

The SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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March 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends

It is with much excitement this month that we introduce you to a new project that sees Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) partner with like minded organizations under the umbrella of 'Wildlife Asia'.

This collaboration between us and the Asian Rhino Project, Australian Orangutan Project and Free the Bears will significantly increase our fundraising capacity and allow us to share services, expanding our ability to assist in the conservation of wildlife and habitat in Asia. As a volunteer based, small organization, we have always been restricted in our ability to generate significant funding, but sadly the threats to gibbons continue and the need for assistance is greater than ever. SGP hopes that as a result of this collaboration, we will be able to allocate our funds more broadly to assist in the protection of many gibbon species.

Wildlife Asia will be launched publicly at the Walkathon event on 18 March. This event is being conducted nationally and we hope to follow this up with several Wildlife Asia events throughout the year.

All four groups will continue to operate independently, and SGP is also busily preparing for the much anticipated 2012 Art Auction scheduled for 19 May. Tickets will be available soon. If you know of any wildlife artists who may be interested in contributing, please contact one of our committee members. This is a great opportunity to showcase artworks and help the gibbons at the same time.

In news from the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC), we recently received a new arrival, the full story can be read on page 2.

With March upon us, we are only a few months away from the end of the financial year. Please consider how you or your workplace may be able to support SGP and take advantage of our tax deductibility status.

Thank you as always to our ongoing supporters and hope to see you at our coming events.

Take care

Clare Campbell
President, Silvery Gibbon Project



COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE: KATIE SAUNDERS

Katie Saunders is the most recent member to join the Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) Committee. She has had a life-long love of animals, sparked when she was a child with regular zoo visits and watching wildlife documentaries. She had a particular love of primates and dreamed of one day being able to work closely with animals.

Katie grew up in Perth and on leaving school, went on to study Environmental Management and Conservation Biology at Edith Cowan University. On completing her degree in 2007, she joined SGP and began working for Perth Zoo. A year later she moved to NSW to work with Chimpanzees and Silvery Gibbons at Mogo Zoo, where she was involved in the successful pairing and breeding of the Silvery Gibbons Layar and Arjuna.



Katie Saunders and friend

While in NSW, Katie maintained her links to SGP in Perth and assisted whenever she could, fundraising, selling SGP merchandise and spreading the word about the plight of the Silvery Gibbon. Katie then spent a year travelling throughout South America and supporting various conservation programs. In October 2011, Katie returned to Perth and immediately became involved with SGP, and took up a keeper position at Perth Zoo once again.

She states:

“Having worked closely with Silvery Gibbons I have had the opportunity to understand and appreciate how beautiful and majestic these animals are. I am proud to have been accepted as a committee member for SGP and to work with a group of such passionate and motivated people. The work they have achieved over the years is astounding. I hope by being involved I can help make a real difference in conservation.”

OUR NEWEST ARRIVAL

A new gibbon was recently handed over to Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC) after his owner saw Kalaweit Director, Chanee, talking about gibbon conservation on ‘Kick Andy’, a popular variety program on Indonesian television. This prompted the owner to surrender their much loved pet, highlighting the education value of this kind of publicity within Indonesia.

Anton, Mulya and Oceng from JGC made the 8 hour journey to rescue the gibbon from Banten province in West Java. Apparently, the 5 year old gibbon had come from Ujung Kulon National Park as an infant. Ujung Kulon National Park represents one of the strongholds for this species however the continued poaching in this protected area is cause for concern.



JGC head keeper Mulya assists the owner to sedate the gibbon

This gibbon, named Labuan will now have the opportunity to be paired with a female and hopefully one day be released back into the forest where he belongs.

Thanks to the Kalaweit and JGC teams for facilitating the rescue.

Labuan is now free from his chains.



A NEW CONSERVATION UMBRELLA ORGANISATION FORMED IN PERTH



Wildlife Asia is a coalition of four existing conservation organisations: the Australian Orangutan Project, Asian Rhino Project, Free the Bears and the Silvery Gibbon Project, all long-standing Registered Australian Environmental Organisations with an emphasis on critically endangered species in Asia. In a world where charitable organisations often lose their way, we now have a shining example of how like-minded groups can work together to increase their efforts in in-situ conservation.

The primary objective of Wildlife Asia is to increase the conservation contribution, capacity and efficiency of wildlife conservation; and the Silvery Gibbon Project have been keen supporters of the initiative.

