



In 2002, when we joined Wildlife SOS in India to rescue the dancing bears off the streets, we took a groundbreaking approach to tackling animal cruelty.

The bear handlers, known as Kalandars, were among the poorest people in India. For centuries they had captured sloth bear cubs from the wild and forced them to 'dance' to scrape a living. The training was barbaric.



Instead of simply seizing the bears, we created the Kalandar Rehabilitation Program. When handlers surrendered their bears, they received seed money to start new livelihoods such as shopkeeping, weaving, or tuktuk driving. This gave families stability, children could go to school, and women learned new skills. It changed lives, both for the rescued bears, now safe in our sanctuaries, and for the Kalandars themselves. Many even work for Wildlife SOS today, caring for bears with compassion. The project confirmed our belief that rescuing animals without addressing the root cause of their suffering will never provide a lasting solution to the problem. This principle lies at the heart of everything we do. And I'm thrilled that you, our supporters, share it.

One of my highlights this year (read the full story on page 10) was watching JoJo take his first tentative steps into his very own forest enclosure. JoJo was the first orangutan we ever rescued, and his story inspired a project that has transformed



countless lives, both for animals and people. Since then, our partners, YIARI, have saved 266 orangutans and more than 1,200 slow lorises, while tackling the poverty that drives deforestation and hunting. Thanks to your support, families now earn a living through sustainable farming, forests and mangroves are being restored, and orangutans and other primates are being returned to the wild. Today, local communities lead wildlife protection and post-release monitoring, showing that when people have alternatives, both communities and nature can thrive.

Elsewhere, there are signs of real progress. In Armenia, where rescuing caged bears has always been tough, we're now seeing public protests against cruelty and support



from police during rescue operations. It gives me hope to see public attitudes changing, and, thanks to your generousity we've been able to rescue many more bears from horrific conditions





In Costa Rica, we've pulled together a growing movement to end the needless electrocution of howler monkeys and other wildlife.

So much can be achieved in animal welfare and conservation when we respect the needs and views of everyone involved and work together.

Thanks to this approach and thanks to you, our amazing supporters, it has been a year of incredible progress, as you'll discover as you read *The Rescuer*.

Alan Knight OBE, President, International Animal Rescue

## A YEAR OF FREEDOM:

## ENDING THE SUFFERING OF ARMENIAN BEARS

# It's been an incredible year of hope for abused bears in Armenia thanks to you!

While we've been pushing hard to complete the new sanctuary in the mountains, we've also built more enclosures at Urtsadzor, in order to rescue several bears from heart-breaking conditions, giving them the fresh start they deserve.

First came beautiful Retta, rescued late last year. At first, she struggled to adjust, but thanks to patience, and dedicated care from our keepers, including plenty of enrichment, she has blossomed. She is now living happily with Bonnie and Clivey and is making excellent progress every day.

Next came **Aram**, **Nairi and Lola**, a bear family found in shocking

conditions in a residential courtyard. Aram needed major dental surgery, but thanks to you and our team of volunteer dentists, he's now pain-free and enjoying tasty treats. The family is doing well and we hope they will be among the first to move to our new sanctuary, where they'll finally have space to roam.







## **BUILDING HOPE:**

## A NEW HOME FOR ARMENIA'S BEARS

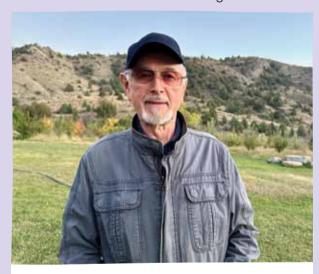
This year we've worked tirelessly to finish the build of our purpose-built sanctuary in the mountains, so that we can rescue every last suffering bear in Armenia. It has been one of our most challenging projects to date and we've faced unprecedented challenges along the way. But, we have never given up and neither have you!

Thanks to your generosity we are on the final push. We are actively fundraising for the final elements of the build, so that we can finish the spacious enclosures, complete with pools and dens by next Spring.

#### **ENCLOSURE CONSTRUCTION**



Our wonderful patron and passionate animal advocate **Peter Egan** recently went with Alan on a mission to Armenia where he witnessed firsthand both the cruelty endured by bears and also the incredible work of the team rescuing bears.



"I can't tell you how inspired and excited I am to witness with my own eyes the kind and compassionate work of International Animal Rescue in Armenia."

