

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket): GRP

Rest Center and Rehabilitation site



Nuan P: Nuan, one of our two pileated gibbons, has been relocated to the Rehabilitation site. She has been placed in an enclosure next to the endearing Guinness in the hopes that they might hit it off. As we are unable to release pileated gibbons in to the forests of Phuket, there is at least a chance for these two lovely gibbons to live and socialise with another of their species. Although Nuan is a more dominant individual, herself and Guinness both seem to be a little shy towards each other right now. Hopefully, as they get to know one another things will change for these two. On a couple of occasions, volunteers have noticed them singing together; a promising sign for our prospective couple.

Tony: Tony is the largest gibbon that we have here at GRP, weighting in at a whopping 7.8kg (the average weight for Lar gibbons is between 5.0 – 7.6kg). He is a very intelligent and inquisitive gibbon but unfortunately has a rather aggressive edge to him too. In 2009 Tony was released with his partner Jita and their baby Claire. Almost immediately he bit a volunteer, and over time he continued to show aggression towards people, eventually biting 6 tourists over a two week period. Following this the decision was made to remove him from the forest and in late 2012 Tony was captured and returned to the GRP quarantine area. Unfortunately at the beginning, the only available enclosure was a little small for our robust friend. However, following Nuan's move to the rehabilitation site, a more size appropriate enclosure was now ready for Tony. Since his move he has been seen swinging, playing and singing in every corner of the enclosure. He has also almost stopped trying to grab all the volunteers as they move past the enclosure or give him his enrichment. It is so great to see this handsome guy really enjoying himself and his new home.

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Annual deep clean – volunteers getting stuck in

So, it was that time of the year again when all our gibbon's enclosures get a complete and utter scrub down. Luckily this year's cleaning schedule fell when the project had ample numbers of volunteers to help out. We were able to make our way through all the enclosures within a month and with as little disturbance to all the gibbons as possible. It was hard and dirty work but extremely satisfying all the same. We can work with easy minds knowing that all the animals in our care are in safe and clean environments, of which we continuously endeavour to keep.

George and Seagame's home improvements: Over the summer months a lot of construction and maintenance has gone on inside the rehabilitation site.

Most recently an old, worn out enclosure was dismantled and a shiny new one was built in its place.

This is now the home for our loving couple George and Seagame. This couple are very caring with each other and although they don't yet have any babies together we hope that it won't be too long in the future for them. Their new enclosure is located up high on the hill near Santi, Bambam and baby Peepo.

Usually adult males are not housed close to each



other as gibbons are territorial animals. Although Santi does not seem too impressed with his new neighbours, hopefully time will ease his mind. With all that said George and Seagame seem to enjoy their new home and spend their day swinging around, playing with fallen leaves and singing together.

Willy and Brany: In gibbon family groups, males can be quite sociable with other members of the family including their male offspring. Once juvenile males mature they can become more aggressive and generally leave the family to find a mate. At GRP, unrelated juveniles of similar ages (and gender) can live together, playing and having fun. This was the case with young males named Willy and Brany, who recently came to us from WARED in Ranong. They have lived together peacefully for some time now, (although they've become known as a terrible twosome for the volunteers!) However, as they have gotten older, Brany has become more dominant and small fights have been seen between them at feeding time. Tensions escalated

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this month with their fights becoming more aggressive, and so for their safety and well-being our staff decided it was time to separate them. Willy has since moved further up the hill, to an enclosure next to female Chrystal. Both boys seem comfortable with their new living situations and without the presence of a larger, more dominant male, Willy has become more relaxed and notably less aggressive towards volunteers. We hope that as some of our younger females begin to mature we will be able to find them suitable partners so they can both participate in our reintroduction project.

Release Site (Forest)

Mee and Payu: Mee and Payu have settled into their acclimatisation cage in the forest and are relaxed in their new surroundings. They are receiving a daily delivery of food from GRP staff and both seem to be benefiting from the extra portion provided to support Mee through her pregnancy – Payu is making the most of the abundant food and is starting to look more like the pregnant one! The whole team is a buzz with excitement as their release date draws nearer and we start to prepare ourselves for camping out in the forest to monitor their progress.



