



What is a Gibbon?

Gibbons are endangered, small, arboreal apes distributed in the wild in tropical and subtropical rain forests of South and Southeast Asia. They are found in small populations in S. China, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Bangladesh, N.E. India, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia. One species, the Eastern black crested gibbon, *Nomascus* sp. cf. *n. nasutus*, is the rarest primate in the world. Gibbons are threatened primarily by loss of their forest habitat. Other factors contributing to their demise include poaching, illegal wildlife trade and the use of their body parts in traditional medicines.

Gibbons have long fascinated scientists and lay people because of their agility in the forest treetops. Gibbons are excellent brachiators (arm-swingers), and this is one reason they are so popular in zoos. In the wild, gibbons live in small groups consisting of a mated pair and their dependent offspring. The group occupies a territory, and they defend its boundaries by vigorous vocal and visual display. The vocal display consists of spectacular, birdlike duets between the mated pair, with the young occasionally joining in. This vocalization, or song, is audible for long distances and is the primary way scientists (and poachers) locate wild populations. This haunting melody has become part of the folklore of the indigenous people of SE Asia.

New analysis suggests that there may be as many as 13 gibbon species, whose coloration range from cream to brown, gray, and black. In some species the males and females have sex-specific coloration. The infants of some species are visually distinct from the adults.

NEW NAME

We are excited to announce that ICGS has begun the process of changing our name. We are now the Gibbon Conservation Center. Why? We want “Gibbon” to be the first word in our name, and we want our name to tell people what we do—conserve gibbons. We also hope this name will be easier for people to remember. We expect that the change will take a year to complete. In the meantime, all correspondence can still go to ICGS or the International Center for Gibbon Studies. Our staff, address, phone, fax, website and email remain the same.

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the Gibbon's Voice

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Rediscovery of the Eastern Black Crested Gibbon *Nomascus* sp. cf. *n. nasutus* in Vietnam

by Tilo Nadler

In November 1962, a crested gibbon aged around 12 to 15 months arrived at Tierpark Berlin, Germany. The park's former animal inspector had collected the animal in September 1962 in Vietnam and shipped it to Germany in a Polish freighter (Fischer 1966). This female gibbon, named Patzi, lived in Berlin Animal Park until she died in 1986. Her systematic classification was unquestioned until that time. According to the existing knowledge of the systematics and range of gibbons in Indochina, Fischer (1980) classified Patzi in the taxon *Hylobates* (*Nomascus*) *concolor concolor*.

Based on research of museum specimens of gibbons, Dao Van Tien (1983) concluded that three gibbon species existed in Vietnam: the white-cheeked gibbon, *Hylobates concolor leucogenys*, west of the Black River (Song Da); the nominate form of the black gibbon, *Hylobates concolor concolor*; between the Black and the Red Rivers (Song Hong); and another type of black gibbon between the Red River and the Gulf of Tonkin coast.

He called this type *Hylobates concolor hainanus*. This taxon was a type of crested gibbon that occurs on the Chinese island of Hainan, which lies next to the coast of Vietnam.

Dr. Dao's interpretation of crested gibbon taxonomy remained largely unrevised in subsequent years. Ma & Wang (1986) and Ma et al. (1988) did not differentiate between the black gibbons in the region, and placed them all in the species *Hylobates concolor concolor*.

However, differences in coat coloration and skull anatomy among the gibbon types in north Vietnam and on the Chinese island of Hainan, and Patzi in the animal park, who meanwhile died, led Thomas Geissmann (1989) to suspect that Patzi was one representative of a type of gibbon that had been described by Kunckel d'Hercule (1884) as *Hylobates nasutus*, which inhabited the area around the Gulf of Tonkin. The given origin of the animal in Berlin (surroundings of Hon Gai; Fischer 1966) and that of the type specimen *Hylobates nasutus* (Vung Ha Long) lie very close to one another and so may have led researchers to the mistaken assumption that the animals come from the same area.

Comparisons between the calls of the gibbons on Hainan and those of the animal in Berlin animal park, whose voice has been recorded and kept on tape, revealed clear differences (Geissmann 1996, 1997). These differences suggest that the



photo by T. Nadler

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gibbons in northeast Vietnam are not identical to those on the Chinese island of Hainan, but belong to a different group.

