

THE RESCUER

2024



PROTECTING ANIMALS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



As I read the stories in *The Rescuer*, I feel a great sense of pride in the incredible work our teams and partners are doing in different parts of the world. From using an innovative veterinary technique to repair the shell of an injured turtle in Costa Rica, to conserving Critically Endangered orangutans by working with local communities to protect the rainforest in Indonesia – I hope you are as inspired as I am by everything that is being accomplished.



I have always adopted a “can do” approach to life and tried not to let seemingly insurmountable obstacles hold me back. And there’s no doubt that everyone working at International Animal Rescue feels the same. Inevitably, we encounter setbacks as we strive to change attitudes and behaviour and encourage more compassionate and sustainable ways of living. Animal protection and conservation of species and habitats come with their own set of challenges, from the practical to the political. But I have huge confidence in the ability of everyone I work with to meet those challenges and overcome them, particularly Gavin, our Chief Executive.



Gavin has been with IAR for almost as many years as I have, fulfilling a number of roles from Trustee to Financial Director and then taking over as Chief Executive when I assumed the role of President. Gavin is leading the charge to tackle the issues of animal

protection and conservation, not to mention the threats posed by climate change and biodiversity loss. It is a pleasure to be working with people as passionate and dedicated as Gavin and our hard working team.

On reading *The Rescuer* I also feel hugely grateful to everyone who makes our work possible – **and that means you!** Nowadays there are so many groups representing worthy causes of all kinds, and all vying for your attention and support. We are so fortunate that you have chosen IAR as one of the beneficiaries of your kindness and generosity. So please don’t think that we take your support for granted in any way. Far from it. At International Animal Rescue we are keenly aware that we couldn’t achieve a single thing without the help of our loyal and compassionate supporters.

You will read in *The Rescuer* about our new community of ‘Friends of IAR.’ These special friends are very dear to us because they share our passion for protecting animals and our commitment to conserving biodiversity and

the natural environment for future generations. Our friends enable us to plan ahead with confidence, secure in the knowledge that we will be able to put those plans into action. If you decide to join this very special community, I promise you will not be alone: as the saying goes, you will be among friends! Find out more on page 13.

Happy reading!



Alan Knight OBE
President
International Animal Rescue



CARING FOR WILDLIFE IN COSTA RICA

After years of planning and months of construction, The Sir Michael Uren Wildlife Rescue and Education Centre was completed in November 2023 and by the end of the month all the residents at the old facility had been moved into their new home.

We're extremely grateful to The Michael Uren Foundation for generously funding a large proportion of the build cost for our new centre and to everyone who has helped with the costs of fitting it out with all the essential veterinary equipment and supplies. **Thank you!**

Whilst the new facility has the capacity to house up to 200 animals at a time, the primary focus will be on rehabilitation and release. The main objective is to provide optimum conditions for injured wildlife to return to full health and get a second chance at life in the wild. The enclosures are significantly larger than before and located in an environment that corresponds to the animals' natural habitat.



The Costa Rica team, led by Gaby Campos (front L) with vet Fran (second R), IAR CEO Gavin and Ruth, Head of Fundraising.

"The new facilities and new equipment have given us the ability to help more species, the capability to have more patients in our ICU, decrease the time our patients stay with us and give them bigger spaces for their recovery. All of this translates into more patients coming through our doors and more being released back into the forest. We were not expecting the high number of animals that we received in this first year of the new centre so it's been a huge challenge but it's great to have the means and the keepers to help them all."

Francesco Sánchez Murillo, Veterinary Director, IAR Costa Rica.



The natural smells and sounds of the forest play an important role in an animal's development and the new location provides ideal conditions for them to develop and display natural behaviours.

Since opening its doors, the new centre has taken in a constant stream of howler monkeys that have fallen victim to uninsulated power cables and transformers.

The majority are orphaned infants whose mothers have been

electrocuted and killed while their babies have escaped with burns and possible internal damage.

These fragile babies receive round-the-clock care from a team of devoted locals who provide the warmth and comfort these young primates need to survive. Sadly, not all of them survive but those that do are socialised in groups and, after lengthy rehabilitation, these little troops are returned to their rightful home in the forest.



