

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Lynx pardinus from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Portuguese Republic.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Mammalia
- 12. Order: Carnivora
- 13. Family: Felidae
- 14. Species: Lynx pardinus (Temminck, 1824)
- 15. Common Names: English: Spanish lynx, Iberian lynx,
pardel lynx
French: Lynx méditerranéen
Spanish: Lobo cervical, Gato cervical
German: Pardellochs
Portuguese Lince, Lobo-cervial, Gato-cravo
- 16. Code Numbers: A-112.007.001.015

2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: Today the Iberian lynx is confined only to some isolated ranges of the Iberian Peninsula in central and southern Spain and Portugal and to the Donana National Park (Garzon-Heydt, 1978; IUCN, 1978; Palma, 1980; Smit & Wijngaarden, 1981; Beltrán Gala, 1987). Three former occurrences of the species in central Spain and probably a fourth one are extinct (Garzon-Heydt, 1978).

It inhabited areas distant from centres of human population all over the Iberian Peninsula some fifty years ago (Kratochvíl et al., 1968).

Localities in Spain where the Spanish lynx is known to occur or to have occurred presumably until very recently:

- 1. "Sierra de la Culebra" and "Montes de Bermillo de Sayago" (Province Zamora): Several reports but not verified.
- 2. "Montes del río Agueda" (Province Salamanca): Formerly common, now only a few pairs left.
- 3. "Serra de Gata" (Provinces Salamanca and Cáceres): Until 1950 common, now about 40 pairs.

4. "Montes de las Hurdes" and "Pena de Francia, Lagunilla y Granadilla" (Provinces Salamanca and Cáceres): Population has very much decreased lately.
5. "Avila" and "Toledo" (Province Cáceres): Now probably a small remaining stock.
6. "Sierras de Zarza la Mayor y Ceclavín" (Province Cáceres): A small remaining stock of about 10 pairs.
7. "Sierras de San Pedro" (Provinces Cáceres and Badajoz): At the beginning of this century a very strong population, extinct at about 1930.
8. "Sierras de Serrejón, Malpartida de Plasencia y Serradilla" (Province Cáceres): Now about 15 pairs.
9. "Sierras de Las Villuercas y Guadalupe" (Province Cáceres): Now about 40 pairs with retrograde trend.
10. "Montes de Toledo" (Provinces Badajoz, Toledo and Ciudad Real): Now probably still 200 pairs.
11. "Sierra Morena" and "Sierra Alcaraz" (Provinces Baixo Alentejo, Badajoz, Huelva, Sevilla, Córdoba, Jaén, Ciudad Real and Albacete): Now probably 100 pairs.
12. Donana National Park (Provinces Huelva and Sevilla): Now about 20 pairs.
13. "Sierras de Albarracín, Gúdar y Monstant" (Provinces Teruel, Castellón and Tarragona): Several reports but not verified.
14. "Sierras de Guara, de la Pena y de Leyre" (Provinces Huesca, Zaragoza and Navarra): Several reports but not verified.

(Ref: Garzon-Heydt, 1973 and 1978)

The main localities of the species in Portugal:

1. "Serra de Malcata": A mountainous area close to the Spanish border, where the lynx is found probably in partial contact with the "Sierra de Gata" population in Spain.
2. "Contenda-Barrancos": The lynx is similarly in contact with others across the Spanish border.
3. Algarve ranges of "Serra do Caldeirao, Serra de Monchique" and "Serra de Espinhaco de Cao": In the "Sierra de Monchique y Caldeirao" the species seems to be common in some places but numbers are unknown.
4. "Alcacovas/Sado River System": Sightings and oral information indicate the survival of the pardel lynx in very small numbers.
5. "Serra de Aires"; A "new" area where two animals were shot recently. The status of this population is to be confirmed.

6. "Serra de Ossa" and "Serra de Portel": A small and isolated low hilly range where some few information report the presence of the species.
22. Population: Endangered (Kratochvíl et al., 1968; Garzon-Heydt, 1978; IUCN, 1978; Delibes, 1980) and threatened with extinction (Grande del Brio, 1978; Jackson in litt., 1988) the Iberian lynx is now in an actual critical situation (Vallecillo in litt., 1988). A noticeable decrease in the numbers of lynx has apparently taken place during the last few years (Garzon-Heydt, 1978; Rau et al., 1985).

According to ICONA (1986) and Vallecillo probably the actual total population will not exceed 400 individuals, dismissed to remote areas of Castilla-León, Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalucía (Beltrán Gala, 1987; Vallecillo in litt., 1988).

