

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project Chiang mai (GRPC)

We're pleased to report this month that Bobbie and Songkran have been released in Pang Chum Pee community forest, near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Their release was scheduled for the 16th of June but initially both gibbons were unsure what to do when the cage door was opened and neither one was brave enough to leave the safety of their enclosure that day.



On the 17th we tried again and this time Bobbie took the plunge and ventured out into their new environment. At first she was very cautious, only travelling a few meters at a time before returning to the comfort of their cage. Her confidence quickly began to grow however and before long she was getting to grips with her new found freedom, swinging about high in the canopy and tucking into some tasty wild leaves.

มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

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While Bobbie was out exploring their new home, Songkran remained very cautious of the open cage door. By the 3rd day he still hadn't stepped outside and so we elected to cut a hole in the mesh of the cage, offering him another route to freedom. This seemed to do the trick and after a short while he plucked up the courage to go outside and slowly began to get to grips with his strange new environment. For the first few days he stayed within the large trees immediately beside the enclosure, unwilling to climb on anything thin or unsteady he awkwardly clambered around using all four hands and feet to keep himself securely attached to the branches at all times. With a little practice however, he started to relax and move around more freely, swinging and jumping like a gibbon.



Although the couple are now living free in the forest, they are still dependent on our support. All being well we will continue to feed them every day for the next year or more until we are sure they can find enough wild food to survive on their own.



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket)

Bambam Family Update We are sad to report the tragic news that adult female Bambam has recently lost her vision and can no longer be considered as a candidate for release back into the wild.



Bambam arrived at GRP as a tiny baby in 2004 and was lovingly hand raised by staff and volunteers at the project. In 2010 a white spot, indicative of cataract, was noticed in her right eye and she was moved to our quarantine site for close monitoring. However, after a year no further deterioration was observed and the

decision was made to return Bambam to our rehabilitation program. In 2012 she was successfully introduced to adult male Santi and in August 2013 Bambam gave birth to baby Peepo. In February 2014 the family was selected as the first group to be reintroduced at GRPC and Bambam, Santi and Peepo were relocated to Baan Jaampi village, Chiang Mai in preparation for their release. However, in May it was observed that Bambam's existing cataract had begun to deteriorate further while her other eye had developed an



infection, and plans to release the family were put on hold.

On Tuesday 24th of June Bambam was taken from Chiang Mai to [Mahidol University Animal Hospital](#) in Bangkok for an eye examination and assessment in the hope that her eye sight could be restored. Unfortunately ultrasound examination revealed irreparable damage to both of Bambam's corneas meaning she is now completely blind.

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Despite her condition Bambam is coping well, moving confidently around her cage and caring for Peepo, who is still dependent on her mother's milk. Santi is also proving himself as a great partner and father, spending lots of time grooming and playing with both Bambam and Peepo. The family has recently been returned to the GRP in Phuket where our experienced staff can closely monitor Bambam's condition and ensure she is receiving the best possible care. They will remain together until Peepo is old enough to wean and a decision can be made about their future.

Renovating rehab



Our staff and volunteer team have been working very hard over the past few months constructing a number of new cages at our rehabilitation site. One brand new cage system has been finished and we're now working on rebuilding the cages closest to our public viewing area which house our permanent residents Gibby, Honey, Tam, Bo and Guinness. To make way for the new cages long term neighbours Honey and Gibby have temporarily been split up and Tam and Bo have take their place right at the front of rehab, where they

have both settled in quickly. Tam and Bo's old cage set has been dismantled, along with a third disused cage, and two large new cages are being built in place of the three smaller ones. Once finished, we plan to reunite Honey and Gibby in these new neighbouring cages which will give them lots of extra room to enjoy.

Forest Updates

This month we were pleased to find the Lek family and check on the progress of their new baby, Kai. First seen back in April Kai is now 2-3 months old and is growing up fast. He already has a thick coat of fur and, under mum's watchful eye is starting to try his hand at climbing around in the branches.