In March 2024, Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy issued a Ministerial Decree that directly ties wildlife electrocution to the nation's biodiversity protection laws. This is a positive step and one we've been consistently campaigning for. We'll be keeping a close eye on developments in the months ahead.



This young armadillo was lucky to be found alive among the rubble on a building site. Our team raced to rescue him and, after checks to confirm that he was healthy and unharmed, the delightful little creature was released in a remote area far from human activity of any kind.

Did you know?

Armadillo is a Spanish word that means **little armoured one, which is a fitting description for this armour-plated animal. These hard plates provide protection from predators because armadillos can hunker down leaving just their hard shell exposed. In addition to the hard plates on their bodies, armadillos also have pointy, shovel-shaped noses, a good sense of smell, and large, strong claws for digging. Armadillos are close relatives of the sloth and the anteater.**

MR POPO



A beautiful Spectacled Owl was among the species that received treatment and care at the centre before being returned to the wild.

FILBURT



A Painted Wood turtle that the team named Filburt is being successfully treated at our centre after being struck by a vehicle and sustaining a severe fracture to his shell.

Fortunately, X-rays revealed that there was no significant internal damage.

Veterinary Director Fran took the lead on an innovative surgical procedure to repair Filburt's shell: using specialised metal fastenings the team successfully realigned and secured the broken shell. This process ensures the shell's stability and allows for natural healing processes to occur. Post-surgery, Filburt was given a course of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and pain medication for ten days. His full recovery could take up to two years and, during this period, he will remain at the rescue centre and receive regular X-rays and check-ups to monitor his progress.

MR FRECKLES



Infant skunk Mr Freckles was brought in after he was found alone and thought to have been abandoned.

This is a common occurrence with young animals that have been 'parked' by their parents when they go off to feed, only for the infants to be picked up by well-meaning members of the public and taken to a rescue centre. If the infant is simply left where it is and kept under observation at a safe distance, the adult can often be seen returning – hopefully to find its baby still where she left it! Little Mr Freckles will now be cared for at our centre until he's deemed ready to go it alone in the forest.

A huge
THANK YOU
for supporting our work helping
wildlife in Costa Rica.
We couldn't do it without you!

CHANGING LIVES IN INDONESIA



YIARI Programme Director Karmele with schoolchildren on the scholarship programme

International Animal Rescue's holistic conservation strategy, IARconserves, puts people and communities at the heart of efforts to protect wildlife and habitats in Indonesia. With support from the Indonesian government, our partners YIARI run a wide range of community-based projects designed to enhance the wellbeing of people while also producing positive benefits for wildlife and the natural environment. This 'One Health' approach aims both to preserve biodiversity and increase the wellbeing of local communities by improving their health and prosperity and supporting food security.

Deep in the heart of Indonesian Borneo, in **Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park** (BBBR NP), YIARI's support for forest-edge communities is proving highly successful in changing attitudes and behaviour towards wildlife and nature. The majority of households in the forest-edge communities of BBBR NP live in poverty, with limited access to education, healthcare and transport. When YIARI first started working in the region, most people admitted to carrying out illegal logging inside the Park to earn money to feed their families. In response to this, YIARI developed a number of initiatives to

help these communities, including educational support, a school scholarship programme and the provision of training and access to alternative livelihoods for adults. These new opportunities have proved a huge success, reducing illegal activities in the National Park and turning local people who were exploiting the forest into active advocates for conserving the wildlife and nature that surround them.

SHILA AND SURYA



The reduction in illegal activity in the National Park makes it a safe haven for endangered species like the orangutan.

SUSI AND SINAR



This lush rainforest is rich in biodiversity and home to some of the world's rarest and most threatened species. Not only has YIARI released 75 orangutans into the area, monitoring has revealed that a number of the released females have given birth since returning to the wild, indicating the vital role the rehabilitation and release programme is playing in the repopulation of this Critically Endangered species.

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity (biological diversity) is the word used to describe all the different kinds of life found in one area — the variety of animals, plants, fungi and even micro-organisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. All these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine and shelter.



