2024
Agenda Item 32.3

PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE EURASIAN LYNX (*Lynx lynx*) PROPOSED FOR LISTING ON APPENDIX II (AND I for *L. l. balcanicus*) OF THE CONVENTION*

Summary:

The Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) has a large, continuous and stable population in the boreal forest belt of the Palearctic region. Its four southern subspecies however are either threatened or in need of more reliable information to assess their conservation status. This CA proposes to develop, in cooperation with the Range States, explicit conservation plans for the European subspecies *L. l. balcanicus* and *L. l. carpathicus*. For the Asian subspecies *L. l. isabellinus* and *L. l. dinniki*, robust baseline surveys are foreseen, combined with building range-wide conservation cooperation and training of local experts to advance future conservation activities. *L. l. isabellinus* is suggested to be included in CMS CAMI.

EU statement to the CA Proposal at CMS COP 14:

“The EU and its MS support the approval of the Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) [...]

We acknowledge the importance of this conservation initiative under the CMS in Europe to promote transboundary cooperation that is essential for a wide-ranging species as the Eurasian Lynx with mostly transboundary populations.

We believe that the implementation of this Concerted Action [...] will contribute to the recovery of their populations, including through improved cooperation between the Range States and more focused conservation efforts of all stakeholders. [...]

The EU and its MS appreciate the work and efforts undertaken so far by IUCN Specialist Groups, several universities, and other scientific institutions, as well as national authorities and the engagement of several large conservation organisations and expect that additional funding will be provided to support the activities promoted by this Concerted Action in the various Range States.”

Preparatory Steps:

IUCN Red List and Green Status of Species assessments for *Lynx l. carpathicus* input information for the development of the Strategy

1. The IUCN Red List assessment is in preparation and scheduled for completion in May/June 2025;
2. The IUCN Green List assessment is currently underway and expected to be finalized by May/June 2025;

RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Questionnaire

Please take into account that you may not have to fill in all parts of the questionnaire. Especially parts written in gray may not have to be filled in. Depending on the available information and applied IUCN Category and Criteria, the required supporting information changes (see IUCN 2017, Rules of procedure for IUCN Red List assessments 2017-2020, page 8-16). However, please provide as much information as you have for the species as this is also important for future assessments.

Scientific and common names

The IUCN Red List generally focuses at the species level. Subspecies and subpopulations (as defined in the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, Version 3.1) may also be assessed and will be considered for inclusion in the IUCN Red List only if the species-level assessment is also available. Hybrids will not be considered for inclusion in the IUCN Red List. Please apply the taxonomy of Kitchener et al. 2017, A revised taxonomy of the Felidae. The final report of the Cat Classification Task Force of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group. Cat News Special Issue 11, 80 pp.

Scientific name (including authority details):

Lynx *lynx* *ssp. carpathicus* – Štálova, 1963

Synonym/s (if there has been a taxonomic change in the last 5 years or if widely used):

English Common Name (if known):

Carpathian lynx (English)

Other Common Names (if known and state language):

Карпатський лис (Bulgarian), Rys ostrovid (Czech, Slovak), Európski lúč (Hungarian), Rys europejski (Polish), Linc european (Romanian), Европски лис (Serbian), Евр. карпатський лис (Ukrainian), Eurasischer Luchs (German).

Карпатски лис (Bulgarian), Karpatský rys (Czech, Slovak), Kárpáti lócs (Hungarian), Karpacki lisek (Polish), Linc carpatic (Romanian), Карпатски лис (Serbian), Карпатський лис (Ukrainian), Karpatherluchs (German)

Taxonomy

Note that the IUCN Red List does not record sub-families, sub-orders, etc. Only the taxonomic levels requested below should be provided.

Kingdom Phylum Class

IUCN Green Status of Species Assessment Workbook (Version 1.0)

(For evaluation purposes)

Thank you for your interest in the new IUCN Green Status of Species. The assessment protocol in this workbook is the result of many test versions that have been refined based on user input. If you experience any issues or areas of concern while completing the assessment, please make a note of them in the spaces provided: these comments will inform the next step in the process, which is developing a mechanism for official publication of Green Status of Species assessments. If you have any questions, contact Molly Grace (molly.grace@iucn.org.uk).

