

From CR to VU...

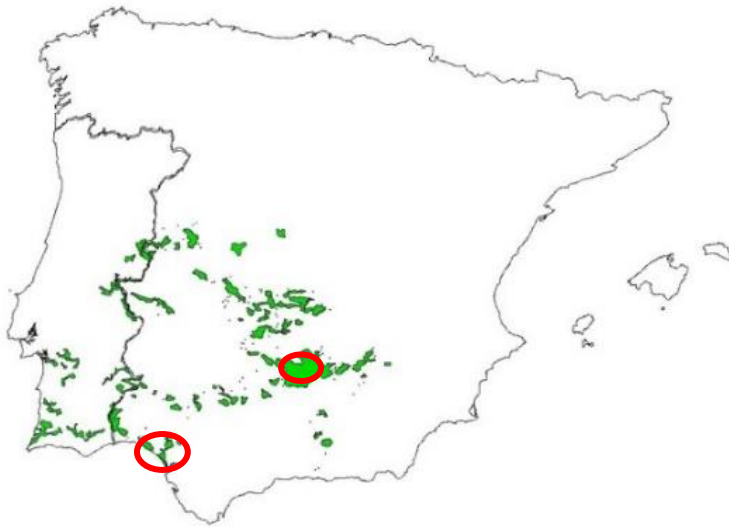
Situation and perspectives of the Iberian lynx

Urs Breitenmoser & Miguel Angel Simon

IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group & **iberlince**



1. Recent history – up-listing to Critically Endangered CR



Distribution 1980

- Rodríguez & Delibes (1992) – **1136 lynx in Spain**
- Castro & Palma (1996) – **50 lynx in Portugal**
- Junta de Andalucía (2001/02) – 94 lynx (**44 mature individuals**)

Distribution 2002





Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria

CR C2a(i) [ver 3.1 \(2001\)](#)

Critically Endangered

2002

Assessment:

C – Population size estimated to number fewer than 250 mature individuals and...
2 – continuing decline and...
a – population structure in the form of...
(i) – no subpopulation estimated to contain more than 50 mature individuals



Threats to the lynx:

- Habitat degradation and destruction
- Continuous persecution
- **Rabbit decline** (diseases: myxomatosis, RHDV 1, RHDV 2)

Obstacles to lynx conservation:

- No agreement on conservation approach (e.g. conservation breeding)
- Difficult cooperation between Madrid and Sevilla, no cooperation between provinces
- Portugal...

CoE, LCIE, Cat SG



2. First recovery phase – down-listing to Endangered EN

Challenges:

- Need to work on large surfaces
- Have strong institutional support
- Having the support of all social sectors
- Having a strong funding

Approaches:

- Cooperation through common strategic planning
- Financial support from the European Union



Iberian lynx conservation project phases:

2001–2002: Action programme for Iberian lynx conservation

→ Consejería de Medio Ambiente (Junta de Andalucía)

2002–2006: Actions for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Andalusia

→ LIFE02/NAT/ES/8609

→ **Goal: Prevent the extinction of the species**

2006–2011: Conservation and reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Andalusia

→ LIFE06/NAT/ES/000209

→ **Goal: Consolidation of recovery and begin reintroduction**

Total 180.840 ha.

2011–2017: Recovery of the historical distribution of Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal = Iberlince

→ LIFE10/NAT/ES/000570

→ **Goal: Create new IbLx populations in Spain and Portugal**

Total 400.000 ha.



Strategic conservation approach:

Actions to improve conservation and habitats:

1. Monitoring populations of Iberian lynx and rabbit
2. Spatial requirement: Agreements with private landowners and hunting societies on habitat improvement (rabbit, lynx)

Recovery of extinct populations:

1. Conservation breeding
2. Genetic enhancement
3. Reintroduction (and reinforcement)

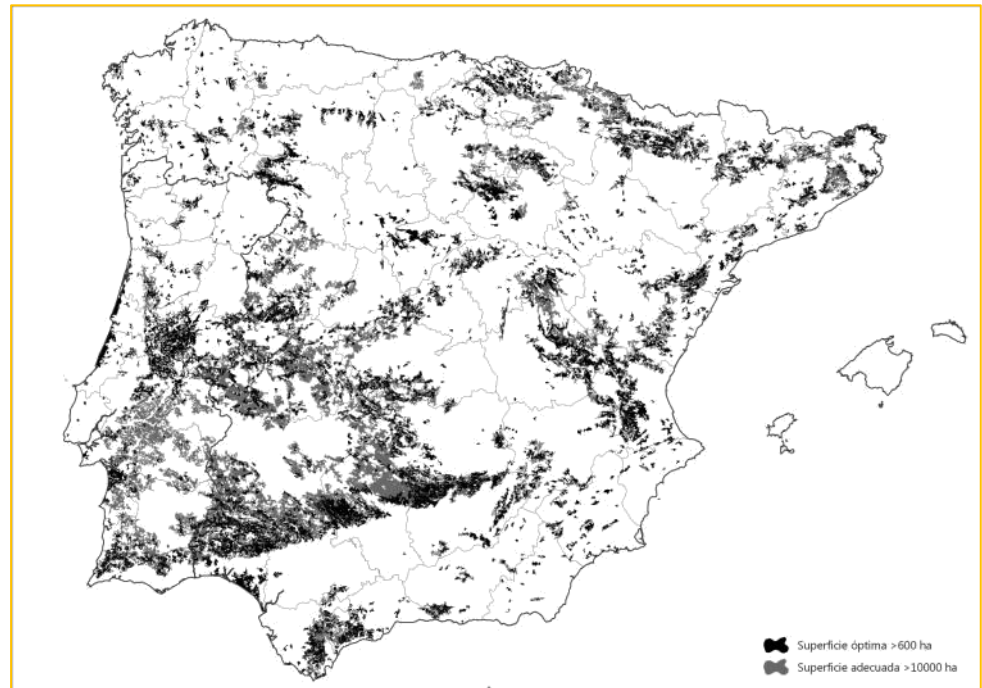
Over-arching activities:

1. Threat control: illegal killing, fire, habitat loss
2. Disease control (rabbit)
3. Plan for communication, education and involvement



Framework for reintroductions:

1. Estrategia conservacion Lince ibérico, España
2. Plano Ação Conservação lince-ibérico, Portugal
3. IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations 2013
4. Protocolos selección Life Iberlince: www.iberlince.eu



