

Your **contact persons** for questions on the safety net for the wildcat and the campaign "Biotope Network – Networks of Life"

#### BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany

Am Köllnischen Park 1  
10179 Berlin  
Fon +49(0)30/27 58 64 96  
christiane.bohn@bund.net

#### Bund Naturschutz in Bavaria

Bauernfeindstraße 23  
90471 Nürnberg  
Fon +49(0)9 11/8 18 78 18  
wildkatze@bund-naturschutz.de

#### BUND Baden-Württemberg

Paulinenstraße 47  
70178 Stuttgart  
Fon +49(0)7 11/62 03 06 12  
laura.bollwahn@bund.net

#### BUND Hessia

Ostbahnhofstraße 13  
60314 Frankfurt  
Fon +49(0)69/67 73 76 16  
wildkatze@bund-hessen.de

#### BUND Lower Saxony

Goebenstraße 3a  
30161 Hannover  
Fon +49(0)5 11/9 65 69 12  
janina.philipp@nds.bund.net

#### BUND Thuringia

Campaign "Biotope Networks"  
Trommsdorffstraße 5  
99084 Erfurt  
Fon +49(0)3 61/5 55 03 12  
burkhard.vogel@bund.de

#### Safety Net for the Wildcat

PO Box 1108  
Hauptstraße 98 (Schloss) OT Behringen  
99820 Hørselberg-Hainich  
Fon +49(0)3 62 54/8 59 62  
wildkatze@bund.net

#### National Park Thayatal Austria

National Park Centre  
A-2082 Hardegg  
Fon +43(0)29 49/70 05 75  
wildkatze@np-thayatal.at

www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung

## Biotope Network – Networks of Life

Nature conservation needs diverse action. BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) employees and volunteers:

- research the life and migration habits of the wildcat
- collect hair samples and get them genetically analysed to find out more about the phylogenetic relationships of these animals
- determine with state-of-the-art information technology the ideal course for the green corridors
- are in constant touch with politicians, land owners, authorities, hunters, the population and many others who could contribute to the creation of the corridors.

To further enhance the interconnectivity of the forest, the BUND has started the information campaign "Biotope network – Networks of Life" (see [www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung](http://www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung)) together with partners and supported by LIFE+ funds coming from the EU. Only with these measures can the vision of the safety net for the wildcat – Central Europe's biggest nature conservation project – become a reality. Join in the effort so that wild nature can keep its space. More space for wild animals also means more nature for us humans.

*\*LIFE is a financial instrument of the European Union and offers financial support for measures benefitting nature and the environment. Thus, it contributes to the development, execution and updating of the environmental policy and the regulations of the European Union.*



Beautiful, delicately built, legendary and almost extinct:

## The European Wildcat (Felis silvestris)

**APPEARANCE:** similar to a tabby domestic cat but with a bushy black-ringed tail with a dull black tip; coat pattern not rich in contrast but washed out. With its winter coat it gives the impression of being a lot stockier and stronger than a domestic cat

**SIZE:** about the size of a domestic cat

**HABITAT:** deciduous and mixed forests with few disturbances and diverse structures such as dead and mature wood and small clearings

**OFFSPRING:** gestation period 63–69 days, 2–4 (max. 6) kittens per litter, born between March and September, sometimes second litter in autumn

**FOOD:** mostly mice, more rarely wild rabbits, lizards, frogs, insects, small birds; carrion as an exception; hardly any vegetarian food



