# 2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Sumatran Sun Bear Team



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## Letter from our Founder

Dear Supporters and Friends,

As I look back on 2022, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for what Sumatran Sun Bear Team has achieved. What began as a vision to create a safe and enriching environment for rescued sun bears in Sumatra is steadily becoming a reality, thanks to the dedication of our team, our partners and the generosity of our supporters.

One of our biggest milestones this year was the completion of our first sun bear enclosure. After years of planning, designing and working towards finding the right location and partners, it was wonderful to see Jessy, Uca and Rossa enjoying their new surroundings. During our visits, we were able to oversee their introductions, and watching the three bears gradually become comfortable in one another's company was incredibly rewarding. Seeing them climb, explore, play and enjoy the opportunities provided by their forest enclosure reminded us exactly why this work matters.

Our commitment to sun bears extends beyond those already in our care. During visits to Banda Aceh, we met four bears being held in government care, each with a difficult history. Tragically, two of these bears, Johnny and Sophia, passed away before we could bring them to our centre. Their stories reinforced the urgency of our work and the need for suitable facilities where rescued bears can receive the care they deserve. We therefore made plans to prioritise a new Quarantine and Holding Facility for Cantik and Romeo. We also supported a rescue operation involving a sun bear caught in a snare, helping ensure the bear could be treated and released away from snaring activity.

None of this would be possible without the people who stand behind SSBT. I would like to thank our supporters, donors, grant providers and fundraising volunteers, as well as our partners at the Orangutan Information Centre and Sumatran Rescue Alliance. I am particularly grateful to the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears for funding our specially designed transport cage, an important resource for future rescue and conservation work.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans. We hope to develop additional dens and enclosures, expand our education work with students in Sumatra and tackle the devastating impact of snares through initiatives such as our proposed Snare Dog Programme. There is still much to do, but each step brings us closer to our goal of giving rescued sun bears the opportunity to live safer, more fulfilling lives.

Thank you for believing in our mission and being part of this journey. Your support makes a genuine difference, and I look forward to sharing what we achieve together in the years ahead.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lesley Small
Founder, Sumatran Sun Bear Team

## Our mission

After a trip to Sumatra in 2013, Sumatran Sun Bear Team's founder, Lesley Small was shocked how their beautiful sun bears were being treated.

Classified as a vulnerable species, sun bears are threatened by commercial poaching, habitat loss, and killing to prevent crop damage and for believed medical benefits. The Indonesian government does what it can to help sun bears, but their resources are limited and they have no specialised facility to take in rescued sun bears, rehabilitate them, and return them to the wild if possible.

Because of this, Sumatran Sun Bear Team is dedicated to building a purpose-built facility to help sun bears in every way we can. Where possible we'd love to return rescued sun bears to the wild but, where this isn't possible, house them in our purpose-built facility where they can be comfortable, safe, and enjoy its life.

We are a registered Australian charity. We also have DGR; Deductible Gift Recipient status, which means that any donation over $2 is tax deductible.

## Our History

SSBT had spent approximately four years looking for suitable land that was privately owned for our rescue and conservation centre. We also needed to get to know the people and other NGO's working to save wildlife in Sumatra.

We needed a place where the land would be perfect to allow the rescued sun bears to be able to behave like bears in the forest; to be able to climb, forage and rest. We also needed to partner with like-minded people who are based in Sumatra and have the wildlife skills to work in collaboration with us and our goals.

We partnered with Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) and Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA) to allow for the rescue, care and rehabilitation of sun bears on the land allocated for SSBT.

The commencement on building of our first enclosure in 2021 was a huge milestone after SSBT worked on the design to house three sun bears.

# 2022

## Animal Care, Rescue & Release

Our first sun bear enclosure was completed in Sumatra in January, sun bear Jessy, already onsite moved straight in and the Forestry Department brought, Uca and Rossa not long after. This now provides an enriching and safe environment for three rescued sun bears. arrived in January 2022 We pay the wage of a full time Sun Bear Keeper. Daily tasks include cleaning dens, feeding three times a day, general maintenance, daily enrichment and ongoing projects e.g. updates to enclosure furniture.

