

The **SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends

We trust you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year period as we now make our way into 2011. Thank you all once again for your support throughout 2010.

In gibbon news we are excited to report that we have recently heard the call to once again provide some funding support for conservation efforts for the Critically Endangered Kloss Gibbon from the Mentawai Islands, Sumatra. Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) has partnered with Kalaweit and we look forward to hearing of progress on this important effort to conserve this species.

Of course we have continued to provide support and funding to the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC), and I am currently in Java exploring opportunities to implement the Global Co-operative Management Program activities. I have also had the opportunity to visit some of the partner projects supported by the Asian Rhino Project. Of particular interest was a visit to Ujung Kulon National Park on the Western tip of Java, also home to one of the more significant populations of Javan (Silvery) gibbon. This region presents an ideal opportunity for us to pool resources by partnering with rhino conservation groups in preserving this critical habitat. I was deeply impressed with the dedicated teams of RPU, and really hope we can implement a similar protection program for Javan (Silvery) gibbon populations in other areas, within the next year.

We are also looking forward to hosting two long-standing staff from the JGC at Perth Zoo later in February. We hope they will gain valuable experience from their time at the zoo and look forward to showing them a little bit of Australia!

Hope to see as many of our Perth based members at the upcoming walkathon on Sunday 6 March. For more information on this and other projects please visit our website or become a friend on the 'Silvery Gibbon' facebook page.

Take care

Clare Campbell
President, Silvery Gibbon Project

JOIN THE SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT TODAY,

**AND RECEIVE 15 MONTHS MEMBERSHIP
FOR THE COST OF 12 MONTHS**

If you are not a member, please, join today,
pay only \$30
and your membership will be current until the
end of June 2012

**REMEMBER, YOUR SUPPORT IS SAVING A
SPECIES**

**SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT IS
CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

**PS, SEND US A DONATION BEFORE
30 JUNE 2011**

**AND YOU CAN CLAIM THAT DONATION
THIS TAX YEAR**

WALKATHON – 6 MARCH 2011

The Silvery Gibbon Project has joined forces with the Australian Orangutan Project and the Asian Rhino Project again this year for the Walkathon for the Endangered Asian Animals.

The Walkathon is to be held on Sunday 6 March 2011 at Lake Monger Reserve, Wembley. Registrations will be open from 8am with the walk starting promptly from the Dodd Street Picnic Area commencing at 9am (refer map below).

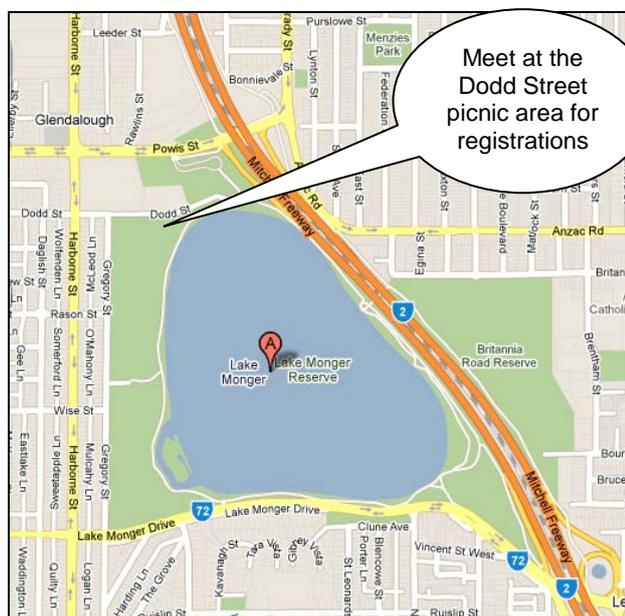
Help us make it an even bigger event this year by bringing your family and friends for the scenic 3.5km walk!

Seek out as many sponsors as you can for the 3.5km walk and be in the running to win great prizes! Download registration and sponsorship forms at www.silvery.org.au.

All funds raised will go directly towards the endangered Asian Rhinos, Silvery Gibbons and Sumatran Orangutans.

There will also be entertainment for the kids including a bouncy castle and face painting, a sausage sizzle, and each charity will be showcasing their terrific work! So help support Endangered Asian Animals on Sunday 6 March 2011.

Please contact Holly Thompson takeaction@y7mail.com or phone 0402001116 if you require any further information.



