

# BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE



## ANNUAL REPORT - 2010



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC) is a sun bear rescue and rehabilitation facility being developed in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Malayan sun bears are found only in Southeast Asia and are classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red Book Listing of Endangered Species and are included on Appendix I of CITES. In Sabah, these bears continue to be threatened by forest degradation and habitat loss, illegal hunting for bear parts and to protect crops, and poaching to obtain young cubs for the pet trade. As a result of these threats, there are a significant number of young sun bears currently living in unnatural and solitary captive conditions throughout Sabah, with no access to outdoor areas. The goal of the new BSBCC is to promote Malayan sun bear conservation by (1) creating the capacity to confiscate, rehabilitate and release suitable orphaned and ex-captive bears back into the wild; (2) providing an improved long-term living environment for captive bears that cannot be released; and (3) educating the public and raising awareness about this little known species through visitor programmes, outreach and support for further research.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The BSBCC was established as a not-for-profit organisation in Sabah in 2008. It is a joint project between sun bear researcher Siew Te Wong, **Land Empowerment Animals People (LEAP)**, the **Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD)** and the **Sabah Forestry Department (SFD)**.

The project consists of a two-stage effort to provide for the care, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and captive sun bears, as well as much-needed education and awareness for the species. The first stage of the project is to build a new bear rescue facility (BSBCC) to house and rehabilitate rescued bears in their natural habitat, and to build an affiliated visitor briefing area to provide education and awareness about these bears. The second stage of the project will involve identifying and setting up a forest release site for those captive bears that have been evaluated and found suitable for return to the wild. This stage will include initial surveys of protected forest areas, such as Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Deramakot Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Conservation Area and Ulu Segama-Malua Forest Reserve, to determine existing populations and carrying capacities as well as the protection status of potential release areas. Once an appropriate site is identified, a small facility consisting of large forest enclosures will be constructed to allow for short-term care of the bears during soft release back into the forest and to allow for post-release monitoring and research.

In 2007, an optimal site was chosen for the new BSBCC facility directly adjacent to the world-renowned **Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre (SOURC)** in Sandakan, Sabah, on the site of an existing older bear house and a former rhino enclosure provided by SWD, along with several hectares of adjacent forest provided to the project by the SFD. The new Centre will include large forest enclosures in existing primary forest in order to provide a natural environment better suited to the needs and welfare of the bears and to facilitate the rehabilitation, training and return of individuals to the wild. Sun bear mothers spend the first 2-3 years of their cub's life teaching survival skills. The Centre will aim to teach these skills to orphaned/ex-captive bears before they are reintroduced into the wild. The Centre also aims to provide critical outreach, information and educational materials about the sun bear to promote knowledge and awareness of this little known species locally, regionally and internationally, and serve as a base for continued sun bear research in Sabah.

Due to the severely overcrowded conditions for the captive bears prior to the initiation of the project, the construction of the Centre was divided into three phases to expedite completion of one new bear house and outdoor area. Phase I comprised the construction of a 20-bear house and fenced enclosures. Phase II includes the renovation of the existing bear building to include office space, a visitor briefing area and new bears holding area, and construction of a viewing platform and educational exhibits. Phase III entails the construction of a second bear house and fenced enclosures for 20 additional bears.

Funding for Phase I was secured in 2008, allowing planning and construction to commence in 2009. We are pleased to report that BSBCC achieved its first goal – Phase I construction was completed in 2010 and 12 bears were successfully moved from their old quarters to the new, state-of-the-art bear house and adjoining forest enclosures. This has allowed another nine bears to be accepted at the Centre, bringing the total number of bears at the end of 2010 to 21. All these bears finally have the chance to walk in the forest, dig in the soil, climb trees, feed on termites and do other things that bears do in the wild.

Fortunately, BSBCC's good work received recognition and support and in October 2010, the Malaysian Federal government agreed to accept an application for funding for the construction of Phases II and III, through SWD. Confirmation of this funding will be known in early 2011.

### **3. 2010 OPERATIONS**

#### **BSBCC Board of Directors**

Cynthia Ong and Wong Siew Te remained as BSBCC Directors during 2010. The Directorships of Mr. Fred Kugan, Deputy Director of SFD, and Mr. Augustine Tuuga, Deputy Director of SWD, were still in process.

#### **Meetings with Partners**

Throughout the year five meetings were held between partners LEAP, SFD and SWD, on January 21, March 5, May 21, September 8 and December 17, 2010.

#### **Staffing**

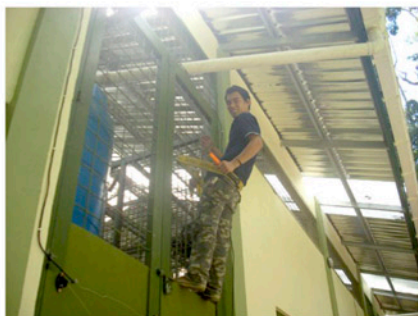
During 2010, Wong Siew Te, Founder and CEO of BSBCC, continued to write up his PhD in the U.S., while also giving presentations and interviews, raising funds for and overseeing operations at BSBCC. In addition, Wong spent two weeks in April at BSBCC to oversee the transfer of 12 bears from the old bear house to the new bear house. Wong completed his PhD obligations in the U.S. at the end of 2010 and will be returning to Sabah to manage the BSBCC on-site in February 2011.

