



MYANMAR HOOLOCK GIBBON CONSERVATION STATUS REVIEW

Project Proposal

Title:	Hoolock Gibbon conservation status survey in the Kahya-Kahyin mountains	
Location:	Northern Karen state, Myanmar	
Date and duration:	40 days from April to May 2010: 26 days surveying at the site (three field sites x 7 days + village interviews) 14 days for travel to and from site	
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Participants:	Field team of five	
Total budget:	THB (Thai Baht): 180,340	CHF: 5,548.92

1. Background

Hoolock gibbons are globally *Vulnerable* lesser apes, of which only two species are recognised; the western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) and eastern hoolock gibbon (*H. leuconedys*).

Both species prefer undisturbed forested areas at elevations ranging from 152 to 1370 meters above sea level (Wolfheim, 1983). They range from eastern India and Bangladesh to Burma and southern China, with the species boundary falling long the Chindwin river in western Myanmar (Burma). Of all gibbon species, the range of Hoolock gibbons extends the farthest north and east, reaching the western banks of the Salween river in Myanmar's Karen state near the border with Thailand.

Over the past thirty years, Hoolock gibbons have experienced a drastic population decline, with the current estimated population at under 5,000 animals (Das, 2003). The direct causes have been hunting and particularly forest loss, causing a possible 67 percent decline in suitable habitat since 1987 alone.

Very little is known about the status of the genus in Myanmar, nor the threats it faces. The Myanmar Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Status review was launched in September 2008 to provide comprehensive, up-to-date information on the distribution, density and overall viability of hoolock gibbons in that country.

The review is a joint initiative of the People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) and Flora and Fauna International (FFI), in partnership with a number of domestic

organisations and bodies. Two years of field surveys will be complete by July 2010, by when a report on survey findings will be presented to the public. This report will be used as the basis for establishing site-based conservation initiatives to protect the species.

2. Justification

The Hoolock status review prioritised 18 large forest blocks throughout the country where current data was considered insufficient for a full assessment of conservation status. Sites were identified based on current knowledge of forest quality and extent, anecdotal evidence of gibbon presence, and suspected likelihood of continued populations of the species. Under the review, field surveys have now been conducted in nine of these forest blocks, and are planned in a further four.

One of these blocks – the Kahya-Kahyin Range (Appendix 1) – lies in northern Karen state, and is probably the most south-easterly refuge for the eastern hoolock gibbon. To date, it has not been possible for non-Karen groups to survey in this area, which is under the control of the Karen National Union (KNU). However, a local ethnic organisation, the Karen Environment and Social Action Network (KESAN), has a successful track record of supporting community based natural resource management and biodiversity surveys in the KNU-controlled area.

This proposal is seeking support for field surveys in the Kahya-Kahyin Range using the standard methodology adopted throughout the status review. Under this proposal, PRCF and FFI will provide training and technical support to KESAN to conduct the first ever hoolock gibbon and biodiversity survey in the proposed site.

3. Aim

Conduct a gibbon and biodiversity survey and threats assessment in the Kayeh-Kayin Range using standardised project methodology.

4. Objectives

- Gibbon status and population density surveys at three field sites
- Assessment of threats to gibbon and biodiversity conservation at the site
- Incidental bird and mammal surveys, using primary and secondary sources

5. Description

The area of the Kahya-Kahyin Range of interests includes two sub-blocks that are believed to hold significant areas of forest suitable for gibbons: Nattaung and K'Shorter. At this time, only K'Shorter is accessible for security reasons.

Approximately six small 'villages' practicing predominantly shifting cultivation are believed to be located in and around the K'Shorter block, although they are subject to unplanned movement due to conflict with the Burmese army. These communities will be used for logistical support and a source of local knowledge during the survey.

The research team will comprise:

- KESAN Research Programme Coordinator, Mr Weeh Htoo ('Flow')
- Research Team Leader, Mr Hsa Bweh Moo
- Three (Karen) Research Assistants from Mae Ra Mo refugee camp

The KESAN research team will receive initial training from the project. Following the field research, the senior KESAN staff will receive further support with data analysis and report preparation.

6. Schedule

Activity	Duration	Dates	Who	Where
Training	3 days	April 2010	Thomas Geissmann, Mark Grindley	Chiang Mai
Field research	40 days	April-May 2010	Field Team	Karen State
Report writing	10 days	May 2010	Research supervisors	Chiang Mai
Preparation of final status review	2 months	July-Aug 2010	PRCF/FFI, Thomas Geissmann	Rangoon

7. Outputs

- Field Survey report of preliminary results
- Images and field data
- Map of survey sites and approximate forest cover

6. Budget (THB)

Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
		(No. Items)	THB	THB
A Personnel (non-project personnel)				
1 Research Programme Coordinator	Lump Sum	1	14,000	14,000
2 Resarch Team Leader	Lump Sum	1	14,000	14,000
3 Resarch Assistants (x3)	Person	3	4,000	12,000
4 Guide; 1/FS x 2 Field Sites x 6 days	Day	12	120	1,440
5 Porters; 4/FS x 2 Field Sites x 6 days	Day	48	100	4,800
6 Security guide (crossing minefields)	Trip	4	1,000	4,000
Sub-total (a):				50,240
B Logistics (e.g., transport, communications)				
1 Bus, Chiang Mai-Mae Sariang (1 person)	Trip	2	200	400
2 Car, Chiang Mai-Mae Sariang (1 people)	Trip	2	3,500	7,000
3 Car, Mae Sariang-Mae Sanlaep (2 people)	Trip	2	1,000	2,000
4 Boat, Mae Ra Mo-Mae Sanlaep (3 people)	Trip	6	500	3,000
5 Boat travel, Mae Sariang-Mae Nu Hta (5 people)	Trip	10	700	7,000
6 Food, Field Team; 6 people x 40 days	Person/day	240	100	24,000
7 Food, Guides/Porters; 5 people x 12 days x 2 FSs	Person/day	120	100	12,000
Sub-total (b):				55,400
C Materials (e.g., copies, utensils, film)				
1 Batteries for cameras, GPS	Unit	100	22	2,200
2 Satellite phone	Card	1	4,000	4,000
3 Tarpaulin for camp	Unit	2	750	1,500
4 Sleeping bags	Unit	3	1,000	3,000
5 Rucksacks	Unit	4	1,000	4,000
Sub-total (c):				14,700
D Other Costs (not within the above categories)				
1 Training course costs	Lump Sum	1	35,000	35,000
2 Personal field equipment	Lump Sum	1	1,000	1,000
3 First Aid supplies	Lump Sum	1	2,000	2,000
4 Adminstration	Lump Sum	1	22,000	22,000
Sub-total (d):				60,000
Total (Thai Baht)				180,340
Total (Swiss Franks 1 = 32.5 THB)				5548.92

Appendix 1: Map of survey site

