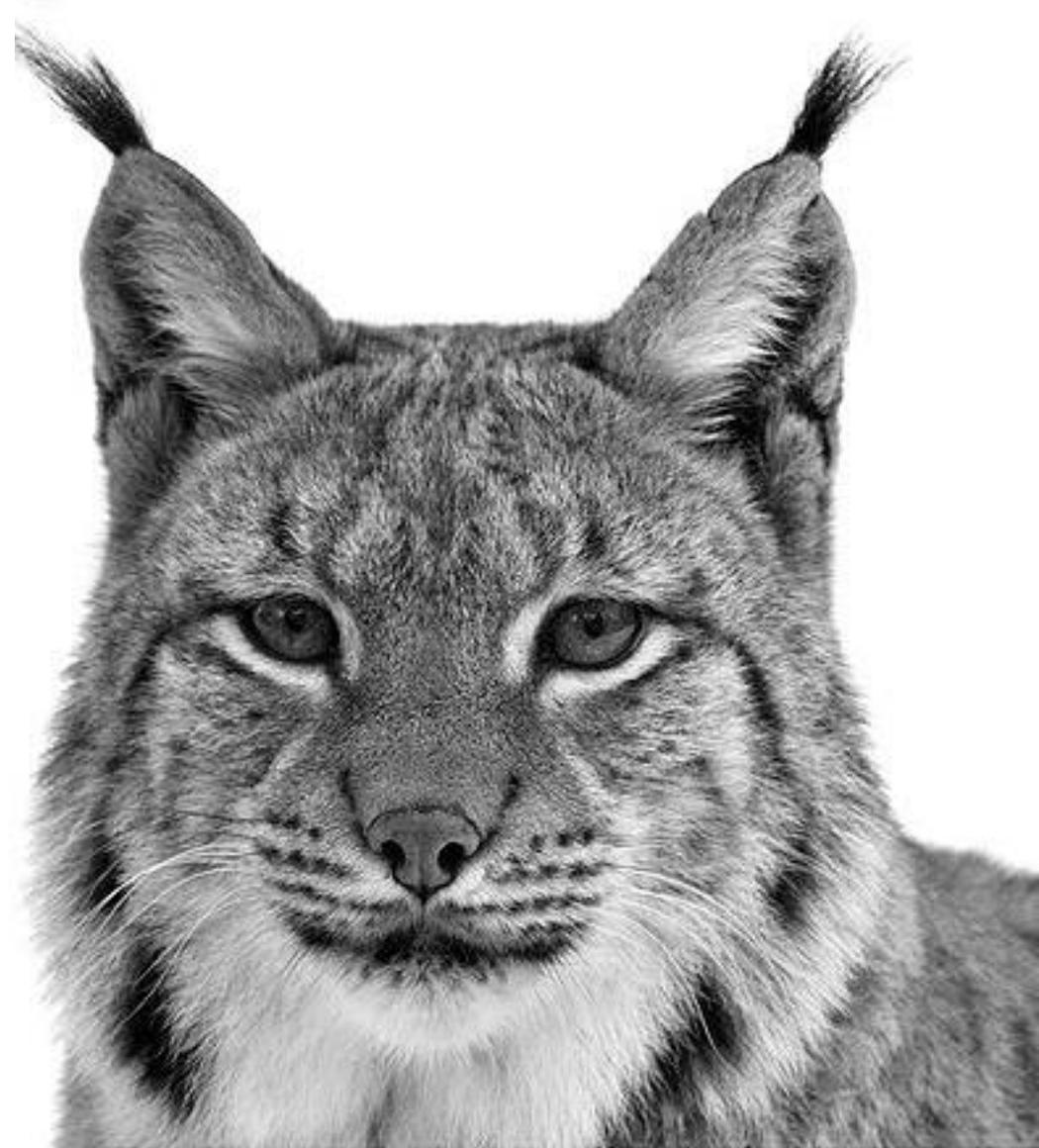


Development of a Conservation Strategy for the lynx in the Carpathian Range

Urs Breitenmoser & Roland