These discoveries led to a questioning of how many gibbons belong to this taxon, and in which parts of northeastern Vietnam they occurred. The proximate places of origin of both examples lie north of the Red River Delta and relatively near to the city of Hai Phong, which is densely populated. All formerly forested areas have been transformed into agricultural or pasture land and have for decades provided no habitat suitable for gibbons. Some hills have been reforested over the past couple of years, mostly with plantations of eucalyptus and acacia. Within the neighboring province of Guangxi in China, there is likewise evidence of the former occurrence of gibbons. According to Fooden et al. (1987), they became extinct in this province between 1950 and 1960.

There is scant evidence of this form of gibbon in Vietnam between the Red River and the Gulf of Tonkin. In only three areas (Vo Nhai District, Thai Nguyen Province; Tra Linh District, Cao Bang Province; Kim Hy Nature Reserve, Bac Kan Province) was the possible occurrence of gibbons suggested in the reports of local people and hunters (Geissmann et al. 2000). Many of these reports are, however, questionable or are sightings that occurred many years in the past. Follow-up investigations in these areas produced no further evidence (Geissmann & Vu Ngoc Thanh 1998; Ngo Van Tri & Lormee 2000; Phung Van Khoa & Lormee 2000; Tordoff et al. 2000). In five or six further areas for which there was evidence of the former occurrence of gibbons, the habitat is either so disturbed that it no longer provides suitable habitat for gibbons, or the species has most likely become extinct, as in, for example, Tam Dao National Park (Pham Nhat et al. 1998), in which Fischer apparently heard several groups of gibbons in 1965.



photo by T. Nadler

Habitat of Eastern black-crested gibbon in Cao Bang Province, Vietnam

At the beginning of 2002 Vietnamese biologists La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang located a gibbon group consisting of 8 animals while on a research expedition organized by Flora & Fauna International in the limestone mountain area of Trung Khanh District, close to the Chinese border in the province of Cao Bang.

A Frankfurt Zoological Society expedition with the project leader in Vietnam (TN), the Vietnamese biologist Trinh Dinh Hoang, and two villagers with knowledge of the area, was carried out between 29 May and 2 June 2002 and resulted in the identification of two gibbon groups. One group most probably included 8 animals and the other 6. The songs of calling animals were recorded and members of one group were photographed. The photos are most probably the first impressions made of animals of this taxon in their natural habitat. According to reports from villagers in the nearby village, the total population consists of about 20 to 22 animals.

This habitat area lies directly on the border with China, and possibly the border restrictions on human habitation and commercial logging have contributed to the preservation of the

area. Even visiting the area requires a very memorable permissions procedure.

In addition to the limited human incursion into the area, the typical forest species for this area dominated by steep limestone cliffs is also limited. Hunting with weapons is obviously very much restricted, due to the area's close proximity to the border and the strict weapons controls deriving from this. The extent of continuous forest is as yet unclear.

The final systematic placing of this gibbon type, especially in terms of defining it as a separate species or subspecies of the gibbons on the island of Hainan, has not yet taken place. It is necessary to carry out further research, in particular also using molecular genetics, to resolve this matter.

Summary

The occurrence of three gibbon types is known for North Vietnam: the white-cheeked gibbon, the black gibbon, and the eastern black gibbon. A female eastern black gibbon was kept at Tierpark Berlin, Germany between 1962 and 1986. Only a section of fur and three skulls of this species exist as museum material, and these were collected 40 years ago. Uncertain evidence of the occurrence of this type has come from three areas only, but so far this has not been confirmed. At the beginning of 2002, a population of this species was discovered close to the Chinese border, in Trung Khanh district, Cao Bang province. The systematic positioning of this type--as either a subspecies of the Hainan gibbon, or a separate species--has not been decisively clarified.

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Newly Published Paper

Alan Mootnick recently co-authored a manuscript on gibbon chromosomes. This manuscript compared the chromosomes of the 44-chromosome gibbons and discovered that morphological, cytogenetic, and molecular evidence provided enough information to argue for the differentiation of the three *H. agilis* subspecies; if not, *H. agilis albibarbis* should be elevated to the species levels, as suggested by Groves (2001).