The new umbrella organisation states:

“Wildlife in Asia is reaching a crisis point. Due to habitat loss and poaching many species have their backs against the wall. This new holistic approach will give the Australian private, philanthropist and business communities the opportunity to contribute to broad reaching support for wildlife in Asia, backed by four of Australia’s premier conservation charities. Already formed by four of the most efficiency conservation charities within Australia, Wildlife Asia will create even more efficiencies through ‘shared services’, to ensure that even more of every dollar raised can go straight to the field.”

Their first public function is 18 March; a Walkathon aimed at raising urgently needed funds and lifting the profile of the respective endangered species and the loss of their habitat.

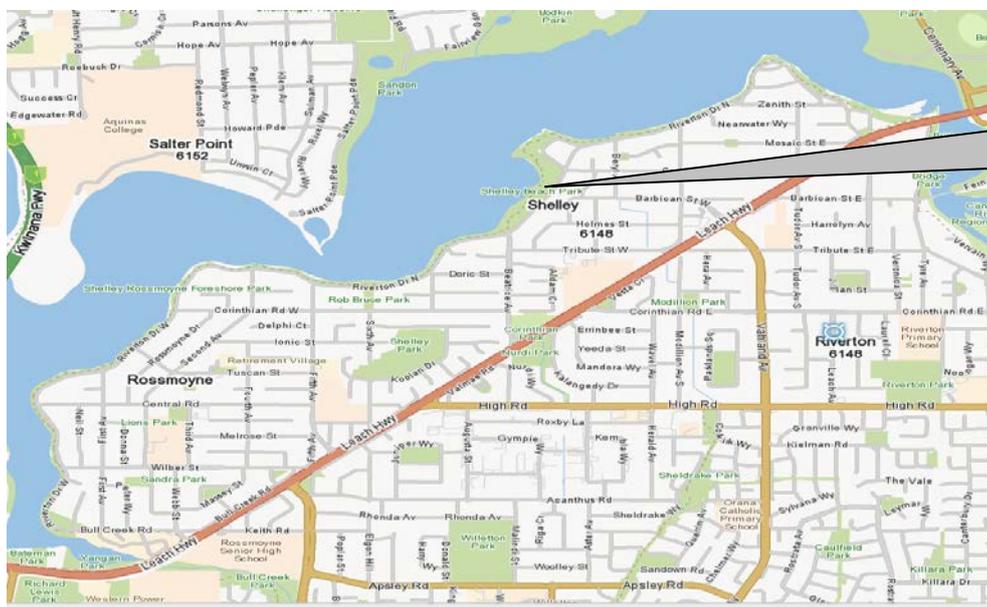
WILDLIFE ASIA WALKATHON TO HELP SAVE ENDANGERED ANIMALS 18 March, Shelley River Foreshore, Perth - Meet at 8.30am. Walk starts at 9.30am

On Sunday 18th March 2012, Wildlife Asia will be holding a family friendly walkathon to raise funds for these critically endangered species, and promote awareness of their plight within the community. Please join us from 8.30am (walk starts at 9.30am) at the Shelley River Foreshore. The walk is easy, there’s plenty of children’s entertainment, prizes and a fun morning for the whole family!

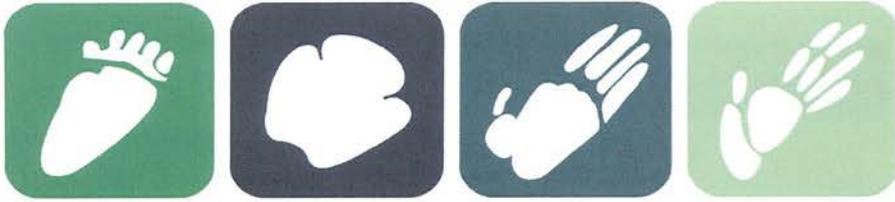
Entry is \$15 per person or \$40 for a family of four. Participants are encouraged to seek sponsorship from family and friends for completing the 2km walk.

Registration and sponsorship forms can be downloaded at www.wildlifeasia.org.au

For more information please email wildlifeasia.walkathon@gmail.com or phone 0402 001116



Location
Riverton Drive North
The park is between
Beatrice and Corbel
Streets



Wildlife Asia

Walkathon

18th March 2012

Shelley River Foreshore

Join us from 8.30am (walk starts at 9.30am) to raise funds for the endangered Orangutans, Asian Rhinos, Silvery Gibbons & Asian Bears

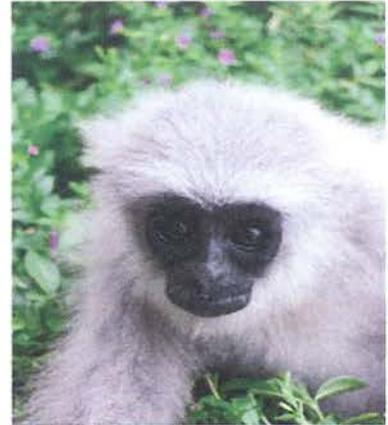
Plenty of children's entertainment, prizes & a fun morning for the whole family!

