



## Project Proposal

<b>Title</b>	Establishment and Support for Khe Shor Ter Community Forest, for protection of the Eastern Hoolock Gibbon and other wildlife	
<b>Location</b>	Northern Karen State, Myanmar	
<b>Date and duration</b>	April to December 2011	
<b>Submitted by</b>	Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN)	
<b>Participants</b>	Participants Facilitators = 2 female and 8 men people Local forest management groups = 6 women and 14 men	
<b>Total budget</b>	THB 263,000	USD 8,766.7

### 1. Background

Hoolock gibbons are globally threatened 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 about 2,300 meters above sea level. They range from eastern India and Bangladesh to Burma and southern China, with the species boundary falling along 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. This prompted the conduct of a Myanmar Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Status Review from 2008 to 2010, which assessed the situation and threats for both species in 11 sites throughout the country.

One site that has shown to hold globally significant populations of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon lies in Karen State (Saw Blaw Htoo and Grindley, 2010). This Hoolock Gibbon survey was conducted by the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network ("KESAN"), with support from the People Resources and Conservation Foundation ("PRCF"), and a generous contribution by the Gibbon Conservation Alliance.

Following the initial discovery and documentation of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon in the Khe Shor Ter Forest in Karen State, the PRCF provided support to KESAN for conducting a planning activity to begin the establishment of community-based conservation with 13 communities at the site (KESAN 2011).

The current proposal is for funds to implement priority activities to support the implementations of plans into concrete conservation actions at the site.

### 2. Justification

The Ker Shor Ter Forest is an area of approximately 100 km<sup>2</sup> of hill evergreen forest in Burma's Karen State (Appendix 1). The forest area has remained almost undisturbed due to

its relative remoteness. Until recently there has been no permanent settlement near the forest, although this has changed with displacement of villagers caused by civil war between the state army and the Karen National Union (KNU) in other areas of Karen state.

After KESAN surveyed the status of gibbons in the Ker Shor Ter Forest, results indicated densities ranging from 0.93 to 5.12 groups/km<sup>2</sup> (at a listening radius of 600m), or an average of 8.96 individuals/km<sup>2</sup>. Based on these results we make a preliminary estimate of the total gibbon population of 896 animals in Ker Shor Ter forest. Thus the survey revealed a significant area of contiguous forest and genetically sustainable gibbon numbers.

Many threats to the gibbon and other important species in this area have now been documented by KESAN (Saw Blaw Htoo and Grindley 2010; KESAN 2011). These threats are mostly from human activities. Therefore, the local people together with the KESAN research team (comprising young Karen environmentalists from the survey area) want to save this remaining watershed. The local people indicate many steps<sup>1</sup> for the preservation of the Ker Shor Ter Forest, and KESAN has been assisting them to achieve this.

The local people are happy to receive support and assistance from non-government organizations (NGOs) to better conserve their forest. Community members have stated that many people have come to them to ask them to extract logs and other materials from the forest but only one person has approached them to save/conservate the forest. The community would like to work with other organizations and neighbouring communities that share their goal of conserving and sustainably managing the forest, in accordance with their traditional ways. The forest is intact and its boundaries have never been formally drawn up or documented. However, the community is willing to manage this forest together with other concerned parties/organizations.

Many steps will be required to successfully establish community forest management in Ker Shor Ter mountain (Appendix 2). The first step was the Hoolock Gibbon Survey conducted by KESAN in April-May 2010. The second step was a workshop to form a forest committee, held in December 2010 that laid down management policies and made an application to the Karen National Union,(KNU) for official recognition of community management of this forest (KESAN 2011). The new Community Forest Committee comprises representatives from 32 communities who are organized into three committees; one each for two core areas where all human activity is prohibited, and one overarching committee that also oversees the remaining, limited use forest. Patrol teams were identified for each committee to give them the ability to monitor and enforce the restrictions, but they have currently received no additional training or financial support.

Since exploitation of gibbons and most other wildlife is prohibited throughout the whole Community Forest, this represents a significant advance for wildlife protection in the range of the Eastern Hoolock Gibbon. Ensuring that this community-lead prohibition can work in practice is now a priority for the project proponents.

Specifically, it is imperative that the boundary of Ker Short Ter Community Forest be mapped and demarcated as soon as possible, and its boundary, new status and the relevant regulations are disseminated to relevant stakeholders. Two Special Patrol teams were established in December 2010 workshop, and training and support for at least two patrols in 2011 is required to strengthen their role and ensure threats are minimized as much as possible. Lastly, the three Ker Shor Ter Community Forest committees need some additional support to cover administration costs for 2011, while they learn to run regular activities by themselves.