Bürki, IUCN Cat SG & KORA
Ella Le Borgne, CSS Cats
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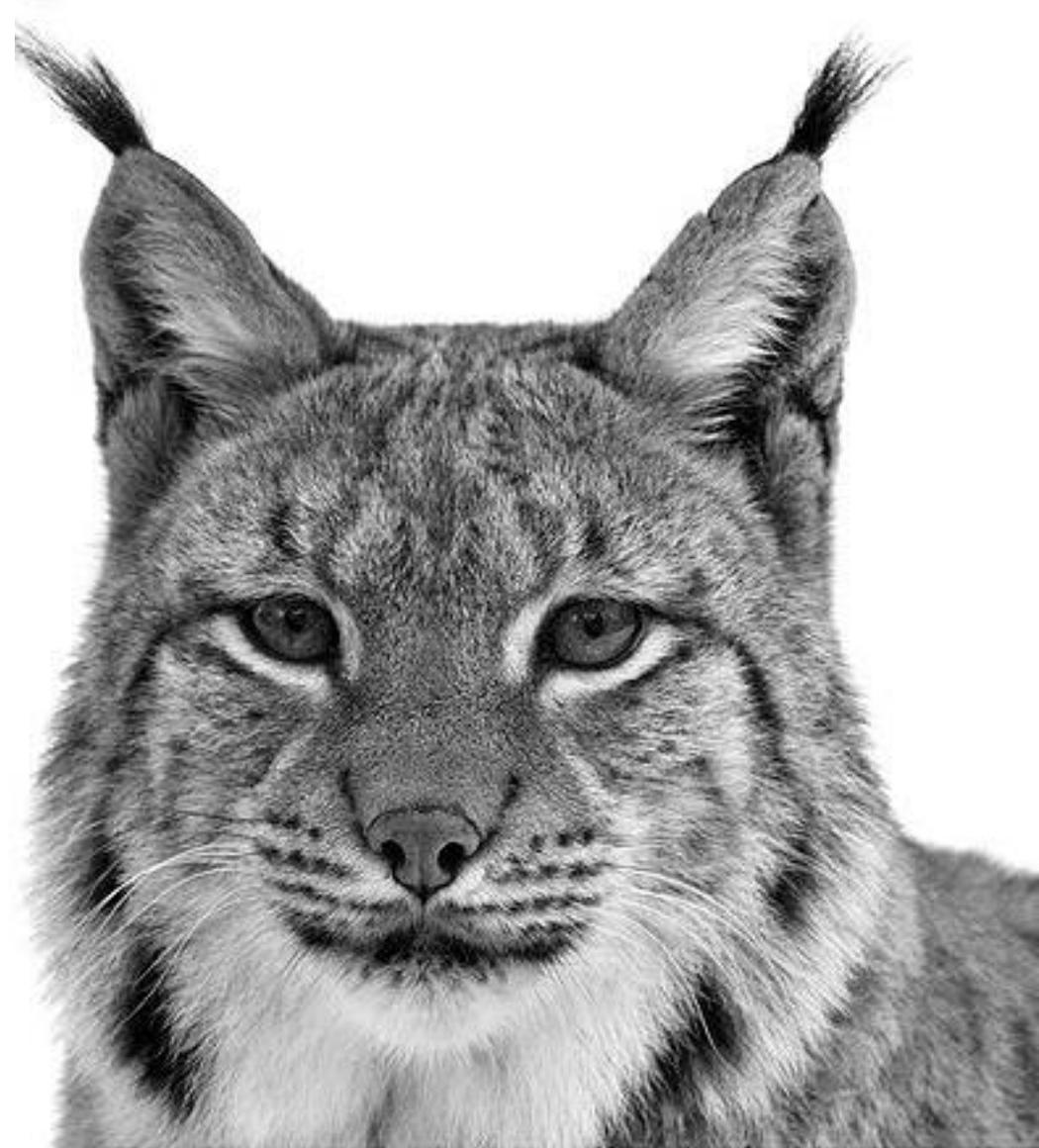


