



e-lessons

LIFE
Lynx



LIFE
Lynx



ko
čev
sko

Partners

Univerza v Ljubljani



ZAVOD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
ZA VARSTVO NARAVE



ZAVOD ZA GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE



ACDB
Action for wildlife



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN ZVOLEN



Lovska zveza Slovenije



VELEUČILIŠTE U KARLOVCU
Karlovac University of Applied Sciences



BIOM
UDRUGA / ASSOCIATION



Cofinancers



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA
OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs



FOND ZA ZAŠČITU OKOLISA I
ENERGETSKU UČINKOVITOST



MINISTERSTVO
ŽIVOTNEHO PROSTREDJA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKI

euronatur

IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF LYNX MALA

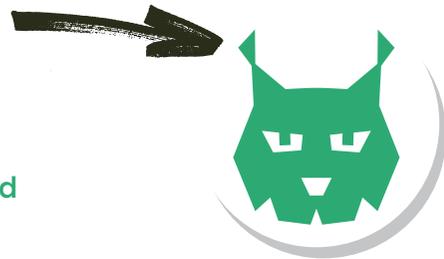


LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!

Welcome to the Lynx Trail!

You will meet lynx Mala, discover what kind of animal the lynx is and why it is endangered. Researcher Urša will reveal to you the challenges facing lynxes and how researchers approach them to learn about their behaviour.

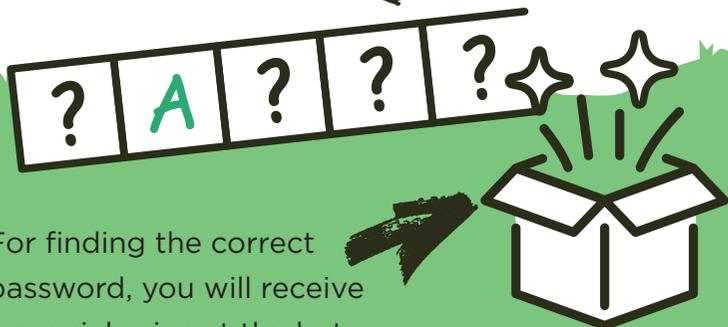
Observe the world around you and follow this mark:



Help Mala and Urša find the answers to the questions marked with a green cloud and the question number in the booklet:



Circle the letter that indicates the correct answer and write it in the table at the end of the booklet.