**Team Visits**
SSBT team members were able to make several trips to site throughout 2022, taking advantage of the lift of some Covid-19 restrictions.

April 2022 – Lesley Small & Philip Stubley
September 2022 – Philip Stubley
November 2022 – Lesley Small (with Cam Whitnall)

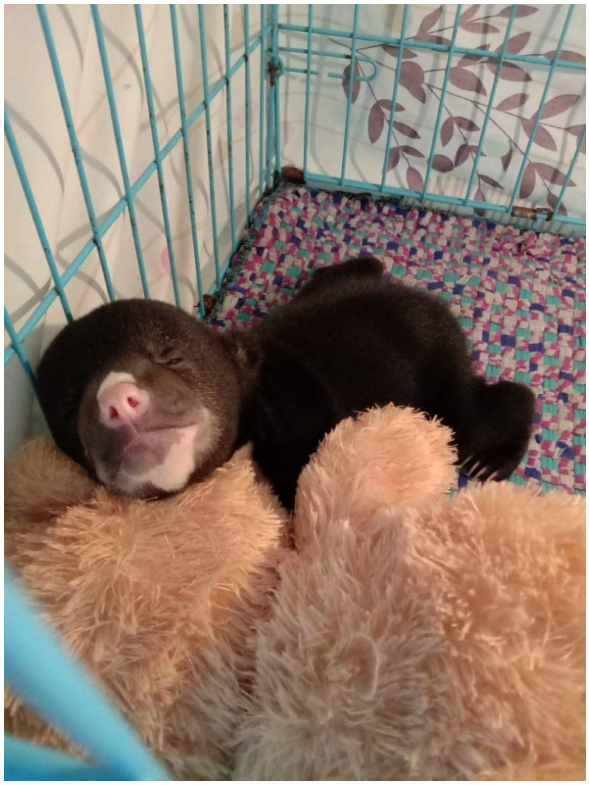


*SSBT & OIC Staff together*

## Three Bears

### Jessy

Little Jessy came under the auspices of Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) located In Medan, Northern Sumatra. Jessy was clearly traumatised by the separation from her mother clinging to her teddy bear and suckling on it for comfort. SSBT were able to ensure she had proper care with funds for a dedicated caregiver. Jessy has become very comfortable with her surroundings and now slides up and down trees with no problem. One of her favourite fruits is papaya. Sun bears enjoy a varied diet of fruits, honey, bee larvae and insects and so does Jessy!



*Jessy in government care (2021)*

### Uca

Lesley Small was visiting Sumatra in early 2020 she met Uca, a young cub, who at the time was just a few months old. She was in government care after being poached illegally from the wild. Uca was initially being kept in a small cage so alongside the Indonesian Species Conservation Program (ISCP) we arranged a larger enclosure, which also contained behavioural enrichment to engage her. We also worked closely with Uca's keeper to tailor an appropriate diet for her. Soon enough Uca was brought to our facility in North Sumatra where she now has a spacious enclosure along with her two friends, Rossa and Jessy.
Uca even found time to become star of the children's book by Martin Hill "A Sun Bear in Trouble," available via Amazon or directly from the publisher at martin@indypublishing.co.uk.



*Uca*

**Rossa**

We know little about Rossa's past before she came into our care. What we do know is that she was kept as a pet in a small cage for what we presume is her entire adult life. Bears that are kept as pets and reach adulthood normally end up in government care as they lose their "cute" factor for "owners." Rossa's personality has really shone through as we have gotten to know her. She is a calm and methodical bear. When presented with any food item or enrichment she takes her time and investigates every facet of it; except melon which she quickly gobbles down. The two young bears treat her with caution as she is much bigger than them. Uca tests her limits though and the two have happily chased each other around the dens and the outdoor enclosure.



