

## Tiger Conservation



The first cub to arrive at the monastery did not survive. Her name was Chao Payu (thunderstorm). When she was only a few months old, her mother was killed by poachers near the Thai-Burma border. The tiger cub was sold to a wealthy Bangkok resident who ordered her stuffed. A local hired to do the job botched it: although he injected her in the neck with the preservative formalin (and made incisions to the stomach) the cub survived.

The ailing cub arrived at the monastery in early 1999, and recovered. She made friends with a dog who became a surrogate mother. And to the monks, who respect all sentient beings as reincarnates, Chao Payu became a friend.

But in July 1999, she fell seriously ill with heart palpitations, and died. She was just seven months old. The abbot presided over last rites: she was buried under the auspicious Bothi tree of the monastery. Several weeks later, something miraculous happened: two healthy male tiger cubs, intercepted from poachers, were brought to the monastery. They were tiny—just a week old. The monks christened them Saifah (Thunder) and Payu Junior (Storm). Their story had a familiar ring to it: their mother was slaughtered by poachers near the Thai-Burma border.



A few months later, local villagers presented another two orphaned male cubs to the monastery. And soon after local border patrol police intercepted cubs held by poachers and contributed four female cubs, achieving tiger harmony. (Tiger area from the map is the number 6-7)

Currently the project of building a new home for the tigers on 30 rai (12 Acres) of the monastery land is underway. This "Tiger Island" will serve for tiger conservation and for studying their behavior. The cost of the project is at least 1 million baht. The monastery is lacking funds. Visitors wishing to help and make a donation, please contact the foundation office.

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### How to get there



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## Watpa Luangta Bua Yannasumpanno



### Tiger Temple



*"The monastery is not only for man.  
But for all animals who seek the peacefulness."*