COMMITTEE PROFILE: CLARE CAMPBELL

Clare is Supervisor of Primates at Perth Zoo. After having worked with the Gibbons at the zoo, Clare joined Silvery Gibbon Project, was elected to the Committee around seven years ago, and became its President five years ago. Clare was born in Ballarat, Victoria. She came to Perth in 2000 after completing her Zoology and Marine biology degree in Queensland. She took a job at Perth Zoo, first working with Australian fauna, and then moved into the Primates section in 2001, where she was able to work with Silvery Gibbons.

"I was really fortunate to be given the opportunity to hand raise one of the Gibbons at the zoo whose mother had experienced difficulties. I developed a real appreciation and fascination of these creatures; and came to understand the serious plight that all gibbon species were in. It really bothered me that they get so much less attention than other apes, yet their numbers in the wild have even more seriously declined. My personal aim is to make Silvery gibbons the most protected and secure ape species in the wild; and I think we can achieve that".



Clare with Husband Michael visiting snow monkeys in Japan

Clare's hobbies (which have all taken a back seat while she is busy saving gibbons!) include music, motor sports and skiing. She has had an affinity with the natural world since she was very young and enjoys travelling and experiencing different environments and cultures.

"I always had a passion for wildlife, and concern for the way we treat animals and the environment. I wanted to make a difference. We have a responsibility to protect animals that are vulnerable".

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT SUPPORTS THE KLOSS GIBBON CONSERVATION PROJECT

At its first meeting of 2011, The Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) responded to a request by Chanee, Director of Kalaweit (a Gibbon Conservation Centre in Indonesia), for support of a new conservation program launched to protect the highly endangered Kloss gibbons. These gibbons are endemic to the Mentawai Islands, Indonesia. Numbers are now so low however, that without urgent intervention, extinction is a likely scenario.

The objectives of the conservation program are to end trade of the species, initiate a long-term breeding program, and reintroduce select individuals into the wild population on the Mentawai Islands to boost numbers and natural breeding capabilities. The breeding program will take place in Supayang, Sumatra, and is a collaborative effort by Kalaweit, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry and the Siberut National Park. It is the only conservation program for Kloss gibbons in the world.

Siberut National Park staff have stated that they intend to confiscate captive Kloss gibbons as part of its commitment to the program. Kalaweit currently owns a small area of land in Sumatra (8 hectares), but wish to commence building project facilities as soon as possible. An appeal was sent direct to SGP and the Committee at its January meeting, approved funds to support this urgent and immensely important program. Information on Kloss gibbons is available at: <http://chaneekalaweit.blogspot.com>

FOUR NEW SPECIES OF PRIMATE DISCOVERED IN 2010

In the second half of 2010, conservation researchers in different parts of the world identified four new species of primate; two in Asia (including a new species of crested gibbon), one in Madagascar and one in South America. These are respectively: the northern buffed-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus annamensis*) of mainland Southeast Asia; the Burmese Snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus strykeri*) of Northeast Myanmar, the Fork-marked lemur

(nomenclature not yet determined) of Northeast Madagascar, and the Caquetá Titi monkey (*Callicebus caquetensis*) in Southern Columbia. Details of their discoveries are outlined as follows.

The Northern Buffed-cheeked Gibbon

In September 2010 scientists from the German Primate Center (DPZ) in Göttingen announced the identification of a new species of gibbon: the northern buffed-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus annamensis*), distinguishing it from its near neighbour the yellow-crested gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*). The newly identified species occupies the high canopy of the Annamite Mountain forests of Central Vietnam, Southeast Laos and Northeast Cambodia. Researchers claim that subtle differences in colourisation and a distinctive vocalisation, together with genetic data derived from droppings, indicate that it is in fact a different species from the yellow-crested gibbons which live to the immediate south, and are separated by the Ba and Srepok rivers. This brings the number of species of crested gibbons to seven; spreading from Southern China, down through Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.



Endangered Primate Rescue Centre Vietnam. Pictures by Tilo Nadler

The males (above left), have a black pelt that shimmers silver in the sunlight, the chest is brownish and the cheeks are coloured deep gold-orange. The head crest is very prominent in males. Females (above right) are orange-beige in colour. The crest, so prominent in males, is absent in females.

Crested gibbons are (mostly) monogamous, pair-bonding primates. They are strongly territorial, live in small bands in the tree tops, and rarely descend to ground level. Their vocal calls or "songs", often a duet between a mated pair and sometimes their offspring, can be heard up to a kilometre away. The areas in which these songs

can be heard tends to define the territory in which the group live and forage.

"The discovery of a new species of ape is a minor sensation", says Christian Roos (DPZ). All species of gibbons, and crested gibbons in particular, are endangered. Their numbers are acutely low, and continued (illegal) hunting and deforestation practises increase the likelihood that some of these species may not survive the next few decades. Roos adds, "Knowledge of their biology and exact distributions is essential for effectively protecting the animals. Only if we know where which species is found and how many individuals there are can we start with serious conservation actions".