**THREAT:** listed as „threatened“ on the Red List

**AGE:** approx. 7–10 years, in captivity more than 15 years

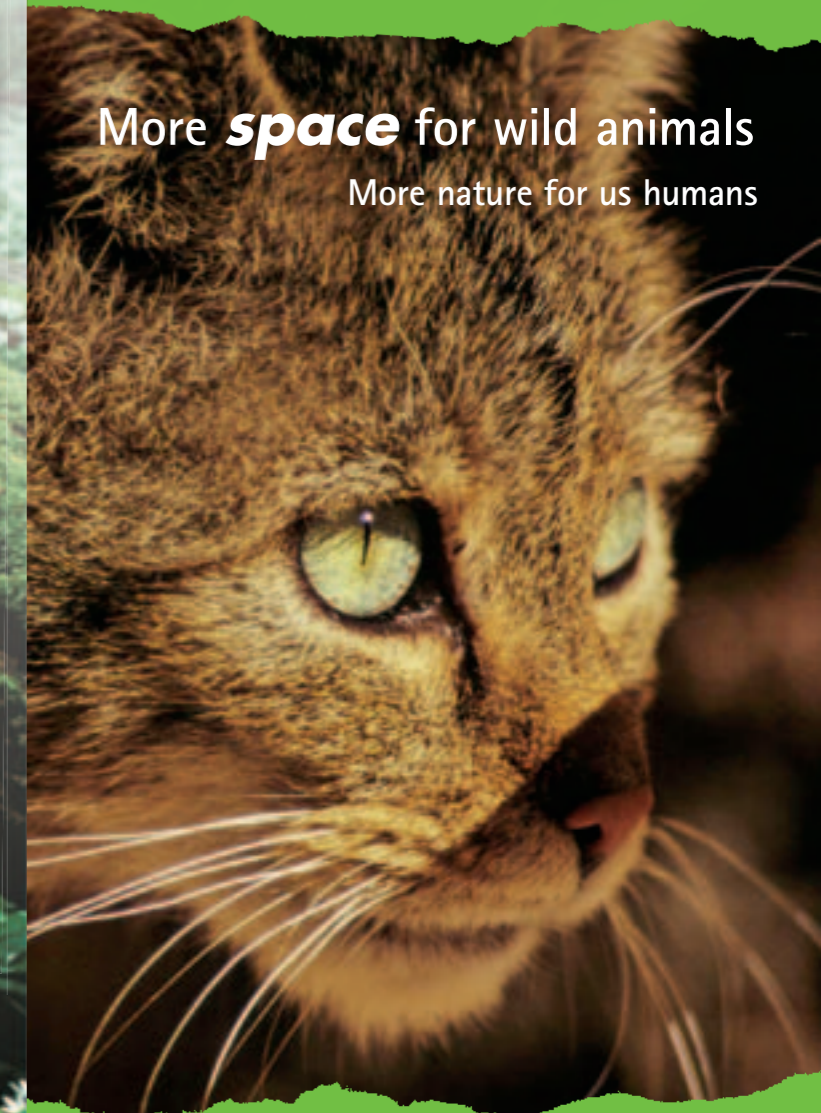
Credits: publisher BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany  
Am Köllnischen Park 1 – 10179 Berlin  
Text: Christiane Bohn – responsible: Dr. Norbert Franck  
Translation: Romy Bartsch  
Pictures: BUND/T. Stephan, DIE.PROJEKTOREN  
Design: DIE.PROJEKTOREN – Print: Lokay

with financial support from:



Roaming through the forest has always been a pleasure. Today, more than ever, people seek revitalization of body and soul in surroundings as natural and wild as possible. For us it's a pleasure, for many wild animals it is a **vital** necessity.

More **space** for wild animals  
More nature for us humans



## Biotope Network – Networks of Life

an initiative by:



[www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung](http://www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung)



## My voice for the wildcat!

Yes, I want to become active and get involved as a BUND member in environmental protection and nature conservation.

### Annual contribution:

- Individual member \_\_\_\_\_ € (starting from 50 Euro)  
 Family \_\_\_\_\_ € (starting from 65 Euro)  
 Reduced \_\_\_\_\_ € (starting from 16 Euro)

If you have decided for a family membership, please fill in the names of your family members. Family members under the age of 28 are automatically members of BUNDjugend (BUNDyouth).

Method of Payment:  annually  semi-annually  quarterly

Account number	Bank code
Name of bank	
IBAN	BIC

To save paper and administrative costs, I hereby authorize the BUND to debit my account with the membership fee. This authorization is cancelled by revocation.

Surname	Name
Street address	
Zip code, Place	
Country	
Date, Signature	

Your personal information is exclusively collected electronically for association purposes and, if needs be, is processed and used for association-related information and donation purposes by people commissioned by the BUND e. V. A circulation of data to third parties does not take place.

For data protection purposes we recommend sending your data in an envelope.

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND),  
Am Köllnischen Park 1 – 10179 Berlin

## Limits of life

It's getting easier and easier for people to move across Europe. However, the freedom of movement which we value so highly is increasingly disappearing for our wild animals.

Animals bound to the proximity of woodland such as wildcats, red deer, badgers, etc. have ever more difficulties getting to the next forest area: great settlements, cleared acreage and multi-lane roads have become insurmountable obstacles. Lack of space, diseases and inbreeding threaten the animal populations in isolated woodland areas. More and more species are disappearing and with them biological diversity.

