

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket)

2014 Reintroduction Update



This year we plan to release Mee and Payu into KPT forest and so far everything is going to schedule. In early October our hard working staff and volunteers began searching the forest for a suitable release site, away from the territories of the existing gibbon families. Next we built an acclimatisation cage for Mee and Payu to stay in before they are released. Adjusting to their new environment is a big step for all reintroduced gibbons so we like to make it as easy as possible. By housing them in the forest for at least a month before their release we give them time to feel at

home in their new surroundings. It's also important to give the wild gibbons in the forest time to become familiar with the new neighbours, as this can help to ease tension and reduce the risk of fighting. In this case Payu has already lived wild in KPT forest so we do not expect too much trouble from the other males, although when working with wild animals you can never be too careful.

On the 28th of October Mee and Payu were moved to their acclimatisation cage in preparation for their release, which is scheduled for the 15th of December. This will give Mee and Payu 6 weeks to relax in their new environment and begin claiming their new territory by singing their beautiful duet.



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Guinness relocated: This month Guinness has been relocated back down to the lower section of our rehabilitation site, next to the other permanent residents. Over the last 6 months we've been developing our rehabilitation site by building new cages and making some much needed improvements to some of the old ones. To make way for the changes, Guinness was temporarily moved from his usual spot at the front of the viewing area, to another cage high up the hill, next to our five juvenile females, Masea, Emily, Phi Phi, Lumduan and Arya. The mischievous new neighbours certainly got his attention and over the last few months he's curiously watched their playful antics. In October his new home was finally ready and we were able to move him back down the hill to be near his old companions. Next month we hope to finally introduce Guinness to our other pileated gibbon Nuan. Although we are unable to release pileated gibbons into the forests of Phuket, we're excited to give these two lonely souls the chance to socialise with a member of their own kind.

Lumduan still having problems: At 7 years old Lumduan is fast approaching adulthood, but it seems this shy young gibbon may have some way to go before she's ready to lead a family in the wild. Despite being several years older than most of her playmates, Lumduan is often bullied by the others and sometimes misses out on some special foods and enrichment, as she offers no resistance when her younger, more confident companions simply take items straight out of her hand. Throughout the day she can be seen playing happily with the others, and as yet no incidences of fighting have been recorded, but when special food is brought for the group the others are quick to take advantage of her gentle nature and take her share of the treat. Following the relocation of Guinness we've been able to open up an adjoining enclosure for Lumduan and her four friends, and we hope the extra space will reduce any growing tensions and help Lumduan gain some confidence.

Jojo and AyeAye, an unlikely friendship: We saw some unexpected behaviour this month from two of our adult male gibbons Jojo and Aye Aye. Earlier this year Jojo was temporarily moved into the cage adjoining Annie and Aye Aye's enclosure. Normally we try to avoid housing adult males near each other as they can be very aggressive. Fortunately this hasn't been a problem with Aye Aye and Jojo, in fact they seem quite fond of each other. Volunteers were concerned one day this month when they noticed the bamboo barrier separating Jojo from Annie and Aye Aye was broken, allowing Jojo to enter the tunnel connecting his cage to theirs. Instead of fighting however, Jojo and Aye Aye were perfectly at ease together and were even spotted grooming through the mesh! ,

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George and Seagame: Last year we introduced George and Seagame to one another, and the young couple have been happily sharing an enclosure ever since. In gibbon society adult females are dominant over their partners, and young Seagame is definitely not shy about keeping George in line. At 12 years old George still enjoys a good game and the pair can sometimes be seen playfully chasing one another around the cage. George also enjoys keeping our volunteers on their toes, as he's quick to jump and grab anything, or anyone, that comes too close to the cage. Although a few years younger than her partner, Seagame has now reached adulthood and we're optimistic this healthy young pair will soon start a family together.

Macaque rescue



This month our resident veterinary nurse Sayan assisted with the rescue of a wild pig-tailed macaque and her baby, who were recovered from Phuket town where they had been coming into conflict with people. The mother and baby were brought to GRP and stayed with us for a few days for observation. Luckily they were both in good health and, with assistance from the DNP, we were able to release them back into the wild in KPT non-hunting area.