*Rossa*

**Introducing Three Bears**

In April 2022 SSBT team members Lesley Small and Philip Stubley visited the SSBT rescue centre to see the completed enclosure and meet Jessy, Uca and Rossa. Alongside bringing enrichment items such as Aussie Dog Balls one of their main goals was to see all three bears together, with constant access to the forest enclosure. Sun bears in the wild lead mainly solitary lives but kept in captivity they benefit from social interaction. They learn new skills from one another and build strong bonds.

Upon arrival all three bears were being kept separately and being individually rotated daily in the forest enclosure. The plan was to try one-on-one sessions in the dens first, followed by one-on-one sessions with access to the outdoor enclosure. If these six sessions went well, all three bears would be put together.

First up was Jessy and Rossa. At first Jessy was intimidated by the much bigger Rossa. Jessy scurried up the sides of the den and hung from the top to observe this stranger from a safe vantage

point. Rossa was far more interested in sniffing out her surroundings and paid Jessy no heed. Eventually Jessy plucked up the courage and climbed down to get closer to Rossa. Once Jessy grew more comfortable, she began displaying play behaviour rolling around in front of Rossa and opening herself up. Rossa, while not particularly interested in taking up Jessy's offer was also happy to let Jessy express herself as she pleased. This introduction couldn't have gone better and we eagerly moved onto the next pairing.

Next up was Jessy and Uca. Uca is the one that seems most troubled by her recent past and we were unsure how she would react to her peers. We need not have worried. After a period of keeping her distance the two seemed happy enough in each other's presence. Likewise, Rossa and Uca's introduction went smoothly also. Rossa and Uca have been kept together side by side for some time now. They have been witnessed sleeping close to each other and interacting through the mesh prior to this so a layer of trust was already established.

It was during the second round of one-on-one intro's when the bears had access to the outdoor enclosure that they really flourished. Uca and Rossa merrily ran around the enclosure together. Uca is a little like the awkward friend who wants to get involved but doesn't quite know how. She nipped at Rossa and poke her to test how far she could go. Rossa with the patience of a saint allowed all this to take place with no fuss.

Uca really met her match with Jessy though. The two spent almost a whole afternoon engaged in play and giddy excitement. At one point Jessy mounted the outdoor platform and Uca tried to follow her up. However, Uca isn't as accomplished at climbing as Jessy yet and seemed to struggle. Through this play we hope to see Uca learn from Jessy and push herself to new heights.

After these successful intro's, the team were eager to see all three bears together. Soon enough the moment came and we opened the dens to allow access for all three bears inside and outside. With the temperature reaching well over 30 degrees Celsius all that play was hot work. Uca cooled down by submerging herself in the pool. While the two youngsters played Rossa watched from a comfortable spot in the shade. A hierarchy already seems to have established itself and Rossa is definitely the one at the top. She will keep the others in line, that's for sure. Seeing the bears interact positively, enjoying each other's company and enjoying the outdoor enclosure is one of the most gratifying sights. It seemed like instinctively these bears knew the forest is the place they are meant to be. All we strive to do is provide a place of safety where we can gain their trust and provide opportunities for them to blossom.







*Rossa, Uca and Jessy introductions*

**Banda Aceh**

SSBT team members Lesley Small and Philip Stubley visited the BKSDA (Indonesian Forestry Department) office to see four bears being kept in government care.
Cantik, a female bear Lesley Small met in 2017. Romeo, a young male, who was brought to government care as a cub.

A sub-adult male named Johnny. He has one hind paw missing from where he was caught in a snare in the forest. An amputation was required, performed by BKSDA vets. Finally, there is another female named Sophia. She is severely traumatised and very defensive when approached. She is missing a front and a back paw due to snaring also. Additionally, she has gun-shot pellets in her body. Sophia was lactating when she was brought in meaning she was cub rearing at the time. We do not know what became of the cub.

