

SCALP Monitoring Report lynx year 2020/2021 (1. May 2020 – 30. April 2021)

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Comment: The project *Status and Conservation of the Alpine Lynx Population* (SCALP) is an ongoing programme aiming to co-ordinate the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* monitoring, conservation and management activities in the Alps. Since 2013 collaborations with lynx experts from neighbouring regions has started. Based on this collaboration annual standardised distribution maps are produced to allow a comparison of monitoring data between regions, countries and populations. In the 2020/21 monitoring report data from nine countries and five populations are considered (Fig. 1). C1 data, that mainly consist in camera trap pictures of lynx, make up the bulk of lynx records in all (sub)populations.

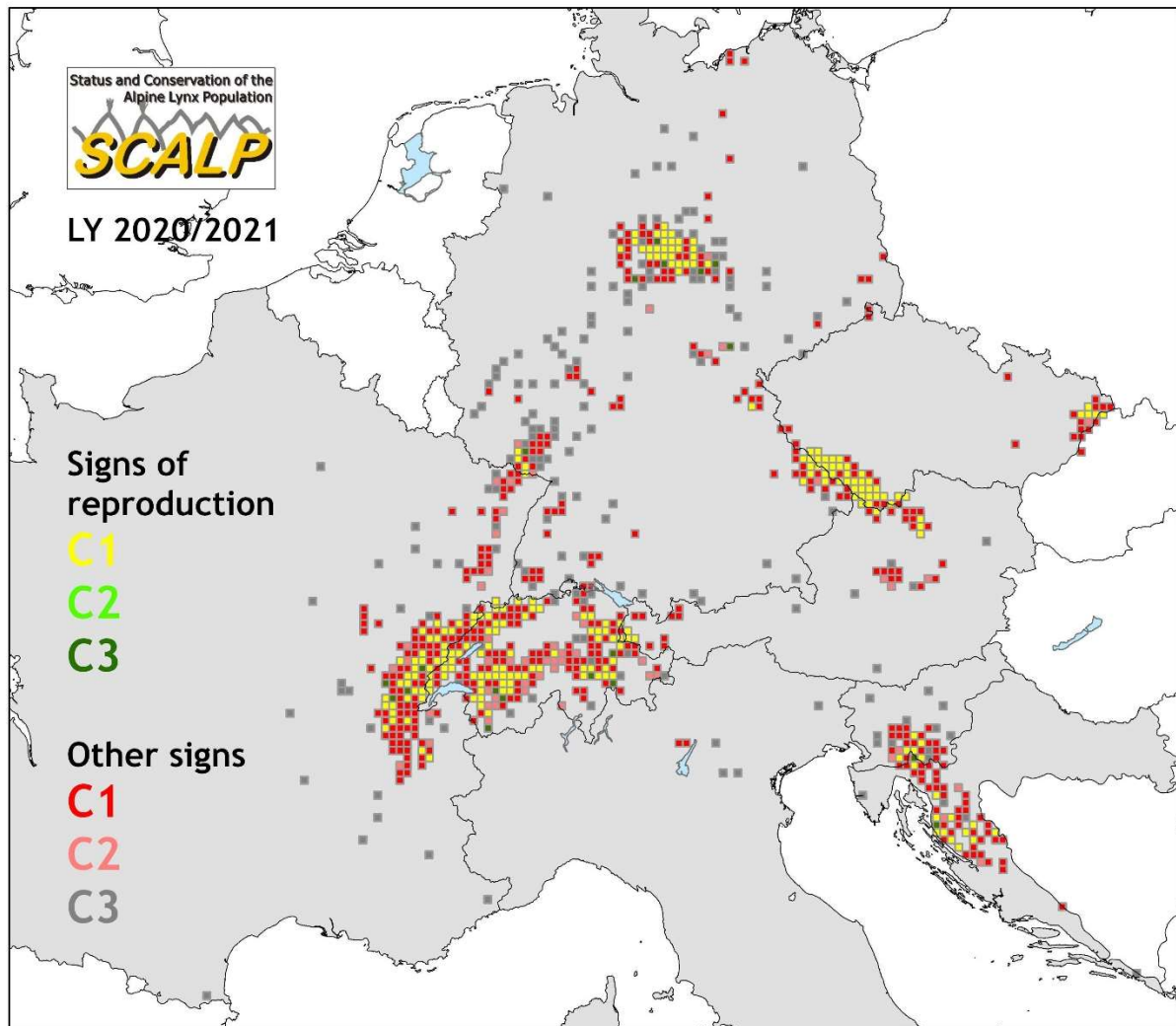


Fig. 1. Observed lynx distribution in nine countries (highlighted grey) in lynx year 2020/2021 based on a 10x10 km grid. A distinction was made between different SCALP categories and whether the observation included a reproductive event or not¹.