Hirai H, Mootnick AR, Takenaka O, Suryobroto B, Mouri T, Kamanaka Y, Katoh A, Kimura N, Katoh A, Maeda N. Genetic mechanism and property of a whole-arm translocation (WAT) between chromosomes 8 and 9 of agile gibbons (*Hylobates agilis*). Chromosome Res. 11(1):37-50, 2003.

Birth Announcements**Fourth Javan Gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) Birth in the USA**

by Alan Mootnick and Patricia Dahle



photo by D. Guertin

Adult female Javan gibbon, Khusus, and her male infant born 27 Feb. 2002

We are pleased to announce the birth of Madena, a male Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), at our gibbon center on 27 February 2002. Madena is the fourth Javan gibbon born in the USA—all four were born here at GCC. In 2000 we imported a 5-year-old captive-bred female Javan gibbon named Khusus from the Perth Zoo in Western Australia. We

housed her with our 30-year-old male, Ushko, and within the first half hour of their introduction, Khusus embraced Ushko and kissed his chest. Madena is their first offspring. We are proud to have added a fourth Javan gibbon to the world's population.

There are only 10 Javan gibbons in the USA; all are here at our gibbon center. Worldwide there are only 3 institutions that house breeding pairs of Javan gibbons. Javan gibbons are one of the rarest of the 13 gibbon species. They are native to central and western Java (which is one of the most densely populated islands in the world), where they live in fragmented rain forests. The current census of the Javan gibbon in the wild is estimated to be less than 2,000 individuals.

Formation of Second Breeding Pair of Pileated Gibbons in the Western Hemisphere by Alan Mootnick and Patricia Dahle

On 5 January 2003 at 11 am, a female pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) was born to a newly introduced pair. The male, Mateas Binti, was born at our gibbon



photo by J. Ingle, Riverlight Productions

Female infant pileated gibbon, 4 hours old, born 5 Jan. 2003, with mother, Tuk

center on 1 September 1995, and the mother, Tuk, was born in Zoo Zurich on 26 June 1993. She is taking very good care of her infant, which we have named Lula.

We house seven of the 14 pileated gibbons housed in only three facilities in the Western Hemisphere. We also house another breeding pair of pileated gibbons and their two female offspring. There are only 11 captive breeding pairs of pileated gibbons known throughout the world. Because of the small captive gene pool, GCC is proud to have added another member to the world-wide census of this rare species. In their native habitat of Southeast Thailand, Western Cambodia, and Laos, the current estimate of pileated gibbons is 30,000.

Ode to Gibbons by Joshua Smith
(to be read with a Shakespearian-type accent)

Swinging from a tree,
Your arms so free,
So fluid the motion of thee.
Your fuzzy fur,
For a moment just a blur.
Now plopped down,
With your family all around.
I now count within my ken,
My little gibbon friends.
Someday I long for thee,
To be able to sing free,
Atop a tree,
Deep in the jungle,
Far from me.

Online Catalog

Please see our website at www.gibboncenter.org for a large catalog of gibbon and other primate-oriented gifts.

Alan's Travels in Asia by Alan Mootnick

In March 2002, I spent 3 weeks in Asia assisting zoos with the care of their captive gibbons. As always, life is going very quickly. I was hoping to have a week to prepare before I left for Asia, but instead had only 24 hours. Unfortunately, there was no time to sleep before I left. I only slept a few hours on the plane and arrived late in the evening in Malaysia. After 3 hours of sleep I went to breakfast with the veterinarians and curators at the National Zoo. At 10:00 AM, I gave a 1-hour slide presentation. That evening at dinner there were bets on how long I would be able to sit up without falling over.

I then went to Yogyakarta and Semarang in Central Java where I walked through the zoos with the staff, and later gave workshops. This is an area I have never visited before. I was very impressed with the care of the proboscis monkeys at the zoo in Yogyakarta. There are only three zoos in the world that are currently breeding this species, and it was wonderful to see that this zoo realizes the importance of having them away from public viewing, and also in large enclosures.