Maxent model suitable habitat Iberian lynx

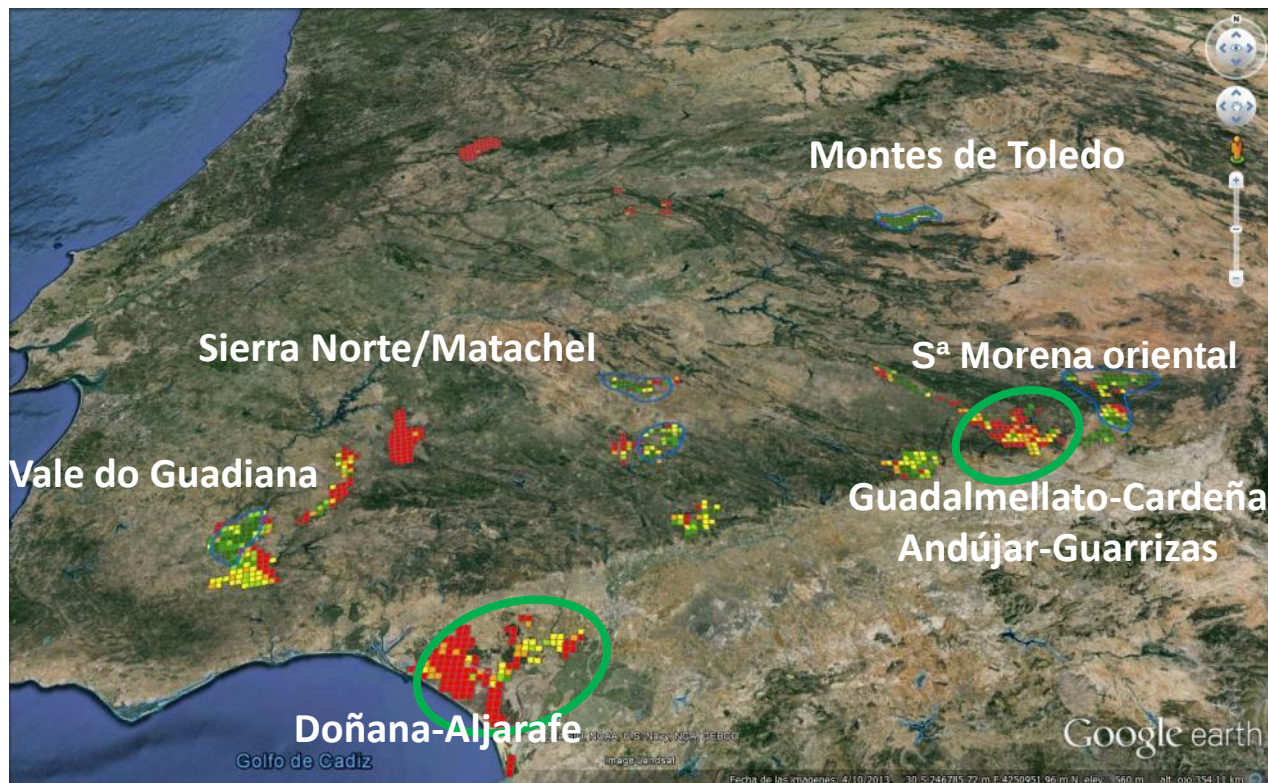


Strategy for reintroductions:

2010/11: Initial reintroductions in Andalucía (wild-to-wild)

2011: Release of the first captive-born lynx

2014: Start of reintroductions in Castilla-la-Mancha, Extremadura, Portugal



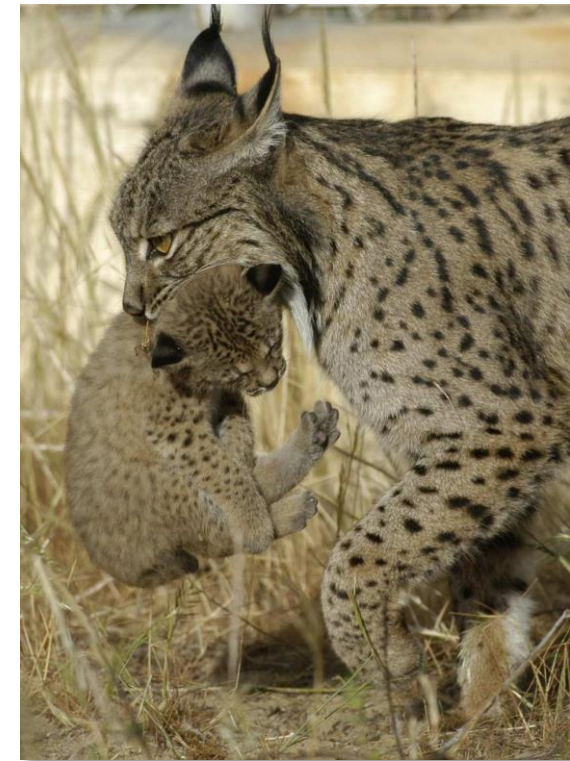
Conservation breeding for reintroductions:

1992: Building of Acebuche Centre, but no breeding until...

2005: First Iberian lynx cubs born in Acebuche Centre

2011: 5 breeding centres in Spain and Portugal

Centre	Built	Sub-/Adults	Cubs
El Acebuche	1992	21 (10:11)	8 (5:3)
Zoo Jerez	2005	3 (2:1)	0
La Olivilla	2007	32 (15:17)	11 (4:7)
Silves	2009	20 (10:10)	10 (3:7)
Granadilla	2011	23 (11:12)	19 (10:9)



2016 total in breeding centres: 99 adult/subadult lynx, 48 cubs

→ Average number of lynx to be released each year: 35



Progress of lynx population in the Sierra Morena

ANDÚJAR-CARDEÑA

AÑO	2002	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	53	190	202	186	169	161	176
H. Territorial	18	43	51	54	57	55	51
Cachorros	16	61	59	38	15	30	51
Superficie	125	264	282	339	369	479	455

