

FREE THE BEARS

Free the Bears (FTB) are working to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of Bears throughout the world by offering a safe sanctuary for Bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade.

In 2022, Action for the Wild donated £7,000 to install solar powered lights and improve water sustainability at the Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary. This helps to alleviate concerns over security and water supply provision, through the purchase of solar-powered water pumps to recycle Bear pool water and reduce consumption during the dry season.

With 21 Bears rescued across Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in 2022 (many of them young cubs), work has continued on the development of new Bear houses, with Bear House 7 opening for a pair of Moon Bears, and building work commencing for Bear House 8 in order to house the rapidly-growing cubs in the nursery.

In 2022, more than 50 Bear health checks took place and FTB's animal care teams benefited from further training in animal welfare thanks to a joint programme with Wild Welfare. Programme managers from each sanctuary got together for a series of meetings on construction design, staff training and general strategy for the coming years, typically coinciding with the rescue of Bears in all three sanctuary countries; only the second time in FTB's history that they've had rescues in all three countries in the same week.

2022 saw a number of milestones in the fight to end the practice of Bear bile farming, with South Korea formally announcing a commitment to ending the practice by the end of 2025, and the number of rescued Bears in sanctuaries across Laos and Vietnam outnumbering the number of Bears remaining in bile farms for the first time in almost two decades.



**ACTION
FOR THE
WILD**

Charity No. 1105621