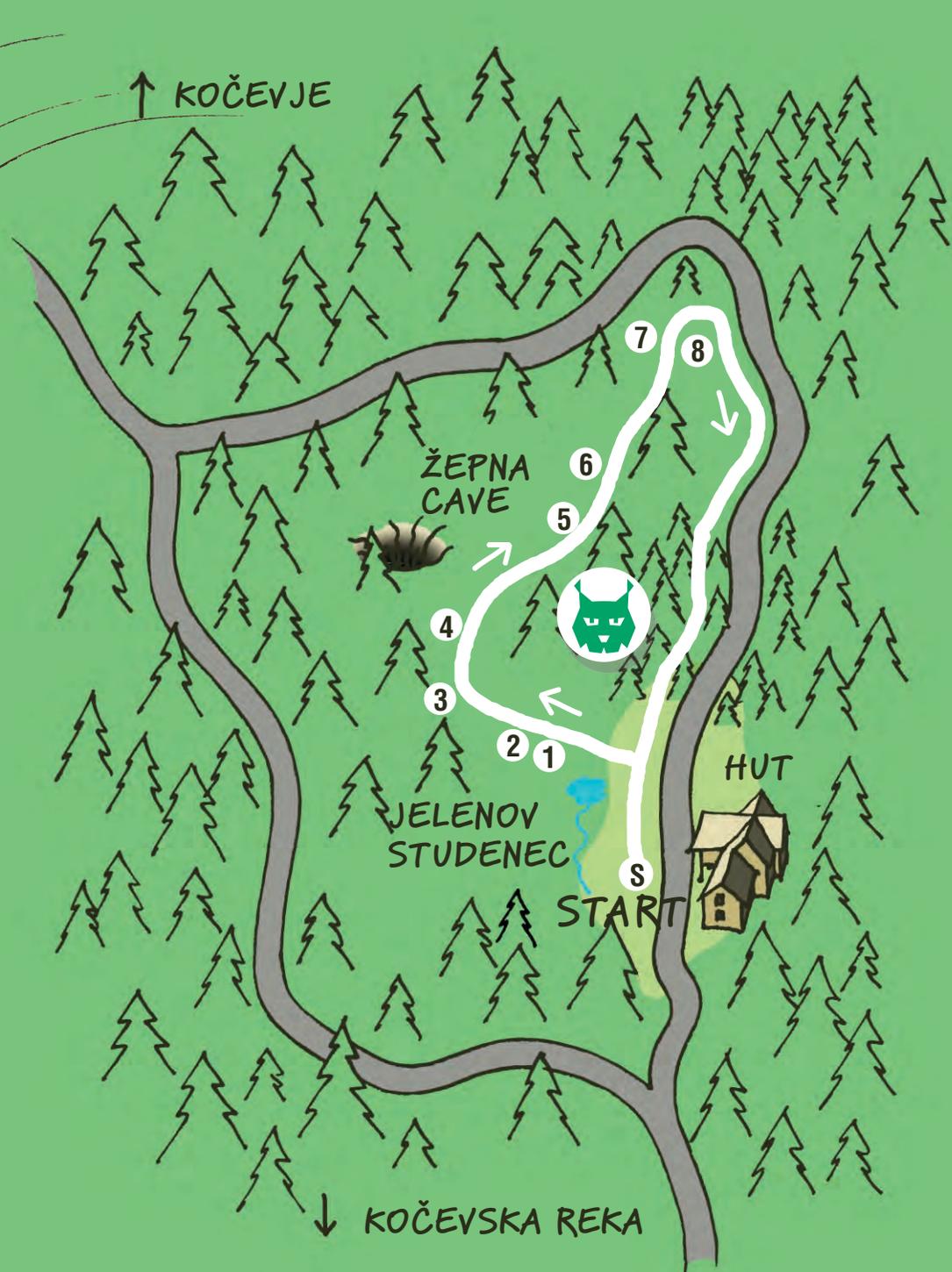
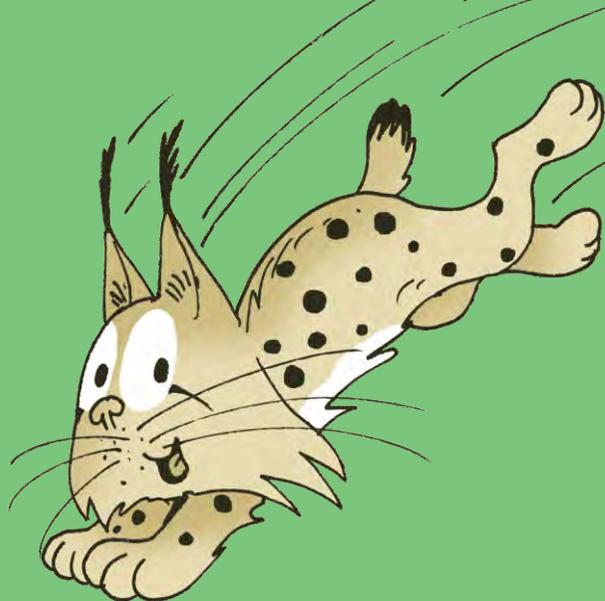
For finding the correct password, you will receive a special prize at the hut Koča pri Jelenovem studencu.





MAP OF THE LYNX TRAIL

The Lynx Trail is marked with signs featuring a lynx head and is a good choice for a walk through the forests of Kočevje. The circular trail starts in a forest clearing, near the hut Koča pri Jelenovem studencu. It has eight thematic stations, where you can learn interesting facts about the world of lynxes.



RESPECT NATURE

- Don't leave rubbish in nature.
- Walk on a marked path.
- Don't pick wild flowers, mushrooms or moss.
- Be kind to nature and people.
- Don't speak too loudly so you don't disturb the animals.



Name:
MALA

Species:
EURASIAN LYNX
(Lynx lynx)

Size:
70-130 CM IN LENGHT,
ABOUT 65 CM IN HEIGHT

Weight:
12-35 KG

Favourite food:
ROE DEER

What I like to do the most...
I LOVE TO WALK ON ROCKS AND FALLEN TREES
OR TO REST ON ROCKY SHELVES.



I AM
LYNX MALA.
WHO ARE YOU?



FILL IN YOUR
IDENTITY CARD.

Name:

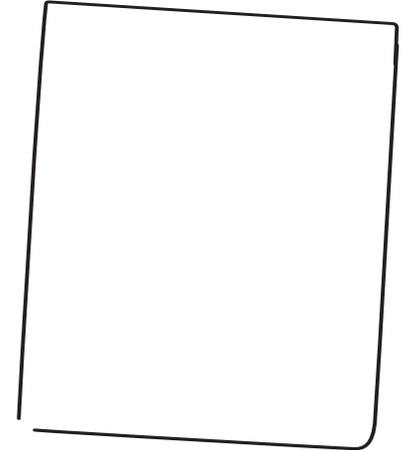
Species:

Height:

Weight:

Favourite food:

What I like to do the most...