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Content:

1. Background
2. Preparatory steps and approach
3. Development of the Strategy
4. Review process and endorsement





**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.1/Rev.1
23 November 2023
Original: English

CMS Listing

14th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 – 17 February 2024
Agenda Item 31.4

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE EURASIAN LYNX (*Lynx lynx*)
IN APPENDIX II AND BALKAN LYNX (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*)
IN APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION***

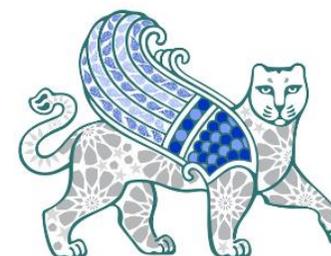
Summary:

North Macedonia as proponent, Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania as co-proponent have submitted the attached proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) in Appendix I of CMS.

A revised version of the supportive statement to the listing proposal has been submitted by the proponent on 29 September 2023 to address the comments of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC6 UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.1/Add.1). This has resulted in amendments to the supportive statement relating to:

- Whether the species has a conservation status that would benefit from international cooperation.
- The migratory behaviour of the species, taking into consideration aspects of the cyclical and predictable nature of movements, as interpreted in UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.7 Guidelines for Preparing and Assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices.
- The proportion of the global population of the species that are transboundary populations.

1. Background – situation of the Carpathian lynx and CA proposal



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

EU statement to the Listing Proposal at CMS COP 14:

“The EU and its MS would like to thank the Governments of North Macedonia as proponent, and Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania as co-proponents, for submitting this proposal.

The EU and its MS support the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx in Appendix II of the Convention, and of the Balkan Lynx in Appendix I as this subspecies is facing a serious extinction risk nowadays.

The conservation status of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) as a whole would benefit from international cooperation. Given that several Eurasian Lynx populations are isolated and fragmented, international cooperation under CMS could result in improving habitats and connectivity for this species. Increased connectivity would also help address inbreeding problems for those populations.”

→ Supported by other Range States and international organisations and consensually accepted at the COP.



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

Concerted Action

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.

Proponents: IUCN SSC (Cat Specialist Group) and Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

→ Supported by other Range States and international organisations and consensually accepted at the COP.

1. Background – situation of the Carpathian lynx and CA proposal



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

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.”

**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.

Proponents: IUCN SSC (Cat Specialist Group) and Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

→ Supported by other Range States and international organisations and consensually accepted at the COP.

