

Info Bulletin 5 – November 2008



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 project@alertis.nl.

'Day of the Bear'

The annual event of Alertis was a huge success! Every year Alertis organizes a special weekend for their supporters, to thank them for their kind contribution. This year the event had a special theme: 15 years Alertis! A very nice photo exhibition was made, from the development of the Bear Forest and its first residents in 1993, the many surgeries on mistreated dancing bears, until the orphaned bear project in Romania in 2008. Besides the exhibition, many activities for children were organized, Alertis merchandise was vended, music was played and a street dance workshop was given. Funds raised during this day will all go into our bear projects.

Asiatic black bear in India

Recently, Alertis started to support a capacity-building programme amongst local communities to decrease conflicts between people and Asiatic black bear in Kashmir, India. Many communities here live on the forests fringes and frequently come into contact with bears. The project is set up by Wildlife SOS (www.wildlifesos.org) and organizes training workshops for law enforcement officials and representatives of the Wildlife Protection Department. Here they learn how to approach and handle Asiatic black bears in conflict situations and how to avoid problems with bears. Also meetings to increase awareness among local people will be held with the aim to increase knowledge and local participation in supporting wild animal rescue and translocation operations.



End of Dutch "bear farm / Spuw je gal" campaign

At the beginning of October, Alertis organised an event in the Bear Forest to end its two year campaign against bear farming in South-east Asia. The main goals were to raise awareness in The Netherlands, raise funds for the bear rescue centres in China and Vietnam which are set up and managed by Animals Asia Foundation and to try to get the Dutch Government to address their Asian colleagues on the problems that the bears face in China and Vietnam. Over 30.000 signed petitions (from Dutch citizens) were collected. These will be handed to the Chinese Ambassador in The Hague. During the event in the Bear Forest, world famous Dutch magician Hans Klok handed over a cheque of € 22,500 euro to Dave Neale, UK Director of Animals Asia Foundation. The funds will be used for the newly developed Moon bear rescue centre in Tam Dao and the rescue of the many bears from the bear farms in Vietnam. Dave Neale gave a presentation about AAF, the bears and their fate which left a deep impression amongst the attendants. Alertis will continue to support AAF in their work.



Dave Neale (left) and Hans Klok (right)

Georgian bear collared

The Brown bear research project in Vashlovani National Park in Georgia has been supported by Alertis since 2003. The small Park is situated in the South-east of Georgia and has a small population of Brown bears. The research project, run by NACRES (www.nacres.org), is directed at identifying the population and providing recommendations for park management. In addition, the question, if there is still migration and exchange with the Caucasus population of Brown bears, needs to be answered. Because the density is so low it is not easy to catch bears. Last year a bear was collared but unfortunately, it was poached. Luckily, this summer the NACRES team was able to catch a female bear and put on a radio-collar. And even better news, this was a reproducing female! In combination with data collected through camera-traps, the Vashlovani bear population slowly becomes known.



Bejan Lortkipanidze with bear

New Alertis website!

Alertis has re-designed her web-site. The Dutch version is complete. The English version is also on line but some minor parts are still under construction. Click on www.alertis.nl. We would be very happy to know what you think of it!



Alertis acquires EAZA funds from carnivore campaign

The EAZA, the European Zoo organisation, launched an European carnivore campaign: "Living together" (www.carnivorecampaign.eu) during their annual conference last September. In Europe, carnivores face two contrasting problems; some species are declining in numbers due to decreasing, polluted and fragmented habitats while others are increasing in numbers and expanding their ranges to such an extent that their increase often leads to conflicts between animals and people. The campaign focuses on raising public awareness on the issue and to raise funds for conservation projects which promote the concept of "Living together" of carnivores and people. Each EAZA Zoo will organize its own activities. Within this campaign, Alertis secured funding for their project in Slovakia with the Slovak Wildlife Society. Funding will be used for improving the management of food and waste in areas with bears and to show what other practical measures can be taken to discourage bears from visiting hotels, camp sites and cottages.



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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