In 1973 Garzon-Heydt estimated the total population of the Iberian lynx to be about 1200 (+/- 200) adult specimens (see also 21. Distribution).

The lynx density at Donana National Park (350 sq. km) is estimated to range from 0.1 to 0.18 individuals/sqkm (Rau et al., 1985).

Numbers recently censused for Portugal indicate less than 25 pairs (20-25) (Oliveira in litt., 1989). The populations are much fragmented, small and probably slowly declining after a more rapid decline in the 1940s to 1960s, but probably least scarce in the "Serra de Malcata" (IUCN, 1978; Palma, 1980). According to Almeida (Almeida, 1988) the number of lynxes is estimated to be about ten today.

However, the regression of its population density, that began at about the middle of the 19th Century and stressed by mixomatosis from 1950-1960, probably determined its disappearance from more northern habitats (Beltrán Gala, 1987).

Of the three non-selective hunting methods - traps, snares, and poison - the trap, abusively used for rabbit hunting, is without doubt the method which causes the greatest number of deaths among the lynxes. Hunting is an important agent of lynx mortality, although not of first order, since lynxes are not directly chased, but killed by lost bullets during rabbit hunts (Garzon-Heydt, 1973; Vallecillo in litt., 1988).

23. Habitat: The Iberian lynx has adapted itself to more open country (Valverde, 1957; Simon & Géroudet, 1970; Garzon-Heydt, 1978). It inhabits thicket, which is not too dense with scattered rocks or trees, including woodland, that allows suitable understory thicket to persist. In woodland without thicket the lynx does not occur nor where the understory is excessively dense (IUCN, 1978). The range altitude of the lynx is from sea level to about 1600 m, but mainly between 400 and 900 m (ICUN, 1978; Palma, 1980).

The pardel lynx behaves as a food specialist, preying mostly on rabbits (at least 60-80% of its prey). Aside from rabbits, it feeds on birds (mainly ducks), some young ungulates and small

mammals (Rogers, 1978; Delibes, 1980; Aymerich, 1982; Rau et al., 1985; Villarreal in litt., 1989a). Rabbits are the main food of the Spanish lynx. For this cause the epidemy of myxomatosis has damaged the last populations of this beautiful cat (Delibes et al., 1975). As of the past year the rabbits in Spain have been hit with a new deadly virus, the so called viral haemorrhagic pneumonia. The virus has taken its toll on the Spanish rabbits, for instance at Montes de Toledo, where the largest population exist. So it is even more difficult for the Spanish lynx to survive (Villarreal in litt., 1989b).

The vegetation of their biotopes has been brutally transformed during the last years, and replaced by fast-growing trees like Eucalyptus and Pinus, or by irrigation schemes. This lack of adequate habitats has dismissed the last lynx to remote areas where the population of rabbits is still large and where the original vegetation exists (Garzon-Heydt, 1973; Delibes et al., 1975; Grande del Brio, 1978; IUCN, 1978; Vallecillo in litt., 1988)

Although the lynx appears to have no fear of man, it cannot tolerate living in close proximity to man, with the result that it will generally leave an area in which permanent settlement is established (Simon & Géroutet, 1970).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Not known.

32. Legal International Trade: The USA has reported some trade in skins and garments of Felis pardina to the WTMU in 1982 and 1984. As countries of export are given Canada, France, the Soviet Union, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as countries of origin Canada, Mongolia and the Soviet Union. As the species does not occur in these countries there must be some mistake and the imports might be of Lynx lynx.

There is almost no international trade in the pardel lynx (Villarreal in litt., 1989a).

33. Illegal Trade: Illegal trade of this species exists, but it is very difficult to make an estimation (Beltrán Gala in litt., 1988) and it is very scarce and difficult to localize at present (Vallecillo in litt., 1988).

The WWF-Spain has knowledge of one case in which a pair of pardel lynx were sold to the Giardino Zoo in Rome without the consent of the Spanish Government (Villarreal in litt., 1989a). According to Oliveira in litt., 1989) it exists some stuffed trophies of this species caught in Portugal and it still exists demands to Portuguese taxidermists of these trophies.

34. Potential Trade Threats: The population of the Iberian lynx is threatened with extinction and might be affected by trade - although trade is not a threat at present (Jackson in litt., 1988).

In Portugal trade is a threat as the pardel lynx fur and trophy can be sold by high prices (Oliveira in litt., 1989).

