

Info-Bulletin 7 – November 2009



Welcome

Welcome to the Alertis info-bulletin. Through this bulletin, Alertis gives regular updates about its main activities and the projects it supports. 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.

Brown bears in Bosnian forests

This year Alertis started to fund a new project in Bosnia i Herzegovina. The main aim of the project is to raise awareness about the significance of the Bosnian population which, according to LCIE data from 2007, contains less than 1,200 bears. Bears are frequently killed by hunters and poachers. They cause problems near human settlements because they are attracted by waste. This often leads to a negative attitude towards the large carnivore. No systematic research or monitoring has been done so far on the Bosnian population. The project is carried out by the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Sarajevo.

Rehabilitation of Asiatic black bear cubs in practice

Another new project Alertis will fund deals with Asiatic black bears in the Russian Far East. These bears suffer greatly from poachers and existing management strategies are inadequate. Annually, dozens of infant bear cubs become orphans when their mothers are killed in dens by legal and illegal hunters. The cubs are too young to survive on their own. These factors contribute to the decline of Asiatic black bear in Russia. The goals of this specific project are to develop a long-term science-based program of releasing of Asiatic black bear orphans into the wild and to mitigate human impacts on this species in Russia. The project is done by the Russian Academy of Science (Far East Branch) Biology and Soil Institute in Vladivostok.

Bear events 2009: Day of the Bear & Nadine Oké Run

The annual BEAR event of Alertis was a huge success! Every year Alertis organizes a special weekend for its sponsors and supporters to thank them for their kind contribution. By means of a photo exhibition visitors were informed about the projects Alertis supports, there were many activities for children (face painting, workshop street dance), Alertis merchandise was sold, music was played and last but not least an auction was held. Funds raised will all go into our bear projects.

On Worl Animal Day, an awareness run was organized by the Nadine Foundation and Alertis to raise funds for bears in Asia and the rescue of former circus bears in Spain.



Rescue of two Lebanese bears

In July 2009 Alertis received an alarming request from a Lebanese NGO called Animals Lebanon. Two brown bears were left abandoned in a zoo in Beirut. There was no water and food available. And the zoo was accesible for anyone. Animals Lebanon asked for help in order to find a new place for these bears. After a few intense days of searching, Alertis got into contact with Dr. Nilufer Aytuk, from Karacabey Bear Sanctuary in Turkey. After consultation with the Turkish ministry, she agreed to take in the bears as soon as possible. Within several days the paperwork was ready, transport arranged and the bears made ready to go to Turkey. Four weeks after the initial outcry for help, the bears found themselves in a beautiful new, spacious, bear friendly environment!



© *Animals Lebanon*

Karuna Society for sloth bears in India

The small Indian NGO Karuna Society for Animals and nature is one of several organizations in India that is very concerned with the fate of the many dancing bears. The purpose of this organization is to provide a first safe haven for the bears. The organization has close contact with the government and the larger rescue shelters in India, like WSOS in Agra. Once there is a place for the bear, it will be moved to enjoy a real bear-worthy life. Animals are reintroduced back into the wild whenever this is possible. Bears however, have often been into contact with humans for too long or are traumatized. In this case there is a real chance they become 'problem bears'. In the worst scenario they will be killed by people. Alertis supports the Karuna Society financially.



© *Karuna Society*

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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