

CAPTIVE BREEDING OF ENDANGERED GIBBONS. A.R. Mootnick¹. ¹Facility Director, International Center for Gibbon Studies, P.O. Box 800249, Santa Clarita, CA 91380.

Gibbons (*Hylobates*), an endangered, arboreal ape, are native to the dwindling rainforests of Southeast Asia. Although they have been housed in zoos since the 1700's, it was not until the late 1900's that they were cared for properly in captivity. The International Center for Gibbon Studies (ICGS) houses the second largest group of gibbons in North America. It is the only facility in the world devoted exclusively to the study, preservation, and propagation of gibbons through the establishment of secure captive gene pools in case attempts to preserve species or subspecies in the wild fail. Through our studies, we function as an international consultant to zoos, museums, governmental agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and individual scientists on the care, maintenance, and taxonomic identification of gibbons. One of our goals is to provide a captive haven for all gibbon species as a complement to their protection in the wild. We strongly support the conservation of gibbons in their natural habitat and have assisted four gibbon rehabilitation and rescue programs in Thailand. We welcome students and groups to visit ICGS for educational tours.