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<sup>1</sup> General steps are; i) assessment of biodiversity values (survey), ii) workshop and formation of the CF committee, iii) boundary mapping and demarcation, iv) patrolling, v) awareness and dissemination, vi) threat reduction (small projects), and vi) community self administration.

### 3. Aim

Conduct demarcation of the Khe Shor Ter Community Forest, and initiate local forest management to improve conservation of habitat for gibbons and other species.

### 4. Objectives and activities

#### 4.1 Mapping and demarcation of the boundary

This activity will:

- Build up on the local team's capacity on GPS way point marking and boundary survey
- Conduct land demarcation for forest mapping and print out the GIS maps for all 32 communities (two maps for the whole CF area)
- Put up sign boards to indicate boundaries and rules and regulations for Community Forest and resources utilization.

Details: The area is approximately 100 square kilometres. The boundary of the whole Community Forest is approximately 140 km long, with an additional 30 km of boundary for the two internal strict protection zones inside. Two teams can walk an average of 5km/day each = 14 days/team to cover the external boundary, and an estimated 10 days/team to cover the two strict protection zones inside the Community Forest, where the terrain is more difficult. The total length of field work day will be up to 34 days so the length of travel from Thailand and back to will be about 50 days in total for demarcation.

For marking the forest boundary, the two teams will comprise community representatives from the larger villages, local knowledge experts with experience of the forest and terrain, Community Forest committee members, and KESAN technical staff as follows:

No	Activities Participants	Team 1 (North)	Team 2 (South)
1	Kay Pu village tract	1	
2	Ler Mu Plaw village tract		1
3	Saw Mu Plaw village tract		1
4	CF committee	2	2
5	KESAN	3	4
6	Porters	2	2
7	Local experts (villagers)	2	2
8	Villagers	2	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>

Each team will walk the boundary and the local experts and Community Forest committee representatives will determine the exact location of the boundary. This will be marked with white paint on trees at least every 500 m, and with a clear X cut into the trees at smaller distances not more than 50 m. Locations for tree marking will be based on visibility, obvious geographical features (ridge tops, valleys), and points of access/egress. All boundary markers will be recorded by GPS for later entry into a GIS system and creation of maps. The KESAN GIS expert and co-leader of the implementing team for this project, Saw Wee Eh Htoo, will take responsibility for mapping with support from the PRCF.

#### ***4.2 Increased awareness of the status and location of the forest***

This activity will:

- Disseminate the results of the Community Forest planning in late 2010
- Advocate against wildlife poaching, wild orchid gathering, and wildlife trading

The Community Forest committees are currently discussing the approximate location of the Community Forest boundaries with villagers, and identifying participants for the demarcation at the same time. They will also identify locations to erect larger sign boards that include maps and regulations, and positioned at the main access points.

Community facilitators and Community Forest committee members will also hold at least four joint village meetings aimed at hunters and orchid collectors to discuss the results of patrolling activities, collect information on illegal activities, and disseminate new information on successful control of wildlife exploitation in other parts of the Community Forest.

#### ***4.3 Establishment of regular patrolling and administrative support for the Community Forest***

This activity will:

- Establish an office for the Community Forest Committee
- Establish Regular Patrols to discourage poachers and timber thieves
- Conduct two annual Special Patrols for direct monitoring by the CF committees
- Monitoring of illegal activities through Regular Patrolling, and quarterly submission of findings to the CF committees

Based on the Khe Shor Ter Community Forest regulations agreed by local communities in December 2010, Regular Patrols will be conducted at the village level in teams of three throughout the year, and findings reported back to the local Community Forest Committees. These will require the development of simple patrol protocols, which will be facilitated by the project. Protocols will be agreed by the communities but will state at least:

- How to plan patrols (number of participants, location, duration etc)
- Data recording, using basic record sheets
- Dealing with illegal activities
- Safety
- Reporting and follow-up

The project will also support two Special Patrols per year to inspect the boundary, conduct enforcement operations, and note the condition of the forest. Local people suggested that the best time for the patrol should be in September and December because big animals like tiger and other animals are active at that time so many poachers from other areas come into the forest to set up snares and traps to capture the animals. It is also the best time for good weather, so poachers often go out and sleep in the forest.

