

The worst situation is in the Jura Mountains. As a result of damage to livestock, a violent controversy has broken out that has even led to aggression against people. The matter was not regarded as sufficiently seriously in the beginning, and the chance for constructive dialogue and scientific study has been missed. We must admit that the eruption could not have been expected, and the damage exceeds all experience in Switzerland or Austria. There have been all kinds of rumours about clandestine releases of captive bred lynx and even other big predators (Lynx caracal, Lynx canadensis etc.). S. Capt, who is involved in Swiss lynx research, has been shown a photo of a dead Lynx caracal, said to have been shot in the Ain district. The contact remarked that 18 lynx or lynx-like animals had already been killed in this region. It is impossible to distinguish truth from lies. It is most important to organise an independent investigation, but probably the atmosphere for the moment is too tense. Poaching is frankly admitted by hunters and sheepbreeders in the Jura Mountains. Legal protection is worth nothing if local people do not accept the predator. Local authorities are no longer willing to apply the law, and the ministry in charge has now been forced to take measures. This is not a special French phenomenon. There have been analogous experiences in Switzerland and in Austria.

#### GR - Greece

**Respondents:** G. Giannatos, E. Papaevangelou, F. Studer

**Status:** Eradicated.

**Former presence and extinction:** The species may have been present almost everywhere in Greece. Prehistoric evidence from Attica is given in (Symeonidis et al. 1978). Recent data are not available. Even for regions considered to be the last refuges (Aos Gorge and Varnous and Voras Mountains, NW-Greece), there has been no proof for the last 20 years (G.Giannatos). Surprisingly, hunters and shepherds from the Peloponnese and southern Pindos Mountains are still familiar with the species, and say it was present till World War II. In other parts of Greece, the lynx is completely unknown. Hunters of the Aos region (NE-Greece) claim that they killed a lynx about 20 years ago.

**Legal situation:** Protected since 1939.

**Comments:** Festetics (1980b), Miric (1974), Cop (1988), Matjuschkin (1979), Kratochvil (1968h), and Van den Brink (1975) believe the lynx to be present in the northern part of Greece, but the lack of data is evident. Miric (1978a) mentions the examination of skulls from NW-Greece, but gives no further details. There is one stuffed specimen in the Zoological Museum of the University of Athens, but its origin is uncertain. People such as G. Giannatos or F. Studer, working in N-Greece and collecting data on all big carnivores, have never had a hint of the occurrence of the lynx. The species has not been present in Greece at least since World War II. The reason for its eradication is said to be the loss of habitat (E. Papaevangelou). This may be true for the almost deforested regions of Greece. In the northern part of the country, where the wolf, brown bear and jackal still occur, we expect there are additional reasons (see chapter "Vulnerability").