

IN THE LAND OF LYNX AND OTTER

Extinction defied

Information about the extinction of animal and plant species is common news today. However, in the large area of the Bavarian Forest Nature Park some animals and plants have found a last refuge.



In particular the otter, one of the most endangered species in middle Europe, is worth mentioning. It is still at home along the Ilz, the "Great Regen" and their tributaries. Being regarded as a competitor for food by humans and intensively hunted because of its fur, the otter was very close to extinction at one point.



The lynx was similarly hunted. In 1846, the last lynx was shot in the Bavarian Forest. Today it has found a home here once again. The lynx needs large, connected and wooded areas to be able to withdraw without being disturbed. In the Nature Park such areas are common in a unique way.

The capercaillie has also found a last resort within the Bavarian Forest. The heraldic bird of the Nature Park lives in the extended forests along the German- Czech border.

Flora and fauna make the Arber region into one of the most valuable sites in the Nature Park. The summit

of the Arber is a last refuge for plant remnants from the last ice-age outside the Alps and the tundra. Examples are the rock bent (*Agrostis rupestris*) and the parsley fern (*Cryptogramma crispa*). In addition to the severely endangered moorplants found there, the white backed woodpecker lives in the original forests above the Arber lake, which are still rich in dead wood.

Protection and conservation of these natural treasures are one of the principal duties of the Bavarian Forest Nature Park. Let's help to save them!