My travels then took me to Western Java where I identified all of the gibbons housed at Taman Safari, Indonesia. I gave a workshop to their staff on captive management, and went over the importance of setting up a breeding program for Javan gibbons at their zoo. A few days later I went to Jakarta to see the new Schmutzer Primate Center. Mrs. Schmutzer asked Dr. Willie Smits to ensure that what she left behind in her estate would benefit Indonesian animals. Dr. Smits built a primate center in Jakarta that includes gorillas and is also an education center. He created one of the nicest primate centers in the world on 30 acres in Jakarta. I was invited there to assist with the education program and the design of the enclosures. It was very enjoyable to spend two days there with architects, general contractors and primate caregivers, and to redesign the new primate center. Next, I went to the Ragunan Zoo, which is next door, and identified all of the gibbon species, which took 2 days. Once completed, I gave a workshop for the staff.

I returned to the US for a few weeks. Chanee (Aurelien Brule), founder and director of Kalaweit where the largest group of gibbons in the world live on the island of Kalimantan, and Kanako Tomisawa, secretariat of the Association for Asian Wildlife Conservation, Yokohama, Japan, came to our Gibbon Center to study our methods of caring for gibbons. Later, we spent 2 weeks giving slide presentations at zoos, attended an AZA Regional Conference and spoke at the Gibbon Species Survival Plan mid-year meeting.

In January 2003 I spent 3 weeks in Asia. My travels began in Singapore, where I attended the South East Asian Zoological Association Conference. I co-authored a paper about the confiscated gibbons in Taiwan that was presented by Ci Wen Yang. Then I participated in the Bekerja Bersama Untuk Solusi Berkelanjutan workshop in Bogor Java, which was sponsored by The Gibbon Foundation to coordinate their efforts. Later I went to the Bandung Zoo with Made Wedana, the Operational Manager of the Schmutzer Primate Center and founder of KONUS, and Dudung, the director of KONUS and Oktav, and we walked with some of the zoo staff and discussed the care of their gibbons. We later went to visit some potential Javan gibbon release sites in a higher elevation of W. Java. I was surprised how cold it was here where Javan gibbons once lived. Then I went to Bali, and inspected the Bali Zoo Park.

In March and April 2003 I spent 1 month in Asia. The first stop was in Taiwan where I assisted the zoos and a rescue center with the care of their gibbons and with species identification in order to prevent any hybridization if the gibbons reproduce while in their care. We drove from the north of Taiwan to the south and visited every zoo and rescue center. I then gave a workshop in Pingtung Animal Rescue Center.

Then I flew to Jakarta where I participated in the Indonesian

Wildlife Seminar held at the Schmutzer Primate Center concerning the future of all confiscated endangered wildlife in Indonesia. I feel it was a good step in the right direction. After that I went to Bandung and spent a day at KONUS and reviewed their wildlife educational program for children, which is excellent. We then drove to a tea plantation at a very high elevation. We surveyed some of the nearby forests to see if they would be good release sites, and some of them were.

Then I was off to Bali, where I had a very nice discussion with Profauna and encouraged them to carry on the good work that they were doing and to assist zoos with educational material. We talked about the fact that all animals need our help no matter where they are housed, and zoos are a good tool for educating the public.

Selected Notes from the Mid Year Gibbon Species Survival Plan (SSP) Meeting

by Jay Petersen – Gibbon SSP Coordinator

The Ape Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), which provides oversight and coordinates AZA Species Survival Programs (SSPs) for Apes, met at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago this past March. The Gibbon, Orangutan, Bonobo, Chimpanzee, and Gorilla SSPs are all represented by the Ape TAG. As part of these meetings each SSP often conducts a working meeting to address current issues and ongoing business.

The Gibbon SSP met on 13 and 14 March. Gibbon SSP Management group members in attendance were SSP Coordinator Jay Petersen, Brookfield Zoo; Vice Chair Jenny McNary, Los Angeles Zoo; Veterinary Advisor Dr. P. K. Robbins, Disney's Animal Kingdom; Husbandry Advisor Alan Mootnick, Gibbon Conservation Center (GCC); Nutritional Advisor Barb Lintzenich, Brookfield Zoo; Studbook Keeper for white-cheeked gibbons Alan Varsik, Santa Barbara Zoo; Studbook Keeper for white-handed gibbons Adrienne Whitely, Rosamond Gifford Zoo; Education Advisor Robin Funk, Brookfield Zoo; Lynne Villers, Indianapolis Zoo; Dusty Lombardi, Columbus Zoo; B. J. Schoeberl, Minnesota Zoo; Scott Carter, Detroit Zoo; SSP Secretary Barb Weber, Disney's Animal Kingdom as well as many institutional representatives to the Gibbon SSP.

