



SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

Annual Report 2009

President's Report

This time of year always provides the opportunity for all of us to reflect on the achievements of the previous period. As with any volunteer organisation we are so often faced with frustrations and feeling like we just don't do enough. The reality remains that the future of Silvery Gibbons, as with so many endangered species, is grim in many respects.

It is however, the reflection on the positive steps forward we have made in the last 12 months that continue to give us some hope that we can turn things around and that the call of the Silvery Gibbons will be heard across the forests of Java for hundreds of years to come.

The past year has been highlighted by the progress towards the first release of Silvery Gibbons, scheduled for October 2009, the re-institution of the Mobile Education Unit and the continual development of the Javan Gibbon Centre.

We also had the opportunity to bring the JGC Manager to Perth Zoo and provided assistance to the development of conservation strategies for implementation by the Indonesian government and NGOs.

Overall, it seems that the conservation of this species is now much higher on the agenda of both the Indonesian government as well as our funding partners here in Australia which certainly enhances prospects of future conservation efforts.

Perth Zoo continues to provide enormous support both financially and strategically and it is anticipated that through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian government we will soon be able to make even greater contribution towards habitat and population protection projects in Java.

On the home front, the challenge continues to find new sources of funds and thanks to a dedicated committee and team of volunteers we have some very exciting fundraising initiatives on the horizon.

We hope that over the next 12 months, our efforts here in Australia can continue to supplement the great work being done by the dedicated team up in Java. It is both satisfying and rewarding to be providing support to such a great group of people who genuinely care about the preservation of species.

Until next year,

Clare Campbell



Javan Gibbon Centre

Progress has continued to be most impressive at the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC) in the last year. Now home to 31 gibbons, all but 6 of these have been successfully paired up in forest enclosures. Several pairs have been swapped around based on our recommendations after observations during our visits. It is hoped that successful breeding will occur amongst some of these pairs during the next year.

The JGC is now home to one complete family with an infant after they were recently transferred from Cikananga. These were the last remaining Silvery Gibbons at that rescue centre but had been left until the baby was big enough to be transferred.

SGP Committee members made 2 visits throughout the year. Clare was able to pop in for a brief visit after the November workshop and went up again with Kate O'Connell in January. This visit was supported by funding from Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action. The primary goals of that particular trip were to deliver an anaesthetic machine generously donated by funds from a docent as well as assist with enrichment programs, inspect the Pattiwel release site and meet with the Australian Ambassador and Javan Gibbon Foundation.

Right: Nuk and her baby in quarantine at JGC

Far right: Kate preparing anaesthetic machine

Below: Young male Saar enjoying enrichment activities



Delivery and Demonstration of Gaseous Anaesthetic Machine

Late in 2008, Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) received a very generous donation from a Perth Zoo docent to purchase a gaseous anaesthetic machine for use at the JGC (approximate value \$6000AU). This machine had previously been requested by JGC veterinary staff to assist with regular health checks and medical procedures on the gibbons. With the Centre now housing 31 gibbons and this number likely to substantially increase over the next few years this machine will allow for more controlled anaesthetics and for more complicated medical investigations and procedures to be conducted.



As Kate is both a veterinary nurse and primate keeper, she was able to successfully demonstrate the use of this particular machine to the JGC veterinarian (from Bogor Primate Centre) and her assistant. Due to personal circumstances the vet was only able to visit the JGC for a short period and as it was quite late on the day of her visit the PZ and JGC team were only able to do full check ups on 2 of the gibbons, Nakula and Cuplis.

Far Left: Conducting check up on Cuplis

Left: Weighing Cuplis before general anaesthetic.

Enrichment

During the February visit Kate and Clare were able to demonstrate some suitable enrichment activities for the gibbons and by involving the keepers in the preparation of these items were encouraging the continuation of these activities.



Above: preparing some novel enrichment items with the keepers and watching the gibbons enjoy!