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Forest Update

Found Joe and Omyim



In 2002 Kip, Joe and their son Thong became the first gibbon family to be successfully released into Khao Phra Taew non-hunting area. Over the years they truly thrived in the wild and together Kip and Joe raised 3 more offspring successfully; Hope, Toffee and Omyim. The pioneers of our wild gibbon population, it was difficult for everyone at GRP to witness the breakup of their family earlier this year, when adult male Arun came to the territory in pursuit of their maturing daughter Toffee, fighting with Joe in the process and eventually chasing him and juvenile male Omyim away. For many months we have been unsure of the whereabouts of Joe and Omyim, or even if both had survived, so this month we are very pleased to report that Joe and Omyim have both been found, alive and well! Recently we received reports from local people of gibbon song coming from the forest edge, south of Bang Pae waterfall. On the 25th of October staff and volunteers went out to search in this area and were fortunate to find Joe and Omyim together, almost immediately. After 2 hours of observations staffs are confident that father and son are both fit and well, and thriving together in the forest.

Toffee and Arun start a family.

Although the breakup of the Kip family was upsetting, we're all very happy to see the establishment of a new family in KPT forest. In late September we received reports from local DNP staff that a new baby gibbon had been spotted in KPT forest and during October staff were thrilled to confirm this news! The

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new baby, belonging to young couple Toffee and Arun, is the 13th wild born baby in the reintroduced population, and the second in our 2nd generation! During observation Toffee stayed high up away in the trees away from us, but fortunately staff were still able to get a clear view of the baby and we believe she is a girl. Staff and volunteers have chosen the name “Aroha” which means love in Maori.



Toffee and Arun start a family.

New Arrivals



At the beginning of October we received a new adult dusky leaf monkey. Taken from his family as a young baby, Angun (Thai for grape) was sold on the pet trade and has lived with a family in Phuket town for many years. Although we do not know his precise age. Langur's often don't survive for very long in the pet trade because they have very specialised dietary needs and are often mistakenly fed sweet fruit which they cannot digest, so we were quite surprised to receive a healthy adult animal.

After receiving a clean bill of health Grape is now living next to our other langurs, Jackie Chan, Balloon and Kluay. We hope that despite so many years of social isolation he will be able to integrate into the group and begin to enjoy life as a langur, not a pet.

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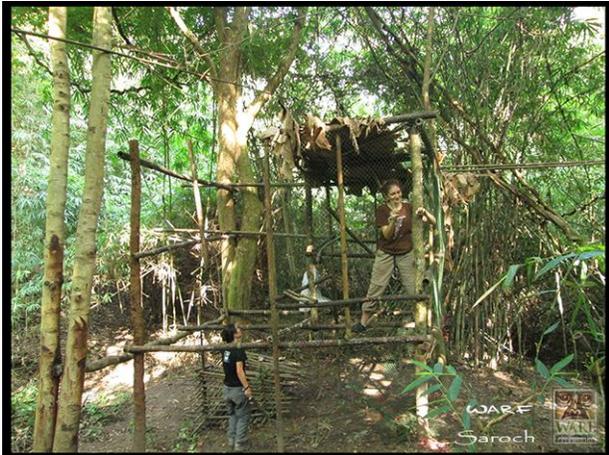


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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project Chiang mai (GRPC)

During october two GRP volunteers Laetitia Bisiaux and Tor Bailey, and GRP staff member Roch, travelled to Baan Jaampee village in northern Thailand to catch up with all the project's latest.



During their visit they assisted with the construction of a new acclimatisation cage in the forest, this time for Nat, Nuan and Beauty. Nat and Nuan had been living together for several months before their transfer to Chiang Mai, and happily, we have been informed that Nuan is pregnant. Nat and Nuan have both already successfully survived on their own in the wild for several years, so we are confident they will have no problem adjusting to the new environment in **Pang Chum Pee Community Forest**. We hope Beauty will also benefit from their experience and quickly learn how to get around in the trees and forage for wild food. They are scheduled for release next month.

As well as helping to build the forest cage, Laeti, Tor and Roch spent 4 days teaching basic english and conservation to a group of children from the local community. Through a mix of taught lessons, games and art activities the kids learned all about wild gibbons in Thailand, why they're threatened and what GRP does to help them. They also learned some valuable lessons about general environmental protection and how we can reduce our environmental impact through actions such as recycling.

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