On May 1, 2010, after two years of exceptional service to BSBCC, Ng Wai Pak was promoted from Acting Head Keeper to Acting Project Manager. Ng Wai Pak continued to train new staff, communicate with project partners and oversee upkeep of the existing and new bear houses and forest enclosures, while also being actively involved in all aspects of caring for and developing enrichment for the bears on-site. Wai Pak also was responsible for giving presentations to volunteer groups and visitors and overseeing animal care volunteers.

Animal Keeper David bin Tahir received a salary increase in May after one year of service. His responsibilities included preparing food, cleaning the bear cages and the BSBCC compound, and caring for the health and well-being of the bears. In May 2010, BSBCC hired Daniel Erikson bin

Majilir as an additional Animal Keeper. Daniel's duties include looking after the bears as well as maintenance of the hot-wiring and cages. Personal Accident Insurance was provided for staff at BSBCC beginning in July 2010.

BSBCC staff continued to be assisted in day-to-day tasks and operations by rangers from SOURC in 2010.



*Daniel at work fixing the hot-wiring.*

#### **4. BEARS**

2010 commenced with 12 bears at the Centre, with the number increasing to 21 by the end of the year. In early 2010, protocols and plans were developed to facilitate a smooth transition for the bears from the old bear house to the new bear house. In February 2010, the bears were moved into cages in the old bear house adjacent to the bears that they would be grouped with in the new facility so that they would become accustomed to the bears in their future groups. BSBCC staff continued to provide focused enrichment until the new bear house was completed in March. The bears were transferred to the new bear house and facility in April, 2010.

##### **Bear Transfer**

The 12 bears at the Centre were transferred into their new bear house and enclosures from April 3-8, 2010. The transfer was performed by a team headed by Wong and comprised of expert volunteers from Cambodia (Vuthy Chuon), the US (Maria Trenary), UK (Jane Taylor), Netherlands (Annemarie Weegenaar) and Australia (Audrey Low and Howard Jackson), with valuable assistance from resident Sepilok vet, Dr. Cecelia Boklin. A strict protocol was followed for sedation and performing health checks on each bear before being moved, and for monitoring after transfer.



*Transporting a sedated bear from the old bear house to the new facility.*





*Dr. Cecelia, Wong, Wai Pak, Maria and Annemarie checking a bear upon arrival in the new bear house.*



*"The Fellowship of the Sun Bear" from left to right: Wai Pak, SWD staff Elis, Rosli and Rufinah, Howard, Dr Cecelia, Audrey, Maria, Wong and Annemarie.*

The new bear house has spacious indoor cages equipped with raised nest baskets for sleeping and water basins for drinking. The bears adapted to their new indoor quarters very quickly, sniffing and tapping the floor and then exploring their nest boxes and drinking basins. Once they were acclimated, enrichment items were added to relieve boredom and to help develop climbing and foraging skills. The bears also were integrated quickly into three groups – two groups of females and one group of males.



*Female bears sharing a nest basket in new facility.*

As the bears became familiar with each other, some of the females were allowed to move between adjoining pens, thus increasing contact and stimulating social behavior.



*Female bears interacting and enjoying the challenge of getting into coconuts for food. (Photo: Mark Rusli)*

### **Electric Fence Training and Introduction to Forest Enclosures**

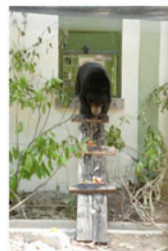
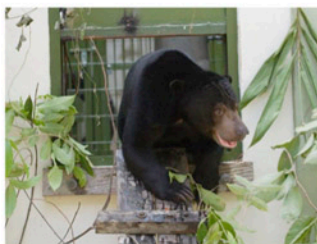
After transfer of the bears in April, rehabilitation began with introducing the bears to the hot-wiring in the training pen adjacent to the new bear house. Once the bears were accustomed to the fencing, doors to the enclosures were opened and each bear was encouraged to venture out into the forest enclosures.

There was a marked difference between individual bears, both in their reactions to the hot-wiring and their reactions to the outdoors, with adult male Om being the first to successfully venture out into the forest enclosure. By the end of the year, however, Om had yet to start climbing trees and he returned every night to his pen. In contrast, adult male Ah Chong, when allowed outside in the same enclosure as Om, remained there for two months including at night, before coming back to his pen in October and refusing to go out again!

As some of the bears were not comfortable venturing out into the large enclosures, a smaller fenced enclosure was constructed within one of the large enclosures to make the bears feel more secure in going outdoors. The bears were given the opportunity to explore this smaller enclosure to incrementally increase their confidence outdoors.

By December 2010, several females – Suria, Cerah, Lawa, Kuamut and Jelita – were released daily into a forest pen and graduated to roaming freely, confidently climbing trees.

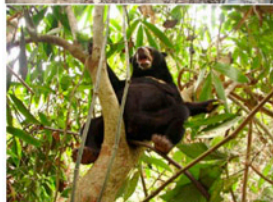
Introduction of the remaining bears to the outdoor enclosures is ongoing and will be continued in 2011.



