



EARMARKED DONATIONS POLICY

SDB prefers donations to be made to our general fund wherever possible, because this allows us the flexibility to respond to the needs of our projects, which tend to be based on specific needs with pre-determined budgets and schedules. SDB's trustees discuss and assess incoming project proposals on a regular basis, and having access to a pool of unassigned funds enables us to support these with maximum flexibility, with the results that we describe on our project pages. We do not typically support the 'business as usual' or day to day running costs of projects, preferring to support new elements of projects in a way that enables them to grow and access other sources of income to sustain their operations.

We do occasionally run appeals to support money for specific projects, but in these cases we also use the funds raised to support specific proposals from those projects – in other words, we operate within a similarly responsive model under these circumstances.

That said, SDB does accept earmarked donations (money specified by the donor to be given for a specific use or to a specific recipient), provided the donation is to a recipient or project that is supported by Susila Dharma Britain as shown on the SDB website, and subject to certain provisos (see below). For other projects, donors should enquire direct to SDB and discuss whether we can accept a donation.

Specific conditions for earmarked donations:

1. We will not channel individual earmarked donations directly to the project one by one, but instead aggregate them with other donations and contributions from the general fund, and transfer these to the project together (subject to appropriate proposals from the project being submitted and approved within a year of the donation). As many of the projects we support are based overseas, we usually need to pay bank charges to effect international transfers of funds, which are fixed amounts rather than percentages of payments. Aggregating donations in this way enables us to minimise the percentage of donations that is lost to these charges. Aggregated donations will be transferred to projects as soon as the project in question makes a successful grant application to SDB, or, if there is no successful grant application, within a year.
2. We spend about 10-15% of our outgoings on administrative costs, fundraising and project monitoring and evaluation. We therefore make a deduction of 15% from any earmarked donations to cover these costs, so as not to unfairly increase the proportion of donations to the general fund used for these purposes.