CHANGING LIVES IN INDONESIA



The same holistic approach that is working so well in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park is proving equally successful in **Batutegi Forest** in Sumatra. YIARI first started working in the area in 2008 when the forest proved an ideal release site for rehabilitated Sumatran slow lorises.

Over the years since then, the team has reached out to forest-edge communities around Batutegi, teaching them about the rich biodiversity within the forest and encouraging them to adopt sustainable farming methods to

reduce the damage their activities have been causing. Local farmers have welcomed this support which has helped improve the quality and size of the yields from their crops.

YIARI's team is assisting local children through reading groups and various outdoor activities to help them learn about the forest. The team has also built strong relationships with the local government authorities. The project is proving beneficial to everyone involved, with monitoring showing a reduction in forest loss and indications that crime rates in the forest are falling.

CAMERA TRAPS

Camera traps are an essential tool for identifying and monitoring the hundreds of species of wildlife living in the forest, as the first step towards protecting them. Among the species captured on camera are deer, a rhinoceros hornbill, sunbear and golden cat. While many of the species in Batutegi are threatened or endangered, their future is much brighter thanks to the efforts of YIARI, the local government and local communities to keep them safe.



MANGROVE SUPERHEROES



An aspect of YIARI's work in Indonesia that is as crucial as protecting the rainforest is the reforestation of cleared and degraded areas. As well as replanting areas on land, the team is working with coastal communities to restore mangrove forests. These extraordinary ecosystems are vital to the survival of those communities and the wildlife that lives within them.

Mangroves are the 'superheroes' of the coastal ecosystem. They support rich biodiversity, providing a nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans and acting as natural coastal defences against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels, and erosion. Mangrove soils are highly effective carbon sinks and so play a crucial role in mitigating climate change.

Indonesia harbours the largest area and diversity of mangrove ecosystems in the world.

However, mangroves are disappearing far more rapidly than terrestrial forests, owing to human activities such as farming, aquaculture and urban development and natural factors such as erosion and extreme weather. YIARI is working together with coastal communities at the forefront of efforts to restore mangroves. In 12 months they have planted a grand total of 15,600 seedlings, covering 75 acres and the survival rate for the seedlings is extremely high.

A superhero-sized
THANK YOU
for supporting YIARI's work
with local communities
to protect wildlife
and habitats.

GIVING THE GIFT OF FREEDOM

At IAR, when we rescue an animal, right through to the point when we release it back into the wild, we know you are right there beside us, making this lifesaving work happen.

At the end of July 2024, YIARI's team in West Java joined forces with the local forestry agencies in West Java and Sumatra and the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park to reintroduce 28 primates into the park. The primates comprised 20 long-tailed and four pig-tailed macaques and four Javan slow lorises. The animals had all undergone years of rehabilitation in preparation for their return to the wild. Once safely back in the forest, they were placed in a habituation cage and given time to adjust to their new surroundings before being set free.

The good will and assistance of the local community was crucial to the success of this release operation – as was your own generous support which enabled these precious primates to have a second chance at freedom.

Thank you!



PLEASE BE OUR FRIEND!



As a valued supporter of IAR, you already know that we rely on your kind donations in order to do our work. In the spring of 2024, we faced a funding shortfall and your generosity was overwhelming – we cannot thank you enough for standing with us in our time of need. Thanks to you, we have been able to continue our vital work uninterrupted.

The best way to protect ourselves from such shortfalls is through regular giving. This is why we are pleased to be launching a brand new way to support our work, by inviting you to become a **Friend of IAR**. Our Friends make up a special, dedicated community of supporters who are committed to providing ongoing, reliable funding that enables us to plan and carry out our life-saving work effectively. We chose this name because our monthly donors are generous, caring and reliable people who are passionate about, and hugely supportive of what we do – everything you would want from a Friend.

Our Friends fund everything from orangutan conservation to bear rescues and allow us to work uninterrupted towards our goal of a world where humans and animals can thrive in harmony.

Regular monthly gifts are truly meaningful as they allow us to:

- **Ensure Stable Funding:** Regular, consistent support helps us better allocate resources and respond swiftly to emergencies.
- **Plan Long-Term Projects:** With reliable funding, we can embark on larger, long-term projects that offer lasting solutions to the challenges faced by animals around the world.
- **Reduce Administrative Costs:** Regular donations mean fewer fundraising campaigns, allowing more of your money to go directly towards helping animals.



