

Distribution and abundance

The population of lynx is estimated to be about 200 individuals in Poland.

These carnivores are found in 2 main refuges: in the north – eastern part of the country (mainly the Białowieża, Kampinos and Augustów Forests, about 65 individuals) and in the Carpathian Mountains (about 100 individuals). After year 2000 first reintroductions of this carnivore were conducted in the Kampinos Forest and in Central Poland (Niedziałkowska et al. 2006). The group of reintroduced cats in the Kampinos Forest is estimated at around 25 lynxes. The reintroduction is also conducted in Masuria – in the Piska Forest. (Krzywiński 2003). Few individuals are also found in Roztocze. The slow expansion of the species to the west has been observed in the last few years. The more and more frequent founding of this species in the Sudetes indicates that it is most probably a frequent visitor to this area (Flousek et al. 2014). The genetic origin of the individuals from south-western Poland which settle the Sudetes is not known yet. It is assumed that these animals are the individuals migrating from the north-east. The presence of lynxes has been recently noticed also in the north-west part of the country, among others in the Tuchola Forest, the Słowiński National Park and recently also in the Noteć Forests. Schmidt (2011) determined the current range of the lynx population in the country at 10,800 km², which amounts to 12% of the forest area in Poland. According to the GIS analyses referring to the habitat preferences, the potential range of the species is 2.5 times bigger (after Huck et al. 2010).