*“One small step...” April 20, 2010: the momentous occasion of Om taking his first tentative steps out of captivity, with fruits to help lure him out of his pen...*



*“Dances with bears”... Wai Pak with Suria in the small training pen.*



*Suria relaxed and confident up a tree in the forest enclosure.*



*Ah Chong smelling the forest floor and digging the soil with his long curved claws This was the first time he had touched the soil and trees again after 12 years in captivity.*

### New Arrivals

After the transfer, nine new bears were brought to BSBCC by SWD from a variety of locations and conditions. These are summarized in the chart below:

DATE RECEIVED AT BSBCC	NAME OF BEAR	ORIGIN	SEX	AGE (Est.)	REMARKS
3/7/10	Julaini	Trapped in an oil palm estate in Keningau, sent to Lok Kawi Wildlife Park then sent to BSBCC	M	1.5 yrs	Placed in the new bear house but with no direct contact with the resident bears for one month.
3/7/10	Ah Lun	From SWD Tawau, then tp Lok Kawi Wildlife Park, and finally to BSBCC	F	1 yr	Placed in the new bear house but with no direct contact with the resident bears for one month.
10/7/10	Kudat	Private animal collection in Kudat	M	2 yrs	Surrendered to Wildlife Rescue Unit/SWD. Quarantined in old bear house
10/7/10	Panda	Private animal collection in Kudat	F	2 yrs	Surrendered to Wildlife Rescue Unit/SWD. Quarantined in old bear house
21/7/10	Gutuk	Private animal collection in Crocker Range, then Lok Kawi Wildlife Park		>15 yrs	Placed straight into new bear house as no quarantine necessary. (Was kept in Sepilok previously, and wasn't mixed with others bear during the time at Lok Kawi as blind)
21/7/10	Linggam	Lok Kawi Wildlife Park, Kota Kinabalu		6 yrs	Placed straight into new bear house as no quarantine necessary
21/7/10	Toby	Lok Kawi Wildlife Park, Kota Kinabalu	M	6 months	Placed in quarantine area as required special attention due to young age until transferred to new bear house in September
12/11/10	Rungus	Private animal collection in Kudat	F	Adult	Surrendered to Wildlife Rescue Unit/SWD. Quarantined in old bear house
23/12/10	Natalie	Lahad Datu. Surrendered by member of the public to SWD.	F	3-4 months	Handfed by BSBCC staff and kept in old bear house



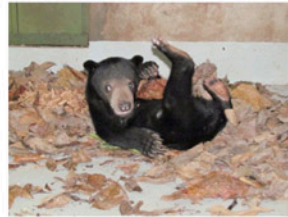
*Arrival of Rungus at BSBCC on November 12, 2010 – Wai Pak, David and Daniel lifting the cage.*



*Natalie enjoying the feel of grass after settling in at BSBCC.*



*Toby being bottle fed when he arrived and enjoying playing with leaves in the new bear house.*



All new bears were quarantined for at least one month, either in the old bear house or in individual pens in the new bear house, before being integrated with the resident bears in the new bear house.

### **Enrichment Activities**

As mentioned above, enrichment activities were continued for all bears throughout the year. Some of the most successful enrichment turned out to involve the clever placement of an enrichment device to require some acrobatics to reach. Durable materials such as coconuts, Kong balls and fire-hose also created the right level of challenge for the bears. The enrichment was designed to stimulate the bears' natural behaviours, such as having to climb and balance on branches to access beehives for their favourite honey, and skillful tongue-action to obtain treats hidden deep within holes and crevices.



*Adult female Manis with an ingenious enrichment device constructed by volunteers Amanda, Mark and Yuru. (Photo by Ong Say Lin)*



## 5. VOLUNTEERS

### Bear Action Teams (BATs) Volunteer Groups

The BATs (Bear Action Teams) programme continued to run successfully throughout 2010 with a total of 17 groups taking part, a slight increase from 14 groups in 2009. The main tasks for the groups during 2010 included clearing belian for re-use, creating the bear enclosure perimeter walkway, and building the access boardwalk and bridge.

In 2010, a requirement was added for groups to make a donation of RM2,000 per group to cover costs for materials and supervision, as well as to support the project. A net total of RM23,120 was received from BATs groups through these donations in 2010. The BATS programme has proved to be very popular and has been extended into 2011, with several more groups planned. BSBC would like to say a special thank you to all the young people who worked so hard to give the bears a new and better home!

#### Summary of BATs groups for 2010 (17 groups /238 individuals):

	NAME	DATES	AGE	NO. PAX	ACTIVITY
1.	Camps International	23-30 Jan.	18-19	11	Biogas Digester
2.	Raleigh 10A -1	7-26 Feb.	17-24	16	Access Boardwalk & bridge
3.	Raleigh 10A -2	28 Feb-19 Mar.	17-24	16	Access Boardwalk & bridge
4.	Raleigh 10A -3	21 Mar.- 8Apr.	17-24	16	Access Boardwalk & bridge
5.	Camps International	27 Apr - 6 May	18-22	15	Biogas Digester & access boardwalk
6.	Raleigh 10B	7-27 July	17-24	15	Access Boardwalk bridge, Perimeter Fencing
7.	Raleigh 10B	29 July- 17 Aug	17-24	15	Access Boardwalk bridge, Perimeter Fencing
8.	Raleigh 10B	19 Aug-6 Sept.	17-24	15	Access Boardwalk bridge, Perimeter Fencing
9.	Wilderness Expertise (Ockbrook School)	12-17 July	16-18	14	Gravel surfaces & Bear Pool
10.	World Challenge (Hutchesons & Emmanuel Schools)	19-23 July	16-18	15	Access Boardwalk & Perimeter Trail
11.	World Challenge (Riddlesdown Team 1)	30 July-2 Aug.	16-18	13	Landscaping & Perimeter Trail
12.	World Challenge (Individuals Team )	4-7 Aug.	16-18	17	Perimeter Clean Up, Steps & Trail
13.	Outlook Expeditions (Clifton College)	4-9 Aug.	14-18	10	Perimeter Clean Up, Steps & Trail
14.	Camps International	16-21 Oct.	24-47	5	Biogas digester
15.	Raleigh	16 Oct-4 Nov.	17-24	15	Access Boardwalk bridge, Perimeter Fencing
16.	Raleigh	6 Nov. – 25 Nov	17-24	15	Perimeter Fencing
17.	Raleigh	27 Nov. – 14 Dec.	17-24	15	Perimeter Fencing

