

The SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends

Thank you for your continued support of the Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP). In our 20th year it is with some sadness that we will be saying goodbye to the founder and past President Dianne Gates who is making the big move to Queensland for new adventures. I know that everyone would agree that Di has worked tirelessly for the gibbons over the years and I am sure she will maintain a keen interest and no doubt round up a few members in the east! I would personally like to thank Di for her mentorship over the years and I know that we will all keep on working hard for the conservation of gibbons. We wish Di and her partner all the very best!

I would like to officially welcome Jeff Beaton to the SGP team. Jeff has taken on the role of Memberships Officer. Thanks Jeff!! Many of you will be hearing from Jeff shortly as we have made some changes to our membership structure.

We will also soon be offering new and improved gibbon adoptions so stay tuned to the website and facebook page for regular updates.

SGP Vice President Karen and her partner recently welcomed baby Jacob into the world in July, all be it a little early! Congratulations to you both and we look forward to watching him grow into a keen little conservationist.

SGP recently received an update on the Kalaweit Klosses Gibbon Project which is progressing well. We hope to be able to provide some ongoing support for this project and a full report will be included in the next edition of our newsletter.

In some other good 'gibbon news' recently, a reasonable sized population of Northern White-Cheeked gibbons were discovered in Phu Mat National Park in Vietnam. Approximately 10 times larger than previously anticipated, this population represents the last stronghold for this species. Sadly, a major road is scheduled to be built right through this park which will place this population at enormous risk.

I will be attending the Global Co-operative Management Program committee meeting in Indonesia in September and look forward to further development of the program. The meeting will be held at the recently completed Java Primate Rescue Centre funded by the Aspinall Foundation so it will be a great opportunity to visit this facility. We are hopeful that one outcome of the meeting will be finalisation of logistics for the employment of an Indonesian based Project Manager which should assist us to move forward with conservation actions. I am also hoping to visit some potential reintroduction sites whilst in Java.

I look forward to providing an update on these activities in the next edition and hope to see you at our AGM in October.

Take care

Clare Campbell
President, Silvery Gibbon Project

Silvery Gibbon Project
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 29 October 2011
Perth Zoo Theatre
2pm
Mark this date in your diary
Further details to come.

COMMITTEE PROFILE: HOLLY THOMPSON

Holly was born and bred in Perth by British parents. Having lived here while she was growing up she also travelled and lived extensively around the world, including America, UK, South-East Asia and Europe, especially in Switzerland, her second home, where her passion to work with animals took off.

Visiting zoos from an early age and collecting information on an array of species and researching them, Holly set off on the path of working with exotic animals. After being told at school by an 'advisor' that she would find it 'too hard' to get a job at Perth Zoo, she set her sights on this goal. She started volunteering with native species data collecting through CALM, and at Murdoch University in the equine veterinary department. Holly went on to study Conservation and Wildlife Biology in 2001, which helped her get work experience commencing at Perth Zoo in January 2002. She started her first contract at the zoo in September 2002, and is now coming up to her ninth year as an Exotic Mammals Perth Zoo has to offer, including rhinos, giraffes, red pandas, big cats, otters, orangutans and those closest to her heart the gibbons.



Holly in Japan

Holly joined Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) and later became a committee member. SGP founder Dianne Gates visited Holly in 2003 before she went to Zurich Zoo in Switzerland for a month's work experience. Di gave Holly lots of information regarding Silvery Gibbons to pass on to the keepers at Zurich Zoo. Holly is now the senior gibbon keeper at Perth Zoo and is also the studbook keeper for Silvery Gibbons.

Holly travels to the Javan Gibbon Centre in Indonesia to assist with in-situ conservation. She states, "Zoos hold their purpose but the main way to conserve a species is in their natural

habitat". Holly's passion has grown towards this goal, helping in any way she can to raise awareness about the plight of the Silvery Gibbon and all Gibbon species, and what people can do to help.

As she says, "The Gibbon is the most loving and charismatic animal. There is so much that is endearing and special about them. Everyone can make a difference no matter how big or small."

RARE SPECIES OF GIBBON FOUND IN NORTHERN VIETNAM

Conservation International (CI) researchers have recently located 130 small groups of the rare Northern White-cheeked Gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*) in the high altitudes of Pù Mát National Park in north-central Vietnam. Numbering 445 individuals in total, this is an exciting find and improves the chances of survival of this critically endangered species. CI president Dr Russell Mittermeier states:

"All of the world's 25 different gibbons are threatened, and none more so than the Indochinese crested gibbons, eight of which, including the Northern White-cheeked Gibbon, are now on the brink of extinction. This is an extraordinarily significant find and underscores the immense importance of protected areas in providing the last refuges for the region's decimated wildlife".

