

Books and Bears

A new library at Free the Bears Fund's Cambodian sanctuary

A library is a place like no other. It's one of new-found knowledge, where words and pictures bring fresh discoveries. But it's also a place of acceptance, where all are given the chance to access information and learn something that may inspire the course of their day, or even life.

In 2010 and 2011, Free the Bears Fund Inc and the literacy initiative Project Matuto are working together in Cambodia to build such a place. Our hope is to establish a creative library with a particular purpose - to encourage the children of Cambodia to learn about and treasure the natural environment, so that they may be leaders of a thriving, naturally diverse country in the future.

This learning library, to be opened in January 2011, will be located at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, where Free the Bears manages its sanctuary for bears rescued from the illegal animal trade. Our aim is to create an engaging, interactive space for local and international children who visit the sanctuary to learn in a welcoming environment. Books about sustainability, animals and nature will be joined by other creative opportunities such as a drawing area and puppet corner, so that learning may come to life. Through encouraging fun, active learning, it is hoped visitors may understand that a true balance between local communities and the natural world can be achieved.

Our aim is to collect **600** books to launch the library's development, and we'd love if you could help us reach this target. We are also seeking drawings, paintings and poems about nature and bears to place on the library's walls, as messages of encouragement from Australians to our friends in Cambodia. If you have books or other resources you would like to give, please contact us at info@projectmatuto.com. Every contribution is a great gift that we truly appreciate!

To learn more about this initiative, please email us or visit Project Matuto at www.projectmatuto.com. We hope you'll join us in supporting a sustainable future for all in Cambodia.

Thank you.

The Project Matuto Team