Peter Egan, IAR Patron

## THE POWER OF PLAY

Large, spacious enclosures are vital for the bears' well-being. We want all our bears to have the freedom to roam, enjoy enrichment and tasty treats, cool off in the pool and most importantly, rediscover the joy of play. Our bears live in groups, and playtime is a very important natural behavior! After all the horrors these bears have endured, it is a wonderful sight to see them playing and enjoying themselves. And with the first bears set to move into the new sanctuary next spring, we can't wait to see them discover this safe haven and finally enjoy the life they deserve.



# PROTECTING WILDLIFE, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: INDONESIA

Last year, our work in Indonesia with our partners, YIARI, made a huge impact. We cracked down on the illegal wildlife trade, rescuing slow lorises and macaques, and protected orangutans and their precious forests.

Thanks to you, YIARI rescued and rehabilitated countless animals, returned many to the wild, and worked with local communities to safeguard forests and create sustainable livelihoods. This handson, holistic approach is driving real change, saving animals and shaping a future where people and wildlife thrive together.

## MANGROVES

#### NATURE'S COASTAL GUARDIANS



This year, local farmers and students have already planted over 5,750 mangrove seedlings.

## A SECOND CHANCE AT FREEDOM

This HUGE adult male orangutan had been seen near local homes, drawn in by fruit trees and changes to his surroundings. With his presence becoming more frequent, the decision was made to move him as soon as possible, for his well-being, and to ensure he had the space he needed to thrive.



It wasn't easy. The team at YIARI began before dawn, using a carefully measured anesthetic to keep him safe. Even after years of experience, it is never simple. Once sedated, a full health check revealed an old wound and some dental issues, but he was still strong enough to return to the wild.



Seven hours later, deep in the heart of the forest, his crate was opened and off he went. No hesitation. No looking back. Just the sound of leaves rustling as he disappeared into the trees. Now, in a forest with plenty of food and space, and far from roads and danger, he gets a second chance at freedom.



We're so grateful to you. Without your compassion we wouldn't be able to give critically endangered orangutans like this a second chance in the wild.

## SLOW LORISES RETURN HOME

Ten Javan slow lorises were released into the wild last October at Mount Kendeng in Gunung Halimun Salak National Park! This exciting conservation milestone, led by the West Java Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BBKSDA) in collaboration with the National Park Authority and YIARI, marks a positive step forward in the conservation of this amazing species.

After months of intensive rehabilitation, these lorises were translocated and placed in a prerelease enclosure to help them adjust to their natural surroundings. Each loris has been equipped



with a GPS collar, allowing the team to monitor their progress and ensure they're settling in well. These collars are designed to automatically fall off after a few months.

Mount Kendeng was carefully chosen for its plentiful food sources, lush forest cover, and safe distance from human settlements – all essential elements to help the lorises adapt and thrive in their natural environment. By reducing the risk of human-wildlife conflict, this location gives these lorises the best chance of living safely and independently.



# FROM CHAINS TO FOREST: JOJO'S STORY

JoJo's story lies at the heart of our orangutan conservation work in Indonesia.

In 2009, Dr Karmele Llano Sánchez, CEO of our Indonesian partner, YIARI, and experienced wildlife veterinarian, was leading our primate protection work in Indonesia when she was called to treat a young captive orangutan. The encounter proved to be life-changing.

JoJo, a young male orangutan, was chained to a wooden pallet over a filthy open sewer. Years of captivity and malnutrition had left him stunted, with weak, malformed limbs, and a deep, infected wound from his shackle. Karmele treated the injury, but leaving him there broke her heart.





"The day I first met JoJo was one of the hardest days of my life," she recalls. "All I could do was clean his wounds and move the chain to his other leg, because at that time there was no orangutan rescue facility in West Kalimantan."

Determined to help, Karmele and IAR President, Alan Knight, hatched a plan. JoJo's rescue became the spark that led to the creation of the orangutan rehabilitation project in Borneo, led by our partners, YIARI. Hundreds of orangutans have since been rescued and returned to the rainforest, but sadly JoJo's journey was different.

Years of captivity left him unable to survive in the wild. For safety reasons, because of his size and strength, he had to be housed alone, and for many years a large purpose-built enclosure was his only home.

The dream, however, was always to give him a taste of freedom. Designing a two-hectare, semi-wild forest enclosure for a powerful, previously captive orangutan took years of planning, as the safety of JoJo, our staff and the local community had to be our top priority.

But finally, we have been able to realize the promise we made to JoJo all those years ago. At first, he was too timid to explore the open forest, overwhelmed by a freedom he had never known. With patience and encouragement, he has grown in confidence and is delighting in exploring his new home.

JoJo's enclosure isn't just for him. When he returns to his quarters, other orangutans in YIARI's care, those that can never return to the wild. will have the chance to climb, play, and enjoy the forest too.

