

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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Beauty, Dodo and Dr. Tum

On the 26th July Beauty, Dodo and Dr. Tum were transferred to GRP Chiang Mai where we hope they will be successfully released back into the wild.



Beauty (Below)

In April 2008, two year old Beauty arrived at GRP having been confiscated by the authorities from people who were using her as a photo-prop in Patong. Immediately upon arrival Beauty was introduced to the similar aged Seagame, a month later they were joined by Jane, and soon after Epsion and Syliva. For two years these five youngsters lived together in quarantine before being relocated to our rehabilitation site in October 2010. For several more years Beauty shared an enclosure with her young female friends Jane and Seagame, and in 2012 she was finally old enough to start meeting potential breeding partners.



มูลนิธิช่วยชีวิตสัตว์ป่าแห่งประเทศไทย

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Initially Beauty was introduced to O, a shy young male with a history of social difficulties. We hoped Beauty's gentle nature and friendly character would help O find confidence and initially the match looked promising. Unfortunately O's behaviour proved highly unpredictable when his over excitement lead to aggression and Beauty was left shaken, and with some nasty bites. In 2013 a second attempt was made to pair Beauty, this time with Champ. This handsome adult male is generally very calm and we hoped that he would prove the perfect gentleman. Sadly this match wasn't to be either as Champ showed himself to be possessive and dominant at feeding times, and Beauty became very afraid of him. After a relatively short introduction the pair were separated and the search was back on for a suitable partner for Beauty.

Dodo and Dr. Tum

In 2002 Dodo was donated to WARF's Animal Rescue and Education project in Ranong by a foreigner



who had kept him as a pet. Here he was paired with female Brownie and in 2012 she gave birth to their son, Dr.

Tum. Later that year the family were moved to GRP in preparation for release into Khao Pra Thaew non-hunting area. Tragedy struck however just one week before the planned release when Brownie was killed by a snake in the family's forest enclosure. Sadly Dodo and Dr Tum could not be released without a female to complete their family and were immediately returned to our rehabilitation site where the search soon began for a new partner for Dodo. Fortunately Dr. Tum was just old enough to survive without his mother's milk and shared a close bond with his father so we were able to avoid the additional stress of separating them.

Beauty was quickly chosen as a potential match and in December 2013 Dodo and Dr. Tum were moved next to her enclosure so all three gibbons could get to know one another. At first we saw very limited interaction between them and Beauty seemed quite nervous of Dodo, although this was perhaps

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unsurprising given the aggression she had experienced with O and Champ. Over time her confidence grew and staff began to see Beauty and Dodo sitting together, and even embracing, through the mesh of their adjoining enclosures. Eventually the door between their cages was opened allowing all three gibbons to fully interact together. Although Beauty remained quite timid around Dodo for some time, her relationship with Dr. Tum quickly flourished as they happily played together for hours at a time.

As in July the decision was made to move them GRPC with the hope of one day releasing them together in Pang Chum Pee community forest.

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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project Chiang mai (GRPC)

Following the release of Bobbie and Songkran in May of this year, local staff from Pang Chum Pee village have been monitoring their progress and supporting the pair with daily feeding as they learn to fend for themselves in this forest. Bobbie has always been the more confident gibbon and so it was not surprising that she was the first to begin travelling out of their comfort zone, often leaving Songkran behind. After travelling particularly far one day, Bobbie seemed to get lost, and was unable to find her way back to Songkran at the release site. Luckily staff were able to find her and safely lure her back to more familiar territory with some tasty food, and thankfully she's been a little more cautious about straying too far from home ever since.

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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket)

Honey and Gibby: On the 12th of July these long term neighbours were reunited after being temporarily separated in order to build each a new enclosure in front of the viewing area at GRP's visitor and education centre. Both gibbons have settled in well to their new cages and are making full use of all their new space – both cages are almost double the size of the old ones, giving Honey and Gibby lots more room to exercise, and show off their impressive acrobatics!

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Maesa, Emily, Arya, Phi Phi and Lumduan: On the 14th and 15th of July these 5 young gibbons were moved from their old enclosure to one of the brand new large cages built by staff and volunteers in June.. It seems the new cage was ready just in time as the old one proved unsuitable when 4 year old Maesa made a daring escape! Fortunately we were able to catch her again very quickly and, besides a minor cut on her hand, she came to no harm on her little adventure. After a few days recuperation at the clinic, Maesa rejoined the rest of the group in their new enclosure and life was soon back to normal for these mischievous juveniles.

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Forest Update: Due to low volunteer numbers we only managed one trip to the forest during July, but on that day we were fortunate to catch up with newborn baby Kai, as well as observing some interesting changes to one of the forest family groups.

Cop, Jorn, Sherpa and Namthip?: At around 11am on the 16th of July staff and volunteers searching within the Cop family territory were surprised to find adult female Cop by herself, with no sign



of her partner Jorn or their 3 year old son Sherpa. Although she was alone Cop was very calm and we were able to follow her for several hours and observe as she ate and rested in the trees around us. Meanwhile, project manager Mon had come across Jorn and Sherpa on the edge of the family territory, in the company of another adult female, Namthip. Although Cop was later spotted with Jorn and Sherpa on the edge of their territory, it seems that her partnership with Jorn may be coming to an end as he pursues other females in the forest. We

hope to monitor this family over the coming months to see whether this was just a one off, or if Jorn has really strayed away for good.

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The Lek Family: We were very lucky to find this family at around 1pm in the afternoon. Just as the weather took a turn for the worse and we thought our day of gibbon searching was over, the Lek family began to sing. Running through the forest we made our way towards the family as quickly as we could, and fortunately got there just in time to find them before they stopped singing. All four members of the family were together and we were able to watch baby Kai begin to play in the branches as mum took a well deserved rest. His older brother Peanut is clearly very interested in the new addition to the family but it will be a little while longer before he'll have a proper play mate; at only a few months old Kai is just getting to grips with carefully moving around and isn't quite ready for jumping or roughhousing.



Rescued



Slow Loris Rescue and Release : On the 13rd of July a slow loris was found hiding under a picnic table near the path to Bang Pae Waterfall. The loris was caught by staff from GRP and remained at our office site for several days so we could assess his condition and behaviour. He seemed to be in good overall health, had a hearty appetite and was notably aggressive towards people, so the decision was made to return him to the forest in Khao Pra Thaew non-hunting area as soon as possible. Early on the morning

of the 16th of July, staff and volunteers hiked into the forest and released him back into the wild.

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Macaque Rescue: On the 23rd of July, GRP staff helped the DNP rescue a lone macaque from Phuket Royal Marina. Sadly Phuket wildlife frequently comes into conflict with people as their natural habitat is developed into ever more housing and holiday resorts. This macaque was moved to DNP wildlife centre in Phang nga where he or she will hopefully be integrated into a larger group of monkeys.

