

Finger pointed at poachers after rare lynx killed in France

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A female lynx is pictured at the animal park of Sainte-Croix, on June 03, 2020, in Rhodes, eastern France.

A lynx, one of Europe's rarest mammals, has been found shot dead in eastern France in a suspected killing by poachers, local officials said

Tuesday.

The only big cat species to live in the wild in France, the [lynx](#) carcass was found on December 31 in the Jura mountains and an autopsy showed it was shot, the local environmental protection agency said in a statement.

The killing of one of the estimated 150 lynx believed to live in France is a "serious blow for the [population](#)" coming after two lynx were also killed at the start of 2020.

The lynx is detested by some hunters because of the large amount of prey that it consumes. A [criminal investigation](#) has been opened and the culprits risk up to three years in prison and a fine of 150,000 euros (\$185,000) if caught.

Two-thirds of France's lynx population is in the Jura and the rest is concentrated in the Alps, with a sporadic population in the Vosges mountains also in the east.

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