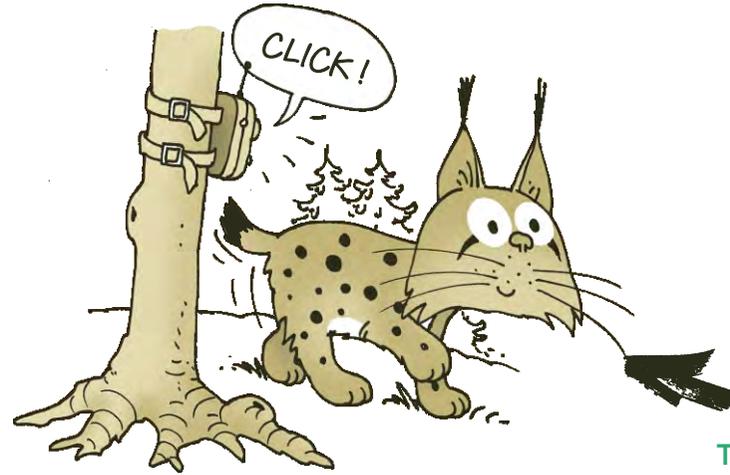
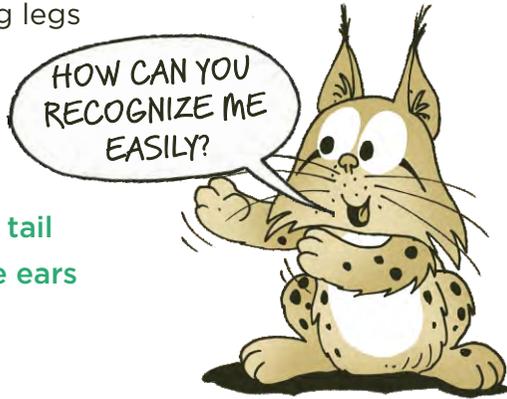


PORTRAIT OF THE LYNX

The Eurasian lynx is the largest wild cat in Europe. It is as big as 3 domestic cats. You can recognise it by its cat-like head with triangular ears ending in distinctive tufts. It has sideburns on its cheekbones, which make the head look even bigger. It has an elongated body with long legs and a short tail with a black tip.

1?

- S by the long bushy tail
- L by the tufts on the ears
- A by the black fur

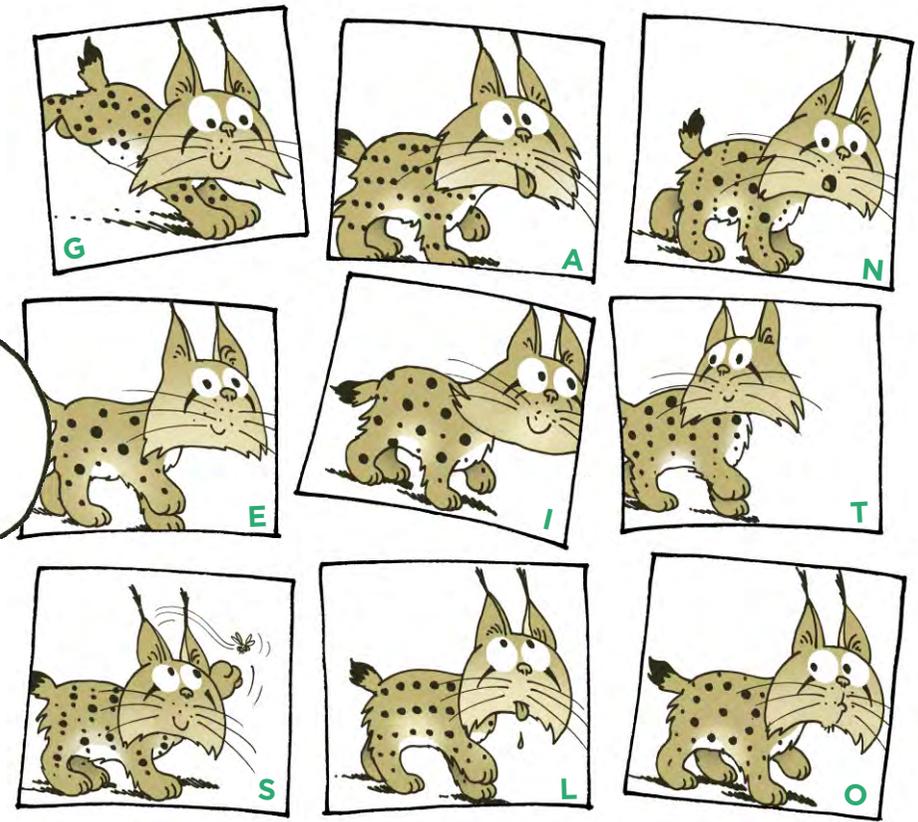


2?

Take a good look at lynx Mala and find a photo of her.

The lynx's fur is brown. It has a unique pattern of spots and dots. Every lynx has a different pattern, just like humans have different fingerprints. This characteristic of lynxes is also used by researchers who photograph lynxes in the wild using automatic cameras. Through the captured photos, they can differentiate individual lynxes from each other and count them.

THIS METHOD IS CALLED PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION.