GUADALMELLATO

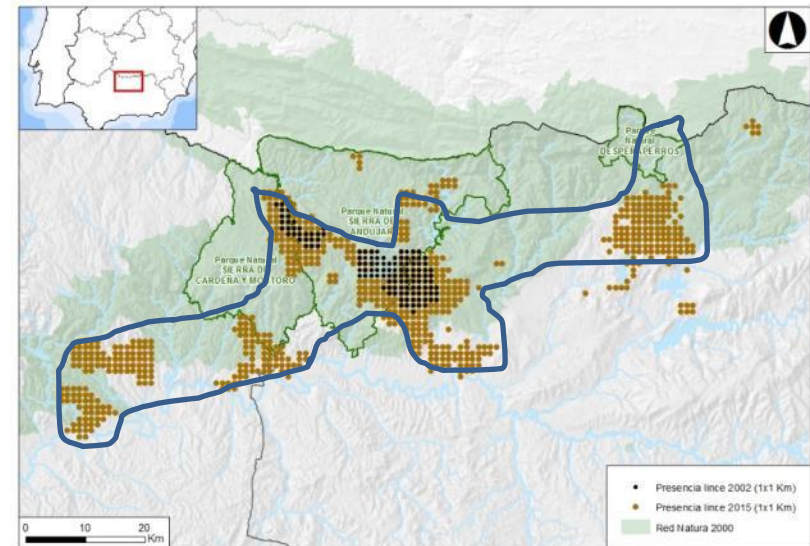
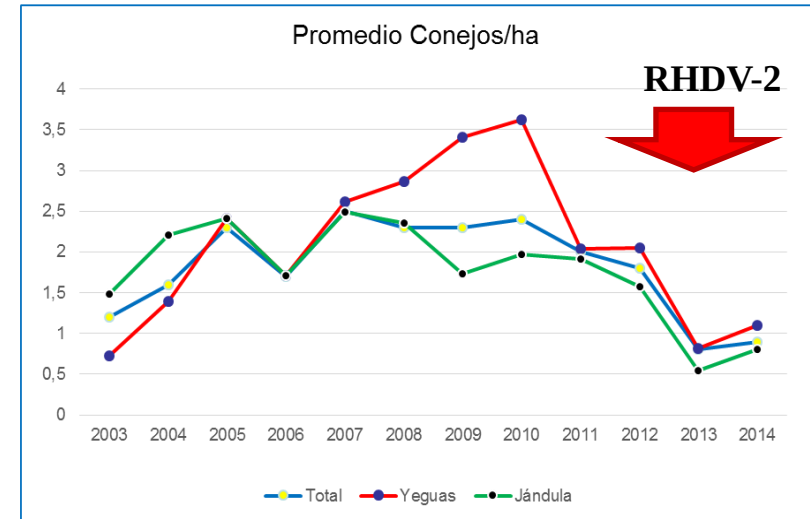
AÑO	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	8	18	23	39	45	61
H. Territorial	3	4	4	10	11	15
Cachorros	2	7	6	14	13	27
Superficie		72	88	112	126	116

GUARRIZAS

AÑO	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	4	16	30	41	48
H. Territorial	2	2	4	8	11
Cachorros	0	8	1	11	14
Superficie	74	66	94	156	156

SIERRA MORENA

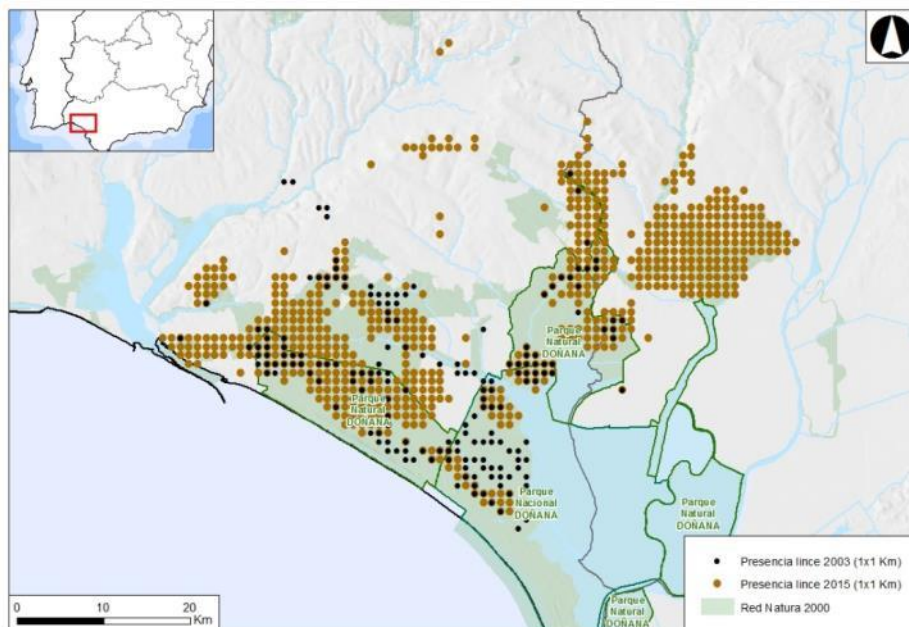
Año	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	198	224	225	238	247	285
H. Territorial	46	57	60	71	74	77
Cachorros	63	66	52	30	54	92
Superficie	264	428	493	575	761	727