Phily Day, Supporter Stewardship Manager. It was an honour to visit the bear sanctuary in Agra and meet the beautiful bears we care for with your support.

RESCUING CAGED BEARS IN ARMENIA

In June 2018, together with our Armenian partners FPWC, we rescued three bears being kept in dreadful conditions in a private zoo. The two males and a female were taken to our rescue centre and settled into their quarantine quarters.

Some months later, when the bears were ready to go outside for the first time in their lives, the behaviour of one of them led to his unusual name – **Gatekeeper**.

The door of the quarantine quarters was opened onto a short tunnel leading to a spacious outdoor enclosure. The excited bears sniffed the air, eager to explore their new surroundings. But it was a step too far for one bear who couldn't summon up the courage to venture down the tunnel and also refused to let his two friends go out. Hours of encouraging, cajoling and scattering food along the tunnel failed to persuade him. The bear remained in his position by the open gate, refusing to let his companions past him. And that's how Gatekeeper got his name.



At the end of a long day waiting to witness Gatekeeper's moment of freedom, our team retired to bed. By this time Gatekeeper had fallen asleep in the tunnel, while his friends had sidled past him hours before and were thoroughly enjoying their new-found freedom. By the morning, miracle of miracles, Gatekeeper had summoned up the courage to join them!

We will always love Gatekeeper for his initial fear of the outside world. Happily, he has grown in confidence over the years and a recent video shows him having fun in the pool in his enclosure. It's hard to convey in photos alone but Gatekeeper really is having the time of his life!



Gatekeeper isn't the only bear at our centre to have grown in confidence since being rescued. Misha has also come a long way since he was found alone and bewildered on the outskirts of a village. The bedraggled bear had clearly spent years in captivity. His teeth were broken and his gums were swollen, most likely from gnawing on the bars of a cage.

In April 2024 our team of volunteer dental experts travelled to Armenia to repair Misha's teeth in a marathon



five hour surgery. And, as soon as he had recovered from the anaesthetic, it was plain to see the change in him. Misha munched greedily on chunks of apple and eagerly looked for more. His pain was at an end!

Two months later, Misha was moved from quarantine to a den with an outdoor enclosure. At first, like Gatekeeper, he too hesitated at the sight of so much space. In fact it was several days before Misha dared venture outside. But gradually



sweet Misha is learning how to be a bear again. Only a few weeks ago he tested the water in his pool and eventually decided that it was really rather nice, as the photo shows!



A massive
BEAR HUG
for helping us rescue and
care for caged bears in
Armenia.

ARMENIA BEAR BUILD UPDATE

We are making steady progress on the building of our new bear rescue centre in Armenia. Having faced a series of regional political and economic setbacks connected to the Ukraine war, we are now back on track and excited to see work underway on the site! The new centre will give us the space and facilities to rescue more caged bears and give them the treatment and care they need to enjoy life, just like Misha and Gatekeeper.



CARING FOR BEARS IN INDIA

A bear by any other name ...

Odum the sloth bear was given his name by actress Julia Roberts when she paid a visit to the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre while filming in India. He may have caught her eye because he is such a delightful little bear, although sadly his small stature and abnormal gait are the result of the terrible hardship he suffered during his life on the streets as a dancing bear.

We rescued Odum in 2009 – the year in which, along with our partners Wildlife SOS and Free the Bears, we succeeded in bringing an end to the centuries-old tradition of dancing bears. Over the years since then, little Odum has become a firm favourite with everyone who meets him. He is no longer the malnourished, timid creature we rescued. Thanks to expert treatment from the vets and loving care from his keepers, Odum is now a cheerful, active bear who prefers not to sit still for long.



If you would like to help care for Odum and his friends, you can adopt him online. Scan the code below.



He spends most of his days digging up mud pits and foraging for ants and termites in the forested part of his enclosure. Given his appetite for sweet food, it's no surprise that his favourite treats are honey and peanut butter. Odum loves his hot porridge meals when they are mixed with honey and he refuses to play with enrichments unless they are coated with peanut butter!



