

Info Bulletin 8 – August 2010



Welcome

Welcome to the Alertis info bulletin. Alertis gives regular updates about our main activities and the projects we support. We will keep it short, but in case you would like to know more about any of the topics mentioned here, you can always send an email to projects@alertis.nl.



Turkish bears feast on special diet

This year, Alertis started to fund a new project in the Karacabey Bear Sanctuary in Turkey. This bear sanctuary, run by Second Chance Animal Protection Association (SCAPA), has over 60 bears in its care. The bears are mostly former dancing bears and orphaned bears. Together with Alertis, SCAPA is developing a Natural Food Program similar to that of the Bear Forest in Rhenen. One of the key ingredients is specially baked bread with added minerals and vitamins. The round loaves are freshly made every day in a special oven by a local woman, just outside of the bear enclosure. Alertis funds the production of this special bread for one year.



Alertis Education package for schools

Alertis designed a new education package for Dutch schoolchildren between 6 and 12 years old. This package contains information flyers on all bear species, the Bear Forest and its inhabitants, the work of Alertis, books about bears and of course lovely bear pictures.

IBA Conference 2010



The 19th International Conference on Bear Research and Management was held in Georgia in May of this year. It was organized by [NACRES](#) (Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and Research), a Georgian not-for-profit organization and partner of Alertis for many years. It was a huge success, with people involved in bear-related work attending from all over the world. The program contained several scientific sessions, four workshops, a training session on human dimensions and several additional events. One of the workshops was co-organized by Alertis. The aim of this workshop was to present the broad overview of bear sanctuaries including the origin of bears in captivity, management of a facility including design and dimensions, bear health and welfare. The objective was to share experiences and provide a platform that is crucial for building an information network capturing issues relating to bears living in captivity and their welfare. This was a first step towards creating a network of collaborating experts on bears living in captivity.

Rescue of four Spanish bears



In December 2009 Alertis rescued four former circus bears from Spain. These bears had been left to die in a circus trailer on an industrial site in the North of Spain in 2002. After being brought to a local zoo, they were permanently housed in a so-called Sanctuary near Benidorm. The bears were poorly kept, had no drinking water available, were fed rotten chicken and were infested with parasites. After receiving an emergency call, Alertis took immediate action. As soon as all the paperwork had been arranged and the bears were healthy enough to be transported, they were brought to the Bear Forest in the Netherlands. All four got dental treatment and were treated for various illnesses. Two of the four bears have been relocated to the Worbis bear sanctuary and a large bear enclosure in Possen, Germany. The remaining two (old and blind) bears have been released into the Bear Forest and are thoroughly enjoying their new spacious home.

Asiatic black bears in India



In India there are many problems between Asiatic black bears and people. The bear's natural habitat is becoming smaller and smaller and they need to search for food further away. They can easily get food near people, which frequently leads to conflict situations. Often the bears are victims of these conflicts and are killed. [Wildlife SOS](#) therefore initiated a project aimed at raising knowledge, and awareness and providing training. Employees of the wildlife department, rangers and law enforcement officials receive training, but local people also participate. So far the project has been a success with no bear incidents occurring in the region since the start. Alertis supports the project financially.

Information / contact

This bulletin is published by **Alertis - fund for bear and nature conservation**. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform NGO's, governments, our partners and other interested parties about our mission and projects. If you have any remarks or questions regarding this information or our projects, please feel free to contact us. If you do not want to receive this bulletin anymore, you can contact us at: projects@alertis.nl.

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