Discussions began about bringing “The Aceh Four” to the SSBT rescue centre. Sadly, on a return visit in November Lesley Small, along with animal conservationist and videographer, Cam Whitnall, found that Johnny and Sophia had passed away.
SSBT decided to prioritise building a Quarantine & Holding Facility to bring the remaining bears, Cantik and Romeo, to our site.

**Sun Bear Transport Cage**

The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears (based in Scotland) has generously provided funds for an adult bear transport cage. Founded by Lesley Joan Winton, the Winton Foundation has funded international bear projects for many years.

This transport cage was designed by SSBT and built in a workshop in Medan, Sumatra. It will be a vital tool in rescuing any sun bears in need or transporting bears safely from one facility to another.
The transport cage has also been designed with other species in mind. If there is an orangutan or a tiger in need of rescue this transport cage will be an invaluable rescue tool. We thank the Winton Foundation for making this possible.



*Transport Cage at Workshop in Medan*

**Sun Bear Rescue**

In July 2022 SSBT provided financial support to the Human and Orangutan Conflict Unit and supported the rescue of a Sun Bear caught in a snare. The Sun Bear was anaesthetised, treated and released away from snare activity.



*Snared bear undergoing a check up*

## Communications & Fundraising

### Website & Social Media

Our website provides the general public with information on current and past activities of SSBT, sun bears, as well as how people can get involved. SSBT has a Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn account. Social media posts include photos, videos, and other interactive content whenever possible. Posts are targeted towards increasing awareness of sun bears, threats, and conservation. SSBT also uses social media to solicit donations in support of its work and to encourage followers to spread the word on sun bears and rainforest conservation issues.

### Merchandise

Askari Wild have provided merchandise for sale, with worldwide shipping, on our website including flipflops, hats, phone covers, bags and water bottles.







Sumatran Sun Bear Team

### Raffles

As with previous years we carried out a Mother’s Day and Christmas Raffle.

### Grants

We received a conservation grant from the Austrian Society of Zoo Keepers ASZK

## Events

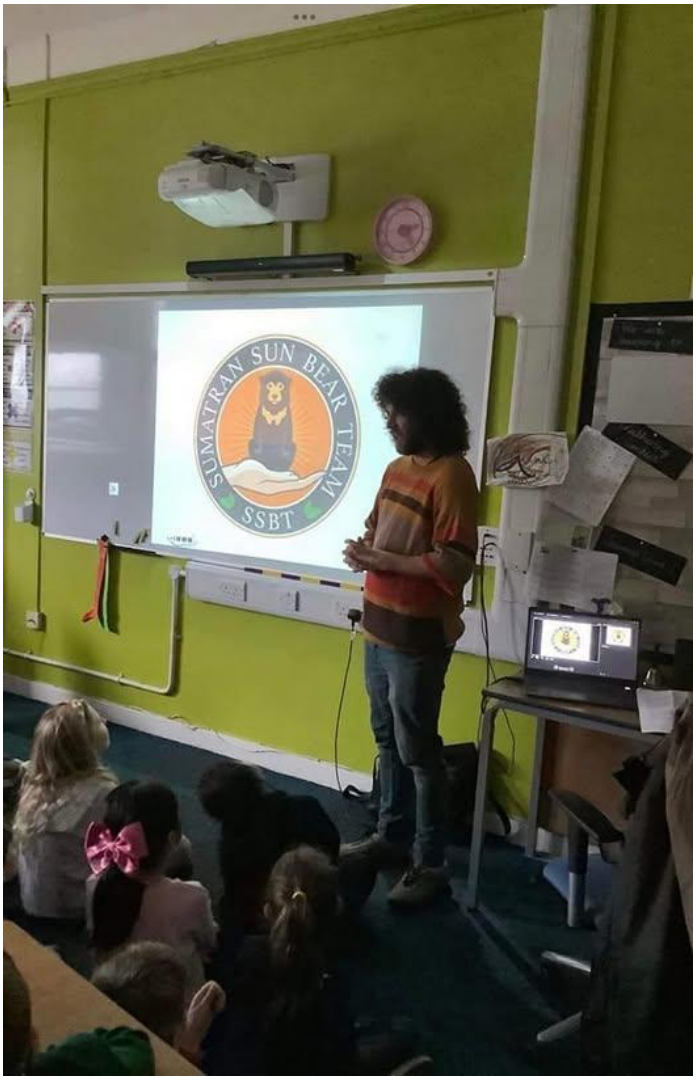
High Tea Fundraiser held in July 2022.