To accommodate his diminutive size, Odum's caregivers prepare enrichments at a height to suit him – including a miniature jungle gym! And now that he is getting on in years, Odum receives extra special care to keep him healthy. He is given regular dental check-ups, health supplements and multivitamins, as well as a wide variety of nutritious fruits and foods.

**A huge
BEAR HUG**

**from Odum for helping us
care for rescued sloth bears
in India.**

OUR FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

It's only thanks to people like you that we're able to rescue animals and protect their habitats. Your support means everything to us, and it's amazing what we can achieve when we all work together! **Thank you for your hard work, determination and for being part of team IAR!**



We were delighted to see so many of you from all over the world get involved in Cakes for Apes 2024! You raised over £10,500, which is fantastic!



We loved Greer Bullock's creativity this year by holding a Didik Day as her Cakes for Apes fundraiser. Greer began supporting IAR in 2016 after reading about a rescued baby orangutan called Didik who was suffering from severe malnutrition.

Greer raised £235 from her Didik Day Cakes for Apes and is already looking forward to taking part next year for the Cakes for Apes 10 year anniversary!

We'd like to give a special shout out to Honeywell Bakes for donating 1% of their sales throughout Ape-ri! and raising **£532** and to every single person who donated, baked or raffled off cakes to raise important funds for orangutans!

To join the 10 year anniversary of Cakes for Apes and help make it the best yet, visit www.cakes4apes.org

SUPERSTAR FUNDRAISERS



PATTY CUTHBERT

We are so incredibly grateful for people like Patty! Patty really is a wonder woman – **she first started supporting us in 2016 and over the years has raised an outstanding \$50,521!**

Patty works hard attending a variety of community-focused events in Canada and selling jewellery. The company she works for is also extremely supportive and matches whatever Patty manages to raise for us. We can't thank Patty enough for all she does!

THE SUSSEX DRUM



The Sussex Drum organised a drumathon where dedicated supporters drummed as a group for a whole 8 hours! **This incredible bunch raised £750 for our lifesaving projects around the world.**

PEACEHAVEN ABSEIL



Tosca from IAR

Thank you to everyone who took part in our abseil off the 115ft high Peacehaven Cliffs in 2023. This brilliant group of people **raised £7,000** for the animals! We are running another abseil in honour of World Animal Day off the 85m Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on Saturday 5th October 2024. If you'd like to take part, please contact fundraising@internationalanimalrescue.org for more information.

NAOMI GARRICK



Naomi took part in FOUR gruelling, long distance runs for us earlier in the year in memory of her mother, who was a passionate advocate for animal welfare and dedicated her life to their wellbeing. Dressed as a Dalmatian, **Naomi raised a whopping £1,452 through her challenging runs.**

STEVEN CREE

IAR patron and actor Steven Cree took part in a skydive last year from 15,000 ft and raised a staggering **£10,620!** Steven is scared of heights and was extremely courageous to take on this challenge. This year, his feet are going to stay firmly on the ground and he will lead Team Orangutan in The Rainforest Run. **What a marvellous man!**



GET INVOLVED

If you're interested in fundraising in support of our work, we'd love to hear from you! Please email fundraising@internationalanimalrescue.org or call us on **01825 767688** to request a fundraising pack. **Thank you!**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

In 2023, our main challenge continued to come from the impacts of the Russo-Ukraine War. From an income perspective, the cost of living crisis as a result of the war has impacted the disposable income of our donor base, as rising bills and interest rates have reduced the disposable income of a large portion of the public. Despite these headwinds, we have managed to weather the storms and remain optimistic about the future. However, we did see donations fall from £3.53m in 2022 to £3.14m in 2023. Your unwavering support during these difficult times has enabled us to continue our crucial mission of protecting animals and habitats globally. We deeply appreciate your commitment to our cause, even in the face of challenging circumstances.