Ambassador Meeting

During the visit we were given the opportunity to meet with the Australian Ambassador, Mr Bill Farmer. This meeting was arranged by JGF members to try and encourage even further support from the Australian Government for Javan Gibbon conservation initiatives. We were able to provide the Ambassador with a summary of activities to date as well as discuss plans for the future.

These kinds of meetings are vital to raising the profile of Javan Gibbons and raising greater awareness of the situation amongst both Indonesian and Australian officials.

Physical and Mental Health of Gibbons at JGC

The Javan Gibbon Centre currently houses 31 gibbons. The aim of the centre is to provide the greatest opportunity for rehabilitation for these ex pet gibbons, many of whom have been in captivity for a number of years before arriving at the centre. In order to be able to release gibbons we need to secure suitable habitat to sustain these gibbons in the wild. We also need to ensure that the gibbons are in suitable condition and have the appropriate skills to be able to survive in the wild. This means meeting both their physical and mental needs during their stay at the JGC.

Over the last two years almost all of the gibbons have been successfully paired, allowing them to live in a normal social structure. This is an important stage in gibbon rehabilitation but can be challenging for some individuals. The gibbons at the centre are not placed on contraception but rather given the opportunity to breed and establish family groups. Silvery gibbons historically have not bred easily in a captive environment but success in this area is certainly viewed as a reflection on their mental status and the provision of adequate enclosures and husbandry.

Two pairs of gibbons at the centre have suffered miscarriages in the last 6 months and whilst this has been disappointing it is certainly promising that they are capable of breeding.

The long term aim for gibbons at the Javan Gibbon Centre is that they will be suitable for release. However, the reality is that not all gibbons will be suitable for release. For those gibbons that this is unlikely they will still be paired and encouraged to breed with a view to reintroduction of their offspring into wild habitat.



Right: JGC Staff remove a pet gibbon from a local village

Nakula

Nakula is one of special cases at the JGC. He suffers from a variety of medical conditions however is able to move well in spite of his physical condition.

He has a good appetite and shows interest in enrichment activities. Nakula's physical condition has certainly improved overall but has been a little up and down over the last 12 months which is possibly the result of stress at being housed next to another gibbon. Nakula is certainly aggressive towards other gibbons and after our last visit we recommended he be housed alone in a larger enclosure close to the keeper house. These conditions would not be recommended for any gibbon capable of full rehabilitation for potential release, however due to Nakula's physical deformities we feel this is the most appropriate way to accommodate him.



Thanks to funding provided by IPPL we have been able to make special provisions for Nakula and we continue to monitor his quality of life closely.



Left: Nakula has spinal and foot deformities and minimal hair coverage, especially on legs.

Far Left: Nakula in his large forest enclosure

Visit to Perth Zoo by Javan Gibbon Centre Manager, February 2009

Thanks to funding from Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action Fund, JGC manager Anton Ario was able to come to Perth Zoo with Clare in early February on her return from Indonesia. The purpose of the week long trip was to allow Anton to observe some of the husbandry and veterinary practices employed here and hopefully allow for a transfer of knowledge between the two centres, particularly with respect to care of silvery gibbons. Anton enjoyed his time at Perth Zoo immensely and we hope that he gained many skills that will be applicable to the Javan Gibbon Centre. He primarily spent time on primate rounds but was also able to gain some experience in the vet department and Carnivore/Ungulate section and observe procedures and relocation of animals.

It was also an excellent opportunity for Anton to build a rapport with Perth Zoo staff who are currently involved in the project as well as those who have a keen interest in being involved in the future. We feel that education of staff is extremely beneficial and an ideal way for Perth Zoo and the Silvery Gibbon Project to make a positive contribution to conservation activities. We hope to be able to provide this opportunity to other JGC staff in the very near future.



While Anton was in Perth, we also had a visit from the Director of Conservation International in Indonesia, Dr Jatna Supriatna. Jatna has shared a long relationship with the Silvery Gibbon Project and with the Javan Gibbon Centre, and has authored a number of papers on the conservation of Silvery Gibbons. Clare met with Pak Jatna along with Perth Zoo's CEO, Susan Hunt and discussed ways in which Perth Zoo and SGP could continue to support the Javan Gibbon conservation programs. Pak Jatna highlighted a definite need for support in the area of education.