#### Seeing JoJo surrounded by trees fills us with pride.

His journey from chains to forest is a testament to his resilience and to so many of you, who have supported us and made this possible.



If you would like to help care for JoJo and his friends. you can adopt them online. Scan the

code here.





### COSTA RICA

Eighteen months ago, we opened our new purpose-built Michael Uren Rescue Center, made possible by your generosity. This center is a beacon of hope for Costa Rica's wildlife, allowing us to care for hundreds more animals and deliver lifesaving treatment we couldn't before.

#### YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

538 animals rescued

howler monkeys rescued

animals released back into the wild

howler monkeys released

sanctuary animals receiving lifelong care



"The new facilities and equipment have given us the ability to help more species, decrease ICU stays, and provide larger recovery spaces. It's been a challenge to manage the increased number of animals, but we are grateful to have the resources and staff to provide the necessary care."

Francisco Sánchez Murillo, Veterinary Director

#### **HOWLER MONKEY REHAB PROCESS**









## HOWLER MONKEYS GO HOME!



**Ash** arrived at our rescue center last year, he was found clinging to his deceased mother who was tragically electrocuted by uninsulated power cables. Ash was traumatized when he first arrived, but after extensive rehabilitation, he was ready to be released back into the rainforest.

Ash was released with his two friends, **Steve** and **Larissa** who arrived in similar circumstances. Seeing the trio swinging in the trees back in the wild is a truly beautiful sight!

#### HOPE FOR COSTA RICA'S WILDLIFE:

#### PREVENTING TRAGEDY

In Costa Rica, we don't just rescue wildlife, we're preventing needless deaths and creating lasting change. With your support, we're driving a national campaign for safer power lines and working with communities to protect howler monkeys and countless other species so they can thrive in the wild.

## **SANCTUARY STORIES**

#### Meet the residents of our Costa Rica sanctuary, where we provide lifelong care for animals who can't return to the wild.



Blue the capuchin monkey was found tied up in a house and brought to our center to recover. Capuchins need social groups to survive in the wild, so we're working to find him a rescued troop to join. For now, he's safe and making good progress with us.



Charlotte the spider monkey was rescued after becoming reliant on food from a hotel restaurant. Malnourished and dependent on humans, she can't return to the wild. She'll live safely at our sanctuary - a reminder of the harm caused by feeding wildlife.



Ernesto is a painted wood turtle who was illegally kept as a pet. These turtles love to dig and hide under leaves, grass and dirt, so we provide enrichment that allows him to create his own hiding spots. Now he can express his natural behaviors safely at our center.



Marty the kinkajou was rescued from a closed zoo. Dependent on humans, he can't survive in the wild. With his strong tail, clawed fingers and reversible hind feet, Marty is a skilled climber - something he can enjoy daily in his specially built sanctuary enclosure.



Pumba and Ismael are collared peccaries who were kept as pets. Rescued separately, they now live together at our sanctuary.

Too domesticated to return to the wild, they have a safe home for life where they can thrive.

## CELEBRATING OUR FRIENDS

You may remember that last year we introduced our 'Friends of IAR' program to encourage more of our loyal supporters to give monthly.

**The response has been incredible!** We now have over **3,000 Friends**, a wonderful community of compassionate animal lovers.

Some of you have been donating for over 20 years, while others have just joined. We are deeply grateful to each of you for your meaningful support, which allows us to continue our life-saving work with confidence.





Thanks to our wonderful friend
Timothy in the UK and his monthly
donation of £5, over time we have
been able to purchase another
hammock for our sloth bears in India.



Thanks to our friend Rebecca and her monthly gift of \$20, so far we have been able to plant an incredible 500 trees



Thanks to Steven, rescued howler monkeys are back in the wild.

## TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A REAL AND LASTING IMPACT. THANK YOU!

## INDIA:

#### MEET JIM AND JENNY!

#### Two adorable sloth bear cubs now living at our bear sanctuary in India.

Jim was found alone hiding in a tunnel under a highway. He was monitored for days hoping his mother would return, but sadly she never did. He was then taken to our sanctuary to provide him with the medical care he desperately needed, he is just four months old. He has a long journey ahead but he is making good progress with his special milk formula, nutritious supplements and enriching activities to build his strength and confidence.





Jenny was rescued from a village after being found beside her injured mother, who sadly didn't survive. She is five months old and is now at our sanctuary being hand-reared with around-the-clock care. Jenny is slowly gaining weight and settling in well. We look forward to watching her progress over the coming months.







Jim and Jenny have a long road ahead of them, but we hope that with the love and care of our team in India they will thrive in the safety of the sanctuary.