Burmese Snub-nosed Monkey

In October 2010, an international team of primate researchers (Thomas Geissmann, Ngwe Lwin, Saw Soe Aung, Thet Naing Aung, Zin Myo Aung, Tony Htin Hla, Mark Grindley, and Frank Momberg) published their research into a newly identified species of Snub-nosed monkey, living in the high altitudes of North Eastern Kachin State, North Eastern Myanmar (Burma).

In the American Journal of Primatology they announced that the Burmese Snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus strykeri*) is geographically isolated from other Snub-nosed monkeys by the Mekong and the Salween (Thanlwin) rivers. The next closest Snub-nosed species is located in the Yunnan Prince of Southern China. The species is chiefly diagnosed by visible features, such as its blackish colouration with white fur restricted to its ear tufts, white-bearded chin, and a particularly long tail - 40% longer than its combined head and body length in adult males.

Preliminary surveys, combined with interviews with local hunters, indicate that the species dwells solely within Maw River region, extending only 270km² (that's 10km x 27km or less than the area of the Eastern suburbs of Perth). The entire population appears to consist of three groupings, collectively no more than 260–330 individuals. They remain the target of forest hunters, and are considered to be Critically Endangered. The only available photo – of a killed individual held up by hunters – is not included here.

Fork-marked Lemur

In mid December 2010, Conservation International (CI), together with BBC's Natural History Unit, announced a new species of fork-marked lemur dwelling in the dry forests of Madagascar. This makes the fifth species of the genus *Phaner*. It is the 42nd species of lemur to be discovered in the past ten years, all of which occupy particular areas within the forests of Madagascar. In total there are over 100 species of lemur. This newly identified lemur is the size of a squirrel, has large feet and an elongated tongue. It is similar to other *Phaner* lemurs, but genetic testing currently underway is expected to confirm that this is indeed a new species.

The renowned primatologist and President of CI Dr Russ Mittermeier, located the lemur back in 1995 in the Daraina region in the North East of the island. "I was surprised to see a fork-marked lemur there, since this animal had not yet been recorded from the region. I immediately knew that it was likely a new species to science, but didn't have the time to follow up until now," he said.



"This is yet another remarkable discovery from the island of Madagascar, the world's highest priority biodiversity hotspot and one of the most extraordinary places in our planet. Protection of Madagascar's remaining natural forests should be considered one of the

world's highest conservation priorities," states Mittermeier. "These forests are home to an incredible array of species that are a true global heritage, and also provide an incalculable array of benefits to local communities in the form of clean water, foods and fibres, and other ecosystem services".

Caquetá Titi Monkey

Researchers from the National University of Colombia observed 13 groups of tiny Titi monkeys deep in the Amazon, which they have named the Caquetá Titi monkey (*Callicebus*

caquetensis), because it was found in the Southern Columbian state of Caquetá. "It's a spectacular finding," says noted primate expert Jeffrey French of the University of Nebraska.



The new species of Titi monkey is the size of a small cat, has reddish to greyish-brown fur but lacks white hands and feet and the white bar on the forehead which is a feature of other Titi monkeys. They live in small foraging groups of 4 to 6 in dense lowland tropical forests, eating fruits, leaves, flowers and invertebrates. They are monogamous, and pairing couples have a single offspring each year. It is situated South of the Río Orteguzaza to North of the Río Caquetá. Researchers say that this very rare monkey has a range of no more than 100 square kilometres, of which it probably occupies only a tiny fraction.

The tiny Titi monkeys play an important environmental role by dispersing seeds and pollinating plants which assists the regeneration of forests. Felling of forests for agricultural development presents its greatest threat.

The discovery was announced by Conservation International in October 2010, which provided funding for research in remote rain forests. The research team, which included Professors Thomas Defler and Marta Bueno and student Javier Garcia, visited Caquetá in 2008. They acknowledge, however, that some three decades earlier the animal behaviourist Martin Moynihan was the first to record his observations of the species.

The new species is clinging to its existence. With as few as 250 individuals its chances of survival are perilous. Juan Mayer, a former Colombian environment minister, said that due to deforestation, "huge efforts will have to be made to protect the creature's habitat".

Collectively, these new discoveries demonstrate the extraordinary diversity of species still dwelling in the forests of the earth, and have been encouraging signs in conservation and biological science. At the same time they highlight the severe impacts environmental degradation is having on species throughout the world.

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