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected by law in Spain and Portugal (IUCN, 1978).
42. International: Included in Appendix II of CITES since 24.04.1977. Additional protection in Appendix C2 in the EEC since 1.01.1984.
43. Additional Protection Needs: In some areas of Spain observations on specimens hunted, trapped etc. are not uncommon (Beltrán Gala in litt., 1988).

Being a species nationally strictly protected, the little effectiveness of the existing laws make the factors menacing this species survival (trapping and habitat destruction by replacing with exotic arboreal species) go on rarefying its scarce populations (Beltrán Galán, 1987).

As the laws are not sufficient, the preservation of this endangered species needs actual and active protection and a programme to obtain breeding in captivity focussed to future reintroduction (Beltrán in litt., 1988).

The pardel lynx is one of the most menaced species of Europe and therefore one of which needs a maximum international protection (Vallecillo in litt., 1988). So it should be included in Appendix I of CITES.

Anyway, the future of pardel lynxes depends on the strict protection of Mediterranean ecosystems where the lynx still lives (Vallecillo in litt., 1988).

5. Information on Similar Species

Syn.: Felis pardina, Felis lynx pardina, Lynx pardella, Lynx pardina. Some authors consider Lynx pardinus to be a subspecies of the European lynx Lynx lynx L. while others regard it as a good species.

The Iberian lynx is significantly smaller than the European lynx (García-Perea et al., 1985) and has a shorter fur and more pronounced spots (Simon & Géroutet, 1970).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

According to the International Zoo Yearbook there was one specimen kept in the zoo of Rome in 1985 (Olney, 1987). In 1986 Beltrán saw a young Iberian lynx in the Zoo of Córdoba. It died several months later (Beltrán Gala in litt., 1988). According to Vallecillo (in litt., 1988) there is only one known specimen in captivity and there is no notice of captive-breeding.