*High Tea Event*

## Education & Outreach




In February Philip Stubley, based in the UK was visited a local primary school to talk about sun bears and educate the children with some fun facts and the threats sun bears face in the wild. The kids were very engaged and had lots of questions about Uca and Jessy. Some drew anti-poaching posters to put up in the forest while others were eager to inform us that they had honey at their houses.

**SECTION 2** **GOVERNANCE**

## STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Sumatran Sun Bear Team is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

# OUR PEOPLE

| Name | Position |
|---|---|
| Lesley Small | Board Director |
| Kimberly Vinette Herrin | Board Director/ Veterinary |
| Sue Tonga | Board Director |
| Lauren Spence | Secretary |
| Rebecca Roskilley | Board Treasurer |
| Philip Stubley | Team Member |

## OUR SUPPORTERS

### Calabash Kennels & Cattery

Calabash Kennels, premium pet accommodation not only love your pets while you're away, but they are also major supporters of the SSBT. We are very grateful for their support

### Animal Assist

Assisting the unsung heroes of the natural world. We gratefully accept your help and support to protect and conserve Sun Bears in Sumatra.

### Wildlife HQ

Wildlife HQ are supporters of Sumatran Sun Bear conservation and we can't thank them enough for their support.

### Sea Life Sydney

Thank you Sea Life for your ongoing help and support towards the Sumatran Sun Bear Team.

### Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation

The Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation award grants to organisations in need. We were fortunate enough to have been awarded one of their grants.

### Black and Blanco

Black and Blanco Law Offices gave us the necessary support and guidance to register as an Australian charity and help us to continue to operate.

## Vivienne Court Trading Pty Ltd

We received a grant from Vivienne Court Trading to help us continue to support and save Sun Bears. We thank them for their help and support.

## Indy Publishing

Indy Publishing has helped us support Sumatran Sun Bears through their children's book "A Bear In Trouble." It tells the story of one of our bears name Uca.