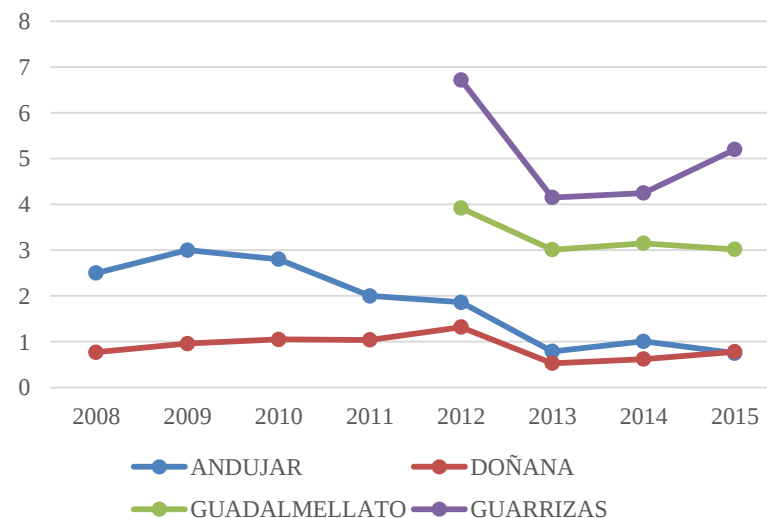
Progress of lynx population in the Doñana-Aljarafe

DOÑANA-ALJARAFE

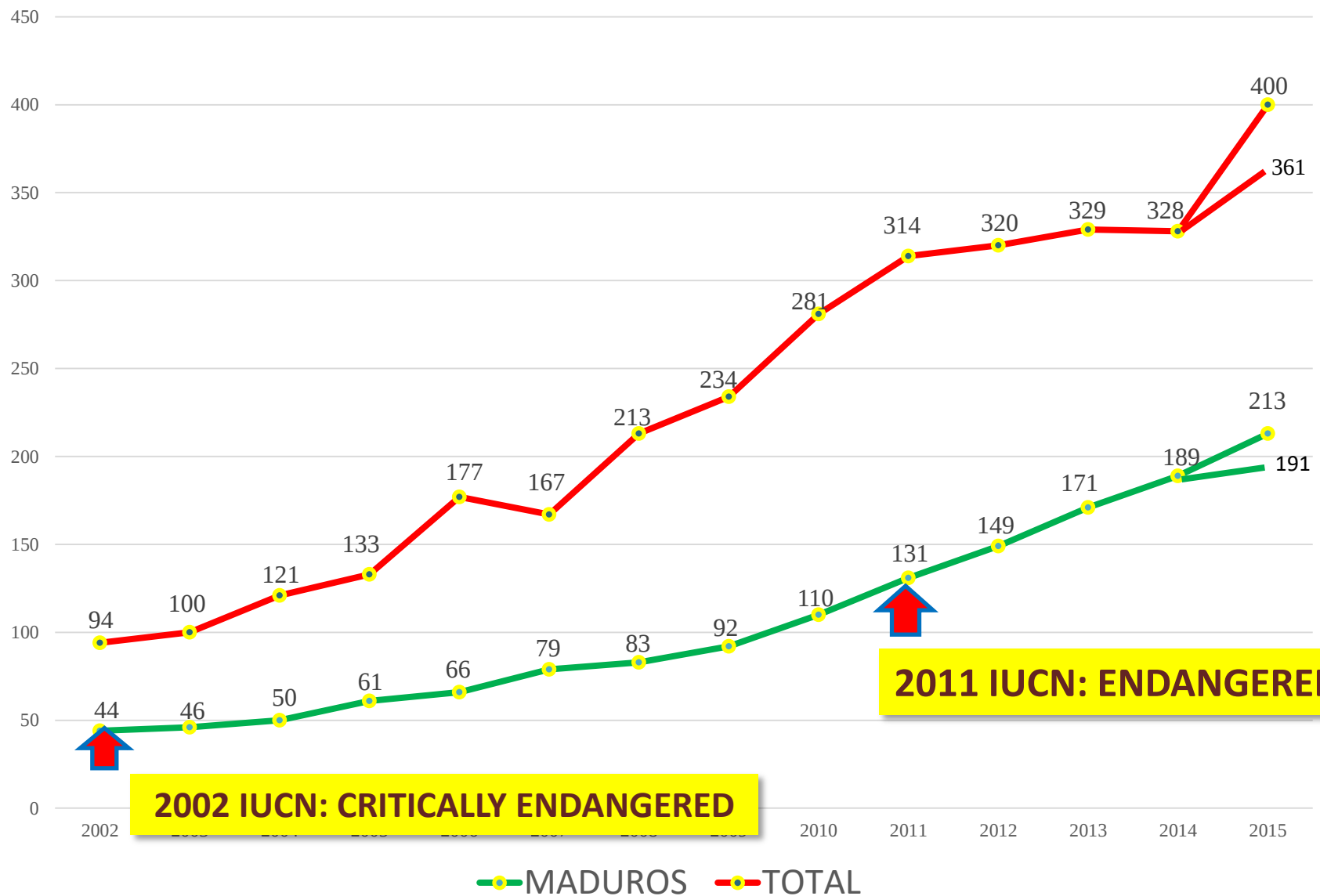
AÑO	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	41	40	42	44	43	48	53	66	78	86	88	93	80	76
H. Territorial	9	9	11	14	10	11	14	18	17	19	25	25	23	26
Cachorros	12	10	11	10	13	12	18	20	23	20	26	24	17	17
Superficie			174	245	307	249	335	412	445	591	556	518	594	681



