

**IBA 2020 Elections
Candidate for Councillor
Lorraine Scotson**

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Since 2005, I have worked on reintroduction, human-bear conflict and population monitoring with Sun bears and Asiatic black bears in Southeast Asia. My PhD with the University of Minnesota predicted bear distribution, population trends and habitat connectivity at varying scales. I have advised Lao students in bear research, and trained rangers and students in bear surveys. I served six years with the Bear Specialist Group, including a term as the Sun bear Expert Team co-chair. I led the IUCN Red List Re-assessment and range map update for the Sun bear.

Presently, I work with the critically endangered Saola, a rare tropical bovid from deep in the heart of bear country in Lao PDR and Vietnam. In the last year I helped launch a US organization, the Saola Foundation for Annamite Mountains Conservation, dedicated to mobilizing in-situ components of the IUCN strategy to breed Saola in captivity.

The IBA was instrumental to my bear research and I have benefited from numerous grants. My interactions with the IBA network (family) fostered a deep sense of value in my research, providing inspiration, collaboration and expertise. I am running for Council because I would like to give back to the IBA and its members.

If elected, I will contribute energy and expertise to the IBA Council and strive to channel back the many benefits I have experienced from my time as an IBA member. I would seek opportunities to empower the next generation of bear researchers within Southeast Asia. Further, I believe my experiences in organizational development will be useful to the transition process the IBA are currently undergoing.