Patrol Activities: Two Special Patrol teams will walk into the forest accompanied by local Forest Department officers to detect evidence of threat and track the poachers. Details of illegal activities will be reported to the CF committees and Forest Department for processing (eg, imposition of fines). Due to the presence on the patrols of forest officers they will have the power to punish illegal activities.

The patrol group will record evidence of poaching, including sleeping sites, foot prints, snared animals, animal parts (bones, skins, feathers and shells), gunshots, snares and traps, and meat drying areas. After recording the evidence and taking pictures, snares, drift fences and pit falls will be removed or destroyed, camps and drying areas will be destroyed. Timber will be burden or otherwise destroyed. Where hunters are not physically present, the teams will attempt to identify the persons involved through interviews in nearby villages.

For the two Special Patrols, patrollers will be divided into two teams. One team will take responsibility from September activities and the other team will be in December. The project will support only subsistence costs and basic equipment for the patrols. The total patrol days per trip will be 15 days with 10 members per team.

<b>Team</b>	<b>Team 1 September</b>	<b>Team 2 December</b>
Township Forest Officer	1	1
Forest special petrol guards	4	4
Local Wildlife survey Team members	3	3
Local government officers	1	1
Villager experts from each village tract	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

#### ***4.4 Gibbon corridor mapping***

This activity will:

- Identify areas of forest contiguous with Khe Shor Ter Community Forest
- Map the remaining significant forest areas and intermediate forest corridors that link them to Khe Shor Ter forest
- Establish regulations for the protection of gibbon habitat in the wider landscape outside the Community Forest

The KESAN team will work with local communities to identify the largest areas of forest that still contain gibbons and which link totally or partially to the main Community Forest area. We will then map these areas and intermediate corridors as wildlife dispersal routes. The approach was discussed with the villagers during the workshop in December 2010 and participants suggested the forest be linked to the main forest by streams with at least one hundred meters of riparian habitat protected from cutting on either side. On ridges, at least forest should be maintained at least 200 meters wide between larger forest blocks.

Some smaller forest blocks and corridors might be already destroyed however villagers report that many still remain virgin. We will identify degraded corridors and discuss with communities on how they can be recovered. If reforestation is required, the area and possible duration will be estimated to form the basis for the 2012 work plan. These activities will be undertaken at the same time as the forest land survey, and by surveys and sketch mapping by the villagers themselves.

#### 4. Overall schedule

##### 4.1 All project activities in Ker Shor Ter Community Forest, 2011-03-11

Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Community Forest map making and forest boundary marking	x	x	x	x					
Local Special Patrol to investigate threat and who are behind the incident							x	x	x
Advocacy campaign on wildlife trade and orchid trading							x	x	x

##### 4.2 Schedule for boundary demarcation

Activity	Duration	Dates	Who	Where
GPS way point and compass training	1 days	Apr-11	Mr. Wee Eh Htoo, Saw Blaw Htoo	Paw Law Pu
Travelling	17 days	April-May	KESAN TEAM	Chiang Mai to research site
Field research	32 days	April-May 2011	Field Team	Karen State
Report writing	10 days	May-11	Project supervisors	Chiang Mai
Ongoing monitoring	30 days	June to Dec	KESAN local counterparts	Karen state
Second planning trip	20 days	Nov 2011	Project supervisors	Chiang Mai to research site

##### 4.3 KESAN Project Team Participants

- KESAN Research Programme Coordinator, Mr Wee Eh Htoo ('Flow')
- Research Technical Officer, Mr Saw Blaw Htoo
- Four (Karen) Research Assistants from Mae Ra Mo refugee camp
- Local Research Team and Committee Members

CVs for the two senior project officers are provided in Appendix 3.

#### 5. Outputs

- Boundary marking (paint and cutting) x 170 km
- Sign boards showing regulations at main entrance points x 20
- Forest/zoning maps print out for communities (plastic sheet, 2x2 m) x 20
- Images of boundary survey, sign erection, village awareness meetings
- Patrol teams equipped and operation procedures established; 4 patrols run and results reported to CF committees
- Commencement of enforcement of local CF and resource management policy
- Gibbon corridor draft map will be indicated

- Khe Shor Ter Forest Committee office is established
- Wildlife threat recorded information prepared by regular patrol and will be submitted to the Community Forest Office and it will be discussed in quarterly and annual meetings before submission to the township level
- Results of the Community Forest planning and boundary marking in late 2010 disseminated to all 32 villages
- CF 'office' established in one of the village meeting houses and provided with basic furniture and storage

## **7. Budget (THB)**

### ***7.1 Budget justification***

For Patrol: Once per year especially during winter while tigers breed/mate and most people are free from farm work, and so hunting is heaviest.