Gibbon SSP Organizational Changes:

1) The Gibbon SSP manages multiple species of gibbons. In order to provide responsive and thorough management for each species it was suggested that studbook keepers and those tracking non-studbook species become primarily responsible for the ongoing management of their species. This management would include communication between each institution holding their species and the Gibbon SSP, especially related to breeding recommendations, population planning, pairing of animals, placing offspring, and responding to questions and needs. It was proposed and agreed upon that gibbon studbook keepers would become the primary contact for their studbook species. These species managers will be called Gibbon SSP Vice Coordinators in charge of their species as follows:
Adrienne Whitely – White-handed Gibbon Vice Coordinator
Alan Varsik – White-cheeked Gibbons Vice Coordinator
Cindy Kreider – Siamang Vice Coordinator
Jenny McNary – Golden-cheeked Gibbon Vice Coordinator
Alan Mootnick – Javan, Hoolock, Pileated, Agile & Mueller's Gibbon Vice Coordinator.

Vice Coordinators will respond to issues that come up during the year between master planning sessions. (In master planning sessions each coordinator together with the SSP Chair works with an AZA population manager to balance the sex and age distribution of the population, retain genetic diversity of the population and make breeding and transfer recommendations

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Gibbon Species Survival Plan Meeting continued from page 4

2) It was proposed and agreed upon that the Gibbon SSP will conduct joint master planning sessions for all gibbon species. We will try to schedule them annually. This will maximize the help we can provide each other at the time of master planning, will allow us to coordinate the use of gibbon management space more effectively and will allow us to make immediate decisions with a quorum of Gibbon SSP Management Group members present.

3) Management issues related to compromised maternal care and need for infant socialization continue to present themselves regularly in gibbon breeding programs. A timely and continued response is often needed in order to address these situations adequately.

It was proposed and approved to develop a husbandry advisory group, made up of volunteers with a broad range of experience and expertise related to mother/infant care situations. The following was outlined:

- A separate listserve or email distribution list to provide a focused response to the problems as they present themselves.
- The group's communication will include veterinary and nutritional input as needed.
- The advisory group will work towards providing proactive input to institutions with expected births.
- The group may create a research agenda for addressing causes of maternal care problems.
- Barb Weber from Disney's Animal Kingdom was nominated and approved as the Chair of the Mother/Infant Response Team.
- ASAP in 2003 Barb will define the group members, create a communication tree, propose the scope of the group, and create operating guidelines focused on creating effective response for current and expected mother/infant needs.

Husbandry Manual and Animal Welfare Standards:

The Animal Welfare Committee of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) has made it a priority to write standards of care and welfare of each SSP species. The Gibbon SSP is in the process of completing these standards as well as the process of completing a husbandry manual. These two documents are very similar in many respects although the husbandry manual is more extensive and does not have a defined template as the Animal Welfare Standards do. Scott Carter, an Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) member, and Randy Fulk, the Ape TAG Chair, recommended that the Gibbon SSP complete Gibbon Welfare Standards prior to completing the Gibbon Husbandry Manual. Alan Mootnick is providing input for many sections of the Gibbon Care Standards and the Husbandry Manual.

Education Update - Robin Funk:

- An Ape TAG website is being created for all ape taxa. The following information will be included on the website.
- Photos of animals
- Key conservation messages for gibbons
- Link for Regional (North American AZA institutions) Collection Plan (RCP)
- Species specific "hot topics" i.e confiscation/rehabilitation issues, Silvery Gibbon Project, field surveys...
- Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) conservation proposals
- Bibliography
- References to journals, books, other websites that the AZA would approve
- Field conservation projects currently being supported
- "TO SAVE A SPECIES" Curriculum: Brookfield Zoo has developed software and written curriculum for high school students. The Siamang studbook has been formatted into the software curriculum template to represent the Gibbon SSP. Students can explore the population database and can conduct

analyses on the siamang data. It encourages critical thinking and introduces conservation, breeding, and management of small populations. The software curriculum is currently available on Brookfield Zoo's website (www.brookfieldzoo.org) for Humboldt Penguins but not yet for siamangs. The education advisors are beginning to develop the written curriculum which complements the software component. When complete, the entire siamang curriculum will be available to interested institutions. Brookfield Zoo is also developing a middle school component to focus on exhibit design. This component may be formatted for siamang exhibits in the future.

