

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



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September 2014 (Volume 13 Issue 9)

Newsletter Updates September:

Wow! What a month it's been! September was a busy month with a new couple announced for release in Khao Phra Thaew forest, TWO pregnancies and the rumour of a new baby in the forest as well as a much needed influx of new and returning volunteers here to support the project.

Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket)

Scheduled Release

The biggest news out of the project this month is that we have chosen Mee and Payu for scheduled release in December! Mee and Payu were first introduced to each other in March 2014, when Payu left his family in the forest and returned to our rehabilitation site, in search of a new partner. Although they have only been together for a short time, they're relationship has developed quickly and with Payu's previous experience in the wild they were the clear choice for the team to be the next family to be released. I say family as it was just confirmed that Mee is also Pregnant! With Payu's experience as a father to two other wild gibbons, we believe he will make a great father and carer for Mee and the new baby, who is expected later this year.



Mee's Story: On the 16th of September 2002, two year old Mee arrived at the GRP along with a young male gibbon called O. They had been confiscated together from a restaurant in Bangkok where the owner had kept them in a small cage, hoping they would draw in customers. Like many orphaned primates Mee showed some stereotypic behaviour patterns, but despite her traumatic childhood experiences she has always been quietly confident and adapted very well to living with other gibbons. In her early time at GRP she continued to share a cage with O, along with several others, including Jojo (♂), Santi (♂), Max (♂), Jep (♂) and Jonus (♀). By the time she was 6 years old, Mee had formed a strong relationship with Jojo, and

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the pair where the first to move out of their juvenile play group to the privacy of their own cage. Hopes were high that this young couple would quickly start a family and have a chance at reintroduction together, but sadly this was not to be. Despite their obvious affection for one another, after many patient years of waiting for a baby it became clear that Jojo suffered from behavioural problems which prevented this couple from reproducing and in 2013 the difficult decision was made to separate them in order to give Mee a better chance at one day returning to the wild.

Payu's Story: On the 14th of July 2001 Payu (Thai for storm) was born at GRP to mother Nuan and father Khao, after a particularly stormy night. The first born in his family, Payu was somewhat spoiled by his doting mother who allowed him to continue suckling until he was almost 4 years old! In 2006 Payu's sister Namthip was born, and in 2007 the family were successfully released into the wild but, sadly, after only one year together in the forest Khao mysteriously disappeared. Not long



after this tragic loss, the family was further broken up when adult female Dao came to the territory in order to pair with maturing Payu. Unwilling to tolerate the presence of another adult female, Dao fought with Nuan who was left with severe injuries and eventually returned to GRP. Unexpectedly, Payu's sister Namthip remained with Payu and Dao, and for 5 years the family thrived in the wild. During this time we were thrilled to see two little ones born to Payu and Dao, Newbe-Mek in 2009 and Saifa in 2012. Tragedy struck again however in October 2013 when we discovered Dao had died of unknown causes. Infant Saifa was sadly also lost, and the family was reduced to just Payu, Namthip and 4 year old Newbe-Mek. Not long after Payu was spotted close to our rehabilitation site, he had left the forest presumably in search of a new mate and so our staff made the decision to temporarily return him to captivity in order to find him a suitable partner.

Bam Bam: Following up on Bam Bam's condition, she has adapted to her lack of vision and with the help of Santi has been able to take excellent care of Peepo, as well as any able bodied mother could have. Peepo has also grown a lot in both size and confidence, and is now venturing away from her Bam Bam more and more, exploring their enclosure as well as playing and eating by herself.

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Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases!

September saw the worst of rainy season this year and with it came a small epidemic which spread through the rehab centre. Honey, Muki, Brittany, Sylvia, Epon, Gibby, Payu, George, Seagame, Aye Aye, Annie and Jojo all came down with a cold. It even spread to one of our long term volunteers! Thankfully our experienced staff were quick to recognise the symptoms and treatment was administered quickly and effectively so we're happy to report that all have made a successful recovery.

