

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | July 18, 2017  
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### **The trees are alive with the sound of siamangs *Zoo welcomes new female siamang***

SEATTLE- After a year of silence from the tree tops, the sweet duet of singing siamangs (gibbon species) returns. Woodland Park Zoo is excited to announce the arrival of Bagus (bah-GOOSE), a 23-year-old female siamang and new duet partner for Sam, the zoo's 30-year-old male siamang. Bagus arrived from Palm Beach Zoo in May.



Introductions between Sam and Bagus began a couple weeks ago in the indoor portion of the exhibit. "They immediately took to each other—grooming, playing and socializing. They're compatible and a great match," said Pat Maluy, a collection manager at Woodland Park Zoo.

"After our elderly female siamang, Briony, passed away last year, we worked closely with the coordinator of the Siamang Species Survival Plan (SSP) to locate an appropriate mate for Sam," said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "The SSP recommended Bagus who, at the time, was also a single female and in need of a new mate."

Bagus has one male offspring, Bahari, who currently resides at Nashville Zoo. Sam has not produced any offspring and is not expected to produce any with Bagus. "While Sam and Bagus could have offspring, the zoo does not expect them to because they are on the fringe of what is typically considered breeding age for their species," said Ramirez.

Siamangs form long-term monogamous bonds, relying on the companionship of one another long after they've stopped breeding. "Sam and Bagus were not paired through the SSP for breeding purposes but rather to find the right companion for two elderly siamangs," said Ramirez. "Bagus has traveled quite a long distance in order for these two solo apes to be part of a duet again. We're hopeful this will be a successful pairing and we can't wait for the sound of singing siamangs to return in the near future."

Sam and Bagus's exhibit is located near the François' langurs in the Trail of Vines. Currently, guests can see Sam and Bagus on exhibit in the indoor area; they will be able to see them in the outdoor area as soon as they're given access to it. "As guests observe Sam and Bagus together, they'll be able to tell them apart by size. Sam is bigger and has a longer arm span. Another distinguishable characteristic is Sam's habit of sucking on one of his big toes, which is a normal behavior for him as he was hand raised."

[Siamangs](#) are native to the island of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula and are the largest among the gibbon species (lesser ape). Of all the gibbon species, siamangs form the closest social ties within the family unit. Siamangs sing so loudly that it can be heard for up to 2 miles away. Singing communicates location between different family groups, establishes and maintains feeding area boundaries and is also for defensive posturing. It is believed that singing also helps form, maintain and further develop bonds between a mated pair.

Siamangs are endangered due to human overpopulation, logging, agriculture, and other human activities that are rapidly destroying forest environments required by siamangs and other gibbon species for their survival. Woodland Park Zoo participates in the [Woodland Park Zoo & Panthera's Malayan Tiger Conservation Project](#), which focuses on saving tigers, their forest and all the animals that live there, including siamangs. The zoo also supports the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' Ape Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). The goal of the Ape TAG Conservation Initiative is to increase the role of zoos in ape conservation by providing long-term, sustainable funding to ongoing field projects. Learn more about the Ape TAG and other Wildlife Survival Fund projects at <http://www.zoo.org/WSF>.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Free Wi-Fi is available for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco. For more information, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org).

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