

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

*February 2015 (Volume 14 Issue 2)*

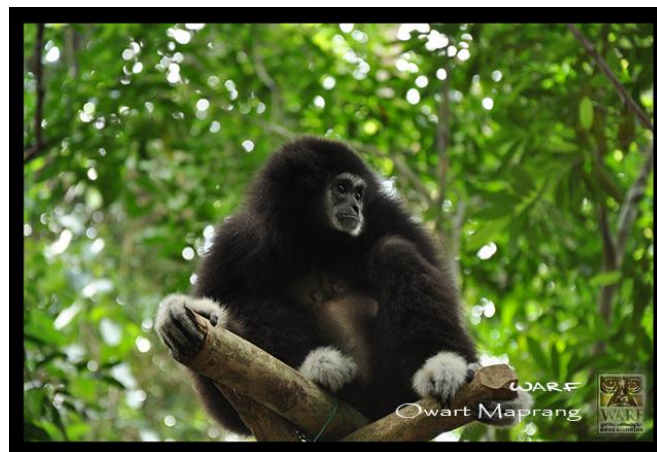
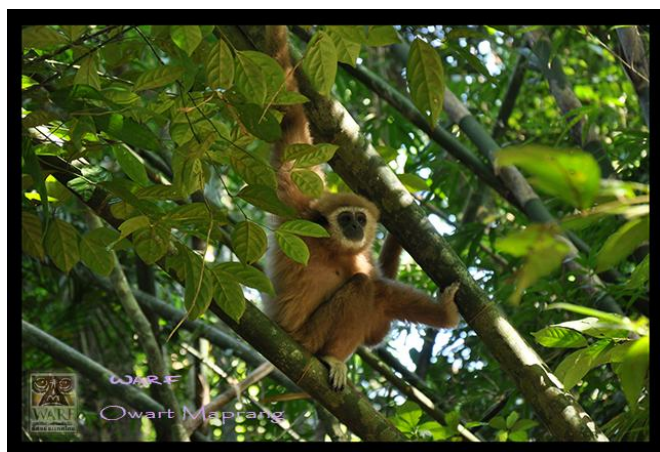
*Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket) : GRP*

## **Mee and Payu – An unexpected twist**

Over the last three months we have been following the progress of Mee and Payu, who were released into Khao Phra Thaew Non-hunting Area last December

This release has proven to be especially difficult; although everything went well to start with, things took an unexpected turn when Mee gave birth to twins on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. Their lives have also been made difficult by the persistent presence of Jorn, Namthip and Sherp, a neighbouring gibbon family who have been coming to the release site to try and steal food. Payu is obviously very intimidated by Jorn, and he has been unable to protect Mee from his occasional attacks. If you haven't read the full story, be sure to check out our newsletter updates from December and January.

Despite these setbacks we have remained optimistic that Mee and Payu would overcome their problems and form a territory of their own together. However, there has now been another unexpected twist to their story and we are sad to report Mee and Payu have now been permanently separated.



---

มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

At the beginning of February Payu disappeared from the release site. He was later found travelling alone in his old territory, several hundred meters away. As Mee was now alone in the forest, GRP staff decided to return her to the safety of the training cage, and to try and lead Payu back to the area with food. After two weeks we were encouraged to see him return and try to mate with Mee through the mesh of her enclosure. Sadly though, our hopes were dashed only a few days later when out of the blue an unknown female gibbon appeared, stealing Payu's affections away from Mee.

Although we're very sad that this release has been unsuccessful for Mee, we are thrilled to report that this young female gibbon is none other than Claire, the daughter of Tony and Jita.

In 2009 Tony, Jita and Claire were released into KPT forest, and were doing well until Claire's mother Jita disappeared in 2011. Although we cannot know for sure, we suspect she fell victim to poaching. Later, Tony had to be returned to captivity after he became very aggressive and attacked multiple people in the forest. At this time Claire was left in the forest with Hope and Yoge, a young couple that had accepted Tony and Claire into their territory after Jita had disappeared. When their first baby was born however, their tolerance for Claire came to an end and until this February her whereabouts was unknown and she hadn't been seen in almost two years!



Since the initial sighting of Claire and Payu (Left picture) they have been seen together on several more occasions, and have also been heard loudly singing together. We are so pleased that after all this time Claire is still with us, and that she now has a chance to start a family of her own with Payu.

Mee has now been returned to the rehabilitation site where we will strive to find another partner for her to start a family with. Although this release has been unsuccessful for her, she still has a great chance at one day returning to her rainforest home for good.

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

## Khao Phra Thaew Forest Updates

*This month we have good news and bad news to report from the wild gibbon population in Khao Phra Thaew Non-hunting area.*

### Arun and Toffee

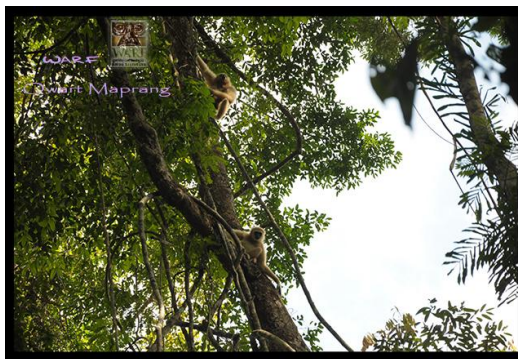


We're sad to report that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February we found Arun and Toffee together without their 6-month-old baby Aroha.

Last year Arun and Toffee became a couple and took over the territory of Toffee parent's, Kip and Jo. In late September we were thrilled to discover Toffee had given birth the their first baby, whom we called Aroha, which means love in Maori. Unfortunately Aroha has now disappeared, and may have died of natural causes, or

fallen prey to a bird or snake in the forest. It is normal for gibbon families to sometimes lose their offspring, especially if they are first time parents; but nonetheless it is always upsetting to witness. We hope they will soon have another baby and try again to raise a family together.

### Kip, Jo and Omyim



In happier news, we have found Toffee's parents, Kip and Jo, together for the first time since they were ousted from their territory last year.



# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

When Arun and Toffee became a couple, adult male Arun fought with Toffee's father Jo, who then fled the territory along with Toffee's younger brother Omyim. In late October father and son were found together in a new area of the forest, far from their former territory. At the same time Toffee's partner Kip remained close to Toffee and Arun, and we were worried that this might have been the end for Kip and Jo, the first gibbon family to be successfully released in KPT forest.

After some months apart it appears that Kip has finally decided to leave her old territory and has now been reunited with Jo and Omyim. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February all three were found together, only 300m from Mee and Payu's release site, where they were engaged in a peaceful interaction with Payu.

Although these pioneering gibbons are now quite advanced in years, we hope they will settle down together in a new territory and may even have another baby.

## **Nuan and Guinness together**

In November last year, we were finally able to move our two pileated gibbons, Nuan and Guinness, into adjoining enclosures to begin their socialization.

Nuan and Guinness both arrived at GRP as mature adults. Guinness had spent many years living at a monastery, and Nuan had been kept as a pet in Bangkok. As juveniles neither were given the chance to socialize with members of their own kind and this social isolation has left its mark. Despite having lived at GRP for many years now, both Nuan and Guinness remain very focused on human attention and show little interest in other gibbons.

Many years ago Nuan and Guinness were introduced at another one of WARF's rescue centres in Ranong province, but they began fighting and after a short time they were separated again. We are therefore extremely pleased to report that so far their socialization at GRP has gone quite smoothly, and we are now able to open their adjoining cages for 2-3 hours a day, allowing them to interact. So far Guinness has still been more interested in the humans around him, and has largely ignored Nuan's invitations to groom, but on the other hand we have seen very little outward aggression and only one small fight has been witnessed between them. The pair can also often be heard singing together.

4

---

## มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand

Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

Given their long history of social isolation we know this socialization will require a lot of time and patience; but we really hope that one day these two lonely souls will find comfort in each others company and maybe ever become good friends.

## **Mai, Tony and the Langurs**

Mai, our gentle, blind gibbon, has been a little on edge over the last couple of weeks thanks to his noisy neighbours. From their enclosures, the Langurs and big boy Tony, can see the national park staff doing the rounds, and tourists swimming in the nearby river. This can cause them to jump noisily around their enclosures, aggravating each other and disturbing Mai in the process. Poor blind Mai cannot see what all the fuss is about, and all this noise can make him a little stressed out.

Staff and volunteers are trying to find a solution to this problem. Recently a large screen has been erected which we hope will block the langur's view of nearby people and stop them from getting annoyed. Over the coming weeks we will be keeping an eye on them all, and monitoring their behavior closely.

## **Cherry to the vet**

Cherry is an ex photo-prop slow lorises who was brought to GRP back in April 2013. Like so many lorises recovered from the wildlife trade, Cherry has suffered the painful process of having his teeth clipped. This common practise, which makes slow lorises less dangerous for people to handle, is often done with blunt tools and without anaesthesia; leaving broken and splintered teeth that cause infections and abscesses, which can lead to a painful early death for the animal if left untreated.

Cherry's teeth problems have been on going since before his arrival to the GRP almost 2 years ago. This month he endured his 8th trip to the vet in his short time with us. However, we are happy to report that, despite having lost almost all of his teeth, Cherry is otherwise healthy and remains in good spirits. He has been successfully socialised with another young male called Jora and together they share one of our largest loris enclosures at the Wildlife Rest Centre.

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand

Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

## Leaflet Drop Around the Forest

This month we've been doing some outreach work in the communities surrounding the forest. As part of our plan to protect gibbons long into the future, we strive to maintain a good relationship with local people in our area. To ensure they know about GRP and the important work we do, staff and volunteers have been distributing information leaflets around some nearby villages. By sharing this information we hope to encourage local people to take an interest in our project, and to contact us if they see or hear gibbons in the forest, or have other interesting wildlife sightings.



## Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Chiang Mai) : GRPC

### *Muki and Brittany:*



At the end of November 2014 young couple, Muki and Brittany were sent to Chiang Mai to be released. At first they were moved to a training cage near to the area where Nat, Nuan and Beauty are living. As juveniles Muki and Nat were good friends, so the staff at GRPC hoped that Nat and Nuan would tolerate Brittany and Muki in their territory. However, Nat and Muki are now both mature adults, and their behavior is very different. Before they were released Beauty seemed keen to play with Muki and Brittany through the mesh, but Nat was displaying much more aggressive behaviour and

also came to steal food from the cage. After they were released Muki and Nat very quickly began to fight with each other. For their own safety, Muki and Brittany were caught again. They have since been relocated and released in a new release site further away from Nat and Nuan.

6

---

## มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

**Songkran:** Some months after his release last year Songkran went missing, and had been seen by the GRPC team for many months. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January he finally returned to the area, and seems to be in good health. The forest staff also report that he has finally stopped sucking his thumb; a behavior commonly seen in orphaned primates, and a habit Songkran has had all his life.

Upon coming back to the release area Songkran got into a fight with Nat, and both gibbons were injured. A few day after Songkran moved away from the release area but on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February the staff going to feed the other group daily and found him again.

**Dodo, Bobbie and Dr. Tum:** Dodo was released last Autumn (October 2014) with his son Dr. Tum, and unrelated female Beauty. It was hoped the Dodo and Beauty would become a pair, but unfortunately, Bobbie, who was released with Songkran earlier in the year, came and very quickly paired with Dodo, scaring young Beauty away in the process.

Dodo, Bobbie and Dr. Tum seemed to be happy together, however on the same day that Songkran had a large fight with Nat, Dodo mysteriously disappeared and has not been seen since. Bobbie and Dr. Tum remain together in the forest, and the GRPC team are optimistic that they will be able to find Dodo again. Although no one has seen him, they have heard reports of a male gibbon singing nearby.



Nat and Nuan ---- Nat, Nuan, Beauty

7

---

มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>



# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand

Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>



Songkran ----- Bobbie and Dr Tum

---

มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>



# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

## *Update !!!! Mee and Payu, January and Early February 2015*

At the end of last year Mee and Payu were released into Khao Phra Thaew non-hunting area in Phuket.

The release went very smoothly at first, but on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December Mee unexpectedly gave birth to twins. Unfortunately as a first time mum the new babies completely overwhelmed her, and despite our best efforts to help her care for them, both sadly passed away.

*If you haven't already seen the full story, make sure to read last month's edition of the GRP newsletter, available at 2015 January Volume 14 Issue 1.*



During this time Mee and Payu were both returned to their training cage, where we could more easily care for them and the twins. After the stressful events of December and early January we felt it was better to keep Mee and Payu in captivity for a few weeks to let them recover before releasing them back into the forest. This also gave our staff and volunteers a much-needed rest after so many long days, and sleepless nights, caring for the babies.



On the 19th of January Mee and Payu were once again set free and both quickly began to travel and explore further afield. Although her confidence was growing quickly, Mee's inexperience in the forest was still very evident, and one day she got stuck in a very high tree. Although there was nothing physically stopping Mee from moving out of the tree, she suddenly became very reluctant to climb down. At the base of the tree was a large palm, renowned for its spikey stem and leaves,

---

มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

65/1 ชั้น 3 สุขุมวิท 55 คลองตันเหนือ เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพมหานคร 10110, โทรศัพท์ 02 7129715/ 02 7129515 โทรสาร 02 7129778

Email: [info@warthai.org](mailto:info@warthai.org) <http://www.warthai.org>

# โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: [grp@gibbonproject.org](mailto:grp@gibbonproject.org) <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

so it's likely that Mee hurt herself on this vicious plant, and subsequently became too scared to descend. After 24 hours without food we began to worry for her well being, but fortunately our experienced staff were eventually able to coax her down and lead her back to the safety and familiarity of the release site.

With his many years of experience in the wild, Payu has been right at home travelling around in the forest. After more than a year in captivity however, he is a little out of shape, and is very scared of neighbouring male Jorn (right picture), who has been coming to the release site almost every day to threaten and intimidate Mee and Payu. In early February, Payu disappeared, and was not seen for several days. Eventually staff found him in an area of the forest where he used to live, with his former partner Dao and their family. We began to worry that without a family to protect, Payu might abandon Mee, and return to his old, familiar territory. After more than two weeks he had still not returned and we once again returned Mee to the training cage to ensure her safety and survival. However, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February we were thrilled to see Payu come back to the release site and even try to mate with Mee through the mesh of the cage. He has since remained nearby and we are optimistic that the couple will stay together, despite the absence of any offspring.



Staff are now discussing how best to proceed, and may eventually move Mee and Payu to a new release site, away from Jorn and his family, where they will have a better chance at establishing their own territory, and successfully adapting to life together in the wild.