

IBA 2020 Elections
Candidate for Vice President Eurasia
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For decades IBA, along with BSG, have been on the forefront of global science-based bear conservation. In 2014 the IBA decided to initiate an ambitious initiative to greatly expand programs in order to improve its ability to execute its mission. The initial challenges of this structural re-development, have been compounded now by the unforeseen effects of the global covid19 pandemic. Experience and innovation are now required more than ever to guide us through these times.

My name is Alexandros Karamanlidis and I am Greek-Dutch wildlife conservationist. I joined the IBA in 2002 and have been involved in research and conservation projects of bears in the Balkans, Italy, Spain and Pakistan. In the past I have been a council member of the IBA, served on several committees and in 2014 I had the distinct privilege of organizing the 23rd IBA Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece. Currently I am the Managing director of ARCTUROS, a Hellenic NGO involved in the *in* and *ex situ* conservation of brown bears in Europe, and a member of the Brown Bear and Human – Bear Conflicts Expert Teams. In addition, I have dedicated my professional career to the conservation of endangered species, particularly marine mammals. I have been involved in the conservation of the endangered Mediterranean monk seal since the late 90ies; for this work I received in 2017 the Conservation Merit Prize of the Society for Marine Mammalogy and in 2019 I become a National Geographic Explorer. Since 2020 I serve also as Editor for the Journal “Endangered Species Research”.

In the years to come the IBA will be laying out the groundwork for expanding in order to support a wider range of research and conservation activities for bears around the world. I hope to have the necessary mix of international experience and innovation that is required to make this happen. If elected, I’d be honored to serve as Vice-President of Eurasia during this exciting phase.