These small groups of Northern White-cheeked Gibbons may be the only viable population of the species in the wild. They are believed to continue to exist in neighbouring Laos, but lack of research there cannot confirm one way or the other. They also exist in southern China but it is now believed that they are all but extinct. The few remaining individuals are no longer a viable population.

These recently discovered groups in Vietnam live in the forest canopy of the high slopes of the Pù Mát National Park, located in Nghệ An Province. Pù Mát means "high slopes" and has been for ten years a World Biosphere Reserve, the largest in Southeast Asia. The very location and relative isolation of the gibbons has protected them. However, now with increasing logging into the region and consequently more expansive

hunting, their future may no longer be secure. CI have requested increased patrols to protect the area from poachers and illegal logging activities.



*Photographs by Terry Whittaker
(Conservation International)*

Primatologist Luu Tuong Bach, who led the field surveys of the research project for CI, says the species is a "highly territorial species, so if they mate together to make a family and you hear them this morning, the next day you may hear them in the same area, or very close".

Northern White-cheeked Gibbons have specialised wrist joints and powerful arm muscles allowing them to swing from tree to tree with ease. They eat leaves, fruits and insects, build nests in the evenings to sleep and only rarely descend to the forest floor, where they are more vulnerable. Like other gibbons they pair for life and have intimate social bonds, including serenading their partners with song. Gibbons are also territorial and use song to communicate their boundaries with loud, elaborate, prolonged

vocalizations. It was the discovery of these distinctive morning calls in the remote parts of the forest that researchers were able to track them. By recording their songs, information was gathered on the gibbon groups and used to determine group numbers across the park.

Research was carried out by CI in collaboration with park staff, and support from Fauna & Flora International, Arcus Foundation and Sprague-Nowak SE Asia Biodiversity Initiative. Dr Ben Rawson, a regional primate expert for Conservation International, who has led the gibbon research project stated,

"The fact that we are excited about the discovery of only 130 groups of Northern White-cheeked Crested Gibbons is indicative of the state of this species and crested gibbons generally; they are some of the most endangered species in the world. It's important to remember though that conservation in Pū Mảt National Park is vital not just for biodiversity, but for its benefits to people also as this is a watershed which provides water for 50,000 people vital for drinking and agriculture."

Luu Tuong Bach added, "Without direct protection in Pū Mảt National Park, it is likely that Vietnam will lose this species in the near future."