Administration: Including materials for awareness and patrol monitoring using standard record books produced by the project.

Annual meeting: One per year meeting with the committee members and find out the failure and achievement evaluation.

Staff field work: Locals travel from village to village to ask for women's participation for the conservation and stop wildlife trading, recording important species and places around each village.

Office Materials: Books, Stencil, pens, seals, ink, stencil boards, A4 paper

A Camera: To detect the evidence of poaching in order to enforce the local policy

Walking Talking: There is no other communication material used in the community but only the walkie-talkie will be used in the area for better communication.

GPS: Mark the location of species found for better management.

Medicine: There is no kind of medication in the office so the basic medical supplies such as paracetamol, ORS and anti-acid are needed for the staff.

Repair of Sign Boards: The sign boards could be destroyed by strong winds or falling trees or other causes, so the local staff needs to repair some of them.

Transportation: The transportation for basic materials, food and books from the border will need at least one or two per year. The local staff will need to pay for the transport cost.

## 7.2 Total budget, divided by donor

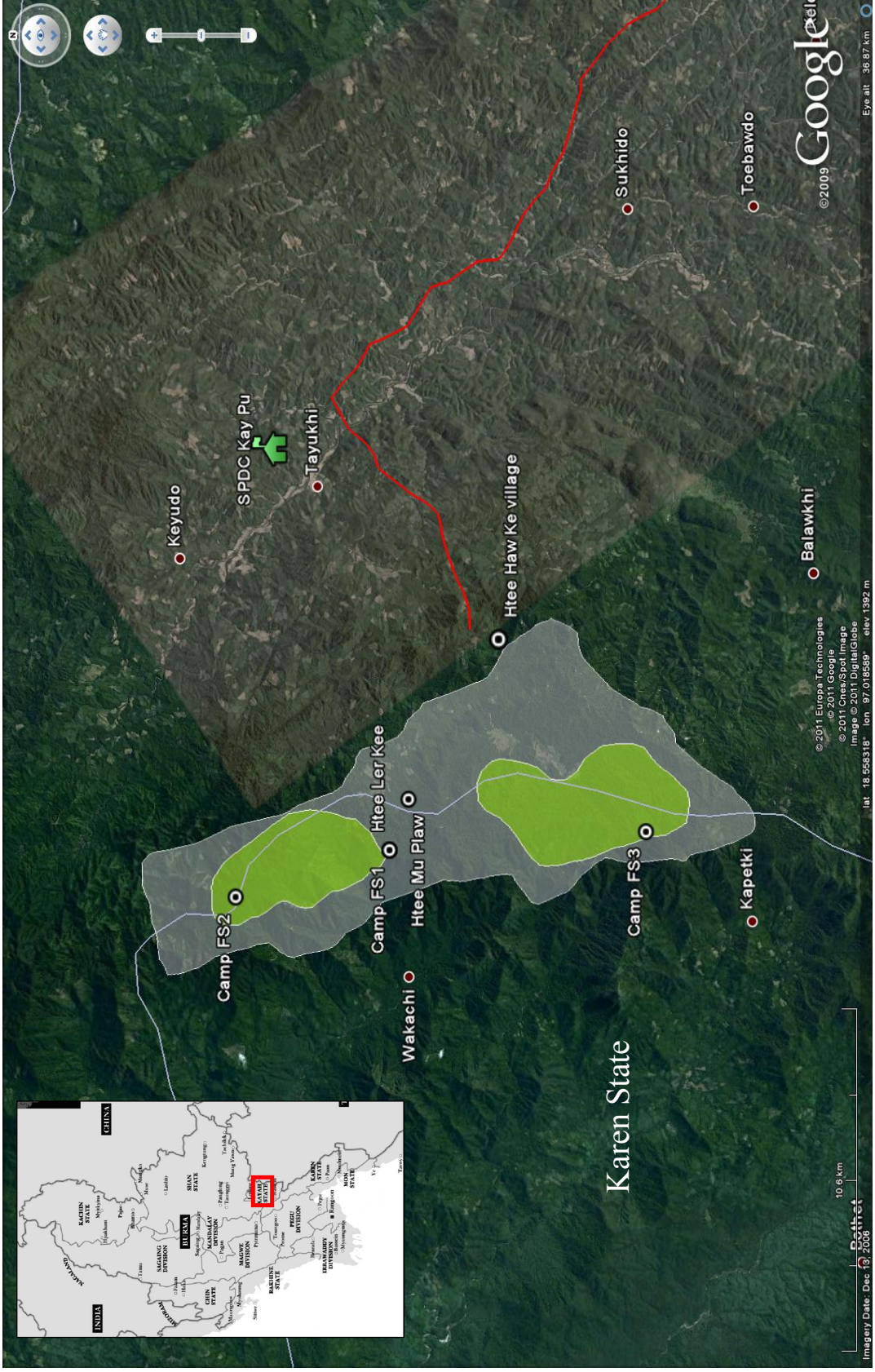
Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total	PRCF	GCA
		(No. Items)	THB	THB	THB	THB
<b>A Personnel and human resources</b>						
1 Research Program Coordinator (KESAN)	Month	3	5,000	15,000	5,000	10,000
2 Research Technical officer (KESAN)	Month	3	5,000	15,000	5,000	10,000
3 Research Assistants (x 4)	Pers/month	8	2,000	16,000	4,000	12,000
6 Guide: 2/FS x 2 Field GPS forest boundary Surveys	Day	60	80	4,800	-	4,800
7 Porters: 4 /4 FS x 4 Field GPS Surveys x 30 Days	Day	120	80	9,600	-	9,600
8 Security guide (crossing minefields)	Trip	4	1,000	4,000	-	4,000
Sub-total (a):				<b>64,400</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>50,400</b>
<b>B Logistics</b>						
1 Bus, Chiang Mai-Mae Sariang (1 person)	Trip	2	2,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
2 Car, Chiang Mai-Mae Sariang (1 people)	Trip	2	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
3 Boat, Mae Ra Mo-Mae Sanlaep (3 people)	Trip	6	500	3,000	1,000	2,000
4 Boat travel, Mae Sariang-Mae Nu Hta (5 people)	Trip	10	1,000	10,000	3,000	7,000
5 Food, Field Team; 6 people x 50 days	Person/day	300	100	30,000	20,000	10,000
6 Food, Guides/Porters; 20 people x 30 days x 2 FS	Person/day	680	50	34,000	20,000	14,000
