2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Sumatran Sun Bear Team



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Letter From Our Founder

As I reflect on 2024, I am incredibly proud of how far Sumatran Sun Bear Team (SSBT) has come and what we have achieved through the dedication of our team, partners and supporters.

Our mission has always been to improve the lives of rescued sun bears in Sumatra, giving them the opportunity to return to the wild wherever possible, while providing those who cannot be released with a safe and enriching environment in which to live. This year has seen us make significant progress towards that vision.

One of our biggest milestones was completing our Quarantine and Holding Facility, which enabled us to welcome Cantik and Romeo from a government facility in Banda Aceh. After seven years in government care, seeing them arrive safely at their new home was an incredibly emotional and rewarding moment. It was the culmination of years of planning and hard work, and a reminder of why we do what we do.

We also celebrated an achievement that perfectly represents our ultimate goal: returning rescued bears to their natural habitat. In September, Hercules, who had lost a paw following a snare injury, was successfully released back into the forest. His rehabilitation demonstrated just how adaptable and resilient sun bears can be. Later in the year, we welcomed another rescued wild male, Bresman, who is recovering from a snare injury, with the hope that he too will return to the wild.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our Indonesian partners, the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC), Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (BKSDA), whose knowledge, commitment and hard work are invaluable. I would also like to thank our dedicated team, veterinary support, volunteers, donors and everyone who has helped us along the way.

There is still so much to do. Sun bears continue to face serious threats from habitat loss, poaching and snares, and the need for dedicated rescue, rehabilitation and conservation work remains greater than ever.

Thank you for believing in our mission and being part of this journey. Every contribution, however big or small, helps us make a difference to the lives of sun bears.

Lesley Small
Founder & Director
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.

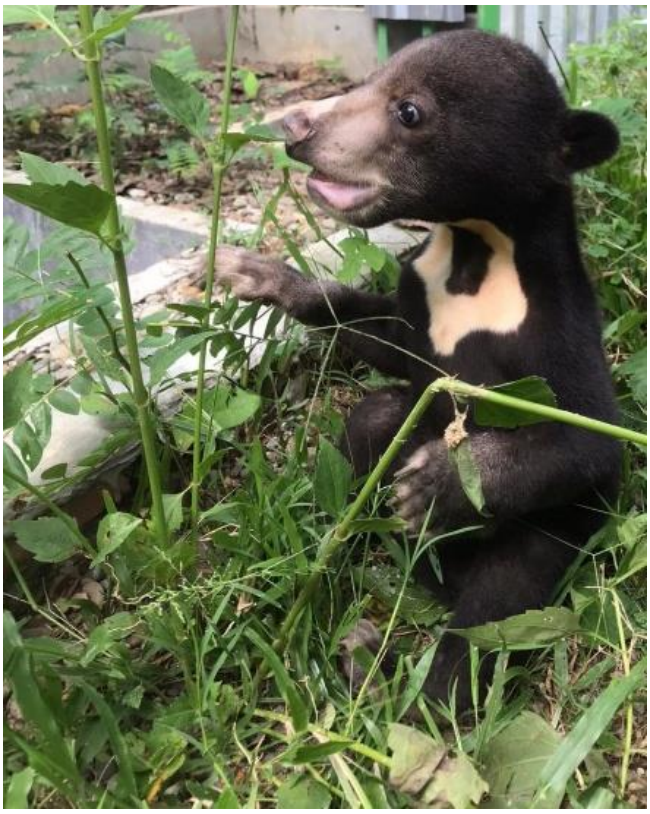
Our History

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.