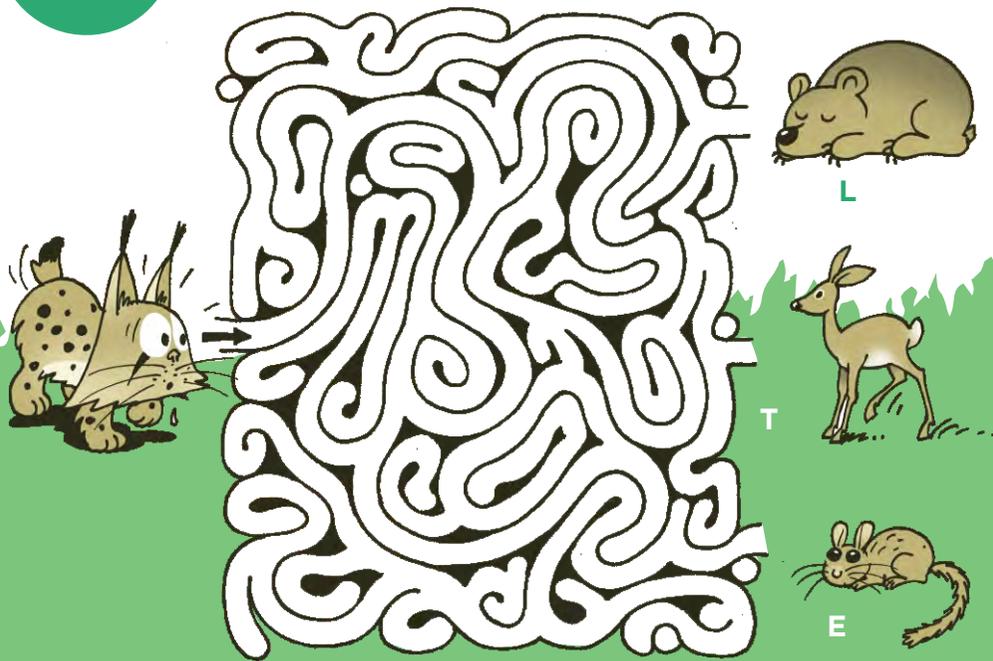


THE DIET OF A LYNX

The lynx is a predator and is exclusively carnivorous. It prefers to eat roe deer. It has sharp claws and strong teeth that help it catch its prey. It does not chase its prey as the wolf does. Its heart muscle is not strong enough to run long distances. The lynx hunts from an ambush, which means it tries to approach a deer as quietly and inconspicuously as possible before making a swift dash towards it. It can retract its claws into the skin folds of its paw pads. This allows it to approach the prey silently, and then pounce on it swiftly.

3?

Help Mala find her way to her favourite lunch.



But a roe deer is big and a lynx can't eat it all at once!

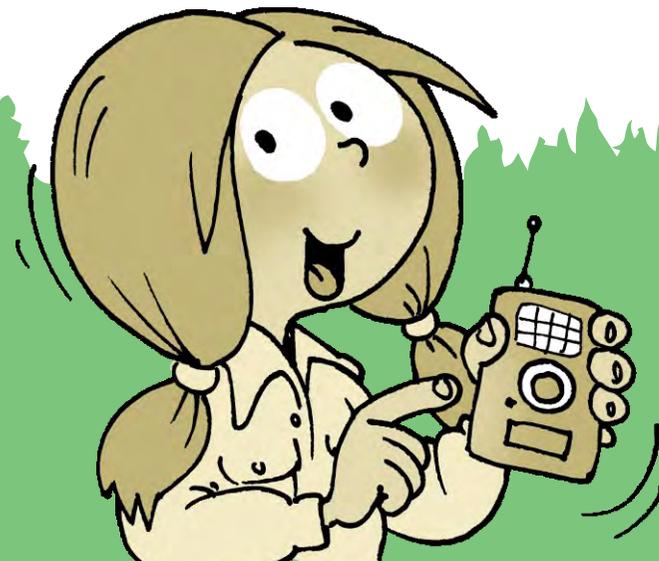
- L | I drag the prey up a tree
- S | I bury it and cover it with leaves
- P | I put it in the fridge

4?

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE LEFTOVERS ?



WE PLACE CAMERAS NEXT TO THE REMAINS OF THE PREY AND WATCH TO SEE WHO FINDS IT.



A LYNX'S LIFE

The lynx hunt and live alone. Nevertheless, they communicate with each other in their own language and recognise each other all the time. This conversation or communication takes place through smell. Lynx mark their home area with urine, we say they mark their territory. Marking spots are usually prominent, upright features such as young conifers, stumps, distinctive large rocks and abandoned forest huts. Other lynxes, for whom the message is intended, quickly notice such locations.