IAR had an operating deficit of £878k in 2023, which was reduced to £777k after accounting for gains on investments. Our income was nearly £390k lower than in 2022, largely due to a fall in legacy income (£255k) and the absence of a one-off donation received in 2022 (£142k). Charitable expenditure increased in 2023, primarily due to the construction of the Michael Uren Rescue Centre in Costa Rica, which was completed before the end of the year, and the Margareta Taylor Bear Rescue Centre in Armenia. Both projects utilised ring-fenced reserves from 2022. Fundraising costs were higher than in 2022 as we reinstated our offline recruitment programme and faced inflationary pressures on our costs.

Regarding reserves, our investments produced a gain in 2023, and we are hopeful this trend will continue in 2024 as central banks move towards reducing interest rates. As mentioned, we used a significant amount of ring-fenced funds in 2023 for our centre constructions. Our current reserves include further ring-fenced funds for future large projects that cannot be met from future income alone, with the balance covering working capital and financial risk.

Encouragingly, many of the macro-economic challenges we've faced over the last few years appear to be easing. Inflation has started to return to more normal levels, leading to the first interest rate cuts in 2024. While we see signs of improvement, we remain vigilant to further macro-economic risks but maintain a positive outlook for the coming year.

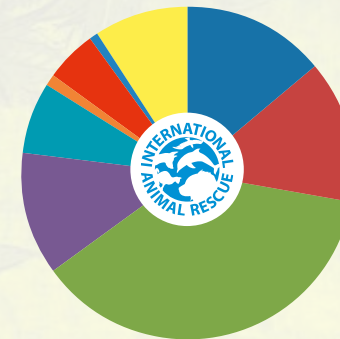
Everyone at IAR is immensely grateful to all our supporters who have stood by us during this challenging time and continue to trust us to make a difference in animal protection and habitat conservation globally.

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Voluntary income				
Donations and grants	1,300,770	283,076	1,583,846	1,711,677
Legacies	1,459,312	-	1,459,312	1,714,396
Investment income				
Bank interest and dividends	93,514	-	93,514	94,180
Other trading activities	5,937	-	5,937	11,047
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2,859,533	283,076	3,142,609	3,531,300
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities	2,892,008	544,825	3,436,833	3,341,839
Cost of generating funds				
Fundraising costs	468,594	-	468,594	358,567
Development	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
Investment managers' fees	15,189	-	15,189	18,906
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3,475,791	544,825	4,020,616	3,819,312
NET INCOME				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	(616,258)	(261,749)	(878,007)	(288,012)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	101,192	-	101,192	(1,030,806)
Other recognised gains and losses	18,363	-	18,363	(84,976)
Net movement in funds	(496,703)	(261,749)	(758,452)	(1,403,794)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023	4,741,283	284,968	5,026,251	6,430,045
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	4,244,580	23,219	4,267,799	5,026,251

The financial summary shown is an extract from the Charity's full audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. These were prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2015' (SORP). These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to enable a full understanding of the financial status of International Animal Rescue. For further information, please contact the Charity's Treasurer at the UK head office address. International Animal Rescue's auditors are Clarke Brownscombe of 2 St Andrews Place, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UP.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

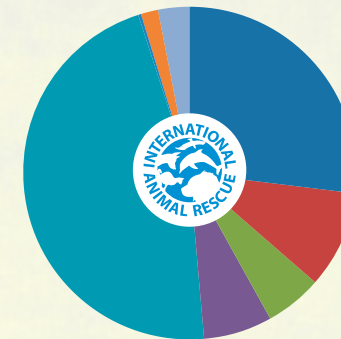
CAMPAIGN EXPENSES



- Indian Dancing Bears
- Armenia Bears
- Primate Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Costa Rica – Howler Monkey Rescue
- Cat Rescue
- Other projects
- Education & Awareness
- Programme Travel
- Campaign Support

TOTAL: £3,436,833

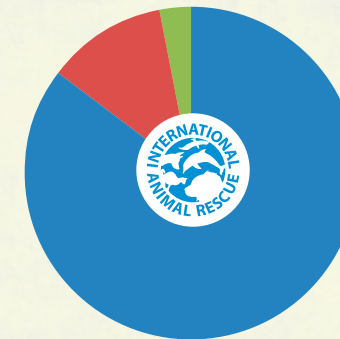
INCOME



- Individual Donations
- Regular Gifts from Individuals
- Gift aid
- Trusts and foundations
- Legacies
- Fundraising events
- Merchandise
- Investment income

