

## THE LYNX IN LIECHTENSTEIN

MICHAEL FASEL

*Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft, St. Florinsgasse 3, FL-9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein*

The last record of lynx in Liechtenstein goes back to the time before 1900. Today, the species is strictly protected by the game law (Jagdgesetz LGBl. 1962 Nr. 4 und Abänderungen) and the respective ordinance (LGBl. 1962 Nr. 10), and by international treaties like the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). However, neither direct observations, nor livestock killed, tracks or other signs of presence have been recorded since the extinction of lynx.

The surface area of Liechtenstein (160 km<sup>2</sup>) is only large enough to host from 1 to exceptionally 3 adult lynx. But there are no barriers that hinder lynx to disperse into neighbouring Grisons/Switzerland and Vorarlberg/Austria. Only in the west, the Rhine valley may not easily be overcome by lynx. This geographical situation underlines the need to closely collaborate in all future management decisions with the neighbouring countries. Since the translocations of lynx from western to eastern Switzerland in 2001/02 (Molinari-

Jobin *et al.*, this volume), a natural re-colonisation of Liechtenstein may be possible within a few years. The planned actions for lynx conservation, besides legislative measures, concern information and education:

- information to the general public about the behaviour and the distribution of the lynx;
- specific information for game wardens and hunters about the biology and the distribution of the lynx and its influence on game species like roe deer, red deer, and chamois;
- education of relevant people in identifying lynx signs;
- close collaboration with the SCALP-group and the supply of data collected in Liechtenstein.

### REFERENCES

Molinari-Jobin, A., Zimmermann, F., Breitenmoser-Würsten, Ch., Capt, S. and Breitenmoser, U., this volume. Present status and distribution of the lynx in the Swiss Alps.