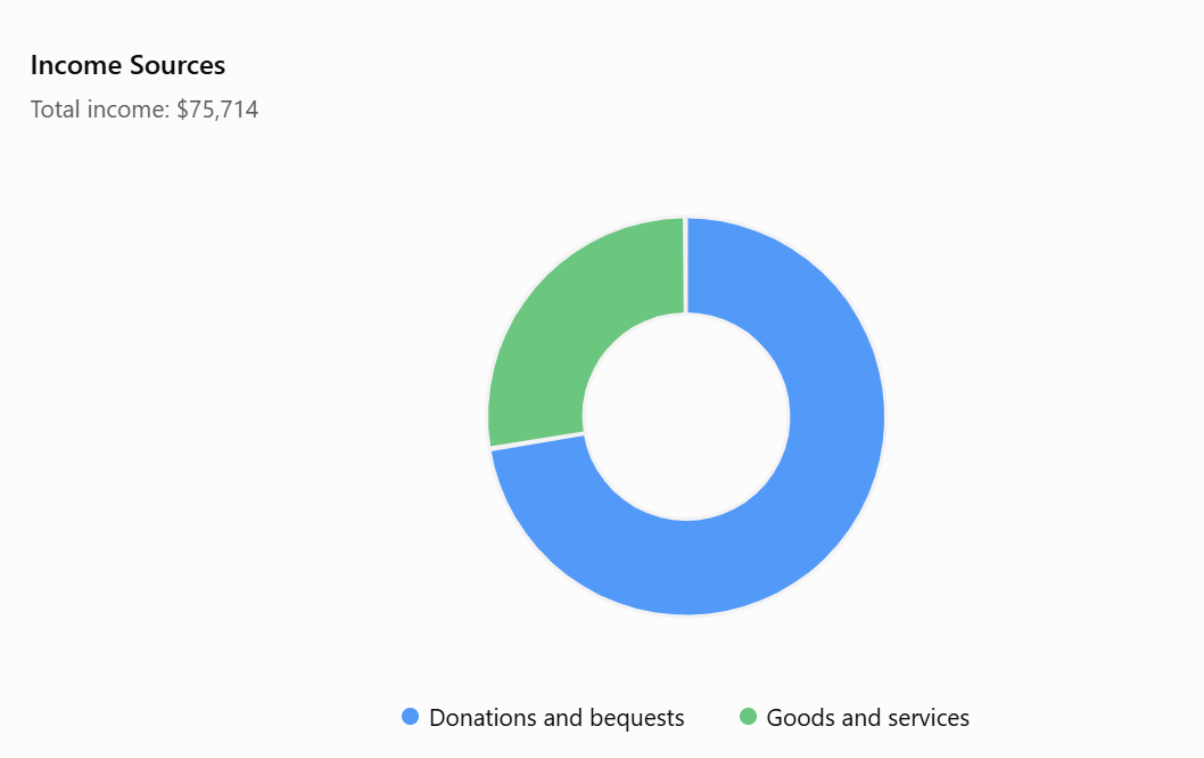
## Winton Foundation

The Winton Foundation have been supporting bears all around the world since 2010. We thank them for the fund to design and build a transport box for the Sun Bears.

## 2022 Income and Expenditure Report (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022) Further details available at ACNC:

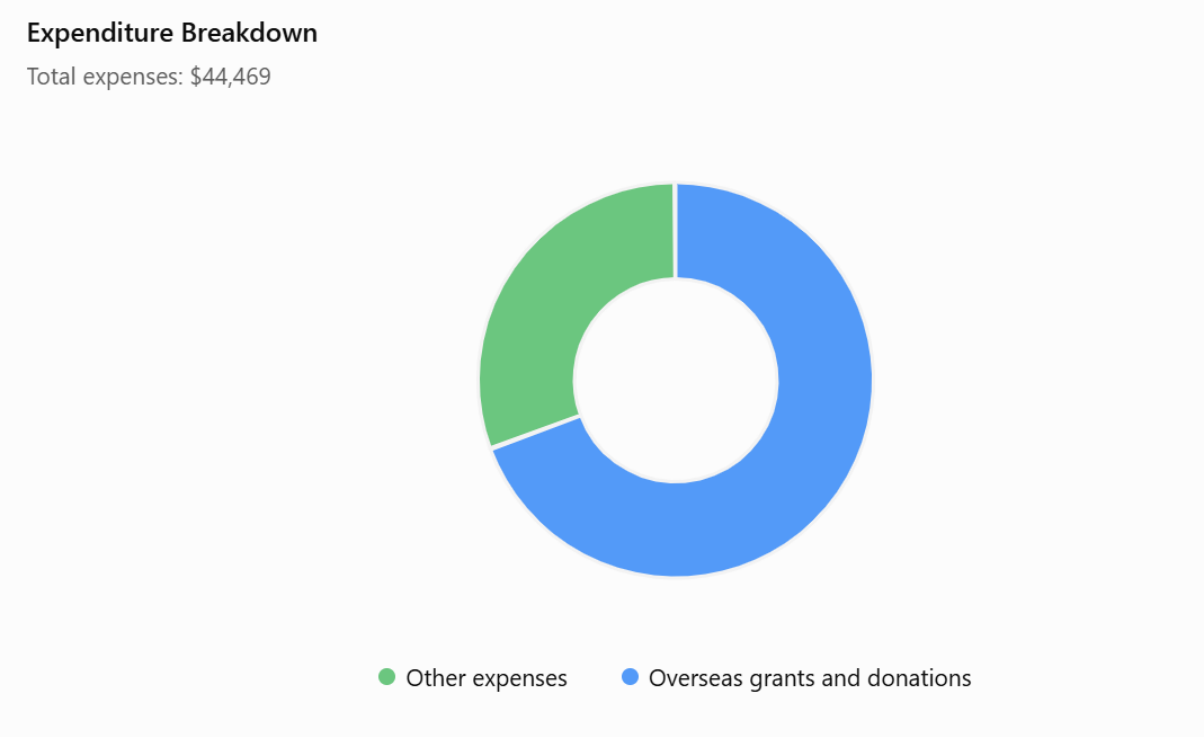
[Sumatran Sun Bear Team Limited Annual Information Statement 2022 | ACNC]