8. References

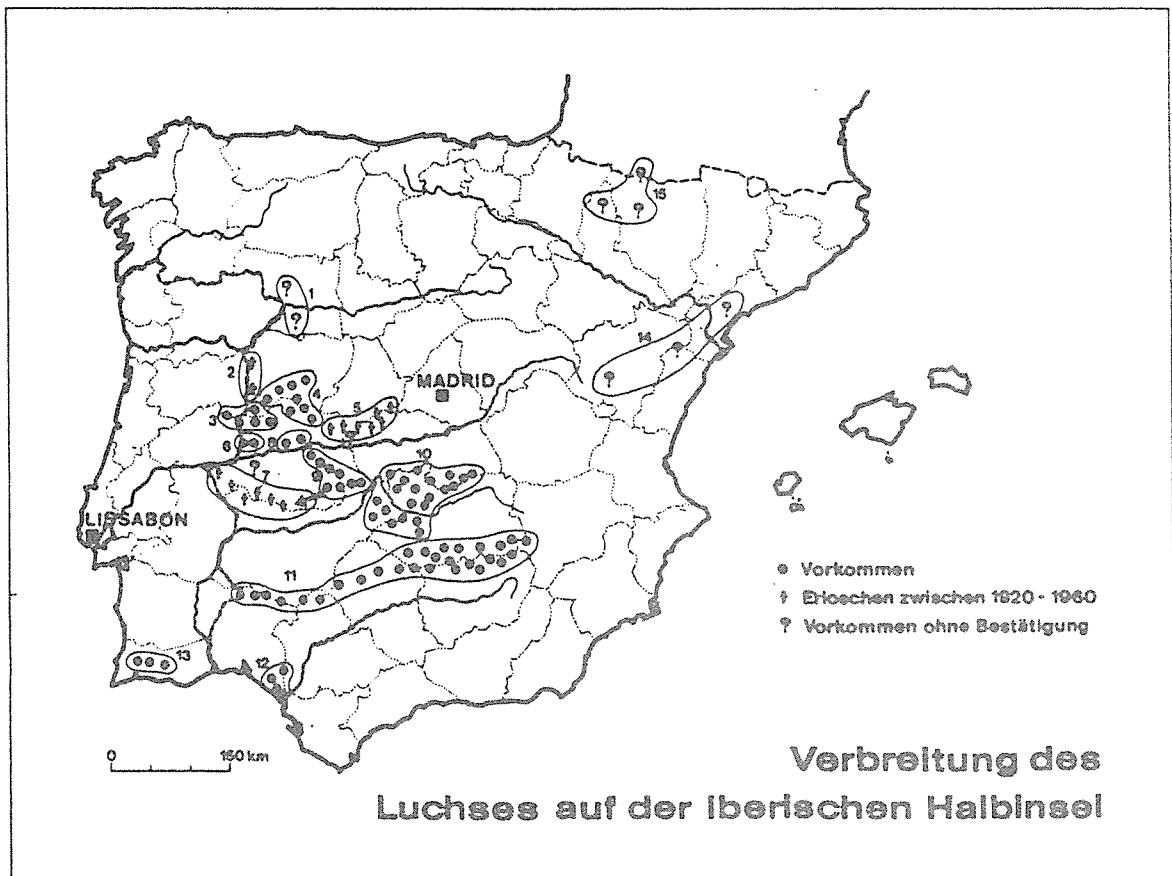
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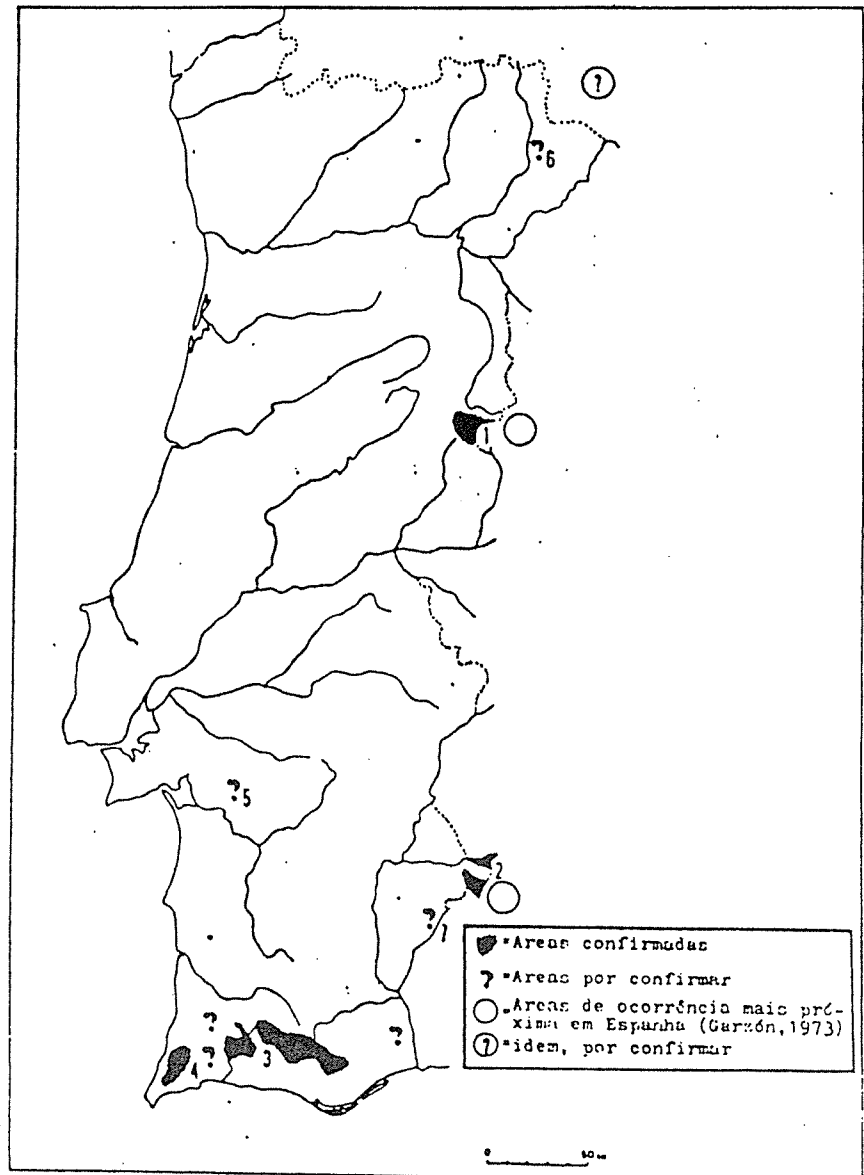
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Actual distribution of *Lynx pardinus* (Beltrán Gala, 1987)



Actual distribution of *Lynx pardinus* (Garzon-Heydt, 1978)



Actual distribution of *Lynx pardinus* in Portugal
(Palma, 1980)