Mee and Payu

Jorn, Namthip and Sherpa: With the daily feeding of Mee and Payu, we've had many opportunities to follow the other wild gibbons in the KPT forest this month. The closest family to Mee and Payu release site is the newly formed Jorn, Namthip and Sherpa group. Several months ago we notice Namthip looking quite large, and assumed that she was pregnant. Ever since we've been keenly following the family awaiting the

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birth of a new baby gibbon, but alas, several months later there is still no sign of a baby and we now suspect she is actually just over weight. With very low population density in the forest it is possible for the wild gibbons in KPT to eat more than their fair share, but it is also possible that Namthip has a hormonal issue causing her excessive weight gain. We have not completely dismissed the idea that she might be pregnant as she only recently paired with Jorn, and gibbon pregnancies last for around 7 months. We hope to monitor this group closely to see what develops over the coming months.

Arun, Toffee and Aroha: Located near Bang Pae Waterfall, the Toffee group is one of the easier groups to find in the forest. The family has been spotted on a number of occasions this month and their new baby, named Aroha, seems to be doing well. Like her older sister Hope, Toffee stays very high up in the canopy and so we've still not been able to confirm the baby's gender.



Bank, Lek, Peanut and Kai: We were lucky to catch up with the Lek family a few times this month. On one occasion, a long day of fruitless searching was turned on its head when the family began to sing at 3 o'clock in the afternoon! Fortunately one of our search groups was close by and quickly made their way through to forest to find them. After the family stopped singing they all moved into a large, fruiting fig tree and we were able to watch them enjoy their last meal of the day, surrounded by birds and squirrels feasting on the the abundant figs. The

family look happy and healthy, with Kai getting bigger every time we spot him.

No Hope to be found: With so much focus on the pending release of Mee and Payu, it's been some time since we searched for the Hope family; although we've had many reports from local villagers that singing can be heard on the west side of the forest. This month a team of staff and volunteers went in search of Hope, Yoge and Happy, but unfortunately the family didn't sing and were unable to locate them.

GRP Animal Rescued

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Slow Loris: On the 27th GRP recovered a slow loris from Patong which had tragically wandered onto power lines and been badly electrocuted. At first we believed the loris may have been wild as they belonged to Phuket's native species, however upon closer inspection we found all of their teeth had been cut, a sure sign that they had come from the illegal wildlife trade. It is sadly common that captive slow lorises are haphazardly released into forest areas as they become unwanted as pets or photo props. The owners may think that they are doing the best thing for their pet in returning them to their 'natural environment', but the sad reality is that these lorises are very unlikely to survive without proper rehabilitation, and those without teeth have no chance at all and simply starve to death.

Unfortunately GRP staff could only acknowledge that the injuries this loris had sustained were too extensive and that the kindest thing was to put them out of their misery as soon as possible.

Python: GRP staff were also called to help with a large python which ventured into our local village. Residents tried to catch the snake and put it in a bag but at 4 meters long and an impressive 28 kg she was too big for them to handle. Staff from GRP went to help and we were able to bring her to the project. On the 5th November she was released into KPT forest.



Sea turtle rescue: Staff at the nearby Ao Po Marina noticed an injured green turtle floating in the marina and called the GRP for assistance with its rescue. Our staff were able to help them capture the turtle which was missing a part of its carapace, and its back right leg, a common injury that occurs when turtles are hit by boat propellers. We also found they had ingested a sizeable piece of fish netting and plastic, rubbish which is easily mistaken for food by turtles and other marine creatures. The turtle was taken to the Phuket Marine Biological Centre where marine turtles are cared for and, if possible, rehabilitated.

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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Chiang Mai): GRPC

This month four more gibbons have been relocated to Chiang Mai; Brittany and Muki were transferred on the 25th November followed by Jan and Tong on the 27th. Brittany and Muki have both been with us for many years and are known for their gentle and playful personalities. Jan and Tong only recently arrived at GRP but have been living together for many years at WARF's Wild Animal Rescue and Education centre in Ranong.

They will all be missed here at GRP but we are hoping they have a successful release and enjoy a free life in their new home. We will be looking forward to hearing about their development over the coming months.



Muki and Brittany



Tong and Jan