Following up from this, SGP was able to secure funding through Perth Zoo to ensure the re-institution of the JGC Mobile Education Unit. Further assistance will likely be required in future to ensure this important aspect of the project remains operational.

Right: Clare in Kings Park with Anton and Jatna

Above Right and Left: Anton enjoying time with some of Perth Zoo's animals.



Mobile Education Unit

The Silvery Gibbon Project helped fund a Mobile Conservation Education Unit (MCEU) in Java after securing \$10,000 AUD in funding through Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action fund. The MCEU, which has been operational since January 2003, is used to take conservation education programs out to local Javan schools and communities. The MCEU targets those in the vicinity of Silvery Gibbon habitats, particularly the communities surrounding the Gunung Gede Pangrango and Gunung Halimun-Salak National Parks.

The Education Unit aims to raise public awareness concerning the threats facing Silvery Gibbons and their habitat, and to encourage local residents to incorporate conservation in their daily activities. The Education Unit uses the characters of Moli, the Silvery gibbon, and Telsi, the Javan hawk eagle, to deliver their conservation message. It also organises wildlife films, stimulating discussions, interactive games, and provides a small library which is accessible to local groups.

The MCEU program consists of:

- Forest interpretation
- Educational films about flora and fauna
- Small mobile library
- Discussion and interactive quizzes on environmental issues
- Conservation and education interactive games.
- Leaflets and booklets
- Conservation music



Future efforts of the MCEU will also be directed towards delivering programs that school teachers can continue with throughout the year and in between visits.

The MCEU is managed locally by the Javan Gibbon Foundation and works closely with Conservation International Indonesia, which has generously provided a vehicle and multimedia support for the program.

The money provided by the Silvery Gibbon Project will help to keep this important program running by providing funding for materials (equipment, printing, etc), operational costs (fuel, logistics, instructors) and vehicle maintenance.

Javan Gibbon Workshop, November 2008

Clare was able to attend a workshop focusing on the development of Conservation strategies, held in Bogor in November 2008. The workshop was attended by Government officials, researchers and NGO's.

Clare was able to present a draft proposal for the Cooperative Global Management of Javan Gibbons. The idea was well received and further development of the concept occurred at a meeting in the UK in April 2009.



Right: Delegates at the Javan Gibbon Conservation Workshop.

Javan Gibbon Global Management Meeting, April 2009

Howlett's Wild Animal Park in the UK hosted an international meeting in April, bringing together all the relevant stakeholders to discuss the global management of Silvery Gibbons in zoos as well as strategies to develop greater links between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.

The meeting was attended by all major holders of this species as well as Indonesian Government representatives and NGO.s. Leif Cocks, Curator of Exotics at Perth Zoo and International Species Coordinator for Silvery Gibbons, was able to attend and present the proposal for a management structure similar to that implemented for Golden Lion Tamarins in the 1970.s. This model will not only allow for more effective cooperative management of this species internationally but also require considerable contribution to *in situ* conservation by zoos holding this species worldwide. This link to conservation in Java will bring welcome assistance to organizations such as the Javan Gibbon Foundation and the Silvery Gibbon Project.

Leif gave a presentation on the Silvery Gibbon Project to delegates during the meeting and provided information on current projects and future proposals. This was an excellent opportunity for the profile of SGP to be raised in the international community and we hope that the outcome of this meeting will help us to advance conservation efforts in Java as well as improve the management of this species in Zoos.

Visit by Dr Jane Goodall

During October 2008 we were excited to have a visit to Perth by world renowned primatologist and conservationist Dr Jane Goodall. Jane visited our Silvery family at the zoo and staff enjoyed the opportunity to chat with Jane.

Our Vice President Karen Payne was privileged to be selected as one of four scientists invited to appear on stage at the Perth Concert Hall with Dr Jane Goodall during her "Hope For Nature" lecture tour. This was a great opportunity for Karen to spread the word about gibbon conservation when she was able to give a short presentation on her involvement with Silvery Gibbons and SGP to an audience of approximately 800 people.



