



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE **IBERIAN LYNX**

Shared vision, coordinated action:
Conservation of the iberian lynx in the Iberian Peninsula.



lynxconnect



*November 25–27, 2025 | **Seville***



Comité Europeo
de las Regiones

DAY 1

November 25

09:00 h / Opening of the Conference

SESSION 1: Presentation of the LIFE LynxConnect Project

09:30 – 10:15

This inaugural session will present the general framework of the LIFE LynxConnect project, a key European initiative for the recovery of the Iberian lynx. Strategic objectives, main action lines, involved territories, and collaborating entities (public administrations, NGOs, research centers, and local communities) will be discussed.

Key achievements of the project will also be highlighted, including the increase of lynx populations, habitat improvement, awareness campaigns, and progress in connectivity and reproduction.

Invited speakers: LIFE LynxConnect Project Coordinator, representatives of the European Commission, and environmental authorities from Spain and Portugal.

10:15 – 11:45 h / Coffee Break

SESSION 2: The Origins of the Iberian Lynx

11:45 – 12:15

This scientific session will explore the origin and evolution of the Iberian lynx, from its fossil ancestors to its currently limited distribution. Paleontological and ecological studies will be presented, focusing on the lynx's role in Mediterranean ecosystems, its specialized diet (Iberian rabbit), and how its phylogenetic history has shaped its vulnerability.

Topics include the evolutionary history of the Iberian lynx, the Quibas skeleton, extra-peninsular distribution, taphonomy, and historical records of lynx presence.

Invited speakers: Saverio Bartolini (University of Florence), Pedro Piñero (University of Valencia), Joan Madurell (University of Florence), Antonio Rodríguez (Institute of Archaeology of Mérida-CSIC), Antonio Villalpando (University of Cádiz)

SESSION 3: Advances in Mammal Population Monitoring Techniques

12:15 – 13:30

Experts will present monitoring tools (camera trapping, radio tracking, genetic censuses) and discuss updated population statistics and demographic patterns.

Invited speakers: Antón Álvarez (WWF), Eduardo Rodríguez (SECEM), Ramón Pérez de Ayala (WWF), Germán Garrote (AMAYA)

13:30 – 15:30 / Lunch

SESSION 4: Spatial Patterns of the Iberian Lynx and Their Conservation Implications

15:30 – 17:00

This session delves into the spatial behavior of the lynx: how it disperses, what barriers it faces, and how the different population nuclei are connected.

Invited speakers: Santiago Saura (Polytechnic University of Madrid), Aitor Gastón (Polytechnic University of Madrid), Martín Boer-Cueva (Autonomous University of Madrid – Complutense University)

17:00 – 17:30 / Coffee Break

SESSION 5: Round Table – The Beginnings of Conservation Projects

17:30 – 18:30

A discussion table with key figures from the early conservation efforts to save the Iberian lynx in the 1990s and early 2000s. The session will reflect on key moments, lessons learned, and how conservation perspectives have evolved.

Invited speakers: Miguel Delibes (former Director of EBD), Urs and Christine Breitenmoser (Co-Chairs, IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group), Astrid Vargas (former National Coordinator of the Iberian Lynx Captive Breeding Program)



DAY 2

November 26

SESSION 6: Genetic Aspects of the Iberian Lynx

09:00 – 10:15

This session will focus on the current genetic status of the Iberian lynx, one of the most delicate challenges in its conservation. Presentations will include results from genetic monitoring, levels of genetic diversity across populations, and management strategies (captive breeding, translocations, genetic planning).

Speakers: Cock Van Oosterhout (University of East Anglia), José Antonio Godoy (EBD-CSIC)

10:15 – 10:45 / Coffee Break

SESSION 7: Evolution and Development of the LynxConnect Project Across Operational Territories

11:00 – 12:15

This session highlights the need for adaptive, resilient, and science-based management to not only maintain the achievements reached, but also anticipate emerging threats and consolidate a sustainable and replicable conservation model.

Speakers: Representatives from the five regions involved in LIFE LynxConnect: Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha, Portugal, Region of Murcia, Andalusia

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

12:15 – 12:45

Closing statements by the LIFE LynxConnect project organizers and institutional representatives.

Final reflections will be shared, along with future commitments to continue strengthening the recovery of the Iberian lynx and its role as a symbol of Mediterranean biodiversity conservation.

IBERIAN LYNX CONSERVATION AWARD (LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED)

18:00 – 20:00

Five candidates—individuals or entities—will be proposed in recognition of their outstanding collaboration, commitment, and involvement in different aspects of the project (conservation, education, research, etc.).

The award will consist of a trophy designed by a local artist that encapsulates the project's philosophy.



DAY 3

November 27

FIELD VISIT

09:00 – 16:00

Participants will be offered a first-hand experience in one of the Iberian lynx's key territories, where they will gain on-the-ground insight into current conservation strategies. Participants will observe implemented strategies, interact with field technicians, and explore real lynx habitats and signs of presence.

09:00 / Departure from Seville by bus

10:00 – 10:30 / Breakfast

11:00 / Arrival at partner estate

• Welcome by protected area managers or LIFE project technicians

• Brief introductory talk on the area: history, development of the lynx population nucleus, and involved stakeholders

11:30 / Guided field tour

• Interpretive walk through areas with historical or recent lynx presence

• Identification of optimal habitat, marking points, wildlife crossings, and camera trap stations

• Explanation of habitat management, collaboration with private estates, and genetic monitoring

• Example of signage and mitigation measures to reduce roadkills

13:30 / Outdoor lunch (picnic included)

14:30 / Return to Seville

16:00 / Arrival in Seville





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