Sylvia and Epon: For many years Sylvia has shared a cage with young male Epon. Despite their close bond, Epon has a history of being quite aggressive to Sylvia around food and often the couple needed to be separated at feeding times to ensure Sylvia got her share. In the wild gibbon females are dominant to their partners, an important social dynamic which helps keep the whole family in check. With this in mind, we're happy to report that recently Sylvia's confidence has grown enormously and this gentle young lady is finally learning to stick up for herself and tell Epon who's boss. The pair often now peacefully feed together at the same food basket and occasionally Sylvia is even the first to start eating! Although we'll continue to monitor their behaviour together very closely, we're thrilled to see this important development in their relationship and hopeful that they will soon be ready to start a family together. They have come a long way since their introduction and are still very fond of each other, even though a cold and flu scare this month meant they were separated for a short time, they are now happily back with each other.

Tunda and Peemai: Over the last year Tunda and Pee Mai have seen many play mates come and go, including Jane, Lumduan, Brittany and Crystal. Despite the ever changing dynamic of their group Tunda and Pee Mai remain confident, playful, and perfectly at ease in each others company. Renowned among volunteers as two of the best looking gibbons on site, hopes are high that one day this young couple might become a breeding pair. With a few years to go until they reach maturity however, for now it's enough just to see them growing up into healthy, happy young adults with great prospects of one day being returned to the wild.

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KPT Forest Updates



Namthip Pregnant: Great news out of the forest this September! On the 8th of September, a monitoring party out on a routine check of the wild gibbons found a very PREGNANT Namthip and from the size of her, we expect her to be giving birth very soon! Namthip was seen with Jorn and his baby Sherpa. Unfortunately we were not able to locate Sherpa's mother Cop, who has not been seen since we spotted her alone in July. On the 8th we were also able to locate Lek's family this month. New baby Kai is looking strong and healthy for a baby gibbon and can be seen with his brother Peanut and parents, Lek and Bank.



Another New Baby?: We received more good news at the end of the month when we received reports from KPT Park Rangers that they have spotted a new baby near the Bang Pae Waterfall. We will send more volunteers and staff out in the following weeks to confirm the rumours.

With the impending release of a new couple and the possibility of 2 new babies, all of us at GRP are really excited that the population of the KPT forest will see a much needed boost in numbers by the end of the year!

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Slow Loris Updates

We're pleased now to report that we've been able to track down a supplier of arabica gum from Bangkok and all 7 of our lorises are thoroughly enjoying eating a more natural diet!

In the wild tree sap, or gum, makes up a large proportion of the slow loris diet, along with insects. Sweet fruits don't appear on the menu, however catering to lorises in captivity can be difficult, and often fruit is the most easily available and readily eaten food, especially by those recovered from the photo-prop trade who are often fed little more than bananas and rice. Unfortunately gum is not available to buy in Phuket,

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and over the past year we've tried a real range of fruits and vegetables, along with rich protein sources such as eggs and meal worms, in the absence of their staple food. However, in August one of our supporters from Bangkok spotted arabica gum for sale at a large market, and we're finally able to incorporate this important food stuff into their diet. We hope it will go a long way to improving both their health and wellbeing, by giving them all the nutrition they really need, as well as replacing much of the sugary fruit we've so far been depending on.

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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project Chiang mai (GRPC)

Beauty changes groups and a new group released

Beauty was moved away from Dr Tum and Dodo as she was afraid of Bobbie who seems to have left Songkran in favour of adult male Dodo. Beauty was then introduced to Songkran in the hope they would take a liking to each other, but unfortunately she was quite scared of him and they were quickly separated again. Beauty has since been introduced to Nat and Nuan, who were relocated to Chiang Mai back in August, and some positive interactions have been seen between them.



As mentioned before, Bobbie has joined with Dodo and Dr Tum after scaring away Beauty. The group is strong and happy and were released into the Pang Chum Pee Community Forest later that month.