Above: Karen with Jane Goodall



Left: Perth Zoo Primate Crew with Jane Goodall.

Memberships and Adoptions

SGP's membership base continues to be quite steady, with around 170 members. Many of this year's renewals were members taking advantage of the discounted 3 year membership, which is a very pleasing trend.

We are always ready to welcome new members to the SGP and we do ask all our current members to encourage their supportive friends and colleagues to join up and 'Hear their Call'.

Dianne Gates, Memberships and Donations

The adoptions program is moving along well with 17 new adoptions received during the last financial year. The group of adoptees grew to 12 this year with the addition of handsome Mel and the mischievous young Saar.

With 31 gibbons now calling the Centre home, the adoptions program is an important project helping to provide much needed funds for the centre, and we thank everyone who has supported it so far.

Here's hoping 2009/2010 will see even more gibbons adopted.

Kate O'Connell,
Adoptions Co-ordinator



Above : Our newest adoptee, Mel Gibbon!

Business Plan

Another great achievement this year was the completion of our Business Plan. This document will allow us to present potential donors with clear and concise information in regards to the direction of our project and ways in which they may assist.

Thanks to Karen Payne for converting this document into a beautifully presented photo book.



Events

Silvery Gibbons Go **BINGO!**

at the South Perth Bowling Club

When	?	Friday	26 th	June
Doors	open	7 pm		
Games	Start	7:30 pm		
Entry	\$15	includes	Some	garden
drinks	At	club	prices	



Come and join us for a night of fun and fundraising!
Lots of prizes to be won. BYO snacks.

Call 0403 431 103 or email SGP@silvery.org.au to order your tickets today

Bingo Night

SGP held a Bingo Night on the 26th June. With the venue at full capacity, a great night was had by all. We managed to profit almost \$1000 from the evening and hope to host another Bingo event in June 2010. A big thanks to our caller Ian Crombie who made the night enjoyable and memorable for all!



Above Right: Ian Crombie, our excellent Bingo caller! Above left: SGP friends enjoying a game of Bingo.

Men of the Trees, Festival of the Trees, March 2009

The Silvery Gibbon Project again took part in the annual Festival of Trees; an event organised by Men of the Trees (MOTT) to promote environmental awareness in the general community. It was a great day for SGP members, who were able to talk to many people about our conservation work on Java, and the encouraging progress that has been made in the past twelve months. SGP also had a display, which included a range of Silvery Gibbon T-shirts, earrings and half-price calendars. It attracted considerable attention, and we were able to sell calendars and other merchandise, all of which will assist us in our on-going work in Java.

The SGP Committee are looking into other options for 2010, which will include providing a similar information stall at the South Perth Fiesta.

James Bond Movie Night

In November 2008, SGP hosted a movie night at the Windsor Theatre in Nedlands. Attendance was great and this once again proved to be a reasonably profitable activity for us.

Bullseye on the Road

This fun night of theatre and dance was hosted by the Rotary Club of Bentley-Curtin, who generously donated a percentage of the profits to SGP. Rotary continues to be an excellent supporter of our project and we look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Merchandise

SGP continued to do well with merchandise sales throughout the year. Our earrings continue to be extremely popular and thanks to Karen Payne, we were able to make considerable sales in the eastern states.

Treasurer's Report

The Association recorded a surplus of \$7,956 compared to last years deficit of \$41,508 . This figure signifies a reasonably comparable expenditure/ income. SGP has been able to primarily cover operational costs of the JGC through our own fund raising efforts with major grants from Perth Zoo, IPPL and Taronga giving us the capacity to extend our activities to habitat surveys, workshops and education programs. We received just over \$18, 000 in donations this year which was slightly up on last year and adoptions and earring sales also proved to be a great source of funds. Significant grants were also received from Perth Zoo, IPPL and Taronga foundation. SGP contributed a total of \$42,000 to the JGC this year which

was considerably higher than previous years. This included monies for habitat surveys, preparation of the release site and workshop expenses. As per previous years we were able to keep our travel expenses to a minimum thanks to assistance from Perth Zoo and self funded travel.