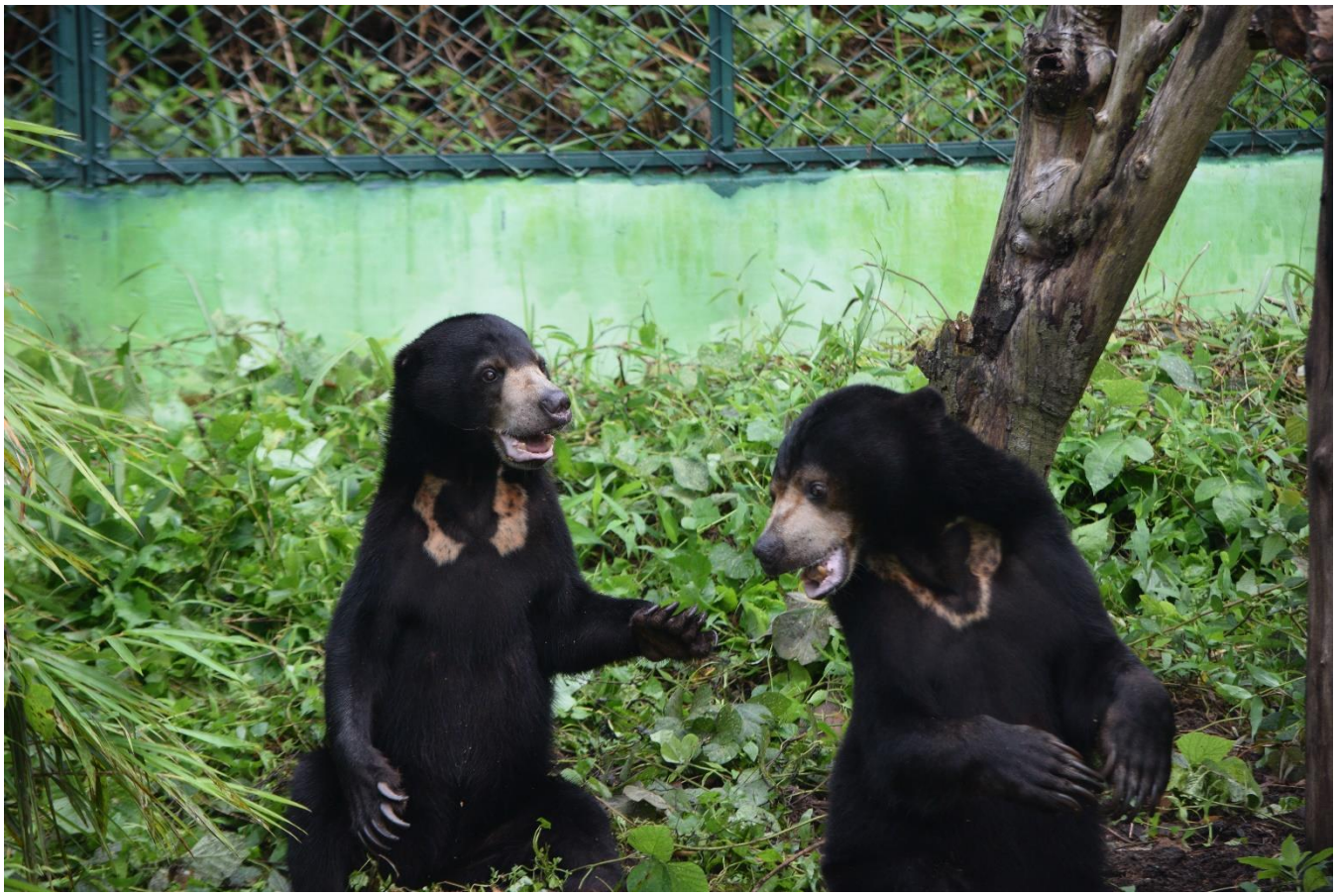
We needed a place where the land would be perfect to allow the rescued sun bears to be able to behave like bears in the forest; to be able to climb, forage and rest. We also needed to partner with like-minded people who are based in Sumatra and have the wildlife skills to work in collaboration with us 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 building of our first enclosure in 2021 was a huge milestone after SSBT worked on the design to house three sun bears. Our first three sun bears were Rossa, Uca & Jessy, all females bears were taken illegally from the wild. Without any survival skills in the wild, they are now permanent residents in our facility.



Jessy as a cub



Uca & Rossa

2024

Animal Care, Rescue & Release

As well as our three current female bears – Uca, Jessy & Rossa – SSBT has cared for four other bears in various capacities this year. Daily tasks include cleaning dens, feeding three times a day, general maintenance, daily enrichment and ongoing projects e.g. updates to enclosure furniture.

Started in 2023 the Quarantine & Holding Facility building work was finished in early 2024. Essential maintenance was also carried out to our first enclosure.

Cantik & Romeo
We knew of four sun bears in government care in Banda Aceh, North Sumatra called Johnny, Sophia, Cantik & Romeo. They were living in sub optimal conditions and we had plans to build a larger enclosure to house these four. They were unable to be released back into the wild due to either their injuries from snaring incidences or poor survival skills in the wild due to illegal poaching. Unfortunately, Johnny and Sophia passed away while plans were being made. We decided to focus on a Quarantine and Holding Facility to house the remaining two, Cantik and Romeo.