EVOLUCIÓN POBLACIONES DE CONEJO



Development of the Iberian lynx population



3. Next conservation steps – down-listing to Vulnerable



Lynx pardinus

Scope: Global
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-2.RLTS.T12520A50655794.en>
[Download assessment](#)

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<ENDANGERED>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

[Summary](#) [Classification Schemes](#) [Images & External Links](#) [Bibliography](#) [Full Account](#)

EN in new assessment 2015



3. Next conservation steps – down-listing to Vulnerable

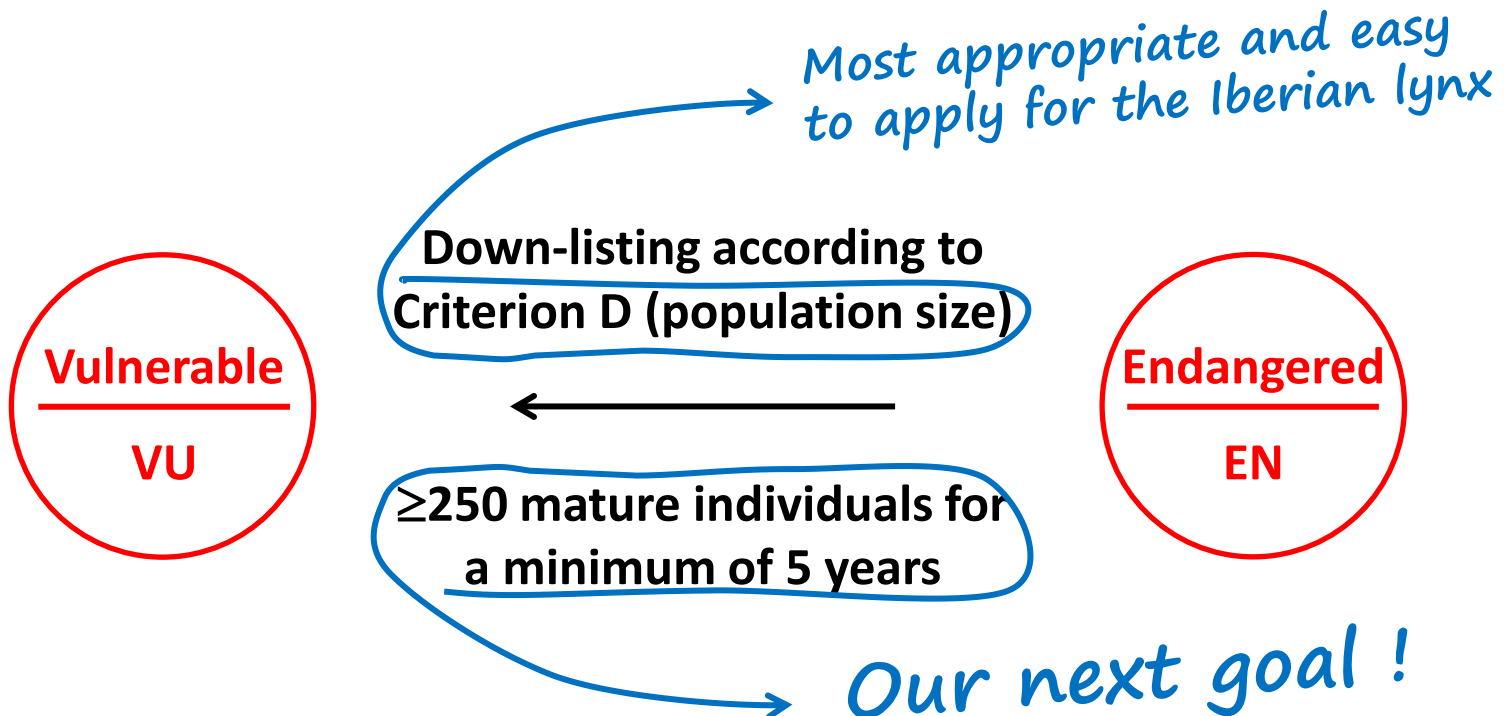


Lynx pardinus

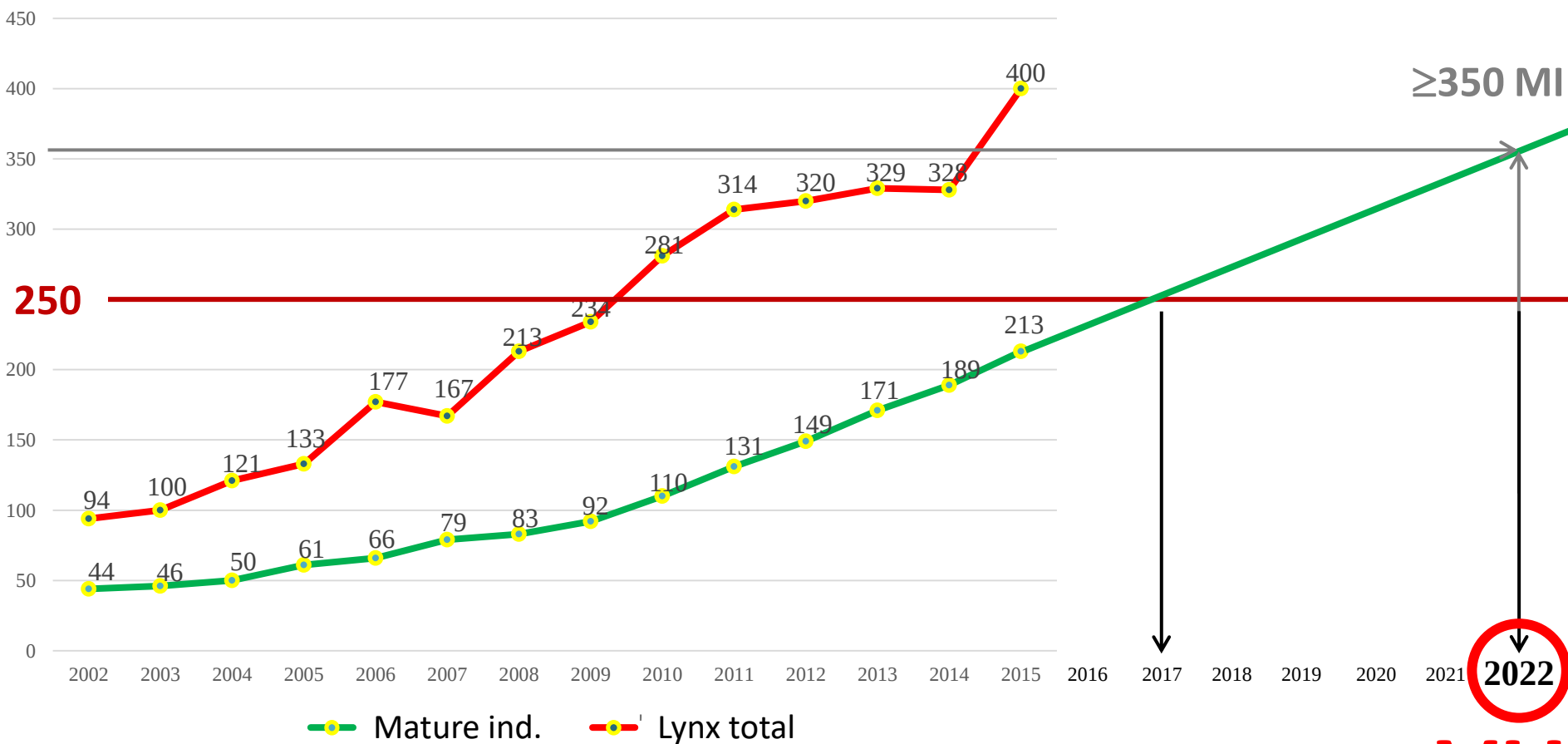
Scope: Global
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-2.RLTS.T12520A50655794.en>
[Download assessment](#)

