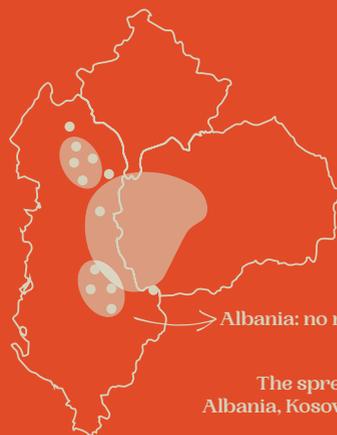


The rarest cat

Unlike the ordinary cat, the Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) has a larger body, reaching a length of up to 130 cm. The lynx's fur is covered with black spots, which are unique and help the experts distinguish the different individuals. The Balkan lynx is a subspecies of the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), which is found only in the Balkan Peninsula, in countries such as Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia.

The lynx is a carnivore that feeds mainly on ungulates such as roe deer or chamois. However, this cat also hunts hares and other small animals.



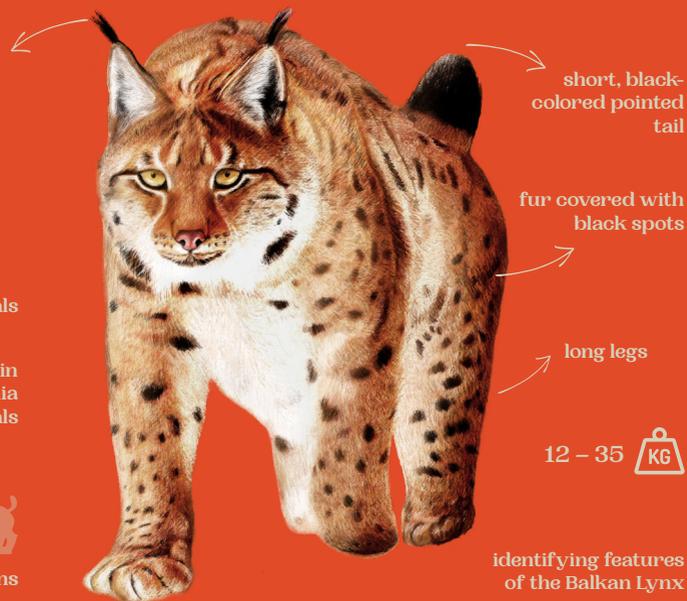
Albania: no more than 10 individuals

The spread of the Balkan lynx in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia less than 50 individuals



1 - 5 kittens, usually 2 or 3 kittens

tufts of hair at the tips of the ears



identifying features of the Balkan Lynx

The solitary behavior of the lynx makes it live mostly in isolation and it meets with other lynxes only during the mating season, which occurs between February and April. During the rest of the year, the lynx shows territorial behavior, occupying territories of 100–300 km². The lynx marks the boundaries of its territory through urine and secretions.

An endangered cat

Practices such as illegal cutting and logging have caused the lynx to lose its natural habitat, forcing this species to be sheltered only in a few areas of Albania, such as in Munella Nature Park.

Through the use of camera traps, PPNEA has photographed Balkan lynx individuals in different areas of the country, providing data that has been

used to assess the population. It has also been photographed in the Polis-Valamare area, the Albanian Alps, the Shebenik National Park, and the Prespa National Park.

The Balkan lynx is classified as critically endangered globally. It is threatened by illegal hunting!

In 2020, three individuals of this species were found embalmed and exposed in a restaurant near the city of Elbasan.

Some curiosities about the lynx



- Did you know that the lynx is the rarest cat in the world?
- The sight of the lynx is 6 times stronger than that of a human.
- The lynx is at the top of the food chain, an apex predator. For this reason, this species is not endangered by other predators. The main threats to the Balkan lynx are mainly related to humans and the latter's activity.
- Hunting of the lynx is an act punishable by Albanian legislation, which can go up to 7 years of imprisonment.
- The first photo of the Balkan lynx in Albania was taken in 2011 during the extensive monitoring with camera traps in Munella Mountain.



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The Balkan lynx is protected by Albanian legislation and international conventions for nature conservation.



- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Bern Convention
- Directive of Habitats of EU



Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008, "On the Protection of the Wild Fauna"



Law No. 10 253, dated 11.03.2010, "On Hunting"

PPNEA is the initiating organization for the study and conservation of the Balkan lynx in Albania.

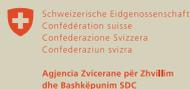
Be part of our efforts to conserve the Balkan lynx in Albania.



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BALKAN LYNX

Mystical, hidden
and endangered



Albania is Biodiversity