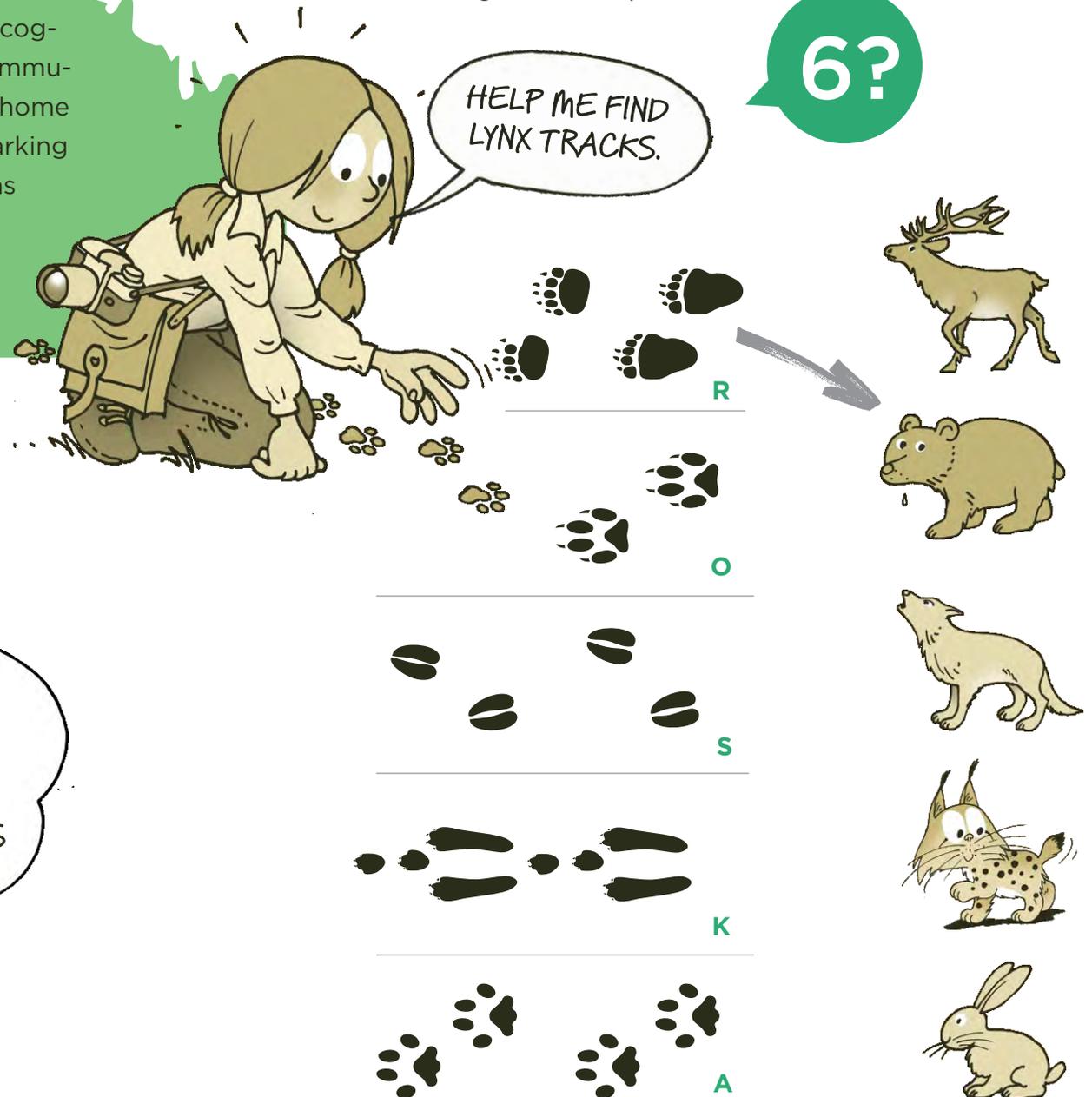
Lynx are hard to spot in the wild, so researchers look for their tracks, hair, scats, and other signs of their presence.

What kind of lifestyle does a lynx have?

- S** the lynx is a solitary animal
- Z** the lynx lives in a pair
- K** the lynx lives in large groups



5?



LYNX'S HOME

The lynx likes to walk on fallen logs, along the edges of ridges, and use rocks as vantage points. The karst terrain, with rocks covered in moss in some places, allows it to move quietly. Do you remember why this is very important for the lynx? It often catches its prey in karst basins and sinkholes, where the rugged surface makes it difficult for it to escape. They like to use the larger rocky cliffs and ridges, from where they have a good view of the surrounding area, as their resting places during the day, when they stay as far away from humans and their settlements as possible.

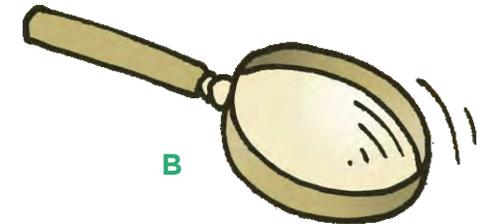
Where could a lynx rest? Draw it!