1. **Income breakdown**




| Income source | Amount | % of income |
|---|---|---|
| Donations and bequests | $54,924 | 72.5% |
| Goods and services | $20,790 | 27.5% |
| Total income | $75,714 | 100% |

## 2. Expenses breakdown




| Expense category | Amount | % of expenses |
|---|---|---|
| Overseas grants and donations | $30,901 | 69.5% |
| Other expenses | $13,568 | 30.5% |
| Total expenses | $44,469 | 100% |

**Sumatran Sun Bear Team – Funding Sources**

Standard Donations
Standard donations are unrestricted gifts from private individuals and other supporters. Donations may be made online, by bank transfer, or through other approved payment methods. Legacy bequests are also included in this category.

Institutional Support
Institutional support includes funding from foundations, grant-making organisations, trusts and other institutional supporters. Funding may be awarded towards specific programmes or general operating costs.

Appeals
Appeals are formal fundraising requests distributed to supporters via email and other communication channels, as well as promoted through SSBT's website and social media platforms. Appeals may focus on specific needs, projects or urgent fundraising requirements.

Campaigns
Campaigns are fundraising initiatives centred on specific conservation programmes or activities. Supporters can choose to contribute towards particular campaigns and the work they aim to support.

Indirect Donations
Indirect donations include gifts of shares, employee matching contributions, vehicle donations and funds raised through third-party fundraising activities.

Events
Events include fundraising activities such as donor gatherings, educational talks, lectures, community events, cultural fairs and other events in which SSBT participates.

Projects
Project donations are contributions towards specific activities or requirements that are not associated with existing appeals or campaigns. These may include enclosure improvements, veterinary care, enrichment, rescue and rehabilitation work, and other conservation initiatives.

In-Kind Donations
In-kind donations are non-monetary contributions of goods or services that support SSBT's operations. These may include veterinary supplies, medical equipment, food, enclosure materials, office supplies and professional services.

Merchandise

Merchandise sales provide an additional source of fundraising income. Items featuring SSBT branding or sun bear conservation themes also help raise awareness of the organisation and its work.

**SECTION 4** **OUR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We look forward to funding more conservation projects, educational projects and we are already planning for the next set of dens and enclosure.

On the conservation front we have had conversations about tackling the huge snaring issues that are responsible for snaring, maiming and killing wildlife. We are working on educational materials for students to in Sumatra to learn all about sun bears and the challenges they face in the wild.

Main Fundraising Goals:
- Design and build a new enclosure to house the bears from Banda Aceh
- Snare Dog Program to set up a K9 dog detection unit in North Sumatra

### CONTACT DETAILS

**EMAIL**
info@sumatransunbearteam.org

**ONLINE**
SSBT website
Facebook
Instagram

**SSBT RESCUE CENTRE**
Langkat Regency, Sumatra, Indonesia

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36 Bickley Rd
South Penrith
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