The situation and demands of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) with regard to the coherence of the Natura 200 network

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• The Iberian Lynx is a small size cat with long legs, short tail, whiskers around its face and spotty coat.

• The Iberian lynx feeds basically on the wild rabbit (80% of the diet).

• It lives in southwest of the Iberian peninsula in mosaic areas of Mediterranean forest
POPULATION SIZE

1100 individuals estimated
Living in 48 separated breeding areas in Spain and Portugal (1988) in a surface of 11,000 km²

Less than 100 individuals and only 2 stable populations: Andujar (Eastern Sierra Morena) and Doñana (2004)
Andujar (Sierra Morena)

Doñana
THREATS

1. Decline in rabbit populations
2. High mortality due to human activities
3. Loss and habitat fragmentation
4. Fragmentation of populations
Natura 2000 proposal for the Iberian lynx

• WWF-Spain developed a **Shadow list** with:
  74 proposed areas (48 breeding areas + 26 new sectors including areas with occasional presence and corridors), covering 2,732,407 Ha

• The last version of the official proposal for the Iberian lynx (2004) covers 2,615,103 Ha.

• The apparent difference is about 117,304 Ha, but there are about 800,000 Ha of gap. Mainly corridors and potential areas are lacking.
Some difficulties

• Basically only the historical breeding areas have been included.
• In some cases also some secondary areas were included too, but only if they were also considered for other species/habitat.
• There aren’t corridors (except for infrastructures).
• Fragmentation of the territory and of the population has not taken in account, so there is not a large continuum area (except in Sierra Morena).
• There is not a “recovery” approach.
• In some cases, new data have been used “against” the species.
Iberian lynx and roads in Doñana
Dams and Iberian lynx proposal
Linear infrastructures and Iberian lynx proposal

Leyenda

1. Autopista peaje Toledo-Ciudad Real-Autovía N-IV.
3. Autovía Linares-Albacete.
4. Autovía de la Plata.
5. Nueva calzada Despeñaperros, Venta de Cárdenas-Santa Elena.
8. Nueva carretera y mejora de trazado entre Luciana y Abenójar.
11. Acondicionamiento CM-403, tramo Ventas con Peña Aguilera - Puerto del Milagro y Molinillo.
12. Variante de Beas y Trigueros de la carretera N – 435 de Badajoz y Zafra a Huelva.
13. Carretera entre Almonte y Mazagón.
Demands for coherence

- Not only the breeding areas but also the areas with occasional presence and the dispersal areas should be considered.

- Viable corridors between core areas in order to guarantee their connection must be created.

- Rivers are not enough for large carnivores!!

- Stop the habitat fragmentation

- Incorporate the most recent data “in a constructive way”.

- Recover and maintain good potential areas → Management.
Thank you very much!
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