

Info Bulletin 1 - Jan 2007



Welcome

Welcome to the Alertis info-bulletin. Within this bulletin, Alertis will give regular up-dates about our main activities and about the projects, Alertis supports. We will keep it short and in case you would like to know more about any of the subjects mentioned here, you can always mail to projects@alertis.nl.

Public acceptance of the Brown bear in Croatia

Gaining and maintaining public acceptance of the Brown bear in Croatia. Recently, Alertis was able to secure BBI-Matra funds from the Dutch government for a large bear project in Croatia. In cooperation with Djuro Huber (Veterinary Faculty of Zagreb) and his team, the total population of Brown bears in Croatia will be estimated by means of DNA analyses. This study is necessary to implement some of the key actions from the Croatian bear management plan. Also, the public acceptance of Brown bear and expectations of the management plan will be surveyed by a comprehensive human dimension survey (see also [UK Summary](#)).



Project committee

In December 2006 the Alertis project committee gathered to discuss the grant applications for 2007. At this time of the year, the applications mainly concerned continuation-applications of projects Alertis have been financing the year before (see [website Alertis](#)). These projects were either originally proposed to take more than one year or similar activities will be carried out the next year. For new projects, an organization should first hand in a short proposal and then after approval, can be asked to hand in a full proposal. See for the schedule of handing in short and full proposals: [Project application](#). The committee also decided on financing a new project in [Turkey](#).

Campaign for Asiatic black bears in Asia

In 2006 Alertis has launched a national campaign to get attention for the problems in East Asia concerning the farming of thousands of (Asiatic black) bears. The main goal of this campaign is to create awareness and get public and political attention in the Netherlands for these cruel practices, which are still taking place in several South East Asian countries (see also www.alertis.nl and www.spuwjegal.nl). Alertis also raises funds for the expansion of the biggest sanctuary for rescue bears in Asia, called the China Bear Rescue Centre, built and run by the Asian animal welfare organisation Animals Asia Foundation (see also www.animalsasia.org). In 2006 Alertis has donated US\$20,000 for the development of a so called 'bear den'. When the bears are rescued after a life in a cage which is often no bigger than themselves, they need to be placed in a secure and safe environment before being released in the great outdoor enclosure of the China Bear Rescue Centre. A 'bear den' is a perfect rehabilitation facility for those bears and a very important step towards recovery.



Captive Bear Rescue Georgia

In the summer of 2006 Alertis was approached by its Georgian partner NACRES (see also www.nacres.org) about three bears in an abandoned zoo in the town of Rustavi, Georgia. These bears were about to be euthanized if no proper shelter could be found for them. Alertis asked for 'HELP!' on national TV and this was answered by the public very generously. The bears can now be taken from their miserable situation and be placed in the Bear Forest in the Netherlands. At the moment 7 bears live in the Bear Forest from several different countries in Europe, but all with a common background of mistreatment and abuse by humans. Next to this project, NACRES and Alertis are working on a captive bear assessment and action plan to eventually solve the welfare problems surrounding captive bears in Georgia.



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 bulletin 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.

P.O. Box 9, 3910 AA Rhenen, the Netherlands
Phone: +31 317 650 200
Fax: +31 371 613 727
E-mail: info@alertis.nl