But we need this diversity of life: the different animal and plant species, their habitats and their genetic diversity. Every day we use food and resources from nature. We want to breathe pure air, drink clean water and recharge on a walk in natural forests.

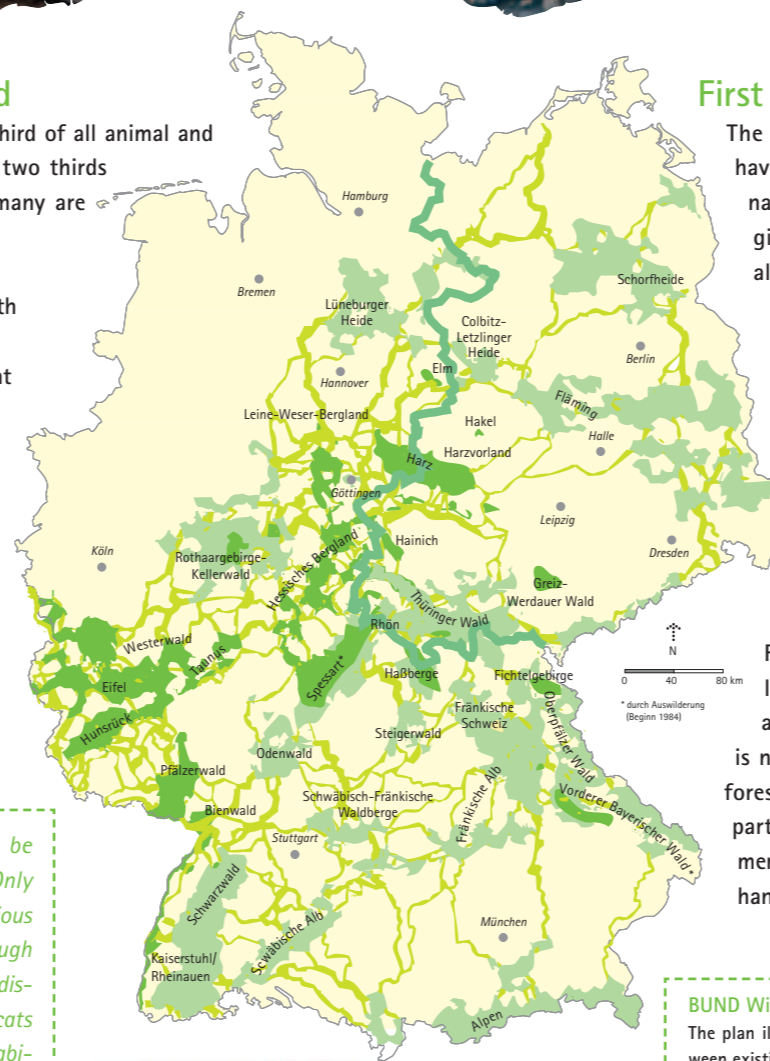


## Breaking new ground

According to the Red List, a third of all animal and plant species and more than two thirds of all habitats listed for Germany are threatened.

Since 2004 Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) is tying the "Safety Net for the Wildcat" at full speed. The ambitious goal of the safety net: Green corridors made of bushes and trees shall link up Germany's forest areas once again and create a biotope network of 20,000 km in length.

Wildcats are considered to be "endangered" in Germany. Only approx. 7,000 of these mysterious animals are still roaming through our forests. Researchers have discovered: In places where wildcats feel welcome, many other inhabitants of the forest also find refuge.



## First successes

The first 20,000 trees for a corridor have already been planted between the national park Hainich and the Thuringian Forest. Further connections are also emerging in other regions, e.g. a 100 hectare network is being created in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg between the forest of the Rheinaue wetlands, the Hardtwald and the Black Forest. More information on current developments in Germany can be found online at [www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung](http://www.bund.net/biotopvernetzung).

For continuous growth of these green life lines the support of politicians, authorities, and the general population is needed. This is the only chance these forest natives have for survival. Become part of the safety net, become a BUND member. Just fill in the form on the right hand side and send it to us.

### BUND Wildcat Routing Map

The plan illustrates the best possible connections between existing and potentially suitable habitat structures for the endangered cats.

- Wildcat occurrences
- Suitable wildcat habitat structures
- Wildcat corridors
- Green belt