

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket): GRP

Forest Gibbons updated



Crystal and Willy Released!: This pair were finally back in their natural habitat after a long journey that started over 7 years ago; on April 21st their acclimatization cage was opened and they took their first steps in the forest since they were babies. Willy could not wait to come out, the door was not even all the way open before he burst out; Crystal surprised us all by being much more nervous. She's always been such a confident gibbon but it took her almost half an hour before she ventured out for the first time.

And she remained nervous, returning frequently to the cage if anything scared her. Willy was a lot more confident, climbing and swinging and even stealing water bottles from observers nearby! The first couple of nights the pair went to sleep back in the cage but soon were bedding down in the canopy as it should be.



They are still being observed carefully from dawn until dusk and it's been great to see them growing in confidence in their natural environment. Crystal has even been singing with her neighbours Epsan and

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Sylvia! We will continue to update you on the progress of the latest addition to the forest; we're very excited for this couples future and over the moon to see another family returned to the wild.

Arun, Toffee and Baby: This family have been hanging around the rehab centre quite a bit recently; while toffee is happy to hang out near by and join in the morning singing, Arun loves to come in to the centre and say hello to all of his friends. Sometimes he can be a bit naughty and steal some of their mango but generally he comes and can be seen going to each cage to catch up with his pals.

Joe, Kip and Omyim: After a long time staff were happy to hear this family singing in the forest in April, although they stayed out of sight it was great to hear them as they had been quiet for long time. Now staff are confident that this family continues to do well and are happy living quietly without interruption from humans.

Epson and Sylvia: This couple are thriving; their singing can be heard almost every morning now and they seem to be pleased to have a new couple close by. Whilst they still wait most mornings for the arrival of the food basket more and more staff have noticed them travelling from different directions having travelled further afield the day before. This growth in confidence has been great to see and is encouraging as we are now happy that they will continue to do well as our influence decreases over the coming months.

Other Gibbons updated

Champ and Mee: This couple's next big adventure started at on April 26th when they were transported to Chiang Mai to begin the acclimatization process before their release in our site in the north of Thailand.

These two have not had an easy time and have been waiting a long time for release; Champ has been with the project since 2004 having been used a photo prop in a bar in Patong but unfortunately was not paired initially as he was diagnosed with hepatitis. Fortunately this conditioned cleared up but he



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was not compatible with any potential mates we housed him next to until he met Mee in 2015.

Mee had a harder time, she also arrived in 2004 with her friend Jojo who we hoped she would mate with but it was not to be so she was paired with Payu. This partnership went well and they were released in 2014; sadly after the death of her twins in the wild Payu left Mee and she was recaptured.

But she was housed next to Champ and the rest is history; we are so excited for this couple's fresh start with their new baby due in a few months.



Annie and Aye Aye: This couple are also set to start their new life in Chiang Mai; they were captured and prepared for transport at the end of April and sent soon after. This couple's release is hugely exciting for lots of long term members of GRP as they have been waiting for this for 15 years. They both arrived at the project in 2001.

Aye Aye had been a temple pet and was bought by a tourist couple and donated to GRP, Annie had been an illegal pet who was finally donated after she bit one of the neighbours. When she arrived she was in bad shape, her fur was matted and almost in dreadlocks and having been kept on the ground on a chain could not move properly.

But she recovered well and the couple were paired in 2004; whilst they were friendly and liked to groom each other Annie was shy of Aye Aye's more intimate advances and because of that they were not ideal candidates for release as they may not have contributed to the gibbon population.

But recently things have changed and the two have been seen mating quite frequently meaning that this pair finally are ready for release. They will spend a couple of months acclimatizing in Chiang Mai before the release date is set but we will make sure to update you on when that will be.

Joy and Eah: The new gibbons we received from Ranong last month have settled in well; Joy has some very unique swinging techniques which has made him a quick favourite of the volunteers. Eah loves to

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eat and he loves attention- he's often jumping about during feeding time to make sure staff are watching him and not his playmate! Whilst they are not yet joining in the great call in the mornings they are showing a lot of signs that they're happy and they're growing in confidence in their new home.

Other News



Phuket Bike Week 2016: This year GRP was lucky enough to be involved in Phuket bike week held over two weekends, 8th– 10th April in Patong and 15th– 16th April in Phuket town. Terrance Dillon Morin was a driving force in the creation of the GRP and he was also a biker; he owned a Harley Davidson and rode it all over the world. For this reason we wanted to bring the two worlds together; conservation and motor cycles. And we had so much fun, meeting bikers from all over the world and getting them

involved with the project. The bikes on display were impressive and the volunteers had fun dancing away until the early hours of the morning to some of Thailand's best rock and reggae bands- always with donation boxes in hand of course! It was a great experience and we definitely got the message out there to a whole new demographic. A big thank you to the organizers of Phuket Bike Week for this opportunity!

Phuket Old Town Walking Street Market: An old tradition was renewed in April when the GRP stall returned to the walking street market in Old Town in Phuket; the project used to go once a month but many years ago the practice was stopped mainly due to time and manpower constraints. But it was a triumphant return on Sunday 24th April, with lots of donations received, lots of new friends made, lots of tourists educated and since then lots of new visitors to the education and rehab centres saying they came to visit because of 'the monkey girls' at the market. So if you're in Phuket look out for us once a month at the walking street market.



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Absolute Hotels Staff Volunteer Day: On Monday, April 25th staff from the Absolute Hotel Chain came to the rehabilitation centre to donate their time; it's the start of new partnership between the GRP and Absolute which we hope will be mutually beneficial. They set to working deep cleaning the centre and were hard at it all morning; they were enthusiastic and hard working. This is just the first of many visits from staff from the Absolute Hotel Chain team; we'll keep you updated on this partnership as it grows. They've also decided to adopt one of our gibbons; they'll print the chosen gibbon's story in their international magazine which is in every hotel room and lobby in every one of their hotels worldwide; spreading our message and educating tourists everywhere to the plight of the gibbons and the threats they face through the illegal pet trade and the tourist prop industry.

St Mary's College of California: A small group of students from California studying in the masters programme came to visit GRP in April; they are visiting several projects like ours around the world and we were privileged to be included in their schedule. They were really interested and impressed and have promised to promote ur project when they get back stateside.



Songkran Celebrations: On April 13th Staff and volunteers took part on some traditional Songkran celebrations; they headed to Nai Yang Beach armed with water guns to join in a water fight on massive scale. Traditionally water was poured over Buddhist statues at Thai new year to represent purification and the washing away of sins and bad luck; this has grown into the water festival that is so famous today.

Everyone enjoyed celebrating this special day and made some wonderful memories.