Gibbon Nutrition Update – Barb Lintzenich

Barb Lintzenich, the SSP Nutrition Advisor, and Alan Mootnick, are writing nutrition related sections of the Gibbon Animal Welfare Standards and the nutrition section of the Gibbon Husbandry Manual. The Nutrition Section of the husbandry manual must be reviewed by the Nutritional Advisory Group (NAG). Barb will solicit comments on the draft from the Management Committee members prior to NAG review. Barb and Roy McClements, who is assisting her at Brookfield Zoo, need feedback from the Management Committee and IRs regarding nutritional issues and concerns so that they are sure to include important information useful to the Gibbon SSP.

The Nutrient Requirements for Non-Human Primates was recently updated and expanded (2nd Ed., 2003) (National Research Council, National Academy Press) www.NAP.edu.

Review of Gibbon SSP Acquisition/Disposition/Acquisition from the wild Policies:

The Gibbon SSP is drafting policies to guide AZA Member institutions and the Gibbon SSP in the ethical acquisition and placement of gibbons. This is a very important matter for SSP programs today. Populations of wild gibbons and the welfare of individual animals must be protected. Conservation programs must be supported and endangered gibbons species require special consideration. The proposed policies were reviewed and editorial comment was offered by all.

Gibbon SSP Management Space/Ape TAG Regional Collection Plan 2003

All gibbon species in AZA zoos and related organizations are cooperatively managed by the Gibbon SSP. White-cheeked gibbons, white-handed gibbons and siamang are the three AZA approved studbooks and are managed as SSP populations under the umbrella of the Gibbon SSP. All gibbon species effect space considerations and are included in the SSP planning process. Some species are managed for educational programs, and non-invasive studies, some are managed as a genetic reservoir for an endangered species, and some are no longer being bred in captivity to make room for other species.

In 2003 the Ape TAG is completing a Regional (North American AZA institutions) Collection Plan (RCP) which will include all SSP ape species. In the RCP, AZA institutions define their cooperative management goals. The word "Collection" refers to the groups that are managed rather than the act of collecting. The current status and the goals for each gibbon species will be reviewed and included in this Ape TAG RCP.

The SSP will survey all Gibbon SSP institutions in order to define the available gibbon space in all AZA institutions and its projection over the next 5 years. The survey will include current exhibit and holding space for gibbons, the numbers of gibbons held in each institution and expected changes over the next 5 years. Survey results will be included in the 2003 APE TAG RCP will assist the SSP in defining new population sizes for all managed species.

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Gibbon Species Survival Plan Meeting continued from page 5

The possibility of developing self sustaining SSP populations for Javan, pileated or hoolock gibbons was again discussed. It was recognized that increasing the size of these SSP populations of more endangered species of gibbons is difficult and will take a long time. The needs for a viable captive population recommended by AZA small population advisors were reviewed.

Questions were raised about the advisability of creating new populations given the difficulty of acquisition and the numbers of animals needed. The Gibbon Management Team was advised to use a decision making tool in the planning of programs. Decision making tools have been used by the Prosimian TAG in the development of long range plans. The goals of the SSP, what types of programs the SSP chooses to support and how the SSP allocates its limited resources are questions that will be addressed.

Global management of *Hylobates moloch* – the Javan gibbon:

A proposal was forwarded to the Gibbon SSP from the International Javan Gibbon Studbook Keeper, Leif Cocks at the Perth Zoo, and from Jocelyn Barker, the acting TAG/Species Coordinator for the Australasian Regional Association of Zoos and Aquaria, ARAZPA. Leif proposed a global management plan for the management of Javan gibbons and the institutions managing Javan gibbons outside of Indonesia: Perth Zoo, Gibbon Conservation Center (formerly International Center for Gibbon Studies), Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Munich, Howletts and Port Lympne. Leif Cocks would serve as the population manager for global management. The quorum of the Gibbon Management Group present voted to support global management of Javan gibbons. It was mentioned that written cosigned agreements outlining the operating agreements and procedures for conducting business in a globally managed program would probably be needed. A definition of interface with Indonesian conservators and conservation programs would be good. It had been mentioned in the original request that borrowing some of the structure from the International Golden Lion Tamarin Management Plan might be advisable. This agreement to move towards global management of Javan gibbons paves the way for more cooperative management between the currently involved institutions. Initially, several dispositions from Howletts to Taronga and GCC are expected to take place.