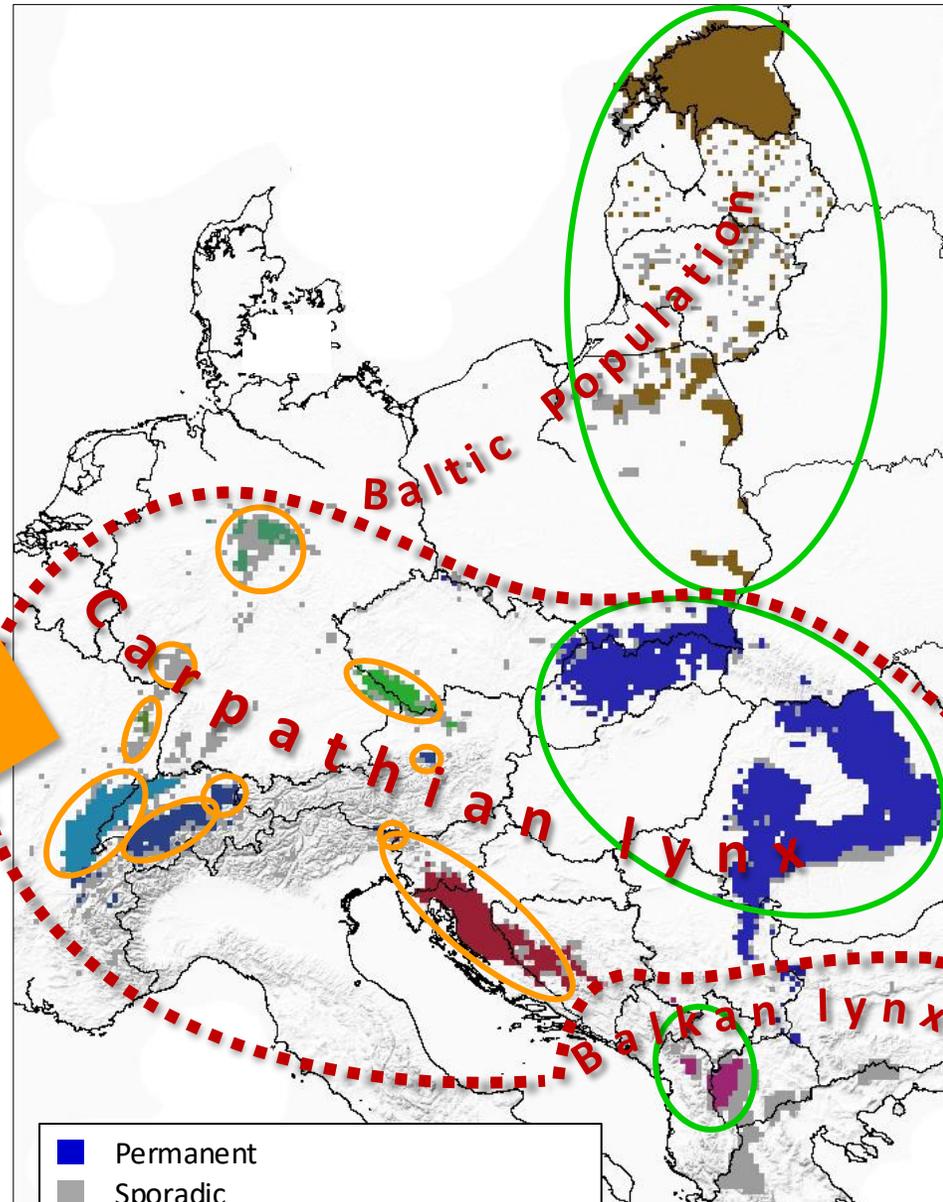
(2) *Lynx lynx carpathicus* is restricted to the Carpathian Mountain Range. While the Romanian population is believed to be stable, the Slovak/Czech population seems to decline, and the Ukrainian population is likely to be so low that the continuous distribution may be disrupted.

It is urgent to establish range-wide transboundary cooperation with regard to its monitoring and conservation. We will invite all **Range Countries, regional conservation organisations and scientific institutions to develop a conservation strategy** to guide the establishment and implementation of conservation activities through national action plans, according to the IUCN Guidelines for the Strategic Planning of Species Conservation.

The range-wide cooperation will be under the auspice of the **Carpathian Convention and the Bern Convention**.

“Realm”

→ Mountainous regions of West-Central Europe



Reintroduced populations

Autochthonous population in the Carpathians

IUCN Guidelines

Conservation Strategy



15th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

CC/CCIC15/DRAFT 10.10.2024

15th CCIC Recommendations DRAFT BY THE SECRETARIAT

- The CCIC welcomes the idea of the joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (Carpathian Lynx Strategy) to be potentially developed under the auspices of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species and Bern Convention, and invites the WG Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to support the process.*



The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention has issued several specific recommendations and reports regarding the **Carpathian lynx** (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*).

Recommendation No. 100 (2003)