## **BRINGING JOY TO BLIND BEARS**

Earlier this year, we called on you to help us to care for our group of blind bears in India, and you did not let us down!

Thanks to our generous supporters, Archana and her friends are surrounded by care and comfort each day. They receive specially designed enrichments, to keep them active and healthy while considering their disability. As you can see in the photos, the bears are loving their enrichment and the tasty treats within!











## **OUR FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS**

By taking action, you're helping to change animals' lives. Whether you've taken part in our global fundraisers like Cakes for Apes and The Rainforest Run, or you've run, wrestled, rappelled, drummed, sung, swum, cycled, or simply shared our mission far and wide, your efforts have made a real, lasting difference. Thank you for being by our side, and for everything you do with such care, heart, and dedication.

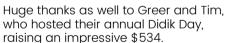


We were thrilled to celebrate the **10th anniversary of Cakes for Apes** with incredible support from around the world! Through your generosity and creativity, you've raised an amazing \$25,000, which will help transform the lives of orangutans!



A special shout-out goes to 13-year-old Oliver and 8-year-old Ada Sewell, our top Cakes for Apes fundraisers this year, who raised an ape-mazing \$1,285!





Thanks also to Julianna who recruited the support of numerous cafes in her hometown of Guelph, Canada, raising a staggering \$1,063 and to Bridget Doane, who got her rescue dogs involved by selling homemade dog treats! Bridget also secured matched funding from her employer, bringing her total to a fantastic \$1,080! We're deeply grateful to every single person who donated, baked, raffled, or spread the word.

We hope you'll join us again next year to help save orangutans once more: www.cakes4apes.org

#### SUPERSTAR FUNDRAISERS



Year after year, Patty continues to inspire us with her dedication, creativity, and compassion. Through her stunning Rainforest Jewelry collection, sold at community-focused events in Canada, Patty is not only raising awareness, she's making a real impact.

So far this year, Patty has raised over \$3,000 to support our work. We're incredibly grateful for her ongoing commitment to protecting orangutans and their rainforest habitat!



Huge congratulations to Linda, our top fundraiser in our new 'Step Up For Bears' challenge! Throughout July, supporters were encouraged to walk 53 miles, one for each of the 53 bears we've rescued in Armenia and get sponsored. Linda went above and beyond, raising over \$541 to help build a brand-new rescue center in the stunning Armenian mountains. With our current center at full capacity, her incredible effort, as well as everyone else who took part, will help rescue even more bears in need.



Lance has been an absolute star, leading Team Parakeet in last year's Rainforest Run and raising an incredible \$2450 with the support of Brighton College!

Not stopping there, he also took part in Cakes for Apes, rallying both Brighton College and his local community to get involved. His passion and drive have inspired others to support our work and helped bring us closer to a safer future for orangutans.

#### A MASSIVE THANK YOU...

...to everyone who took part in last year's Rainforest Run and helped raise an incredible \$15,550 for the rainforest and the animals that call it home! A special shout-out to IAR patron and actor **Steven Cree**, who led Team Orangutan and raised an impressive \$3,181, and to actress **Sara Wiseman**, who headed up Team Macaque and raised \$1,754 – amazing work!

If you'd like to get involved in our global Rainforest Run fundraiser, whether solo or as part of a team, we'd love to hear from you. You can run, walk, or jog, and choose a route that works for you!



#### **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 at (508) 826-1083 to request a fundraising packet. Thank you!

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### For the year ended December 31, 2024

The economic environment continues to be challenging for the nonprofit sector. Inflation remains stubbornly high, and interest rates have not fallen as quickly as expected. Many organizations are strugaling and, in some cases, are having to reduce their activities in order to survive

At IAR, we are acutely aware that our supporters are also feeling the squeeze. Every donation we receive is precious, and we work hard to ensure that every dollar makes the greatest possible difference for animals and habitats.

We ended 2024 with a deficit of \$105k, having drawn on a portion of our reserves to fund additional project work, particularly in Costa Rica, following the opening of our new wildlife rescue center at the end of 2023

Our income in 2024 was \$480k lower than the previous year at \$1.44m. The 2023 income was elevated due to one-off grants of \$300k for the Margaretta Taylor Bear Rescue Center in Armenia and another for \$100k. We also saw a slight reduction in income from our Direct Mail program, reflecting tightening household budgets.

The absence of these one-off grants is reflected in a corresponding reduction in Program Services expenditure, mainly relating to the Armenia Bear Rescue Center build project. Fundraising expenses were broadly similar, year on year, after allowing for inflation.