### Individual Volunteers

Individual volunteers continued to play an important role at BSBC, assisting with enrichment, feeding and cleaning, as well as helping with marking of trees for identification in the forest enclosures and other tasks.

A total of 21 individual volunteers worked at BSBCC during 2010, up from seven in 2009. All volunteers were required to read and sign a copy of the BSBCC Volunteer Rules and Regulations and were given a detailed orientation and briefing as well as an introduction to sun bear behaviour, ecology and conservation.

**Individual Volunteers in 2010 (\*\*Assisted with transfer of bears to new bear house)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Ghita Seirup	Denmark	Jan 29 – Feb 12
Trine Reenberg	Denmark	Jan 29 – Feb 12
Kate Ruddock	Ireland	Feb 25 – March 11
Jason Hollis	USA	Feb 25 – March 11
Anna Cocker	UK	Feb 26 – March 16
Audrey Low**	Australia	March 25- April 27
Howard Jackson**	Australia	March 25- April 27
Maria Trenary**	USA	April 3-25
Vuthy Chuon**	Cambodia	April 4-11
Annemarie Weegenaar**	Netherlands	April 4-9
Jane Taylor	UK	April 11 - May 2
Ong Say Lin	Singapore	May 13- June 4
Boon Yuru	Singapore	May 13- June 4
Mark Rusli	Singapore	May 13- June 11
Amanda Tan	Singapore	May 21- June 11
Soh Chia Xi	Malaysia	June 6 - June 20
Tan Sze Kai	Malaysia	June 6- June 20
Ong Sian Siong	Malaysia	June 6- June 20
Dr Vicki Stokes	Australian	Sept 5 – Sept 19
Nadia Schweimler	German	Sept 16– Sept 22
Paul David Clenton	British	Dec 2 – Dec 19



*Raleigh BATs volunteers working on the Access Boardwalk bridge.*



*Wilderness Expertise volunteers collecting soil to level the ground under the new bear house.*



*World Challenge group handing over cheque to Wai Pak for their donation to BSBCC.*

## Practical Students

Four undergraduate veterinary technician practical students from Universiti Putra Malaysia also worked at BSBCC, spending six weeks helping with food preparation, husbandry, facility maintenance, enrichment activities and evaluation, behavioral monitoring, and bear health monitoring (faecal checking).

Name	Nationality	Duration
Mohd Shahfarullah Bin Mohd Saari	Malaysia	Nov 15 – Jan 2 2011
Awang Shahril Bin Awang Buntar	Malaysia	Nov 15 – Jan 2 2011
Florianjoe Nelson Johny	Malaysia	Nov 15 – Jan 2 2011
Ahmad Mustamin Bin Abdullah	Malaysia	Nov 15 – Jan 2 2011

## SOURC Travellers Worldwide Volunteer Program

Several volunteers from the Travellers Worldwide programme helped out at the BSBCC during their visit to SOURC. These volunteers assisted with husbandry, cleaning of the compound and cages, collecting leaves for enrichment and preparing bear food.

## 6. PERMITS

### Approval of Building Plans

Building Plans were amended and resubmitted to Majlis Perbandaran Sandakan (Sandakan Council) in April and September, and finally approved on September 28, 2010.

### Occupation Permits

BSBCC applied for two extensions of the existing Occupation Permit provided by SFD at the end of 2010, one to encompass the small area of land where the Observation Platform and its access trails will be located, (lying between the new bear house and forest enclosures and the edge of Sepilok Forest Reserve), and the second encompassing a larger area that will provide the forest enclosures for the second new bear house. In December 2010, boundaries for these two new areas were marked out and the amended Occupation Permit is expected in early 2011.

## 7. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Design Consultant Ian Hall and LEAP Biodiversity Project Manager Sylvia Yorath continued to oversee the development of Phase I at BSBCC, with Ng Wai Pak providing assistance on-site.

### Phase I Construction Progress

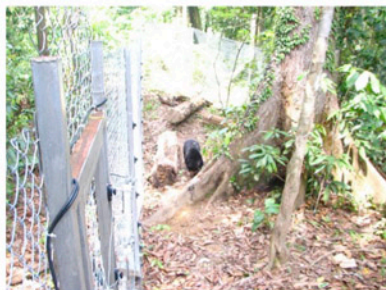
**Bear House.** The contractor Mee San completed construction on March 22, 2010, after several extensions of time granted due to bad weather and muddy site conditions. This was followed by a 6-month Defects Liability Period when some important modifications to both the interior and exterior of the building were carried out. Additional refinements were also made to certain items such as drainage of pens and pen sliding doors at the end of the year.