Gibbon Field Conservation/Range Country/In Situ Support.

Current recommendations for projects needing support were reviewed on the 13th and the 14th. Alan Mootnick and Jay Petersen represented the projects on the list:

- Silvery Gibbon Project: Dianne Gates email address SGP@silvery.org.au
- Javan gibbon captive management supported by BOS and Willie Smitts
- Konus, Conservation Center in Western Java working with Javan gibbons and other endangered primates
- Chanee Brule's Kulaweit Gibbon Rescue, Rehab, potential release, Kalimantan and Sumatra
- Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand – 3 Rescue Centers: Phuket Gibbon Rehabilitation Center and NARF of Thailand
- WildAid's involvement with land protection, confiscation of wildlife including *H. pileatus* and support/operation of rehab/release program
- Support for zoos in habitat countries for the care of confiscated *Bunopithecus*
- Surveys of local markets for gibbons or their remains
- Rehabilitation project for pileated gibbons - David Ware, Cambodia

- Support for supplies and staff at a gibbon reserve
- Support of the most endangered gibbon species: the eastern black-crested gibbon
- Cuc Phuong National Park (Northern) Vietnam for langurs, lorises and cheeked gibbons, called Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC)
- Ben Rawson's field study of *N. gabriellae* in Cambodia, has conservation aspects worth investigating. Ben Rawson's email: nomascus@yahoo.com.au
- Support of GCC programs
- Park and program support for gibbon habitat/conservation in Laos

It was proposed and approved to assign a subcommittee to compile, review and prioritize these projects for review and approval by the SSP Management Group. A recommended subcommittee was suggested to be SSP Field Conservation Advisor Lori Sheeran, Alan Mootnick, Jay Petersen, and Fred Swengle from the Minnesota Zoo. This committee will use the Gibbon SSP Field Conservation Guidelines written by Lori Sheeran, solicit project submissions and descriptions, evaluate projects based on the Field Conservation Guidelines and make recommendations to the Management Committee.

Gibbon SSP relationship with GCC (Gibbon Conservation Center):

Given Alan Mootnick's and GCC's long interest in gibbons, gibbon conservation and captive gibbon care, it was stated that the Gibbon SSP and GCC should work synergistically with each other as much as possible. Alan's long involvement and familiarity with Asia, gibbon programs and status in Asia, the time he spends in Asia each year, and his personal investment in gibbon care and conservation are all potential assets to the Gibbon SSP.

Alan reviewed work he has recently been doing in Asia. Selected comments are:

- Alan spoke about his continued visits to many S.E. Asian zoos in gibbon range countries. He provides husbandry advice that is very much needed. He provides a slide presentation to zoo staff about gibbon species identification, conservation and captive care. He has made many repeat visits to zoos. His continued presence seems to be a great stimulus for maintaining the husbandry improvements he recommends.
- Alan represented programs that are being developed for captive support of Javan gibbons.
- Alan discussed a meeting that was to be held in late March at the Schmutzer Primate Center in Java. At the meeting Indonesian conservators were planning to discuss the confiscation of illegally held wildlife. The triage decisions related to this huge endeavor were to be discussed.
- Alan reviewed current international gibbon studbooks:
 - *N. leucogenys*, *N. l. siki*, and *N. gabriellae* – Dr. Jean-Marc Lernoald in Mulhouse. No current studbook available
 - *H. pileatus* - Dr. Znigg in Zoo Zurich.. No current studbook available
 - *H. moloch* - Leif Cocks in Perth Zoo. There is a current studbook available online.