Researchers also use telemetry to monitor the movements of lynx. They put a special collar around the lynx's neck that sends information about the animal's exact positions. For this purpose, a box trap is placed in a suitable location. When a lynx is caught in a trap, an alarm is triggered, and the researchers rush to the scene, tranquillise the lynx, fit it with a telemetry collar and release it into the wild. The telemetry collar sends researchers precise data on the animal's movements.

Help Urša choose the right tool to monitor the movements of the lynx.

7?



WHICH TOOL SHOULD I CHOOSE TO KNOW WHERE OUR LYNX IS WALKING? _



EXPLORE AND TEST YOUR SENSES! WHAT DO YOU SEE, HEAR, TOUCH AND SMELL? DRAW IT!



LYNX'S SUPER SENSES

The lynx is hard to spot in the wild. With its large, flexible ears, it quickly hears us and retreats.

As a predominantly nocturnal hunter, its eyes are well adapted to twilight, but it can also see well during the day. It relies mainly on hearing and sight to hunt, while smell is less important. But it can sniff out messages from other lynx and quickly tell if they are a rival or a female ready to mate.



- T because of large ears with tufts
- E because my eyes are adapted to low light conditions
- J because I smell quicker at night

I SEE



I HEAR



I TOUCH



I SMELL



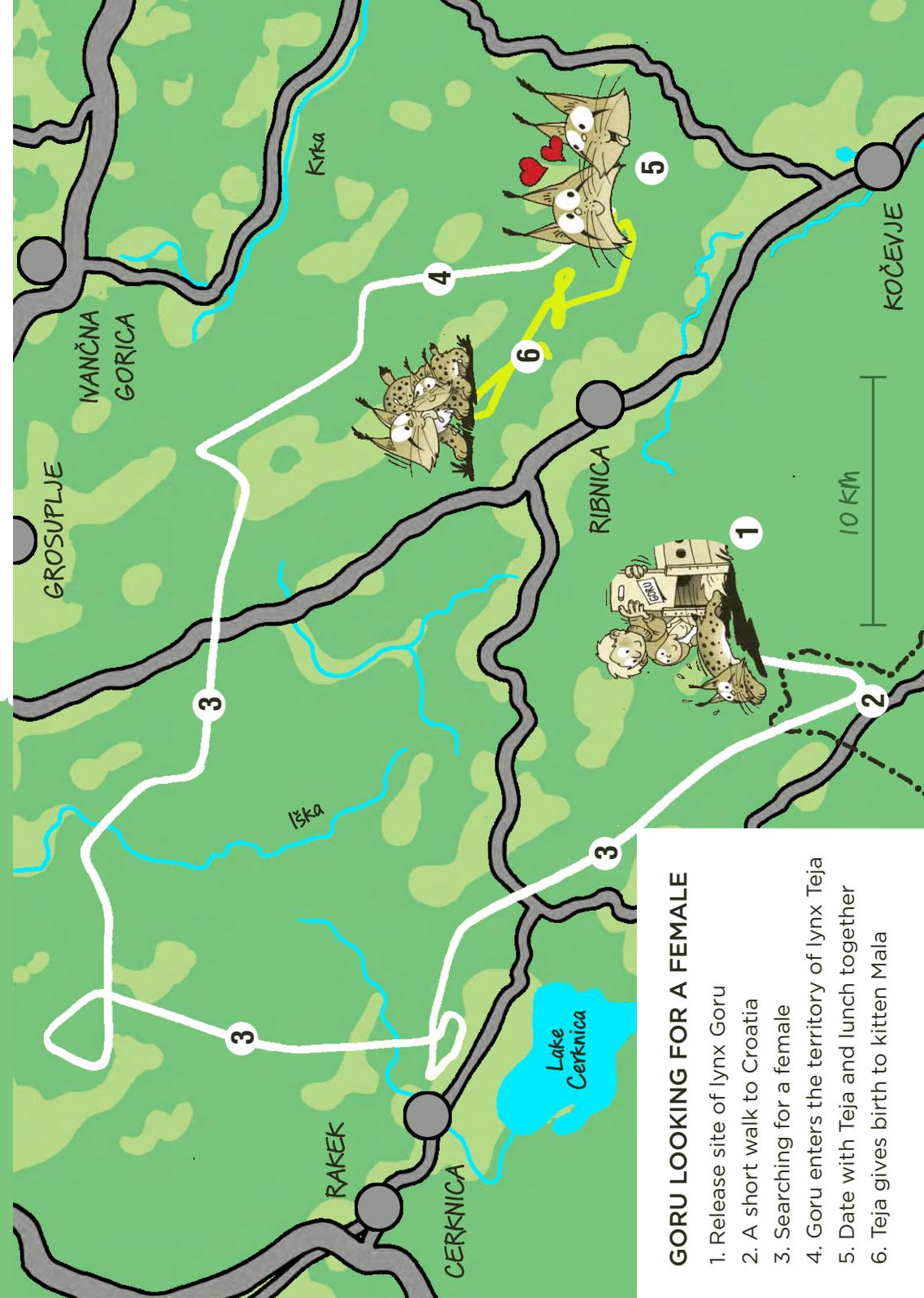
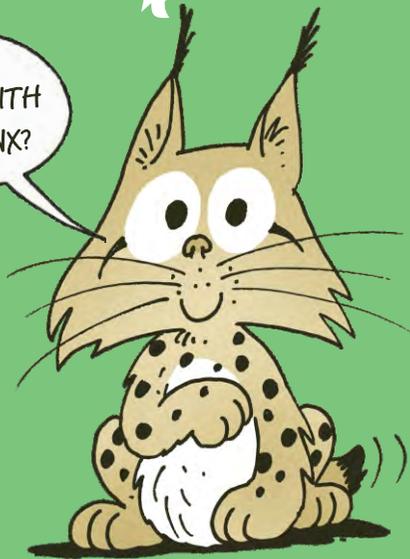
LYNX KITTENS