In June 2024, after seven years at a government facility in Banda Aceh, rescued sun bears Cantik and Romeo were relocated to their new home at the Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA) facility in Bukit Mas. SSBT team members Lesley Small and Rebecca Roskilley were in attendance. Working alongside the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (BKSDA), SSBT coordinated the bears' transfer, marking a significant milestone in their journey towards improved welfare.

Cantik, an adult female rescued in 2017 after suffering a severe snare injury that resulted in the amputation of her paw, and Romeo, rescued as a cub from the illegal wildlife trade in 2018, travelled safely on a 12-hour overnight journey to their new home. Their arrival marked the culmination of years of planning and preparation, including the construction of new quarantine and holding facilities, supported by the Winton Foundation for Welfare of Bears. Both bears settled into their new dens remarkably well, immediately exploring their surroundings, playing with enrichment materials and enjoying treats. Romeo quickly discovered his hammock, while Cantik made herself at home with the water barrel, demonstrating the importance of providing rescued bears with safe, stimulating environments in which to thrive.



Bears in transit & after arriving at the SSBT rescue centre





Hercules

In September 2024, SSBT celebrated a major rehabilitation success with the release of Hercules, an estimated 15-year-old male sun bear, back into the wild. Rescued in February 2023 after a snare injury resulted in the amputation of his left paw. SSBT members vet Kimberly Vinette Herrin and Lauren Spence flew out to assist with this procedure. Hercules spent 18 months in the care of SSBT and the Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA), where keepers monitored his physical abilities and natural behaviours to assess his suitability for release. He was also involved in a legal case so couldn't be released until after this was completed.

Despite his disability, Hercules demonstrated remarkable adaptability, developing the strength and skills needed to climb trees, forage and manipulate food using his remaining paw and stump. SSBT also compiled research, including camera-trap evidence of wild sun bears successfully surviving with missing paws, to support its case for release, which was subsequently approved by the relevant government authorities.

On 9 September, with support from the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC), SRA and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (BKSDA), Hercules was transported to a national park and released into the forest, running from his transport crate without hesitation. His successful return to the wild represents a significant achievement for sun bear rehabilitation and conservation, demonstrating the species' resilience and the importance of providing rescued bears with opportunities to return to their natural habitat.



Hercules in care & the moment Hercules is released



Bresman
Another wild male sun bear was rescued from a snare in October 2024. He was named Bresman.

Bresman's injuries were not as severe as Hercules, his snared paw was saved. After the paw healed and we ensured Bresman was fully recovered from his injury, we are already planning his release back into the wild.



Bresman

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.

Ambassadors
Australian blues rock band The Sun Bears band became official ambassadors for SSBT helping to raise awareness for sun bears in Sumatra.

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

Sun Bear Prints
SSBT team member Philip Stubley first saw Sara Hassan's (Insta: @saraeveillustration) artwork at a UK market stall and was particularly taken with a sun bear print. After a short conversation we found out Sara loved sun bears and has previous volunteer experience with them. Afterwards Sara generously agreed to create artwork of our three rescued girls - Rossa, Uca and Jessy. Using photos, videos and stories as her inspiration, we think she has perfectly captured each sun bears unique personalities. These were put on our website for sale and have been taken to events for sale where SSBT has had presence.



Uca, Rossa & Jessy prints

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

Allowed to Grow Old

We thank Allowed to Grow Old (AtGO) for their continued donations and support!

Allowed to Grow Old (AtGO) is a registered charitable foundation that supports selected animal welfare activities across Australia and beyond. Their name encapsulates our fundamental belief: that every animal deserves to live out their days with the best quality of life possible. The right to grow old with dignity, and to be treated with respect and care.

The SunBears

Thank you to The SunBears band. We are very grateful to have these guys helping us to spread the word that these magnificent animals are worth saving.

Palm Oil Free Certification Accreditation Programme

The Palm Oil Free Certification Accreditation Programme are a great general supporter of forests in Indonesia. We thank them.

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.

