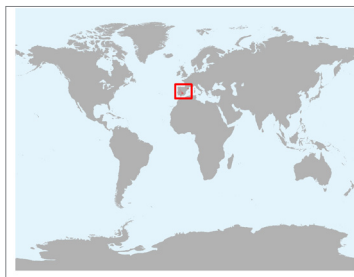




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Iberian Lynx

The **Iberian Lynx**, *Lynx pardinus*, is the only cat species currently listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It formerly ranged across the Iberian Peninsula, but today there are only two populations left in Andalucía (Southern Spain), in the Sierra Morena and in Doñana. At the lowest point, by 2002, there were less than 50 mature individuals left.

The Iberian Lynx is a highly specialized hunter of the European Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, which makes over 90% of its diet. It is therefore threatened by the decline of rabbits due to the impact of myxomatosis and Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease. Direct persecution and land use changes and fragmentation have also contributed to bring this species to the verge of extinction.

An extensive large recovery programme is underway addressing all major threats. Habitat and prey population restoration and conflict mitigation with landowners are being applied on a large scale. Effects of inbreeding are being mitigated through translocations. A conservation breeding programme is preparing lynx for release and the first reintroduction project, including captive stock, has started.

www.iucnredlist.org
www.catsg.org
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www.arkive.org



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