¹ The collected data are classified in three categories: Category 1 (C1): “Hard facts”, verified and unchallenged observations such as dead lynx, clear photos of lynx and samples confirmed by means of genetic analysis. Category 2 (C2): Observations controlled and confirmed by a trained person such as killed livestock or wild prey and lynx tracks. Category 3 (C3): Unconfirmed but plausible observations of the category 2 (kills, tracks, other field signs too old or badly documented) and all plausible observations such as direct observations and calls which by their nature cannot be verified unless through photo or registration. Evidence of reproduction consist in photos of lynx kittens or young lynx found dead (C1), large and small tracks together (C2) and direct sighting of female with kittens (C3). The order of category layers in the map is C1 reproduction, C2 reproduction, C3 reproduction, C1, C2, C3. GPS-data of collared lynx are not included in the distribution map.

Special events:

- ***Alps:*** Reproduction was reported from the French Alps.
- ***Alps:*** This is the second year that no reproduction was reported from the Kalkalpen region (Upper Austria). In June 2020 first documentation of an independent lynx in the area of Türnitz, Lower Austria. Additionally in June 2020, first appearance of other two independent lynx individuals in the Wildalpen area, Styria. One lynx was later genetically confirmed as a male originating from the Kalkalpen region.
- ***Alps:*** In the south-eastern Alps no confirmed records were reported. However, according to telemetry data one of the translocated males released in Slovenian Dinaric Mountains in the frame of LIFE Lynx made a post-release dispersal to the Julian Alps, but later returned to the Dinaric Mountains.
- ***BBA:*** Shown distribution data on Bavarian side is incomplete.
- ***Czech Republic:*** In the NP České Švýcarsko in north Bohemia and the Protected landscape area Jeseníky in north Moravia, two Polish lynx males from the reintroduction project "Return of the lynx in Poland" were recorded.
- ***Dinaric Mountains:*** In the frame of LIFE Lynx (www.lifelynx.eu) five lynx were translocated from the Romanian and Slovakian Carpathian Mountains to the Dinaric Mountains.
- ***Saxony:*** All C1 records in the region verifiably come from lynx, which were reintroduced in Poland (one female & two males). Based on telemetry data we know that one male returned to Poland very soon and that the female moved on to Thuringia after 2.5 months. The second male stayed in Saxony for at least five months but its occurrence was not confirmed anymore since August 2020 (all radio collars failed shortly after border crossing).
- ***Upper Rhine Metapopulation:*** At least five kittens from two different litters were born in the Palatinate Forest.

Acknowledgements: We thank all the GOs, NGOs, universities and private people who collaborate with the SCALP+ in order to monitor the lynx.

Austria: Landesjagdverbände Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol und Vorarlberg, Luchsprojekt Österreich Nordwest - Engleder, National Park Kalkalpen - Fuchsjäger, Habitat - Wildlife Services – Weingarth-Dachs, Silvestris – Gerngross, National Park Gesäuse – Maringer, Land Vorarlberg – Schatz.

Croatia: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Zagreb, Karlovac University of Applied Sciences, Association BIOM, Nature Park Velebit, National Park Paklenica, National park North Velebit, Geonatura, Public Institution for Managing Protected Nature Areas Priroda, National park Plitvice lakes, National Park Risnjak.

Czech Republic: Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Carnivore Conservation Programme & Department of Forest Ecology, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno, Správa NP Šumava, ALKA Wildlife, Hnutí DUHA Šelmy, the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, all the several Forest Administrations, Hunting societies, volunteers and local people who provided valuable additional data.

France: Office Français de la Biodiversité, Réseau Loup-Lynx.

Germany: Luchsprojekt Bayern, Bavarian Agency of Environment, Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Großkarnivoren-Beauftragte Rheinland-Pfalz, LJV Rheinland-Pfalz, ÖJV Rheinland-Pfalz, Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Forestry Rhineland-Palatinate, University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Bavarian Hunting Association, Dresden University of Technology - Chair of Forest Zoology.

Italy: Progetto Lince Italia, Università di Torino, Centro Conservazione e Gestione Grandi Carnivori - Progetto Lupo Regione Piemonte, Arma dei Carabinieri - CUFAA, Corpo Forestale della Valle d'Aosta, Corpo Forestale dello Stato della provincia del VCO, Ente di gestione delle Aree protette dell'Ossola, Provincia del Verbano Cusio Ossola, Parco Nazionale della Val Grande, Dipartimento di Ecologia - Università della Calabria, Dept. Anim. Prod. Sci. - Università di Udine, Parco Naturale delle Prealpi Carniche, Parco Naturale delle Prealpi Giulie, Parco Naturale Dolomiti d'Ampezzo, Parco Nazionale delle Dolomiti Bellunesi, Parco Nazionale del Gran Paradiso, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Servizio Foreste e Fauna della Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Provincia di Belluno, Provincia di Sondrio, Provincia di Savona, Provincia di Torino – Servizio Tutela della Fauna e della Flora, Provincia di Udine, Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano - Ufficio Caccia e Pesca, Ufficio Parchi Naturali dell'Alto Adige, Università dell'Insubria, Gruppo Cacciatori di Villa di Chiavenna. Riserva di Caccia Curon Venosta.

Liechtenstein: Amt für Umwelt, Liechtensteiner Jägerschaft, Liechtensteiner Forstverein.

Slovenia: Slovenian Forest Service, University of Ljubljana (Biotech. Fac., Dep. of Biology and Dep. of forestry and renewable forest resources).

Switzerland: KORA, Federal Office for the Environment, cantonal hunting administrations and game wardens, hunters and naturalists.