Entry fee is \$15 per person or \$40 for a family of four

Registration & sponsorship forms can be downloaded at www.wildlifeasia.org.au

For more information please email wildlifeasia.walkathon@gmail.com

Wildlife Asia is a collaboration of the Australian Orangutan Project, Asian Rhino Project, Free the Bears Fund & Silvery Gibbon Project





The **Silvery Gibbon Project**
Art Auction

Where: Perth Zoo Theatre
When: Saturday 19th May, 2012
Time: Viewing from 5pm, Auction starts 6:30pm
Cost: \$20 – includes complimentary glass of wine
Canapés served between 5:00 – 6:00pm.

Local and International artists include Ilse de Villiers,
Rish Gordon, Steve Morvell, Robin Wingrave,
Sue Codee, Bill Bonucci and many more...

 *Help us to help them!*

Contact SGP@silvery.org.au or 0403 431 103 for tickets

ADOPT A GIBBON TODAY

We have recently changed our adoption packages, giving gibbon supporters the opportunity to choose merchandise to add to our new **Standard Adoption** packages.

Our new **Standard Adoption** packages **now cost only \$55** each, and include:

- your certificate,
- bibliography of your Gibbon,
- Gibbon fact sheet,
- most recent newsletter, plus
- Silvery Gibbon sticker.

You can also choose to add any of the following extras to your adoption package for an additional cost:

- "Moli" Gibbon toy (\$15)
- Silvery Gibbon earrings (\$15)
- A4 photo of your chosen gibbon (\$15)
- Silvery Gibbon lanyard (\$5)

The money from your adoption package will continue to go towards maintaining the Javan Gibbon Centre and ensure that all of the gibbons housed there receive a high standard of health, welfare and medical care. Money will also be directed towards planning for the reintroduction of suitable gibbons back into protected forest areas within Java.

Thank you for caring about these gibbons and giving them a chance at a better and brighter future. We hope you continue to support the Silvery Gibbon Project with our new adoption program. If you would like to adopt one of our gibbons or would like to know more about the Silvery Gibbon Project please contact Adoptions Co-ordinator, Belle Picchio silverygibbon@live.com.au.

JAVAN RHINOCEROS: AN UPDATE

Java's Ujung Kulon National Park in Western Java is the last habitat of the remaining Javan Rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*). The Javan Rhinoceros, also known as lesser one-horned, rhino or Sunda Rhino, was once the most populous rhino in Asia, spread wide over the mainland and throughout island Southeast Asia. However it has been in serious decline for more than a century, and critically under-populated in recent decades.

On 25 October 2011, WWF and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) confirmed the extinction of the Javan Rhinoceros in Vietnam, the last habitat of the Javan Rhino on the mainland. But in the months that preceded these sad findings, conservation efforts in Indonesia confirmed at least 35 individuals living in the forests of Ujung Kulon National Park, Western Java.

To be precise the mainland Javan Rhino and the island Javan Rhino are different sub-species. On the mainland they were known as the Vietnamese Javan Rhino (or simply Vietnamese Rhino; *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*). The last individual of this sub-species was shot by a poacher as recently as 2010, and is now considered extinct. The island Javan Rhinos (or Indonesian Javan Rhino; *Rhinoceros sondaicus sondaicus*) are now restricted to the western tip of Java. Their status is listed as critically endangered.



A hunter with a recently killed Javan Rhino in Ujung Kulon, 1895.

Deforestation and poaching have reduced the once populous species to a few rare individuals. But the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 devastated Ujung Kulon peninsula, reducing rhino numbers dramatically. 20,000 people also lost their lives. The Javan Rhinoceros managed to recolonise

the peninsula, but few people returned, thus giving the small population of Javan Rhinos a chance to increase in numbers without significant interruption.

A total of at least 22 Javan Rhinos have been documented as having been kept in captivity, the last of which died in Adelaide Zoo (where it was mistakenly referred to as an Indian Rhino) in 1907. In captivity they rarely fared well, living at most to half their usual life expectancy of 35 to 40 years. Most conservationists believe its only realistic chance of survival is through the establishment of areas of protected natural habitat.



1861 painting depicting hunting of the Javan Rhino

In 2011 forty four camera traps were used to capture images of the Javan Rhino within the Ujung Kulon National Park. Thirty five individuals were distinguished out of the 160 video images of rhinos. The presence of at least five calves 'raised hope for the conservation of the Javan Rhinos,' added Yanto Santosa, project advisor, and lecturer in Biodiversity Conservation. Bambang Novianto, director of Biodiversity Conservation at the Forestry Ministry, stated late last year that the Ministry was finalising a rhino breeding sanctuary in an area of 38,000 hectares within the national park. 'It will be easier for us to monitor its population so that the breeding process would be more effective,' he said. The goal is to reach a target of 70 to 80 Javan Rhinos by 2015.

Another Forestry official, Zulkifli Hasan, said the effort to increase the population of Javan Rhino cannot be done alone by the Ministry of Forestry. Cooperation with other institutions is essential. He stated that with the 'support of media, professors and students, then, all together, we can.' The Ministry was also attempting to make



the year 2012 International Year of the Javan Rhino. The Silvery Gibbon Project is sensitive to the conservation needs of the Javan Rhino. It is one of the many critically endangered large mammals of Southeast Asia. Every effort that goes into saving habitat is a positive step forward in conservation of more than a single species.

A recent video image of a Javan Rhino (AP Photo)

Sources of information: WWF website; [Conservation](#), [Wildlife](#) 30/12/2011; Wikipedia.

WORD SEARCH - PRIMATES

L K Y T D V A N X M S L
Q O F K E L O L H A I E
A H R R L O T U C C C M
J L V I B T M U H A S U
P E R A S A J I Q Q O R
T O B R N R M J G U B A
G H P K F P Z Z L E O N
Z C N N A T U G N A R O
D X G N U T U L L H P B
R F Z C O L O B O S X B
W E B V K Y O M B H T I
E L S U R I L I T R L G

Find the following words in the letter maze:

BABOON	LORIS
CHIMPANZEE	LUTUNG
COLOBOS	MACAQUE
GIBBON	ORANGUTAN
GORILLA	PROBOSCUS
HUMAN	SURILI
LEMUR	VERVET

HOPE FOR THE JAVAN TIGER

The **Javan tiger** (*Panthera tigris sondaica*), which lived exclusively on the Indonesian island of Java, has not been sighted since the 1970s, and in 1994 was officially declared extinct. However, recent evidence suggests that some of these remarkable animals may have survived in remote mountainous regions.

The last observed Javan tiger was in 1976 in the Meru Betiri National Park, in southeast Java. But since that time reports have been made about tiger sightings, paw prints or scats in a number of mountainous forest areas. Though it is possible the later are from other big cats such as the panther, staff at Meru Betiri National Park have decided to set up camera traps to determine the existence or otherwise of the Javan Tiger. A similar project was tried in 1997 and 1998, without success.

Meru Betiri National Park is the least accessible area of the island, and therefore considered the most likely area for any remaining Javan tigers. Head of the National Park, Bambang Darmadja, said his office would set up five camera traps in the area to capture images of the big cat, and had put in a request for the equipment from the Forestry Ministry. 'We're going to set up those camera traps to finally resolve the question of the Javan tiger being extinct, because the evidence that we have so far, from droppings and paw prints to claw marks (on trees), suggests that it may still exist in Meru Betiri,' said Bambang.

Little is known about Javan tigers. They are smaller than the Sumatran tigers to the west, and smaller than the tigers of the Asian mainland, but larger than the now extinct Bali tigers to the east. Adults are generally solitary, except during mating. Their nose is long and narrow, and they normally have long, thin stripes, which are more numerous than the Sumatran Tiger. Males can grow to two and a half metres in length, and

weigh between 100-141kg; females weigh 75-115kg. It is assumed cubs are born in litters of two or three, and take 18 months to two years to mature. Their life span is 10-15 years. Their main prey was rusa deer, banteng and wild boar. They once roamed the whole island but by the mid-nineteenth century had been reduced to remote forest areas in mountain ranges. The massive decline of habitat over the past century has meant that the tiger and its food source has been severely impacted.

Though National Parks have been important areas for conservation in Indonesia, they are continually under threat of impact through agriculture and development projects. Meru Betiri is no exception. Recent discoveries of gold deposits nearby has resulted in three mining companies in a race to develop mining and exploration projects in the area.



World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Indonesia is hopeful that tigers do in fact survive in some remote areas of the island. Confirmation of the continuing existence of the sub-species may give new impetus to conservation measures in protecting its habitat.

A 1938 photograph of a [Javan Tiger](#) in [Ujung Kulon National Park](#).

Source of information: *Antara News* 7/09/2011 and *Jakarta Globe* 22/12/2011

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT SUPPORTED BY:
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