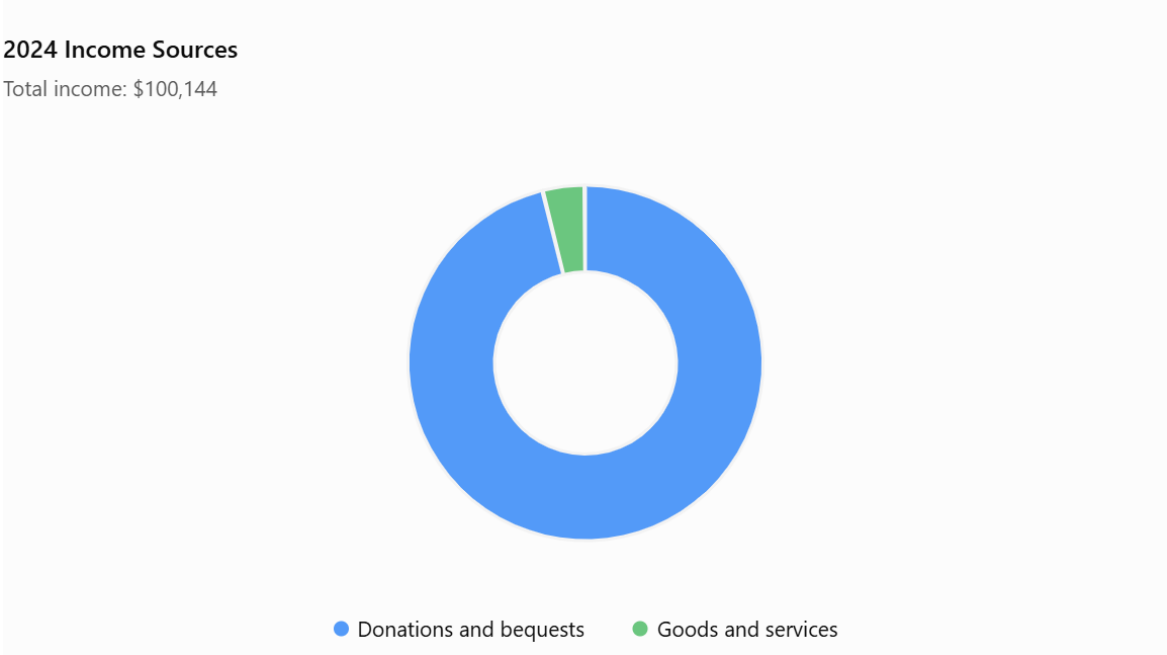
Winton Foundation

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.