TOTAL: £3,142,609

TOTAL EXPENDITURE



- Animal Protection and rescue projects
- Fundraising
- Governance, development and administration

TOTAL: £4,020,616

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF BLIND BEARS IN INDIA



Before joining IAR as our first member of staff in the US, Laurence Holyoak was a student of animal behaviour at Edinburgh University. Laurence spent several months at the Agra Bear Rescue Centre, studying the effects of environmental enrichment on blind bears. Extracts from her diary are poignant reminders of the suffering endured by dancing bears in India and also of their resilience in overcoming past trauma and learning to enjoy life again.

Bear Enrichment Study: Week 3

I have been going over the records of each of my bears and I am horrified. Some of the bears in my group were beaten to blindness because it made them easier to control. Their files also have details of their condition upon arrival. Every bear was emaciated and had injuries of some sort inflicted by their handler. I'm starting to understand where their abnormal behaviours come from.

One of the bears in my enclosure, Ganesha, has never come out of the dens since I have been here. All I have seen of him is his shadow, head-swaying through the window.

Today I put the honey logs out and started my observations. I did a head count and realized I had one extra bear that I didn't recognize. The keepers ran to have a look. They were astonished. . . it was Ganesha. He was rolling a log around and sucking the honey out of the holes. Then he slowly walked around the enclosure investigating while the other bears came to smell him. He and Hugo started wrestling and playing. It was as if he just needed something to entice him out so he could realize it wasn't scary outside. It was one of my proudest moments. At that moment, I realized that, no matter what, my time here was well spent. Ganesha roamed around all day playing with the other bears and explored more and more of the enclosure each day.

The road to recovery takes some longer than others, and as Ganesha healed within the safety of the sanctuary, he slowly began to trust in humans again.

ROOFTOP OBSERVATION



Environmental enrichment is just as important for the keepers. They started seeing the bears as thinking, feeling creatures. I had a crowd of keepers each morning who came to watch. They could see how the bears figure out puzzles, build nests and find honey feeders.

GANESHA



LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVING CARE



When it comes to making a Will, our main concern is to ensure the future security and wellbeing of our loved ones. And for many of us, our 'loved ones' include not only our family and friends but also our pets and other animals that we hold dear.

We are so very grateful to the many supporters who have already left a gift in their Will to support our work protecting animals. A legacy gift can make so much difference to what we can achieve for animals and their habitats. It can help provide comfort and treatment for animals that have endured years of suffering; it can support them on their journey back to the wild, or it can provide those that can no longer fend for themselves with lifelong shelter and loving care. Without the generosity of Gifts in Wills, much of our work simply would not be possible.

If you are thinking of making or updating your Will and you would like to leave a gift to International Animal Rescue, you will be helping to save animals' lives.

If you would like more information on how to leave a gift in your Will to International Animal Rescue, please contact **Tosca** by emailing legacies@internationalanimalrescue.org or by calling the office on **01825 767688**.

Thank you for considering this very special way to ensure your love for animals lives on.



LET'S BE FRIENDS!

On page 13 of ***The Rescuer*** we explain how much we depend on our **Friends of IAR** who make a monthly gift in support of our work. It makes a world of difference to know that we have a regular, reliable source of income to cover emergencies, or simply to meet the ongoing costs of treatment and care for suffering animals. We are so grateful to supporters like Mark (opposite) for making the commitment to help us in this way.

We would love you to join our community of Friends of IAR, simply by filling in the enclosed Direct Debit form and returning it to us. Or you can scan the QR code below which will take you to the relevant page on our website. In return, as a small token of thanks, we will send you an exclusive IAR pin badge. **But hurry, stocks are limited!**

We do hope you'll choose to be our Friend so that together we can make the world a better place for animals.



Mark Hailstone,
Friend of IAR

"I am proud to be a Friend of IAR. I have been supporting International Animal Rescue since 2015 safe in the knowledge that my donation is making a real impact on the lives of animals around the world. I care deeply about orangutans and the conservation of their rainforest home. By giving monthly, I am playing my part in the important work the team on the ground does to keep this incredible species safe and protected."



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