Sub-total (b):				<b>83,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>C Materials (boundary demarcation)</b>						
1 Batteries for cameras, GPS	Unit	50	40	2,000	-	2,000
2 Satellite phone card	Card	1	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
3 Plastic sheets for camping	Unit	2	500	1,000	-	1,000
4 Hammocks	Unit	6	250	1,500	-	1,500
5 Timbers for Sign Boards	Unit	20	60	1,200	-	1,200
6 Ink for writing sign Boards	Unit	20	60	1,200	-	1,200
7 Boots for demarcation team members	Unit	15	100	1,500	1,500	-
8 GPS	Unit	1	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
9 Walkie-talkie	Unit	1	7,000	7,000	7,000	-
10 Medical supplies	Packages	2	1,000	2,000	2,000	-
11 Camera for local committees staff	Unit	1	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
12 books, pen, A4, pencils, inks, stencil, postage,	Unit	10	100	1,000	1,000	-
13 Repairing building, roofs, bamboos,	Unit	1	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
14 Batteries for cameras, GPS, walking talking	Unit	50	40	2,000	2,000	-
Sub-total (c):				<b>44,400</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>25,900</b>
<b>D Other Activity Costs (boundary demarcation)</b>						
1 Personal field equipment	Lump Sum	1	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
2 First Aid supplies	Kit	1	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
3 Communication fees		10	100	1,000	1,000	-
4 Map printing		20	300	6,000	6,000	-
Sub-total (d):				<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>E Other Activity Costs (Patrolling)</b>						
1 Food, Patrol team 10 people/1 trip X 15 days	Person/day	150	100	15,000	-	15,000
2 Food, Patrol team 10 people/1 trip X 15 days	Person/day	150	100	15,000	-	15,000
Sub-total (e):				<b>30,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>F Others (Mending, transport, food)</b>						
1 Repairing sign boards	times/year	6	200	1,200	-	1,200
2 transporting the materials from border for office	times/year	2	1,000	2,000	-	2,000
3 Food for guest, office staff and emergency	times/year	4	500	2,000	-	2,000
Sub-total (h):				<b>5,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,200</b>
<b>G Administration (campaign, staff meeting, office materials)</b>						
1 Administration costs in Chiang Mai and overhead	Lump Sum	1	15,000	15,000	5,000	10,000
2 Meeting 2 times/year	times/year	2	3,000	6,000	-	6,000
3 Staff field work for community advocacy campaign	times/year	1	6,000	6,000	-	6,000
Sub-total (g):				<b>27,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Grant Total (Thai Baht) (a+b+c+d+e+f+g+h)</b>				<b>263,000</b>	<b>93,500</b>	<b>169,500</b>
<b>Total USD (1 = 30.0 THB)</b>				<b>8,767</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>5,650</b>