2024 Income and Expenditure Report (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) Further Details Here:

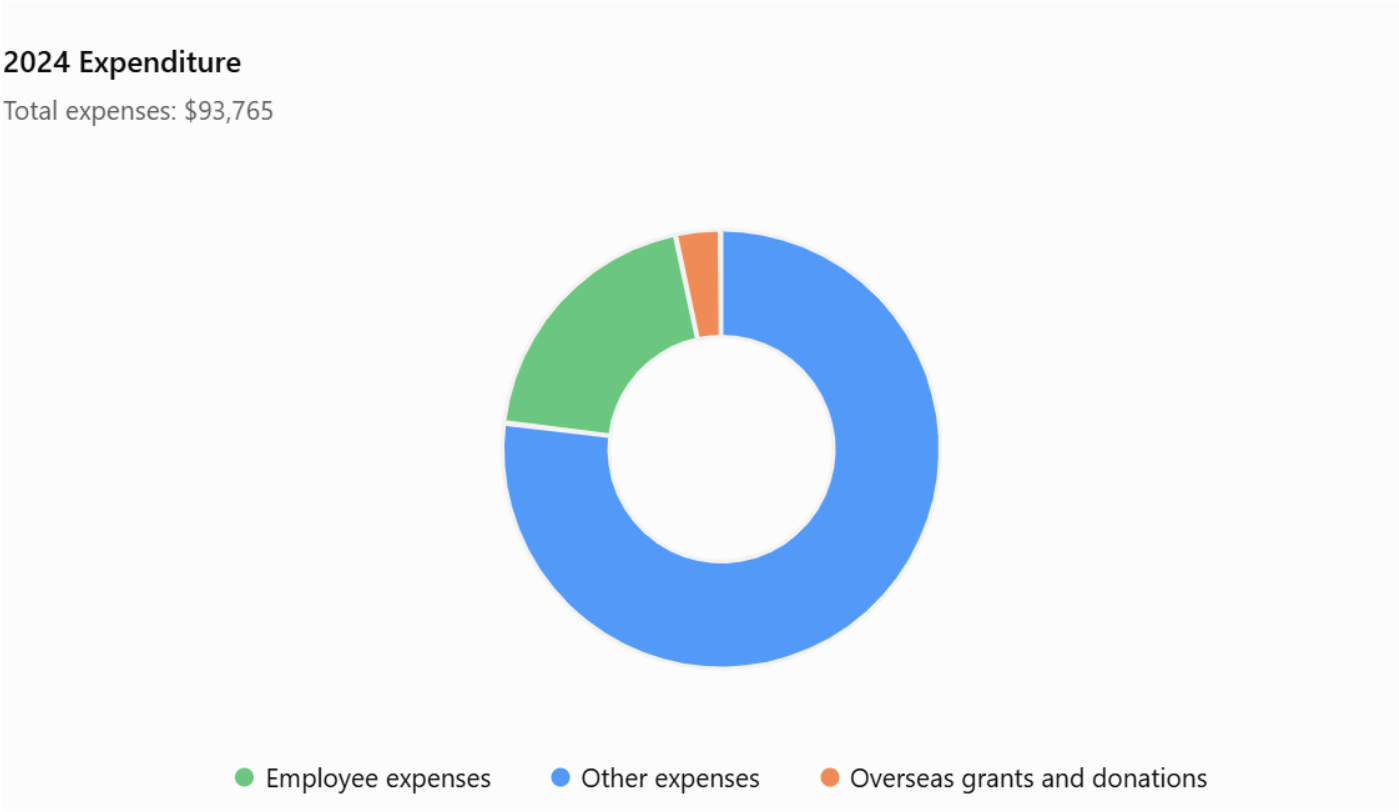
[Sumatran Sun Bear Team Limited Annual Information Statement 2024 | ACNC]

1. Income breakdown



Income source	Amount	% of income
Donations and bequests	$96,441	96.3%
Goods and services	$3,703	3.7%
Total income	$100,144	100%

2. Expenses breakdown



Expense category	Amount	% of expenses
Other expenses	$72,344	77.2%
Employee expenses	$18,421	19.6%
Overseas grants and donations	$3,000	3.2%
Total expenses	$93,765	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.

Spoil-A-Bear Program
Supporters can make a donation towards an individual sun bear and receive photographs and updates on their spolier bear's progress. The program provides an opportunity to engage supporters in the lives of individual bears while raising funds for sun bear conservation.

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**

2024

EVENTS, TALKS & MEDIA

ADVANCING BEAR CONFERENCE 2024

Our Founder and Director, Lesley and our Sumatran sun bear keeper; Ikram attended the The Bear Care Group, Advancing bear care conference at Oakland Zoo. Ikram was awarded the Else Poulsen Memorial award kindly donated by the Hauser Bears. This enabled Ikram the opportunity to attend the conference and learn much about high standard bear care, welfare, issues, enrichment, meet other bear keepers from around the world and see the Oakland Zoos world standard bear enclosures.



Ikram & Lesley at the Advancing Bear Care Conference at Oakland Zoo, USA, 2024

WARN ASIA CONFERENCE

Wild Animal Rescue Network (WARN) Asia is a network of wild animal rescue centers, wildlife law enforcement groups and officials, and animal protection groups in East and Southeast Asia.
In October 2024 SSBT Founder, Lesley Small represented SSBT at the Warn Asia conference, hosted by Free The Bears in Luang Prabang, Laos. We were able to tell our story to over 60 delegates from 15 countries, 30 organisations



Lesley presenting to delegates at WARN Asia Conference

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Whilst building facilities to house bears that unfortunately cannot be released, we have been fortunate enough to rehabilitate and release two male wild sun bears. This is our vision and ideal goal of SSBT.

Our main fundraising goals:
- A reinforced concrete bridge approx. 6m x 2.5m, to enable site access for transport, materials and facilitate tours/volunteers
- New 0.8 ha enclosure with up to eight dens and four outdoor areas, and upstairs platform for observation and education
- Snare Dog Program to set up a K9 dog detection unit in North Sumatra

CONTACT DETAILS

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ONLINE
SSBT website
Facebook
Instagram

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Langkat Regency, Sumatra, Indonesia

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