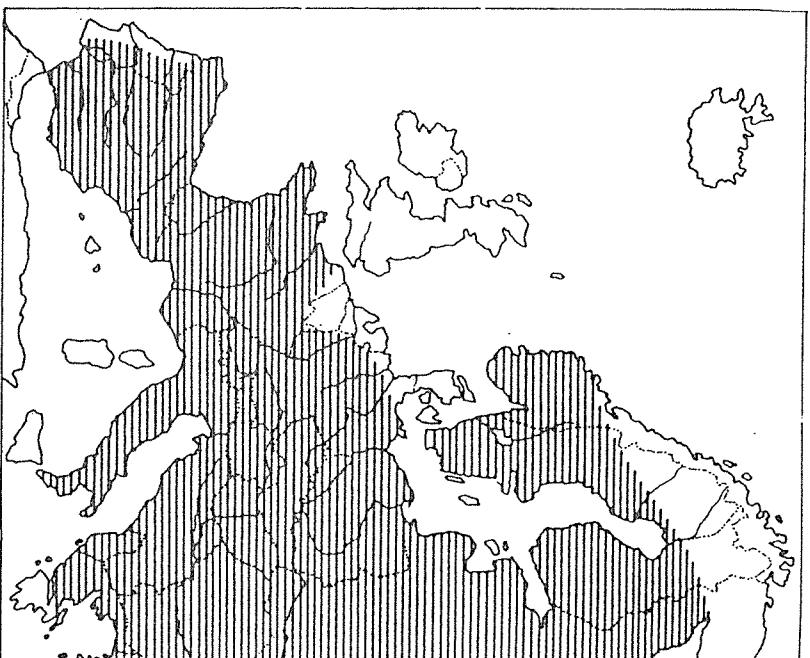


Fig. 2. Presumed distribution of the lynx in Europe in the beginning of the historical period.
(original)

(Kratovichil et al., 1968)

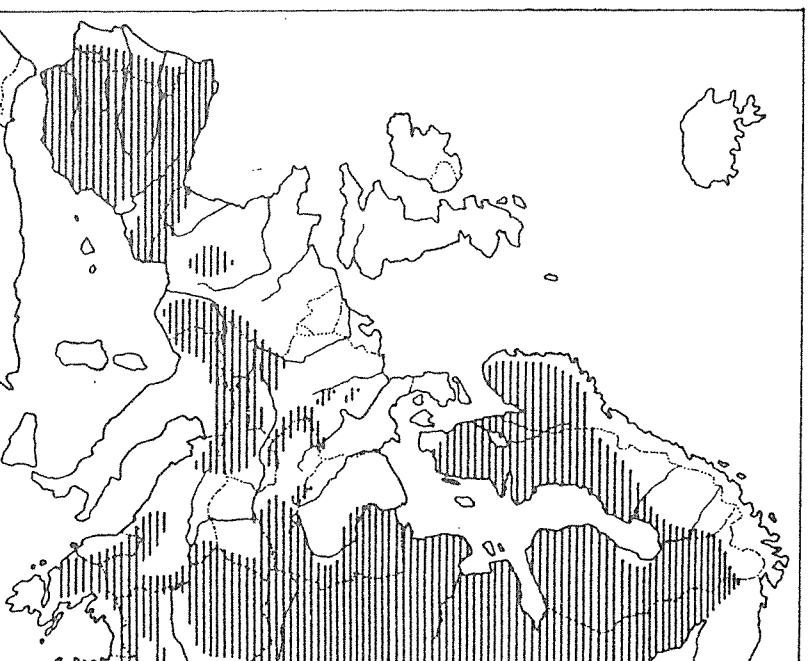


Fig. 3. Distribution of the lynx towards 1800.
Compiled and completed by K. Curry-Lindahl (1951).

(Kratovichil et al., 1968)



MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION Y CIENCIA
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS

ESTACION BIOLOGICA DE DOÑANA

ADQUIRIDA CON LA CONTRIBUCION DEL
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

PABELLÓN DEL PERÚ
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31.05.88

Mr. Heiner Klös
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6000 Frankfurt 1
Alemania Federal

Dear Mr Klös:

Enclosed is the publication on Iberian lynx you requested. I apologize for my delay to answer your kind letter dated 22.03.88. It arrived while I was with the finishing touch to the manuscript of my doctoral dissertation (on biometry, diet and patterns of circadian activity, space use and causes of mortality concerning the lynx population of the Doñana National Park). I'm sorry.

I will try to summarize the studies on Iberian lynx that our research team (headed by Dr. Miguel Delibes) is carrying out.

1.- Survey to determine the current distribution of Iberian lynx in Spain and estimation of its regression in the past decades. Expected duration of the field work: the end 1987 - the end 1988. Carried out by Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in collaboration with Instituto Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ICONA).