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

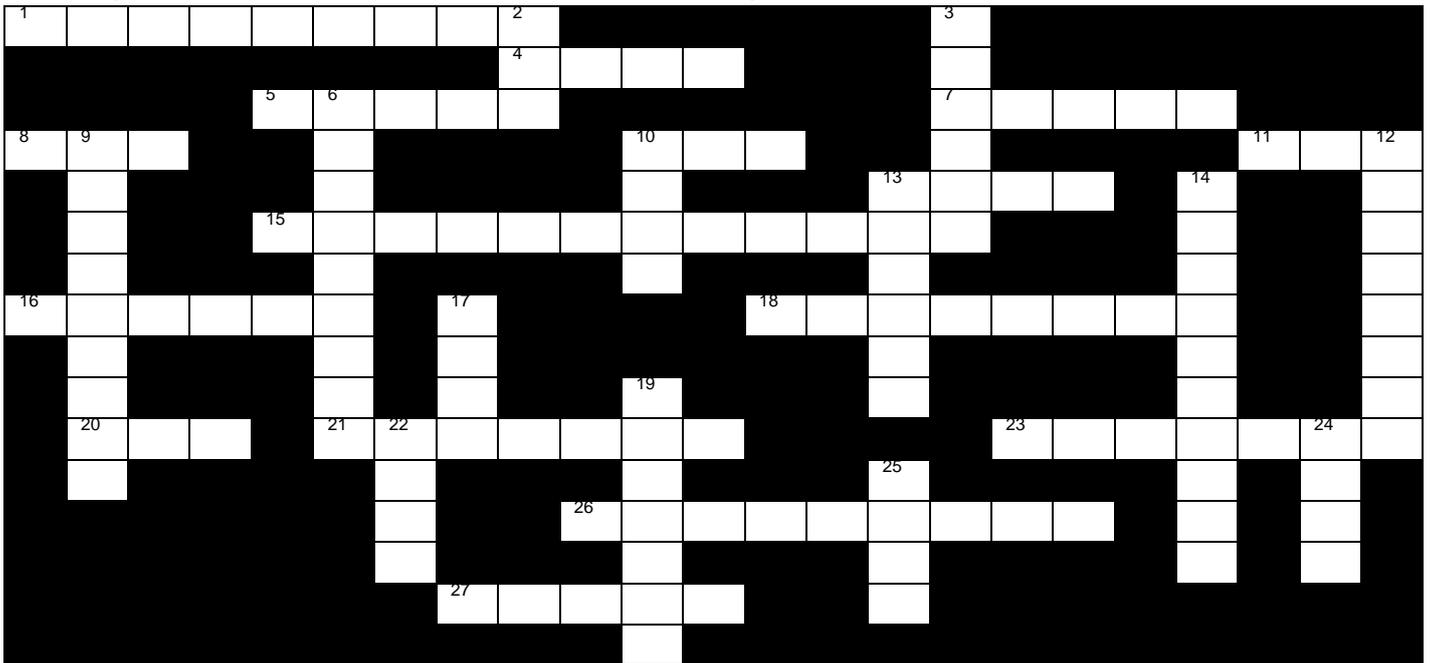
- | Across | Down |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 Indonesia | 2 Ape |
| 4 Pair | 3 Gibbon |
| 5 White | 6 Hylobates |
| 7 Bingo | 9 Education |
| 8 Reg | 10 Java |
| 10 JGF | 12 Pattiwel |
| 11 SGP | 13 Moloch |
| 13 Moli | 14 Rainforest |
| 15 Conservation | 17 Call |
| 16 Nakula | 19 Primate |
| 18 Adoption | 22 ICUN |
| 20 Owa | 24 Asia |
| 21 Silvery | 25 Moni |
| 23 Arboreal | |
| 26 Omnivores | |
| 27 Perth | |



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CROSSWORD

Try our gibbon crossword. See clues below. No cheating.



ACROSS:

- 1 Java is one of the islands of the country of _____(9).
- 4 A male and female silvery gibbon will ____ (4) for life.
- 5 Another species of gibbon is the “____-cheeked gibbon”(5).
- 7 A recent successful SGP fundraiser where you shout ____ (5) when you get all the numbers on a grid.
- 8 ____ (3) Gates was the founder of the Silvery Gibbon Project in 1991.
- 10 The Javan Gibbon Foundation is shortened to ____ (3).
- 11 The Silvery Gibbon Project is shortened to ____ (3).
- 13 “____”(4) is our 7 year old male gibbons up for adoption, who is paired with Moni, and was also the inspiration for our fundraising toy gibbon.
- 15 SGP is working toward the _____ (12) of gibbons in Asia.
- 16 One of our gibbons up for adoption who SGP is helping to fund ongoing treatment for his spinal injuries (6).
- 18 Gibbon A _____ (8) is one way you can support SGP.
- 20 Silvery Gibbons are also known as Javan Gibbons, or in Java as “____ (3) Jawa”.
- 21 Our projects name, The _____ (7) Gibbon Project.
- 23 Gibbons are _____ (7), meaning they spend their life up in the trees rarely coming to ground.
- 26 Gibbons are: A) Herbivores, B) Omnivores, or C) Carnivores?
- 27 SGP originated in which capital city of Australia (5)?

DOWN

- 2 A gibbon is not a monkey, it is a Lesser ____ (3).
- 3 The Silvery _____ (6) is the species that SGP is trying to save from extinction.
- 6 The scientific name for the Silvery gibbon is _____ (9) _____ (6) (the second word is the answer to number 13 DOWN).
- 9 SGP also funds a Mobile Conservation _____ (9) Unit, to teach locals about the plight of Silvery gibbons.
- 10 Silvery gibbons are only found on the island of ____ (4).
- 12 The forest where Silvery gibbons Echi and Septa were recently released back into the wild (8).
- 13 See question 6 DOWN (second word only.) (6)
- 14 Gibbons live in the tropical _____ (10) amongst the trees in Java.
- 17 The female Silvery gibbons ____ (4) is described as haunting.
- 19 Apes, lesser apes, prosimians and monkeys are all a P _____ (7).
- 22 Silvery gibbons are classified as Critically Endangered on the ICUN Red List (4) (underlined letters).
- 24 Many gibbons are found in South East ____ (4).
- 25 One of our female gibbons, M ____ (4) is paired with Moli.

See Page 3 for answers