Lynx are solitary, socialising only during the mating season, from mid-February to the end of March. During this time, the male can travel long distances in search of a female. In May, the female gives birth to two or three kittens who are blind and deaf, so she hides them in a safe place. These are usually rock crevices, rock overhangs or the roots of fallen trees. She raises her youngsters alone. In August, they grow large enough for the female to lead them to her prey. They stay with their mother until the next mating season.

9?

HOW LONG DO
THE CUBS STAY WITH
THE MOTHER LYNX?

- I | 2 months
- L | 10 months
- K | 2 years



GORU LOOKING FOR A FEMALE

1. Release site of lynx Goru
2. A short walk to Croatia
3. Searching for a female
4. Goru enters the territory of lynx Teja
5. Date with Teja and lunch together
6. Teja gives birth to kitten Mala

LYNX IN TROUBLE

Did you know that the lynx in Slovenia is in trouble? In the past, lynx disappeared from our forests and hunters reintroduced them to the area about 50 years ago. Because they were few in number and did not interact with lynx from other areas, they mated with each other, which means that very soon they started to mate with their relatives, which is called inbreeding. If two related lynxes mate, there is an increased risk of disease occurrence and survival and reproductive success are reduced. This is what is happening to our lynx, which is why they need our help for the second time.

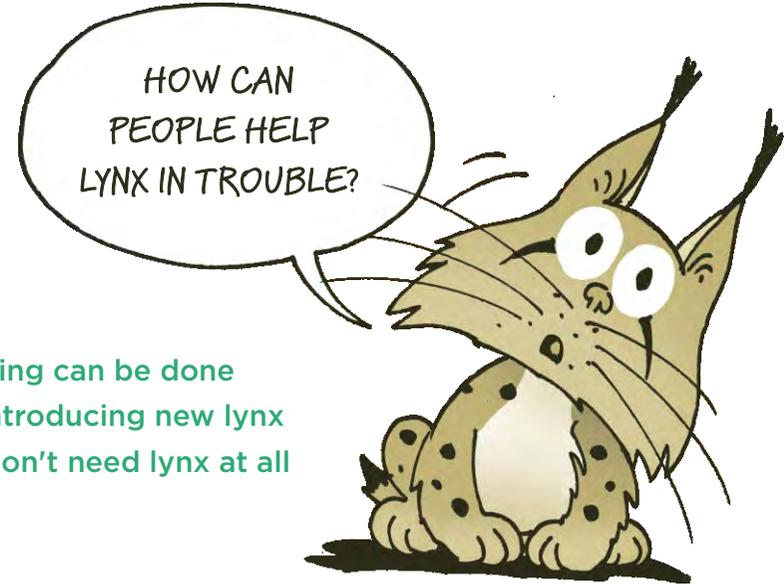
What is the biggest threat to our lynx at the moment?

- Y** | inbreeding
- G** | lack of suitable prey
- V** | loss of habitat

10?

11?

- B** | nothing can be done
- N** | by introducing new lynx
- E** | we don't need lynx at all



LYNX RESCUE

To save the lynx from extinction, the LIFE Lynx project has brought several new lynxes to Slovenia and Croatia. Mala is the offspring of the first introduced lynx, Goru - proof that the introduced lynx have integrated well into the population!