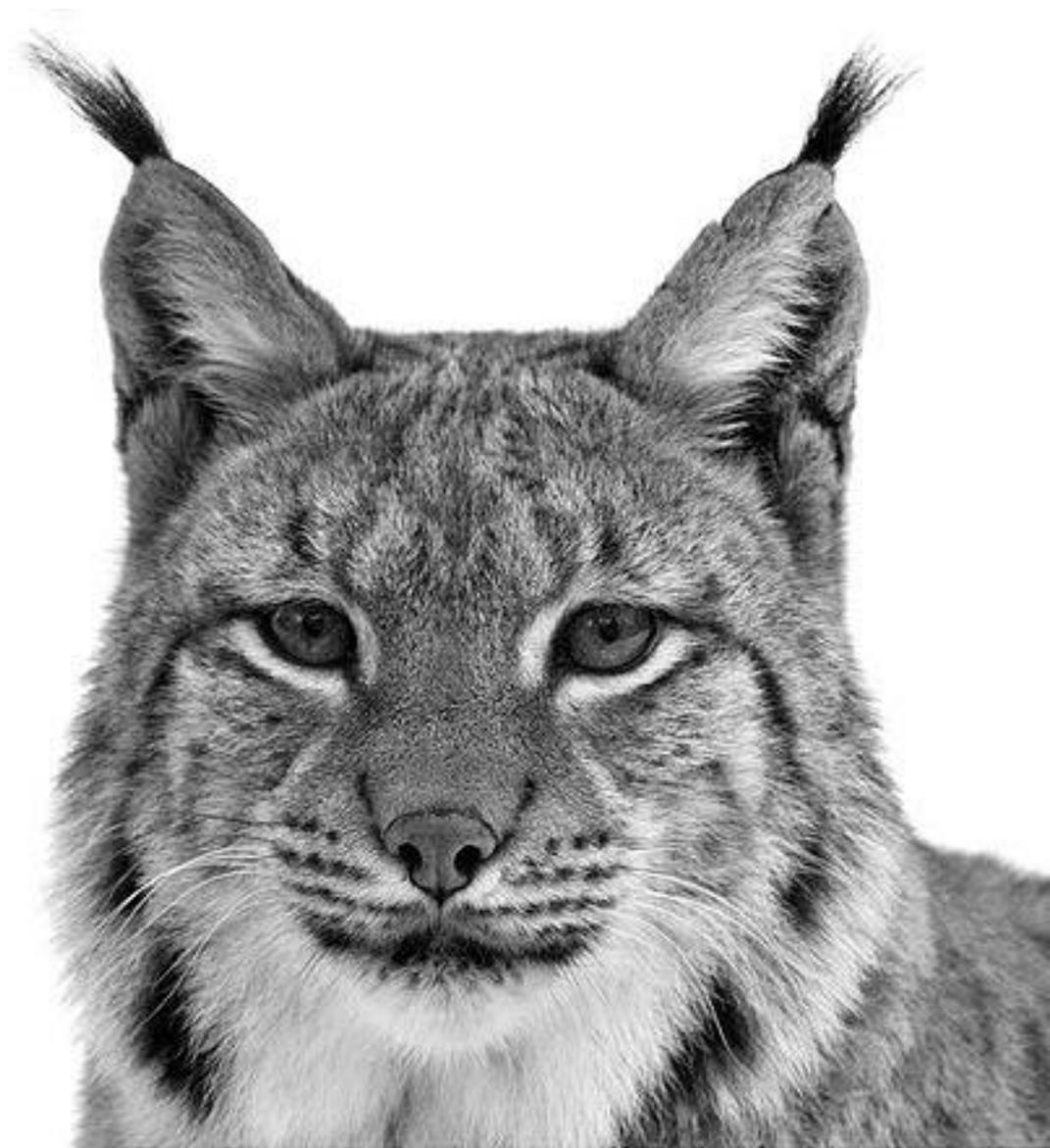
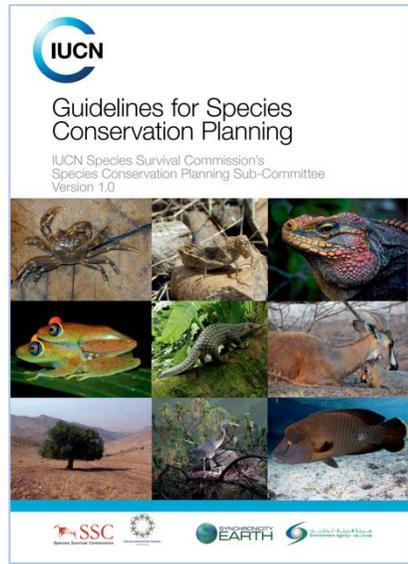
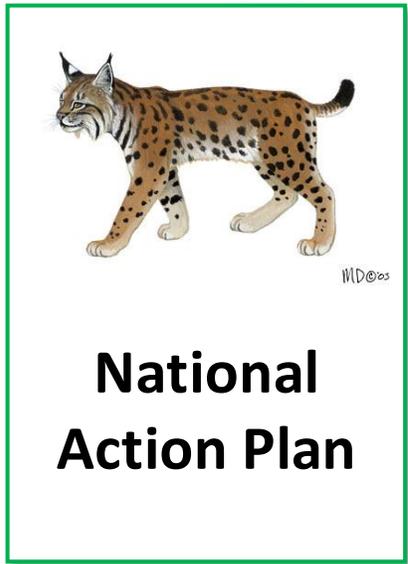
This recommendation specifically addresses the **Conservation of large carnivores in the Carpathians**

- **Carpathian Strategy Plan:** It recommends that range states cooperate to jointly prepare a "Carpathian Strategy Plan" for lynx, wolf, and bear.
- **National Action Plans:** It urges these states to draft and implement national action plans that align with the broader regional goals.

Recommendation No. 204 (2019)

- **Spatial Delineation:** It formally recognizes the Carpathian lynx as one of the three distinct subspecies in continental Europe.
- **Source Population:** It identifies the Carpathian population as the critical **wild source population** for reintroductions and reinforcements across West and Central Europe.
- **Transboundary Cooperation:** It calls for a "tight transboundary cooperation" to recover a viable metapopulation and standardized protocols for genetic assessment and translocation.

IUCN SSC Conservation Cycle



2. Preparatory Steps

- IUCN Red List and Green Status of Species assessments for *Lynx l. carpathicus* → input information for the development of the Strategy
- Separate presentations for RLA and GSS!



3. Approach for the development of a draft Strategy

- Development of DRAFT Strategy through an Expert Group and RS representatives in several online meetings, facilitated by IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, the CSS Cats and CC Secretariat/WG Biodiversity
- Submission of the DRAFT Strategy to the Conventions on the attention of the Range States
- Review through bodies of the Conventions and Range States
- Revision and submission of FINAL DRAFT for endorsement



Overall schedule for the development, review, and submission of the Strategy for the Lynx in the Carpathians

<i>Step</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
1	Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity + LC Expert Group meeting (online)	24 February 2026 (online)
2	Produce the Draft Strategy Version 1 in 4–5 online meetings	February to April 2026
3	LECA Final Conference and Linking Lynx meeting – possible in-person consultation	16-19 March 2026
4	Review of the Draft Strategy V1 by WGBD, LCEG and CMS SC	May 2026
5	Revision → Draft Strategy Version	May to June 2026
6	Review of the Draft Strategy V2 by WGBD, LCEG and CMS SC	June 2026
7	Submission of Draft Strategy V2 to the CCIC for initial review	June 2026
8	Carpathian Convention WGBD + LC Expert Group review	September 2026
9	<u>Discussion</u> CCIC and formal finalization of the final draft Strategy	September 2026
10	Submission of the final draft Strategy to Carp Con CoP 8 and Bern Convention Standing Committee	October 2026
11	Submission of the Strategy to CMS Sec for consideration by the COP16	TBD

Schedule for the development of the Strategy for the Lynx in the Carpathians through the Expert Group

1. Expert group and institutions to be invited to delegate experts into the group

- Expert Group: Country representatives from the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, focal points, LECA lynx experts, etc.
- Facilitators from Cat SG, CSS Cats, etc.

2. Modus operandi

- Online workshops, always 13:00–17:00 CET:
 - Tuesday **24 February 2026**
 - Tuesday **10 March 2026**
 - Tuesday **31 March 2026**
 - Tuesday **7 April 2026**
 - REVIEW MEETING Tuesday **21 April 2026**
- Inter-sessional drafting committee and working groups

*Thank you!
Questions?*