*The new bear house in April 2010 – state of the art facilities for 20 bears.*

**Fencing.** The chain link fencing between the four large and two small forest enclosures was completed by Mee San in September, creating a total area of 1.14 hectares of forest available to the bears. In August a large tree fell on the chain link fence between two of the pens, rendering them unusable for several weeks until repairs could be carried out. The existing belian (ironwood) fencing around the perimeter of the forest enclosures was upgraded by Mee San with the help of BATs groups volunteers who also cleared a small trail around the outside for use during maintenance.

**Hot-wiring.** Installation of the electric fencing or ‘hotwiring’ of the bear enclosures as well as the training pen was done by specialist contractor Dr Tan. After some initial problems, including the installation of an extra hotwire below the initial five strands to prevent bears digging underground, the electric fencing was functioning well by the end of the year.



Electric fencing surrounding the forest enclosures.

**Biogas Digester.** Further work was done on the biogas digester by BATs groups in 2010, however it was found that despite best efforts the biogas digester didn’t function properly and still leaked. As the second bear house design requires an extension of the first bear house over the biogas digester, a new biogas digester will be built according to a different design in another location on-site. The biogas digester will be used to turn bear dung into methane gas that can be used to cook the bears’ daily rice.

**Access Boardwalk.** Construction of the access boardwalk was conducted throughout 2010 by various BATs groups. Approximately 30% of the boardwalk, including a bridge, was completed by the end of the year. Discarded belian from the existing bear enclosure perimeter fence was re-used as much as possible. Work will continue on the boardwalk in 2011 and 2012.



**Tree Pruning and Cutting.** As the site of the new bear house and forest enclosures is inside the Sepilok Forest Reserve, assistance was sought from SFD to cut or prune a small number of trees deemed dangerous to the site or located too close to the new perimeter fencing, which might have allowed bears to escape on arboreal pathways.

**Utilities Connections.** The electricity supply was operational by August 2010. A back-up generator set was purchased and used in the meantime. Water was supplied to the new bear house from the water mains and rainwater was also collected in tanks.

### **Phases II and III**

Original drawings and plans for Phases II and III were amended slightly to increase the capacity of the visitor briefing area and the observation platform to 40 visitors, and to link the second new bear house to the first one so the food preparation area can be moved out of sight of the bears and can be used for both bear houses.

Design Development drawings were prepared in December 2010 and consultants for the project were proposed to Sabah Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment.

## **8. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Survey of Vegetation in Bear Enclosures**

In order to monitor the effect of the bears on the vegetation in the forest enclosures, identification of all trees over 5cm dbh (diameter at breast height) was carried out with the help of SFD staff. The initial survey revealed 469 individual trees from 35 families, of which 90 were from the family *Dipterocarpaceae*. The trees have been numbered and monitoring will continue with the help of individual volunteers at BSBCC.

### **Communications**

Three sets of two-way radios were purchased to enable staff to stay in contact in the various buildings. These have proved very useful already in the day-to-day operations of BSBCC.

## **9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

During 2010, funds for operational costs were raised largely through donations and grants both in the US and Malaysia (see Appendix 1). Phase I construction costs were covered by the funds raised in 2008-09. At the end of the year, a total of RM68,393.31 and US\$33,303.52 were available from Malaysian and US BSBCC accounts respectively to carry over to 2011.

A proposal for Phases II and III construction costs was submitted through SWD in 2009, and BSBCC received the good news in October 2010 that the Malaysian Federal government, under the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, had agreed to accept an application for this funding, up to a maximum of RM3 million, with the outcome being known in early 2011.

The funding requested would cover construction costs for:

- Observation Platform and trails
- Visitor briefing area (Reception and Display Area and Office and Toilets)

- Environmental Education hardware
- Renovation of the new bear holding area in the old bear house
- Second Bear House for 20 Bears and forest enclosures
- Access Boardwalk from the car park to BSBCC

## 10. PUBLIC AWARENESS & FUND RAISING

### Sun Bear Blog

The Bornean Sun Bear blog, [www.sunbears.wildlifedirect.org](http://www.sunbears.wildlifedirect.org), which was started by Wong in May 2008, continued to run successfully throughout 2010, receiving some 30,000 hits! Contributions to the blog were made by BATs team members and individual volunteers, as well as Wong Siew Te and Ng Wai Pak, and provided a lively and up-to-date chronicle of the developments at BSBCC. The blog also served as a means to spread information and awareness about sun bear conservation in general and wildlife trade and poaching in the region. Individual donations to BSBCC continued to be received through the blog site throughout 2010.

### You Tube Videos

Several new short videos were posted on You Tube and the wildlifedirect blog throughout 2010, including those showcasing Suria climbing high in a tree in her forest enclosure, Toby playing with enrichment materials in his pen in the new bear house, and adult males Ah Chong and Om in the forest enclosure. A short video was also produced by Howard Jackson and Audrey Low of Wildhoop Productions, Australia, featuring an interview with Wong and the transfer of the bears to the new bear house.

### Interviews

During 2010, Wong took part in two radio interviews in the US: Zoo Talkin' Radio, hosted by Sandra Dee Robinson and Jordal Schaul, aired on June 14, 2010, and "The Wildlife" Radio show hosted by Laurel Neme, on "The Radiator" 105.9 FM in Burlington, VT, USA, on May 17, 2010.

### Magazine Articles

Three articles covering Wong and his work were published in 2010: *Borneo bears get help from Montana alum*. Story by Hannah Ryan, October 1, 2010, Montana Kaimin, U.S.; *Captive bear news: highlighting professionals behind the scenes- Siew Te Wong, Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre*. Written by Jordan Schaul, International Bear News 19 (3): 29-31; and *Perspire to inspire: Man on mission*. Feature article written by Crystal Cha on the story of Wong Siew Te and his work to save sun bear in I.M Magazine, a popular Malaysian magazine, April, 2010.

### Presentations, Conferences & Workshops

During the year, Wong gave oral presentations on sun bears and BSBCC at The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Helena, MT, USA, on February 26, 2010 and at the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, USA on September 21, 2010. Ng Wai Pak gave a presentation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asian Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine in Kuala Lumpur on August 1, 2010, and attended the Asia For Animals Conference 2010 from January 15-19, 2010 in Singapore, as well as the 1st Southeast Asian Animal Enrichment and Training Workshop from 4-7 October 4-7, 2010, also in Singapore. (See Appendix 2).

## School activities



*Teacher Paul Clenton with his class in Taipei and their project on sun bears. Paul later worked as a volunteer at BSBCC.*

## Ursa Freedom Project

In 2010 the global action network Ursa Freedom Project made BSBCC its charity cause, with a goal to focus attention on the species and raise funds. Founded in 2009 by Jeanette McDermott, Ursa Freedom Project's mission is to collaborate with others to give voice to the world's bears through story and art.



*Annalisa Dione, a member of Ursa Freedom Project, knitted some charming sun bears as a way to raise funds for BSBCC, with 100% of the money received being donated to BSBCC. Each knitted bear came complete with a gift tag with an artist's statement and a story of a bear rescued by BSBCC.*

## BSBCC T-shirts

A total of 250 t-shirts (in four different colours with a sun bear motif designed by Japanese designers Rika Koreeda and Wakana Koike) were produced in the US and subsequently sold both in the US and in Malaysia.



*From left, Ian Hall, BSBCC Project Designer, Cynthia Ong, LEAP Director, Sylvia Yorath, LEAP BSBCC project manager, Chris Trunkfield, volunteer architect, and Ng Wai Pak, all wearing the Save the Sun Bears T-shirt.*

### **BSBCC Bandanas**

200 Bandanas (100 brown and 100 red) with a sun bear design were produced in Sabah and sold at BSBCC.

### **Filming Groups and TV Coverage**

Film coverage of BSBCC, taken in 2009 as part of a documentary on the Heart of Borneo, was shown on First German Television and the European Culture Chanel ARTE, in the second half of 2010.

### **Notable Visitors**

On August 17, 2010 the Australian Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AC visited the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, and made a stop at the BSBCC to see the new Centre.



*Australian Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AC with Sabah Minister of Tourism, Culture & Environment Datuk Masidi Manjun at BSBCC.*

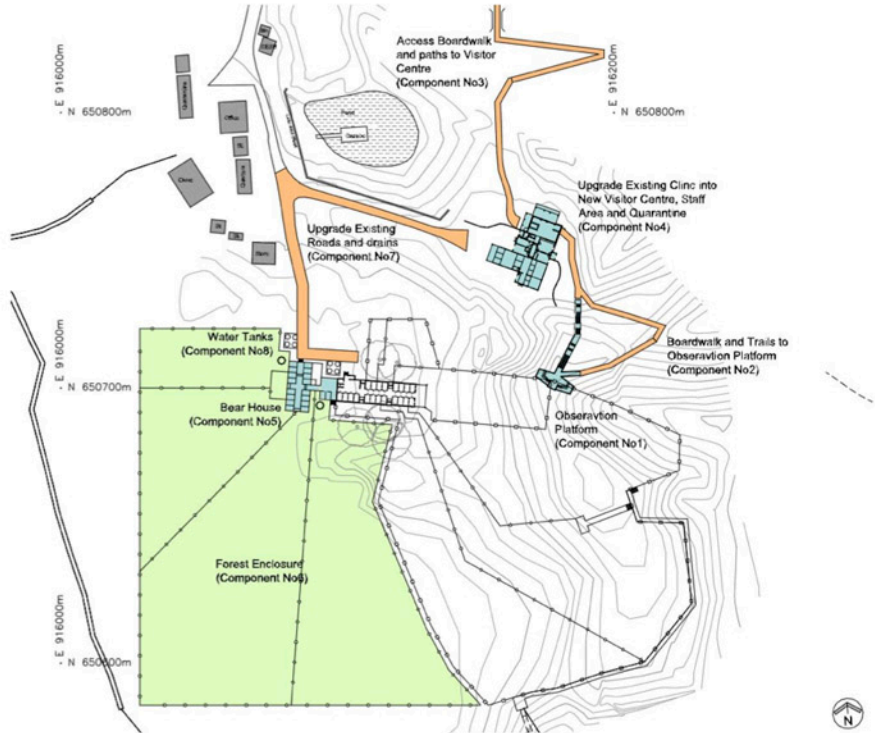
## **11. ACTIVITIES FOR 2011 and 2012**

Wong will return to BSBCC in mid-February 2011, to manage BSBCC full-time on-site. As well as overseeing construction, Wong will begin plans for the reintroduction stage of the project, which will include surveying potential release sites, recruiting field crews, and raising funds necessary for these activities. Additional studies also will be carried out on the bears currently at BSBCC in 2011, and staff will begin to develop on-site awareness and education activities and programmes.

