



# SUN BEAR

## Description

Sun Bears have very short, smooth fur that varies from black to grey. They get the name 'Sun Bear' from the yellow rising-sun-shaped patch on their chest. Sun Bears have very long, curved claws which are helpful in tree climbing and extracting food from logs.

## Diet

Sun Bears are **omnivores** and eat a range of fruit, eggs, honey, grubs, small mammals and shoots.

## In the wild

Very little is actually known about Sun Bears in the wild because they are difficult to track and observe. They are mostly nocturnal and spend the day sleeping and sunbathing in trees. Unlike other bears, Sun Bears do not hibernate. This is because food is available all year round.

## Threats

Habitat destruction and poaching are major threats to the Sun Bear. Bear paw soup is a delicacy in some Asian cultures. Restaurants keep the bears in small cages in cruel conditions and their paws are cut off to make the soup.

## At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo's Project Sun Bear campaign raised over \$330,000 to help build a new home at Perth Zoo for two rescued Sun Bears from Cambodia.

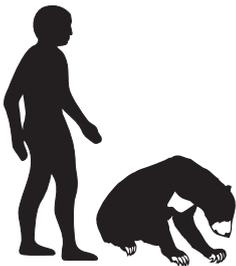
They can be seen in the **Asian Rainforest**.

**Scientific Name**  
*Helarctos malayanus*

**Other names**  
Malayan Sun Bear,  
Dog Bear, Honey Bear

### Conservation Status

Extinct
Extinct in the Wild
Critically Endangered
Endangered
<b>Vulnerable</b>
Near-Threatened
Least Concern
Data Deficient



**Length (nose to tail):** 1.1–1.4 m

**Weight:** 50–65 kg

**Gestation:** 96 days

**Number of young:** 1–3



**Distribution:** South-east Asia

**Habitat:** Tropical and lowland forest

## Did you know?

Sun Bears have a very long tongue that can protrude up to 25 cm. They use their tongue to extract grubs, honey and other food from holes and crevices. The bear will also put its paws into termites' nests. When the termites crawl onto the bear's paws, they are licked off.