White-Handed Gibbon Master Planning:

AZA Population Management Center (PMC) small population advisors, Colleen Lynch and Sarah Long, assisted the Gibbon SSP and the White-Handed Gibbon Vice Coordinator, Adrienne Whiteley, in the initial stages of the master planning process for white-handed gibbons, *Hylobates lar*. Initial breeding recommendations were made. This process will continue over the next several months before final recommendations can be made to institutions housing white-handed gibbons. It had been recommended to not breed this population over the past several

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Gibbon Species Survival Plan Meeting continued from page 6

years due to the species' non-endangered status in the wild and its high numbers in captivity world wide. Due to the uncertainty of developing populations of rarer species of gibbons, it was decided to protect this stable population by resuming a breeding program.

Visitors

Included among our distinguished visitors in 2002 and 2003 were:

Photo by J. Travis



Donald Johanson, Institute of Human Origins, reaching toward Betty, a young gibbon.



Rick Thorley, from Bali Indonesia; Kanako Tomisawa, Secretariat, Association for Asian Wildlife Conservation, Japan; and Alan.



(back) Erin Moore, USC; Alan; Craig Stanford, USC; Dr Li Yiming, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science; (front) Gaelen, Marika and Adam Stanford-Moore



photo © Robert Avellan 2002

Alan and Chanee, Director and founder of Kalaweit



Hiro Hirai, Kyoto University, Japan; and Alan



Steve Romo, Cincinnati Zoo; Jeff Brisco, Los Angeles Zoo; and Leaha Brisco



Alan with Helena Fitch-Snyder, Loris Species Coordinator and Studbook Keeper; and Will Snyder



photo by J. Travis

Donald Johanson, Elizabeth Agnese and Alan

Facts about GCC

The Gibbon Conservation Center is a nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of these increasingly rare apes. Among the species housed at GCC are white-cheeked gibbon, *Nomascus l. leucogenys*; siamang, *Symphalangus syndactylus*; pileated gibbon, *Hylobates pileatus* and Javan or moloch gibbon, *H. moloch*.

GCC specializes in noninvasive behavioral studies on gibbons, conducted by students, scientists, and volunteers working at the center. Several mated pairs have produced offspring, making an important contribution to the world's captive gibbon population, both in terms of numbers and genetic diversity of the species. Offspring are housed at GCC in species-typical family units until they reach adulthood. At that time, they are removed from the family and housed with a mate, just as they would normally do in the wild. GCC also offers free advice to zoos, governmental agencies, and gibbon rescue centers throughout the world. A portion of donations are given to projects devoted to the conservation of wild gibbon populations, especially in Indonesia, India, China, and Vietnam.

Editor: Alan Mootnick
Assistant Editors: Patricia Dahle; Lori K. Sheeran, Ph.D.
Graphic Design: Patricia Dahle, Terry Olsen

Director's Corner by Alan Mootnick



Alan Mootnick

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of The Gibbon's Voice. Through this publication, we plan to emphasize the endangerment of gibbons, and their unique behavioral and ecological adaptations. This newsletter summarizes past and ongoing noninvasive behavioral studies at GCC. Each issue profiles current information on gibbons. All issues advertise opportunities at GCC and other venues. I hope you will consider subscribing to future volumes.

GIFTS

Have you thought about making a gift to GCC of real estate, stock, life insurance, a vehicle, or cash? Check with your tax accountant to see if this type of deduction is right for your tax situation. You may be able to save money on your taxes, and at the same time, make a huge difference in our ability to help the gibbons.

All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law. Federal tax exempt number is #95-4256306

Yes, I would like to make a donation to GCC. I have enclosed:

\$10* \$25** \$50*** \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$5000 Other _____

*Donation of \$10 or more includes 1 year subscription to newsletter.

** \$25 or more makes you eligible for our Membership Program. For information, check here. _____

*** \$50 or more makes you eligible for our Adopt A Gibbon program. Check here _____ for more information.

GCC also needs volunteers for feeding the gibbons, data collection and general maintenance. For information about volunteering, check here _____ or contact Deb Domres at gibbonvolunteers@earthlink.net, phone 303-584-0371 (9am-8pm Mtn.Time), see our website at www.gibboncenter.org, or write to us.

name _____ date _____

address, city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gibbon Conservation Center
 P.O. Box 800249
 Santa Clarita, CA 91380 USA