Having utilized reserves for capital investment in our projects during 2023 and 2024, the modest unrestricted balance of \$354k continues. to support working capital needs and financial risk, while also helping to fund future animal protection initiatives.

Despite a difficult climate, our supporters' generosity continues to drive real impact for animals, people, and the environment. We remain deeply grateful and committed to being careful custodians of the funds entrusted to us.

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	funds 2024	funds 2024	(\$)	(\$)
Voluntary income				
Donations	1,156,073	-	1,156,073	1,251,272
Fundraising Events	9,121	-	9,121	2,915
Major Gifts	-	275,000	275,000	665,850
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,165,194	275,000	1,440,194	1,920,037
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Program Services	1,236,928	-	1,236,928	1,926,284
Management and General	104,432	-	104,432	97,883
Fundraising Expenses	203,918	-	203,918	227,265
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	1,545,278	0	1,545,278	2,251,432
NET INCOME				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(380,084)	275,000	(105,084)	331,395
Net Assets Released from restrictions	392,699	(392,699)	. , , ,	,
Fund balances at 1 January 2024	341,188	180,621	521,809	853,204
FUND BALANCES AT DECEMBER 31, 2024	353,803	62,922	416,725	521,809

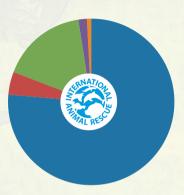
The financial summary shown is an extract from the organization's full audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and approved by the Officers. For further information, please contact the Treasurer at the IAR US office address. International Animal Rescue US's auditors are Michael J. Smeriglio III CPA, Cos Cob, Connecticut.

IAR US Board of Directors		
President: Alan Knight	Executive Director: Gavin Bruce	
Transcurer, David Dava	De soud Dive steen Mentle soulles sole	

Treasurer: David Rap Board Director: Matthew Hough Board Director: Christine Southworth

# FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES





- Individual Income
- Partner Adoption Program
- Foundation Income
- Legacy Income
- Events Income

### TOTAL: \$1,440,194

#### EXPENDITURE



- Animal Protection Programs
- Fundraising
- Governance, development and administration

#### TOTAL: \$1,545,278

# ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS



- Indian Dancing Bears
- Armenia Bears
- Primate Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Costa Rica Howler Monkey Rescue
- Education & Awareness
- Campaign Support

TOTAL: \$1,236,928

## SMILE:

# YOU'RE ON CAMERA!

Protecting forests in Borneo and Sumatra is vital work to safeguard animals. These landscapes are home to critically endangered species like orangutans, sun bears, and Sumatran tigers, animals that rely on healthy, intact habitats to survive.

Thanks to your support, our partners, YIARI, use hidden cameras to monitor endangered wildlife and identify any threats. But, in between the serious data come some lovely 'photobombs', from an itchy sun bear to a very camera-curious macaque.











An extraordinary sight caught on camera, a mother orangutan with two infants. Whether twins or adoption, it's incredibly rare – orangutans usually raise just one baby at a time. Moments like this remind us how remarkable these great apes truly are.



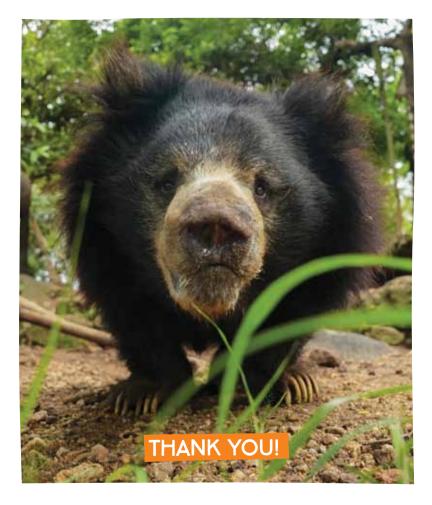
When it comes to making a Will, our main concern is to help ensure the future security and well-being of our loved ones. And for many of us, our 'loved ones' include not only our family and friends but also our pets and other animals that we hold dear.

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 would 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 at **(508)** 826-1083.

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





Thanks to your unwavering support over the past year, we've been able to rescue, rehabilitate and protect countless animals from suffering. From orangutans in Indonesia to bears in Armenia and wildlife in Costa

Rica, your generosity has made every moment of care, every life saved, and every step towards freedom possible. I hope you've enjoyed reading about what we've achieved together this year in *The Rescuer*. Thank you for standing with us and with the animals who need us most

We love hearing from you, so if you'd like to get in touch please use the details below.

Gavin Bruce CEO



(508) 826-1083



Info@internationalanimalrescue.org



www.internationalanimalrescue.org



International Animal Rescue P.O. Box 137 Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Follow us:





