

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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

Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: grp@gibbonproject.org <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

March and April 2015 (Volume 14 Issue 3-4)

Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket: GRP)

Phi Phi and Joey:



For the past 18 months young female Phi Phi has been living with a group of juvenile females. Her integration into this group was very successful and she has been able to develop her social skills while enjoying the company of her young friends. At seven years old however Phi Phi has outgrown her playgroup and is now ready to move on to meet potential partners. On the 4th April 2015, Phi Phi was moved next to Joey, a young adult male who arrived at GRP last year. Joey came to us as an adult from the pet trade, so he has not had the same opportunity as Phi Phi to

grow up around members of his own species and as a result is very humanized. It is difficult to predict how any introduction will go, but it is especially hard when the behavior of the gibbons has been so badly affected by human interaction. This introduction will take time, but we hope the appearance of an attractive young female might help Joey to lose his interest in people and begin to enjoy spending time with other gibbons.

Young female Lumduan has been at GRP since she was 3 years old, but despite being socialised with other gibbons from a young age she has often had a hard time fitting in with her peers. During play-time Lumduan loves to wrestle and fight with her friends, but when it comes to real conflict she is very timid and really lacks the confidence to stick up for herself. During 2013 Lumduan was removed from a group of gibbons her own age and introduced to the younger juveniles Maesa, Emily, Arya and Phi Phi. At first things went very well but sadly over time her young friends have learned to take advantage of her gentle nature, making it difficult for Lumduan to take her fair share of food and enrichment. For several months we have managed the situation by separating Lumduan during feeding times, but as she is now 8 years old we have decided the time has come to try to find a partner for her.

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

Email: info@warthai.org <http://www.warthai.org>

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Champ and Mee: Champ came to GRP in 2004 and spent his juvenile years growing up with other young gibbons at our rehabilitation site. In 2012 Champ was eventually separated from his young friends due to growing male rivalry, and we began to introduce him to female gibbons in the hope of finding a partner. Since then he has met many potential partners, including Seagame, Nuan, Kushta and Beauty, but so far we have not found a compatible match. Champ is healthy, handsome male so we are sure that he will one day find a loving partner with whom to start a family.

Since her return to the rehabilitation centre Mee has adjusted well to being back in captivity. She is now living next door to Champ, and we will be monitoring them closely over the coming months to see if there are any sparks between them.

Guinness and Nuan P.:

Since the start of this year we have been gradually introducing our two adult pileated gibbons, Guinness and Nuan P. Both gibbons were rescued as adults, and had no opportunity to socialize with other gibbons in their youth. An attempt was made to introduce this pair several years ago at another WARF rescue centre in Ranong province, but this was unsuccessful and they were separated. Here at GRP we have taken this introduction very gradually, and have given both gibbons lots of time to get used to having company. Generally the introduction has gone quite smoothly, although there have been a few small fights between them. When this happens we make sure to separate them quickly and keep them apart for a day to let them cool off, but we have always been able to let them back into the same enclosure the next day with no hard feelings. We are optimistic that with a little more time Guinness and Nuan will begin to form a friendship.



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Annie and Aye Aye:

Long-term partners Annie and Aye Aye haven't always been the most affectionate couple, but recently they have been making the most of each other's company and enjoying long grooming bouts together. Here are some photos taken by French volunteer Manon, who spotted them grooming together while working at the rehabilitation centre.



The Langurs:

Over the last 6 months we have been slowly introducing our new dusky langur, Grape, into our existing langur group. Because he spent a long time kept as a pet, Grape has been very slow to take an interest in the other langurs, and to begin with was only interested in human attention. More recently he has become more involved with Jackie Chan, Balloon and Kluay, although we are still not ready to let all four into the same enclosure. As Grape and Jackie Chan are both adult males we must be especially careful that they do not fight when introduced. Recently Grape managed to grab onto, and bite, Jackie's tail through the mesh of their adjoining cages. Thankfully Jackie was not badly hurt, but there is clearly some way to go before we can try to fully integrate Grape into the group.

Khao Phra Thaew Forest Updates

2015 Gibbon Release Scheduled – George and Seagame

We are very pleased to announce that young couple George and Seagame have been chosen for release later this year.

George and Seagame both came to the GRP from the illegal wildlife trade. George had been used as a photo-prop for tourists and his first medical tests revealed he was infected with hepatitis A. Thankfully he made

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a full recovery and in 2006 four year old George was able to join the other gibbons at our rehabilitation site. For many years he shared his enclosure with other young gibbons including Champ (♂), Khun Saul (♂), Lamut (♀) and Cop (♀), and together they learned how to behave and socialize like gibbons.



Seagame is several years younger than George and arrived at GRP in 2008 at around 2 years old. A Swedish man had bought her from a market in PrachuapKhiri Khan province, but after one month of caring for her he learned about the GRP and thankfully decided to donate her to us. Her infant and juvenile years were spent in the company of Jane and Beauty, two other young female gibbons.

In 2013 George and Seagame were slowly introduced to each other. For a long time they peacefully shared an enclosure, although there seemed to be few sparks between them. As Seagame has matured however their relationship has grown and they are now a very active couple, spending a lot of time playing and singing together every day. In 2014 they were relocated to a much larger enclosure and really love the extra space. Seagame especially came out of her shell and has become a very happy gibbon who loves to play with her ball and often chases George around their cage.

On the 22nd of April George and Seagame were relocated to their training cage in KPT forest in preparation for their release, which is planned for June. Unfortunately, during their first few days in the forest two of our wild gibbon families came to the area and tried to fight with George and Seagame through the cage. The couple has since been moved to an emergency holding cage in the forest, where they will be safe while we look for a new release site, deeper into the forest and away from our existing gibbon families.

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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Chiang Mai) : GRPC

Over the last year, 11 gibbons have been relocated from GRP Phuket to WARF's new project GRP Chiang Mai. This April, 4 more gibbons made the journey and will hopefully have the chance to be released at the new site in the near future.

Tom and Ollie: Tom and Ollie are one of GRP's oldest, and most iconic couples. They were introduced to each other in 1994, and have been a devoted and loving couple ever since. Despite their clear affection for one another, Tom and Ollie have never had a baby, and have always missed out on the opportunity to be released, as we preferentially choose breeding pairs with infants. Although we cannot know for sure why they have never reproduced, we believe Tom has a hormonal problem, which may prevent her from becoming pregnant. It has also been suggested that Ollie could be sterile, as he spent his infant years living in a bar and was given alcohol and cigarettes for tourist's entertainment.

With the development of a release site in Chiang Mai Tom and Ollie will now be given the chance to return to the wild. Although we don't expect that they will ever have a family, we hope that at least they will be able to live out the rest of their years together in the wild where they belong.

Jane and Khun Saul: Both Jane and Khun Saul arrived at GRP when they were infants having been exploited in the tourist trade and pet industry. Although they were given the opportunity to grow up around members of their own species, the stress caused by their early experiences left its mark, and both gibbons remained very insecure as they grew up, each exhibiting different forms of abnormal behavior. In September 2013 Jane and Khun Saul were introduced to each other and much to our delight it seemed to be love at first sight! They are very much at ease in each other's company and seem to be perfectly matched. Although they have not yet started a family, we are very optimistic about this young couples future and we hope they will stay together and form a territory once released into the wild.

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GRPC 2015 Release Updates At GRPC two more release attempts have been made recently.

Young couple Brittany and Muki were released earlier in the year in an area close to Nat, Nuan and Beauty. In the past Muki and Nat were very good friends, so staff at GRPC hoped that they would tolerate each others presence again, however both males are now mature adults and after the release they very quickly began to fight. Muki and Brittany were then relocated to another potential release site further away, however Muki then became very aggressive towards people and had to be recaptured again. He has now been relocated to an enclosure in the village, while Brittany remains in their forest acclimatization cage.

Another pair of gibbons called Jan and Thong, which were originally cared for at WARED project in

Ranong, were also released. Unfortunately not long after release Jan moved away from the area, and showed little sign of coming back. Thankfully staff at GRPC were able to follow her through the forest, and eventually decided to catch her and bring her back to the release site where she is now living in the acclimatization cage. Thong is still free and seems content to stay in the surrounding area



Despite these disappointing results there

has also been good news from the project this month. On the 11st of March Nuan gave birth to a baby boy, who has been named Tony. The son of Nat, he is the first wild born baby at this new release site, and Nuan's 5th baby. Although Nuan rejected her previous two babies, Maesa and Emily, she seems to be doing a great job of taking care of little Tony and we hope he will have a great chance of growing up to be a healthy wild gibbon.

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Other : Out Reach

During March and April we have continued with our ongoing out-reach work to help build and maintain GRP's relationship within our local communities. On each outreach day a group of staff and volunteers visit a different village and distribute information leaflets about the work of GRP, and how local people can get in touch if they need help to rescue or relocate wild animals from their community. Several species of dangerous snake are native to Phuket island, and unfortunately they sometimes turn up in people's houses and gardens. To prevent these animals from simply being killed GRP offers to help capture and relocate them back into the forest. We also raise awareness about the impact of poaching, and encourage members of our community to report any suspected illegal activity.

A visit from Natalie Glebova



On the 6th of April GRP welcomed Natalie Glebova to our visitor and education centre. Miss Glebova is Russian-Canadian, but after winning Miss Universe 2005 in Thailand she moved here permanently and remains a popular public figure. For many years she has used her public standing to advocate for animal welfare in Thailand, but in early March she inadvertently supported the illegal wildlife trade by posing for a photograph with a baby gibbon on Koh Phi Phi. Following the incident GRP sent Miss Glebova an open invitation to visit our centre and learn about the plight of gibbons in Thailand, and the suffering baby gibbons experience in the photo-prop trade.

We are thrilled that she was so open to learn the truth about the trade and immediately made a public announcement that she had made a mistake by having her photo taken with a gibbon. Following her visit she has since produced a short video about the poaching of gibbons for photo-prop tourism, which has already been viewed almost 100,000 times

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[You can watch the video here and Help me spread this message! by Natalie Glebova](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/MissUniverse2005/videos/1103465246337223/>

We're extremely grateful to Miss Glebova for taking our message on board, and for her personal involvement in making this fantastic video to help share our message. We sincerely hope that more celebrities and people in the public eye follow her example, and use their influence to help protect animals in need.

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