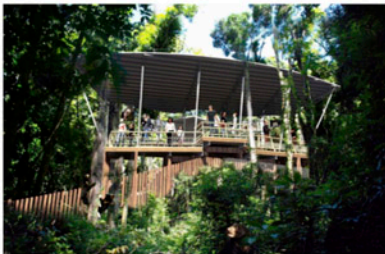
Construction activities will begin after the project consultants are confirmed and the tender process is carried out, and overseen by the SWD. Lessons learned during the construction of the first new bear house will be invaluable and will be applied during the construction of the second bear house.

Once Phases II and III are completed, BSBCC will be ready to open to the public and begin on-site visitor education and awareness programmes. In the meantime, BSBCC staff will continue to educate visitors and volunteers, as well as give presentations for groups and conferences, to promote awareness of the sun bear and the Centre.





Plan showing forthcoming construction of Phases II and III (blue) and new forest enclosures (green)



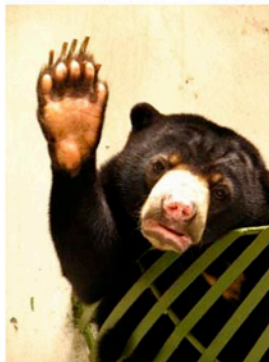
Conceptual perspectives of the observation platform for visitors to view sun bears.

## 12. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the organizations and individuals who donated funds and/or materials to the BSBCC or supported us in other ways in 2010.

We would especially like to thank again all of our volunteer groups and individual volunteers for their donations of time and materials to the Phase I construction as well as for care of the existing bears on-site in 2010. Your commitment to the cause of the bears is invaluable and we appreciate all you have done for the bears.

Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Forestry Department, Datuk Masidi Manjun, Dr. Laurentius Ambu, Datuk Sam Mannan, Cleveland Zoological Society, American Association of Zookeepers, AZA Bear TAG, Tabin Wildlife Holidays Sdn Bhd, The Shared Earth Foundation, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, East Bay Community Foundation, East Bay Zoological Society, Woodland Park Zoo Society, Wildlife Conservation Network, Wildlife Direct, Little Rock Zoo, Wild 4Ever, LUSH Cosmetics LLC, Network for Good, Spoon and Fork, Mee San Sdn Bhd, Borneo Veterinary Centre Sdn Bhd, Cheryl Grunbock and Martin King Foundation, Sun Bear Conservation Trust UK, Ursa Freedom Project, Arlene Hoffer, Brenton Head, Carl Rrohrer, Samara Lane, Sandra McLeod, Sonya Lee, Thorsten Bonn, Zeki Gunay, Kathleen Stewart, Lesley Small, Maria Alvarez, Rosa Osorio, Maria Trenary, Augustine Tuuga, Frederick Kugan, Dr. Sen Nathan, Dr. Cecilia Boklin, Dr. Lim Seik Ni, Sylvia Alsisto, Bob Hartley, Ian Hall, Billy Dunn, Chris Trunkfield, Paul Clenton, Mee San Sdn Bhd, Dr Tan Lye Huat, Dr Oii and Cindy Duong, Chan Teck Wai/David, Dr Vicki Stokes, Lindsey Hahn, Amir Yussof, Fina Yeung, Nancy Abraham, Caroline Gabel, Rika Koreeda, Wakana Koike, Jeanette McDermott, Charlie Hoare, all individual volunteers, all of the BATs volunteers, Raleigh Borneo, Camps International, World Challenge, Outlook Expeditions, Wilderness Expertise and Travellers Worldwide, and all the individuals who care about the bears and donated to BSBCC through the Wildlife Direct Blog, LEAP website and the BSBCC Facebook page.



THANK YOU ALL!

**APPENDIX 1: FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2010**

**BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE (Malaysian Accounts)  
STATEMENT OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE for 2010**