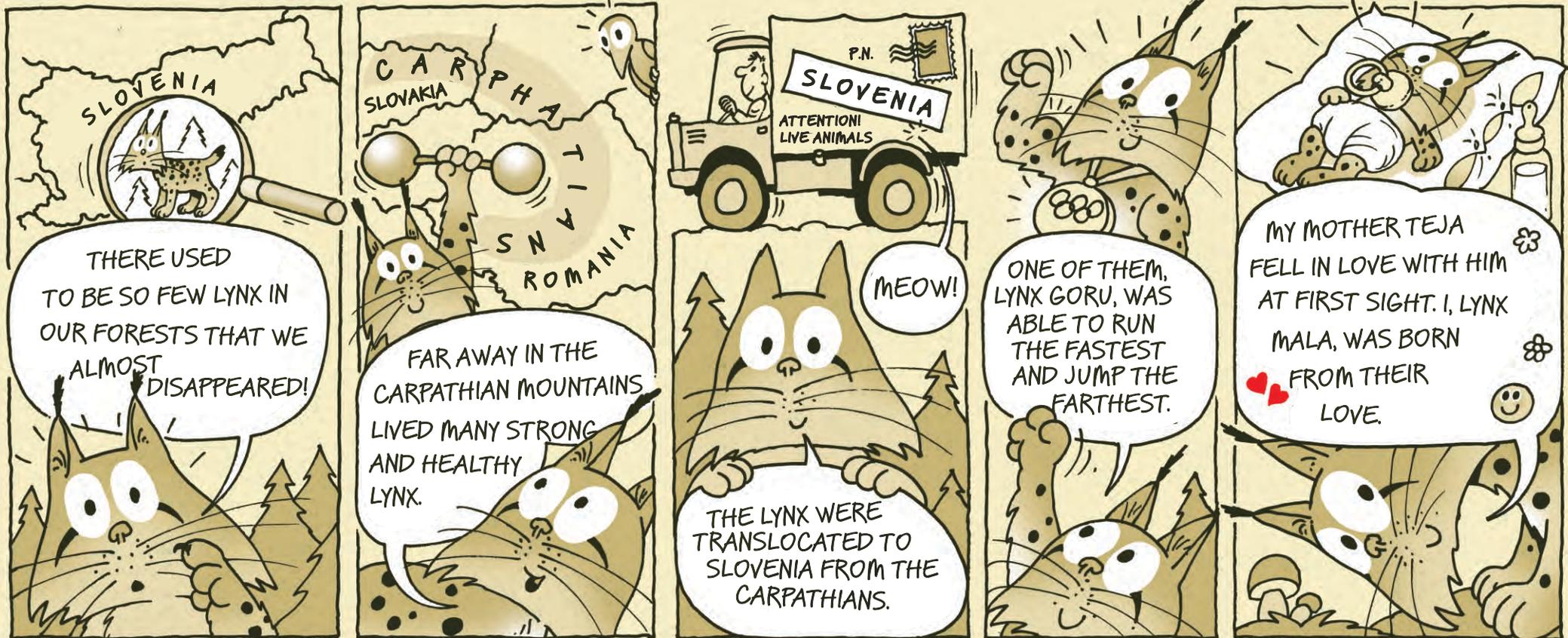


A POPULATION CONSIST OF INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SPECIES LIVING IN A PARTICULAR AREA AT A PARTICULAR TIME.

12?

From which mountain range did the lynx, which were ranslocated within the LIFE Lynx project, come?

- L | from the Alps
- K | from the Ural Mountains
- X | from the Carpathian Mountains



SLOVENIA

THERE USED TO BE SO FEW LYNX IN OUR FORESTS THAT WE ALMOST DISAPPEARED!

CARPHATIAN MOUNTAINS

SLOVAKIA

ROMANIA

FAR AWAY IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS LIVED MANY STRONG AND HEALTHY LYNX.

P.N.

SLOVENIA

ATTENTION! LIVE ANIMALS

MEOW!

THE LYNX WERE TRANSLOCATED TO SLOVENIA FROM THE CARPATHIANS.

ONE OF THEM, LYNX GORU, WAS ABLE TO RUN THE FASTEST AND JUMP THE FARTHEST.

MY MOTHER TEJA FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT FIRST SIGHT. I, LYNX MALA, WAS BORN FROM THEIR LOVE.



WHY DO WE NEED LYNX?

The lynx is an umbrella species - it needs large areas to live. If we protect the lynx, we also protect its habitat and all the other plant and animal species that live there. The lynx is protected in Slovenia. Let's preserve it for future generations!



Under the umbrella, also draw other species that we protect by conserving the lynx.

THE SOLUTION TO THE PRIZE QUIZ

Now you know a lot of new things about lynx! Run to the Hut Koča pri Jelenovem studencu for your well-deserved prize! In case the lodge is not open, you can collect your prize at one of the tourist information centres in Kočevje (Hostel Bearlog, Camp Jezero, TIC Železnica).

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---

THE

9	10	11	12
---	----	----	----





Title

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LYNX MALA

Authors

Irena Kavčič, Nina Jankovič, Ana Pšeničnik

Illustrations

Samo Jenčič

Design

Folio d.o.o.

Publisher

University of Ljubljana,
Biotechnical Faculty, Department Of Biology
www.lifelynx.eu

1st online english edition

This publication is part of the project
LIFE Lynx – with financial support from the
European Union's LIFE programme.

Ljubljana, November 2023

Kataložni zapis o publikaciji (CIP) pripravili v Narodni in univerzitetni knjižnici v Ljubljani
COBISS.SI-ID 171588867
ISBN 978-961-7215-01-4 (PDF)