2.- Report on the current presence (tracks, scats, kittens, etc.) of the lynx in the Doñana National Park and in its surroundings (area covered 1500-2000 km², using grids of 5 x 5 km). Field study completed (November 1986 - May 1987). Study ordered by Patronato (similar to permanent committee) of the P.N.Doñana.

3.- Project for management of the lynx population settled at Doñana National Park. We submitted to Patronato of the P.N.D. a preliminary paper with guidelines on this subject in January 1986; nowadays it continue without any actuation on the field, probably due to bureaucracy and characteristic difficulties of such a project.

4.- Another doctoral thesis focussed towards the aspects less documented during my study period (females and females-kittens relationships). The field work will be ready to the end of 1988.

In addition, we are "gestating" other projects: breeding in captivity, ecological studies of other populations (probably in the Sierra Morena range).

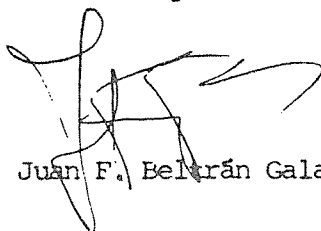
Illegal trade of this species exist, but it's very difficult to make an estimation. Some of individuals dead in the area of Doñana arrive to us by chance, or due to our presence on the roads of this area radio-tracking some individuals ranging out the limits of the National Park. In other areas of Spain, observations on specimens hunted, trapped, car-rolled, etc. are not uncommon. As an example, two years ago, I was astonished by the presence in the ZOO of Córdoba of a young Iberian lynx in an apparent good health condition. It died several months after, while we tried to obtain the animal and to know its origin. We hope to obtain data about trade during the survey on the present distribution of lynx in Spain.

In my opinion, the preservation of this endangered species needs:

- specific research programs on ecology (census, predator-prey relationships, juvenil dispersion, etc.), and genetic status.
- actual and active protection (laws are not sufficient). This is the idea of the management project cited before. I also believe necessary to facilitate the communication of the isolated populations.
- a program to obtain breeding in captivity focussed to future reintroductions.

I hope this letter can be useful for your work. Don't hesitate, contact me if you need further information. We are working to obtain it.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Juan F. Beltrán Gala

P.S. I've also enclosed a divulgational folder and sticker of the management project.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Species Survival Commission

CAT SPECIALIST GROUP

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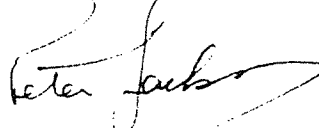
14.11.1998

Dear Ms Klös,

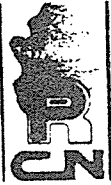
Thank you for your letter of 9 November about protection for Felis pardina. I was pleased to learn that a proposal is now being considered by the EEC, and look forward to hearing from you that it has been approved.

I think F.pardina should be on Appendix I of CITES as it is threatened with extinction and might be affected by trade - although I do not think that trade is a threat at present. It is classified as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Jackson



MINISTÉRIO DO PLANEAMENTO E DA ADMINISTRAÇÃO DO TERRITÓRIO

SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DO AMBIENTE E DOS RECURSOS NATURAIS

SERVIÇO NACIONAL DE PARQUES, RESERVAS E CONSERVAÇÃO DA NATUREZA

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Sua referência

Sua comunicação de

Nossa referência

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89/03/06

Assunto

Dear Lydia Kiös,

I apologize for my delay to answer your letter dated 26/1/89. It arrived on my hand only in 27/2/89.

Please accept the alterations to your proposal, in the following items:

(See the copy of the proposal here in enclosed)

A - Lynx pardina

21.3 - Serra da Malcata is in Portugal, not localised in Spain.

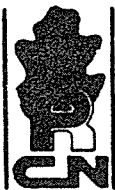
21.13 - Serra Monchique y Caldeirão also in Portugal, not included in localities in Spain.

The main localities of the species in Portugal.

we agree with 1.- 2.- 3.. and please add the following localities:

4. Alcáçovas / Sado river System: Sightings and oral informations indicate the survival of Lynx in very small numbers.

5. Serra de Aires: A "new" area where two animals were shot recently. The status of this population is to be confirmed.



MINISTÉRIO DO PLANEAMENTO E DA ADMINISTRAÇÃO
DO TERRITÓRIO

SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DO AMBIENTE
E DOS RECURSOS NATURAIS

SERVIÇO NACIONAL DE PARQUES,
RESERVAS E CONSERVAÇÃO DA NATUREZA

Rua da Lapa, 73 1200 Lisboa - Portugal

o. Serra de Ussa and Serra de Portel: A small and isolated low hilly range where some few informations report the presence of lynx.