A very big thankyou to our treasurer Sharon Buckland. It is always a time consuming and tedious task doing the books and stock take at the end of the financial year and Sharon truly does an amazing job. Thanks also to Byfields accounting services for taking care of our annual audit.

Committee Report

The 2008 AGM was held on the 20th October in the Perth Zoo theatre . The following people were elected to committee;

President Clare Campbell
Vice President Karen Payne
Secretary Pam Willimott
Treasurer Sharon Buckland
General Member Deb Armstrong
General Member Dianne Gates
General Member Kate O.Connell
General Member Robin Stevens
General Member Holly Thompson

Future Planning

2009/2010 is shaping up to be a great year with many exciting projects on the horizon, both on the ground in Java as well as fundraising initiatives here in Perth. We are all greatly looking forward to the pending release of a pair of gibbons into Pattiwel forest. This is quite an historic event and certainly one that has been in the pipeline for many years. We hope that this experimental release proves successful and we will look forward to identifying suitable habitat for future releases.

On the home front, our members and friends will be very excited at the return of the SGP Art Auction, scheduled for October 2009. This much loved event has always generated large amount of income for SGP and we trust this years will be as successful as previous Art Auctions.

These kinds of events will be crucial to the progress of SGP over the coming years and we will also be continuing to seek further funding through donations and grants.

It is hoped that SGP will continue to maintain a great relationship with the Indonesian government and that we will be able to greatly assist in the implementation of the Conservation and Action strategy recently developed for this species.

Special Thanks

A huge thank you, first and foremost to the SGP Committee and their families. We have seen yet another productive year and it wouldn.t be possible without the assistance of everyone at our meetings and events. A special thank you to those of you involved in the administrative tasks including accounts, newsletters , memberships, adoptions, minutes, reports and grant applications. These tasks provide the back bone for any organisation, are often time consuming and difficult and can often go unnoticed.

I would also like to pass on special thanks to the following supporters of SGP;

Perth Zoo and Wildlife Conservation Action for their generous and ongoing support of the project. 2009/2010 is certainly looking to be a promising year and we thank WCA for the opportunity to take our project to a new level. As always, our MOU with Perth Zoo provides excellent opportunities for us to raise funds and hold functions at no cost to us.

International Primate Protection League (IPPL) and the Taronga Foundation and for their generous grants in support of our projects in Java.

Pauline Hansen and Apache Energy for their generous donation, allowing the purchase of an anaesthetic machine for the JGC.

Advanced Anaesthesia Specialists for their generous donation and assistance with the anaesthetic machine.

Perth Zoo Docent Association for their continued support to the project. The docents always provide great attendance to events and show a keen interest in our work. We truly appreciate your support.

Rotary clubs of Bentley Curtain and Belmont for their generous donations, interest and continued support of our project.

Byfields Accounting Services for their assistance with our yearly audit. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Leif Cocks for his continual guidance and support in developing the project. And for representing SGP at the Global management meeting in the UK.

Bill and Lyn Waterer. Bill and Lyn have continued to be most supportive of SGP and we look forward to continued joint efforts between AOP and SGP in coming years.

Dan Scarporolo. Dan has continued to assist with our website whilst we have tried, unsuccessfully, to find anyone to take on this role.

Suzy Greenway for the development of our kids pages to be up online soon!!

City Printing for their assistance with our newsletter, brochures, cards and calendars. Thanks to the team for your continued support.

Jeff and Ursula Beaton for their help with distributing emails and newsletters.

Karen Payne, Derek Smith, Kate O'Connell and Anton Ario for the use of their magnificent photos!

Thank you also to all of our members and supporters for their financial support throughout the year.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Javan Gibbon Foundation and especially to the dedicated staff at JGC for the commitment to providing the best care possible for the gibbons at the centre. Thanks must also go to Ibu Nana and her assistants for her continued work with veterinary procedures at the centre.