**FUNDS**

<b>Donations</b>		<b>RM</b>	<b>RM</b>
Received from	Date	Amount	
Tabin Wildlife Holidays Sdn Bhd	04-Feb	1,200.00	
Camp Borneo International	23-Feb	2,100.00	
West Lancashire County Scouts	23-Feb	5,211.20	
Sun Bears Trust UK	18-Mar	1,000.00	
Dr Ooi & Cindy Duong	23-Mar	4,750.00	
Chan Teck Wai, David	05-Apr	2,500.00	
Paul David Clenton	23-Aug	500.00	
Dr. Vicki Stokes	30-Sep	2,137.91	
Lindsey Hahn	23-Dec	<u>1,368.17</u>	
<b>Funds transferred from USA</b>			20,767.28
LEAP Inc	09-Jun	32,895.00	
LEAP Inc	14-Dec	<u>46,468.00</u>	
			79,363.00
<b>BATS</b>			
Raleigh Int Trust	19-Jul	4,000.00	
Wilderness Expertise Ockbrook School	18-Jul	1,300.00	
World Challenge Hucheson 19-23 Jul 10	08-Aug	2,000.00	
World Challenge Riddlesdown 30 Jul - 2 Aug 10	08-Aug	1,800.00	
World Challenge (individuals) 4-7 Aug 10	08-Aug	2,000.00	
Outlook Expeditions Clifton 4-8 Aug 10	08-Aug	2,000.00	
Ockbrook School GBP750	20-Aug	3,620.13	
World Challenge Iklestone & Park House	06-Sep	2,400.00	
BATS Raleigh	03-Nov	<u>4,000.00</u>	
			23,120.13
<b>T-shirts</b>			
Bob Hartley - BATS T shirts @ RM10 per T shirt	Dec	210.00	
Donations from Save the Bears T shirts		<u>2,970.00</u>	
			3,180.00
<b>For Staff Quarters from volunteers</b>			680.00
<b>Sales of bandanas less costs</b>			883.50
<b>Interest earned on term deposits</b>			2,638.90
<b>Refund on telephone deposit</b>			92.05
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>130,724.86</u>

**EXPENDITURE**

<b>Bear House</b>			
Phase 1			
building		256,495.92	
fencing		150,817.05	

road	51,000.00	
BATS supervision & materials	18,609.35	
design consultant/architect/QS fees	39,083.79	
equipment	<u>13,300.00</u>	
<b>Phase II</b>		
design consultant + travelling costs	<u>28,898.75</u>	
<b>Total bear house construction</b>		<u>558,204.86</u>
<b>Capital expenditure on office &amp; staff quarters</b>		<u>2,170.00</u>
<b>Operational expenses</b>		
Advertising	500.00	
Accounting fees Sept to Dec 09	1,380.00	
Bank charges	378.90	
Cleaning supplies	245.26	
Computer supplies	195.00	
Elect & Water	907.15	
Supplies for staff quarters	595.20	
General supplies	236.71	
Medical	334.00	
Insurance for staff	390.00	
Salary, EPF, SOCSO - Wai Pak + David+ Daniel	63,925.60	
Printing & stationery	44.80	
Professional fees	3,751.78	
Rental	1,800.00	
Repairs & maintenance	1,762.60	
Small tools & equipment	2,857.18	
Telephone & Courier	4,721.93	
Training & workshop fees	732.14	
Travelling & Meeting	5,975.78	
Uniform	314.00	
Vehicle running expenses	<u>7,277.24</u>	
		<u>98,325.27</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>658,700.13</u>
<b>Net expenditure over funds for 2010</b>		<u>- 527,975.27</u>
<b>Excess Unused Funds from 2009</b>		<u>596,368.58</u>
<b>Net Funds available for use in 2011</b>		<u>68,393.31</u>



<b>BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE (USA Accounts)</b>		
<b>STATEMENT OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE for 2010</b>		
<b>Grants &amp; Donations</b>		
	Received from	Amount
	Cleveland Zoological Society	3,000.00
	Wildlife Conservation Network	5,000.00
	American Association of Zookeepers	100.00
	Woodland Park Zoo Society	1,000.00
	Wild 4 Ever	1,000.00
	LUSH Cosmetics LLC	14,000.00
	Seaworld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund	10,000.00
	East Bay Community Foundation	1,000.00
	East Bay Zoological Society	1,650.00
	Wildlife Direct	2,912.00
	Network for Good	830.76
	Spoon & Fork	665.39
	Arlene Hoffer	1,000.00
	Brenton Head	344.50
	Carl Rohrer	100.00
	Kathleen Stewart	100.00
	Lesley Small	75.00
	Maria Alvarez	150.00
	Rika Koreeda	171.00
	Rosa Osorio	60.00
	Samara Lane	50.00
	Sandra McLeod	50.00
	Sonya Lee	60.00
	Thorsten Bonn	100.00
	Zeki Gunay	100.00
	14 individuals	385.00
	T shirt sales net of costs	313.07
	<b>Total Grants &amp; Donations</b>	<b>44,216.72</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
	CEO Salary - Wong ST (Jan - Dec)	18,000.00
	Bank charges & Paypal fees	127.48
	Postage	36.55
	Printing & other supplies	292.00
	Airfare for Wong ST (USA-Borneo-USA)	1,123.27
	T shirts sent to Borneo	754.38
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>20,333.68</b>
<b>Net Funds over Expenditure for 2010</b>		<b>23,883.04</b>
Excess Unused Funds from 2009		16,848.95
Funds Transferred to BSBCC Borneo from LEAP Inc.		
	09-Jun-10	- 10,000.00
	14-Dec-10	- 15,000.00
<b>Net Funds available for use in 2011</b>		<b>15,731.99</b>

## **APPENDIX 2: PRESENTATIONS ON SUN BEARS AND BSBCC IN 2010**

### **Oral Presentations by Wong Siew Te:**

*From the Temperate Zone to the Tropics – Sun Bear Research and Conservation from Montana to Borneo.* The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Helena, MT, US. Feb 26, 2010.

*Sun bear – past, present and future.* The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The University of Montana, US. September 21, 2010.

### **Oral Presentations by Ng Wai Pak:**

*The current status of sun bear in Malaysia and the future roles of Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre.* By Wong Siew Te and Ng Wai Pak. The 4th Meeting of the Asian Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. August 1, 2010.