22. POPULATION: numbers recently censused for Portugal (Vasconcelos, 88) indicate less than 25 pairs (20-25).

33. Illegal trade: it exists some stuffed trophies of this species caught in Portugal. It still exists demands to portuguese taxidermists of these trophies.

34. In Portugal (Vasconcelos, 1983) trade is a threat as the lynx fur and trophy can be sold by high prices.

Please contact me if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Elisa Oliveira

(Maria Elisa Oliveira)

Please send your mail to the following adress:

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WWF World Wide Fund For Nature
ADENA

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Tels. 410 24 01.02
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Madrid, April 15, 1988

Dear friend,

As Dr. Peter Jackson (Chairman of IUCN Cat Specialist Group) previously informed you, ADENA/WWF-Spain, will shortly develop an ambitious programme on integral protection of the last pardel lynxes (Lynx pardina) which still subsist in the spanish mountains and mediterranean ecosystems where they live.

The actual information on pardel lynx is certainly poor and difficult to obtain in most cases, for all this we enclose here the most important articles and a compendium of bibliography, hoping to be of great utility to you. You can find in them the geographical areas of Spain and Portugal where pardel lynxes certainly still live and specifications of the general causes which have apparently driven it to its actual critical situation.

No doubt, the principal causes of this regression are:

- 1.- Mixomatosis has notably reduced the rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus) population, capture on which depends the lynx, the iberian imperial eagle (Aquila adalberti), the black vulture (Aegypius monachus), the ichneumon-mongoose (Herpestes ichneumon), etc., whom due to this epidemic, found themselves in a short period deprived of their principal prime source of food.
- 2.- Destruction of autochthonous vegetation: which covers the mediterranean regions -basically formed by vegetal species of genus like, Quercus, Cistus, Erica, Arbustus, etc.- has been brutally transformed during the last years, and replaced by fast-growing trees like, Eucaliptus and Pinus, or by irrigation schemes.

Registered as:
Fondo Mondiale per la Natura
Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza
Fonds Mondial pour la Nature
Fundo Mundial para a Naturaleza
Welt Natur Fonds
World Wildlife Fund

Presidente de Honor:
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S.A.R. D. Carlos de Borbón Dos Sicilias,
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WWF World Wide Fund For Nature
ADENA

WWF España

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This lack of adequate habitats has dismissed the last lynxes to remote areas where the population of rabbits is still large and where the original vegetation exists.

3.- Traps, Snares and Posissons: Of this three non-selective hunting methods, the trap, abusively used for rabbit hunting, is without doubt the method which causes the greatest number of deaths among the lynxes, and one of the factors with more effects on the population of the lynxes in some determined regions, for that we will be soon launching a campaign against this and other non-selective hunting methods.

4.- Hunting: this is an important agent of lynx mortality, although not of first order, since lynxes are not directly chased, but killed by lost bullets during rabbit hunts.

5.- Illegal Traffic: with no repercussion over the species as it is practically inexistent. Very scarce and difficult to localize at present; there is only one known specimen in captivity.

Probably the actual total population won't exceed of 400 individuals, dismissed to remote areas of Castilla-León, Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalucía.

Concerning your answer on captive-breeding in Spain, we notify you that this kind of project has never being developed in our country and we have no notice of breeding anywhere else. At this point, WWF/Spain in its Pardo Lynx Integral Protection Project, includes a chapter on breeding and reintroduction of the species, but this project is waiting to be financed.

Anyway, the future of pardo lynxes depends on the strict protection of mediterranean ecosystems where the lynx still lives, and by the initiation of projects directed to rabbit recuperation, its basic prey.

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Due to its indigenous nature in the Iberian Peninsula and the singularity of the mediterranean ecosystems where pardel lynx lives, constitutes one of the most menaced species of Europe and therefore one of which needs a major international protection.

For this reason, we consider a prioritary motive the international dedication and efforts towards this species.

We hope this information will be of utility to you and we also hope you will get EEC support for this and other conservation projects of this species.

We will be very grateful if you could keep us informed on the results of your work.

Wishing you will have the best luck in such important task,

Best regards,

Carlos Gonzalez Vallecillo
Director of Conservation

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Madrid, January 9. 1989

Dear Mrs. Klos,

In response to your letter, we feel that it is very important to further protect the pardel lynx by including it in Appendix I of CITES.