Instructions (click here to open)

The step-by-step instructions for completing this Green Status Test Assessment can be found here. It is highly recommended that you read over these instructions before beginning your assessment, and have the PDF open to refer back to as you complete the assessment. The tabs in this workbook are numbered in the same way as in the instructions.

Background and Guidelines (click to open)

It may also be helpful to refer to the Background and Guidelines document, which provides even more detail and definitions.

Follow the steps in the instructions to fill out the subsequent tabs, which are numbered in the same order as the sections of the instructions. Below, please fill in information about yourself and the team being assessed.

Throughout this spreadsheet, please enter data in SHADED CELLS ONLY.

Information about person/s completing this assessment

Assessor 1 Name	Elisa Carlson	IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation	Mammals, Cat Specialist Group	If you selected "Other" in "IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation" or "Cat Specialist Group", please enter details	SSS Team Review	Assessor Comments
Assessor 2 Name		IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation		If you selected "Other" in "IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation" or "Cat Specialist Group", please enter details		
Assessor 3 Name		IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation		If you selected "Other" in "IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation" or "Cat Specialist Group", please enter details		
Assessor 4 Name		IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation		If you selected "Other" in "IUCN Specialist Group Affiliation" or "Cat Specialist Group", please enter details		
Contributor names						
SSS Facilitator/Reviewer Name		Facilitator or Reviewer?				
add more rows if necessary						
Have any of the assessors listed above previously contributed to a Red List assessment (for any species)?		*Response required				

Approach for the development of a draft Strategy:

1. Development of DRAFT Strategy through an Expert Group and RS Representatives in several online meetings, facilitated by IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group and CC Secretariat/WG Biodiversity;
2. Submission of the DRAFT Strategy to the Conventions on behalf of the Range States;
3. Review, revision, endorsement.

All range countries, regional conservation organizations, and scientific institutions will collaborate to develop a conservation strategy, in line with the IUCN Guidelines for Strategic Planning of Species Conservation, to guide the establishment and implementation of national action plans.

This range-wide effort will be coordinated under the auspices of the Carpathian and Bern Conventions.



Carpathian Lynx Strategy Development – outline agenda for online workshops

Tentative schedule:

1. Three online workshops @ 4 hours + 1 spare date for round-up or review
2. Physical meeting with Range States to discuss after finalising “First Draft”

Tentative agenda:

Workshop 1, DATE, TIME

1. Introduction and background (Urs Breitenmoser, 10 min)
2. Carpathian lynx status: Red List Assessment, Green Status of Species Assessment (Jakub Kubala, Tabea Lanz, Elliot Carlton)
3. Strategic planning (ZOPP, LogFrame) and workshop process (Johanna Mattenklodt)
4. Development of Vision and Goal (Plenary, moderated)
5. Development of problem tree (threat analysis; Plenary, moderated)

Workshop 2, DATE, TIME

6. Review of Problem Tree, discussion and definition of Themes (Plenary, moderated)
7. Definition of Objectives (Working Groups, Plenary, moderated)
8. Introduction to the definition of Results and S.M.A.R.T. (Johanna Mattenklodt)
9. Definition of Results (Working Groups, Plenary, moderated)

Workshop 3, DATE, TIME

10. Definition of Results cont. (Plenary, moderated)
11. Introduction to LogFrame parameters and table (Johanna Mattenklodt)
12. Definition of Activities (Plenary, moderated)
13. Presentation and discussion of Activities

Workshop 4, DATE, TIME

14. Spare date to finalise planning if not finished
15. Possibly used to review and refined “preliminary draft strategy”

Follow-up:

- “First Draft” to be submitted to the UNEP → Range States and Conventions
- To be commented, discussed and refined in a physical meeting organised by UNEP in cooperation with CMS and BeCon

Thank you for your attention, support and cooperation!

