

Info Bulletin 2 - March 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.

Concept version management plan Brown bear Bulgaria finished

After two years of hard work the concept management plan for the Brown bear in Bulgaria is finished (click here for the [Bulgarian version](#)). Alertis financed and cooperated with BALKANI Wildlife Society to get this project organized. A series of workshops with all interest groups led by Dr. Alistair Bath from Canada in combination with fieldwork, resulted in consensus on all important issues like hunting, desired population number and monitoring program. The plan has now to be presented at public hearings after which the government can officially adopt it. Then, another challenge will start: namely the implementation of the plan. Alertis will also actively participate in this part of the project. As soon as the English version of the management plan is available, a first summary will be published on our web-site.

Support for new project in Romania

This fall, Alertis started to support a new project in Romania. The Danube-Carpathians program of WWF will build a watch tower in the Tibles Mountains. This area is famous for its pristine forest including Brown bear, lynx, wolf, red deer etc. The watch tower is meant as a stimulus for eco-tourism. In combination with other activities this project will show alternative ways of income to the local inhabitants.

Would you be interested in support from Alertis, see for the schedule of handing in proposals: [Project application](#).



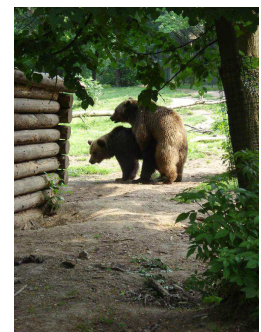
Moscow Bear Sanctuary

A few years ago Alertis received information about several bears in small and dirty cages in the European part of the Russian Federation, mainly the areas around the city of Moscow and St. Petersburg. There were also records of small bear cubs on the streets of St. Petersburg (see picture). These cubs are used to attract tourists for a 'cute' photo each year there are newly born cubs on display near the city centre. Many parties are willing to take action now and last October (2007) Alertis visited Moscow and some possible locations for a new bear sanctuary. Four sites within a National Park were visited. The problems were discussed with several other NGO's and the National Parks Administration. Everybody responded very positively and promised their support. Alertis will develop a project proposal for a bear sanctuary near Moscow and in January of 2008 a follow-up with officials of the local and regional Moscow Government will be held. The support of these Governmental bodies is essential in projects like these and hopefully they will recognize the problem and support such a sanctuary for mistreated captive bears.



Georgian bears in the Bear Forest, Netherlands

This summer, the three rescued bears from Georgia have arrived safely in the Bear Forest in Rhenen, the Netherlands. Alertis started the preparations for this rescue operation in the fall of 2006, together with it's Georgian partner NACRES (see also www.nacres.org). More than 6 months were needed to make all the transport arrangements and applying for the official documents, before these bears could be flown to their new home in Rhenen. After a quarantine period of two months, the Georgian bears were successfully introduced to the resident group of seven brown bears in the Bear Forest (the picture on the right shows one of the Georgian bears being friendly with a resident bear in the sanctuary). The bears are doing very well since then and even made some new friends. Next to the rescue operation, NACRES has done an assessment on the extent of the number and situation of the captive bears in Georgia. They have developed an Action Plan in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Alertis 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 newsletter 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 information anymore, contact us at: projects@alertis.nl

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