Although there is almost No International trafficking of the pardel lynx, we have knowledge of one case, for instance, in which a pair of pardel lynx were sold to the GIARDINO Zoo in Rome without the consent of our government. Both have died - since without successful mating. It is instances such as that lends us to push the pardel lynx, one of the most endangered European mammals, towards being included in Appendix I of CITES.

To our knowledge, international trafficking isn't one of the gravest causes of endargement of the pardel lynx. Rather, endargement stems mainly from three main causes:

- 1.- Myxomatosis virus, which has infected the majority of the rabbits in Spain. The rabbit makes up 80% of the pardel lynx diet.
- 2.- Destruction of habitat for economical goals, including the removal of original species of vegetation such as Quercus, Cistus, etc.. and replacement by fast growing trees such as Eucaliptus sp. and Pinus sp.
- 3.- Poaching and irrational use of traps. The trap, abusively used for rabbit hunting, is without a doubt the method which causes the greatest number of deaths among the pardel lynx.

At the present moment we have no further information, but we are on the verge of finishing a 11/2 year census study of the pardel lynx. Once we have compleed all our information we will send you a copy of our studies.

I hope you can see, although it is rare that the pardel lynx is trafficcited internationally, that it is important to further protect it by adding it to Appendix I of CITES. Would it also be possible to have a copy of the Appendix II/C1 -

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sent to us once it is completed.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sergio P. Villarreal

Sergio P. Villarreal
Student assistant to Carlos González
Vallecillo. Director of Conservation
to ADENA/WWF España

P.S. Señor Carlos González Vallecillo is very grateful for
all your helpful efforts in helping us save our lynx par-
dina.

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Madrid, January 31, 1989

Mrs. Lydia Klös
ZOO Wuppertal
Hubertusallee 30
5600 Wuppertal 1
Fed. Rep. Germany.-

Dear Mrs. Klös,

Thank you so much for your response, dated 25 January, to my earlier letter. We are very pleased to hear that you have introduced a proposal for inclusion of *Lynx pardinus* in Appendix I of CITES.

I am writing you to inform you of something of grave concern here in Spain. As of this past year, the rabbits here have been hit with a new deadly virus. I am quite sure you have heard of this so called viral haemorrhagic pneumonia as rabbits in Germany suffer from it also. This virus has taken its toll on our rabbits.

Recently we went out in the field to collect specimens for autopsy and were after-gasted to find dead rabbits only 20-30 meters from each other. This was at Montes de Toledo, where - the largest population of *Lynx pardinus* exist. Generally, two-month-old and adult rabbits are affected. With the main reproductive group, the adults, being affected, the rabbit population will adsurely decline making it even more difficult for the Spanish lynx to survive.

So you can see that now it is even more important that the - Spanish lynx be protected on the international level while - we try to strengthen and enforce our own local and national - laws protecting this precious cat.

I have enclosed some information and articles concerning the virus and the effects it's having on Spain's human and wildlife populations. Thank you so much for your time again.

Sincerely,

Sergio P. Villarreal

Sergio Villarreal
Student assistant to Carlos
González Vallecillo.
Director of Conservation

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AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Callorhinus ursinus in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Mammalia
- 12. Order: Pinnipedia
- 13. Family: Otariidae
- 14. Species: Callorhinus ursinus (Linnaeus, 1758)
- 15. Common Names: English: North Pacific fur seal
French: Otarie à fourrure du Pacifique Nord
Spanish:
- 16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: During the reproductive season (May through July) most Callorhinus are found in the eastern and western Bering Sea (between the Aleutian Islands and St. Matthew Island, and in the Sea of Okhotsk - the Robben Island population). A few immature animals remain south of the Aleutian Islands during this season, and the entire San Miguel Island population probably remains in California waters all year.

In early August, adult males leave their territories and go to sea; most do not return until the following year in May. The distribution of adult males at sea is not well known, but from the small number collected pelagically it appears that most of the Pribilof Island males winter South of the Aleutian Islands and eastward into the Gulf of Alaska. A few remain in the Bering Sea all winter.

Adult females and juveniles of both sexes begin to migrate South in October. They appear to fan out over the North Pacific Ocean at first, but their density soon becomes much greater along the eastern and western edges than in mid-Pacific. Immature animals do not usually migrate as far South as do the adult females, which occasionally reach the Mexican border in the eastern Pacific and the Honshu coast of Japan in the western Pacific (30° to 32°N). Immature animals leave the breeding island last. Pups born on the Pribilof Islands reach the Aleutian passes by