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<ENDANGERED>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

[Summary](#) [Classification Schemes](#) [Images & External Links](#) [Bibliography](#) [Full Account](#)



Iberian lynx population development for VU



≥350 MI

2022

VU



Challenges for the next phase of Iberian lynx conservation

Proposed goal for planning:

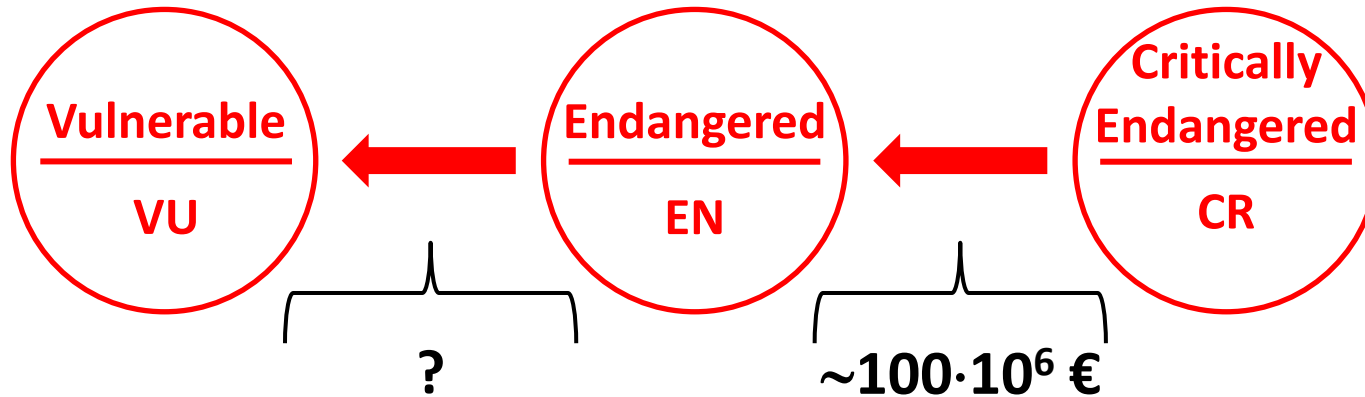
VU = 350 mature lynx in 3000 km² in 2022

Challenges in the coming years:

1. Sufficient habitat patches with sufficient rabbit abundance
2. Supply of suitable lynx for reintroductions and reinforcements
3. Spatial concept and cooperation across administrative borders
4. Adequate funding for the conservation activities



Challenge N° 3: Adequate funding for the conservation activities



- Funding will most likely not be as easily available as up to now...
- The work will have to expand over a larger region (remnant population, first and new reintroduction sites) and involve more people/institutions
- The same procedures need to be applied, but to reduced costs...

Questions:

1. Which are the future funding options? (Provincial, national, international, private...)
2. Where and how can the costs/unit be reduced?

Thank you!