## 8. References

- Saw Blaw Htoo and Grindley, M. (2010), *Hoolock Gibbon and Biodiversity Survey on Khe Shor Ter Mountain, Nattaung Range, Luthaw Township, Mudraw District, Karen State, Myanmar*. Report No. 11, Myanmar Primate Conservation Program. People Resource and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) and Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN)
- KESAN (2011). Small Activity Report: Inception of community conservation and work planning for Ker Shor Ter forest, with a focus on gibbon conservation. KESAN, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Geissmann, T., Grindley, M. E., Momberg, F., Ngwe Lwin, and Saw Moses (2008). *Hoolock Gibbon and Biodiversity Survey and Training in Southern Rakhine Yoma, Myanmar: Preliminary Report*. [Report No.1] Myanmar Primate Conservation Program, BANCA, FFI, PRCF and Yangon University, Yangon, 31 pp.

Appendix 1: Map of Ker Shor Ter Forest



Note: Red line indicates trail to site. White area is estimated extent of Ker Shor Ter Community Forest, with green areas indicating the Strict Protection Zones. These areas will be properly mapped following boundary demarcation.

## **Appendix 2: Immediate goals of Ker Shor Ter Community Forest**

The following goals were identified by over 100 villagers during the CF planning activity held by KESAN in December 2010. This project seeks to help the communities achieve them.

- The local committee will conduct the forest boundary and forest zoning mapping by the year of 2011.
- The committee to supervise gibbon conservation and finalizes gibbon distribution ranges for protection.
- Community's forest lands boundary survey and will be finalized within 2011.
- Community Forest conservation map of forest boundary and gibbon distribution maps will be printed out for the 20 communities
- Application for Community Forest certificate granted and forwarded to upper district level forestry department and will be sent to the head office of the forestry department within 2011.
- The communities will establish the gibbon corridor
- Forest committee will have a physical office
- The forest warden will go on patrol as a group once during the year. Submit the results and findings to the annual meeting and set out aim.

### **Appendix 3: CVs of KESAN officers assigned to this project**

**Wee Eh Htoo (Mr. Seree Wantai; aka “Flow”)**

**Title:** Biodiversity Research Coordinator

**Date of Birth:** 7 October 1978

**Place of Birth:** Thai-Burma border, Thailand

**Status:** Married

**Document:** Thai ID

#### **Education:**

Secondary

Mae Ra Mo High School certificate 1998

Post-ten (Personal Development Course) Certificate 1998-1999

Certificate of Earthrights School 2002-2003

Certificate of Participatory GIS for Development training June-August 2010

#### **Working experience**

Karen Nature Conservation Group 1999-2000

Images Asia E-Desk 2001 (internship 6 Months)

Karen Environmental and Social Action Network 2001 -2011:

#### **Languages:**

Karen: speak, read and write (excellent)

Burmese: speak, read and write (good)

English: speak, read and write (very good)

Thai: speak, read and write (fair)

#### **Computer skill**

Microsoft word, power point

Adobe Photoshop, PageMaker, Indesign, Premier Pro (editing)

#### **Other Skills**

Car: Driver license

Motor cycle: Driver license

Bicycle: Can use

#### **Contact**

E-mail: [naturalflow2003@yahoo.com](mailto:naturalflow2003@yahoo.com)

Phone: 0857137567

## Saw Blaw Htoo

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 4 Feb 1976

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married

### **EDUCATION**

1999 – 2000 ICFC, GED Certificate issued by Maine State U.S.A

2001 – 2006 Mahidol University Bangkok Thailand. Certificate of (B.s.c Biological Science)

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

1995 -1996, Middle School Teacher

1996-1997, Librarian

2000- 2001 King Mongkut Uni. of Technology Biology Research Assistant (Birds Survey).

2005 – 2006, Part time volunteer research on fruit flies DNA sample collection in Mahidol University Department of Biotechnology.

### **Currents**

2006 – 2010, Working in KESAN as a Research Technical Officer, Leading Biodiversity Researcher and leading biodiversity report Author.

2001 -2010, KUSG- IDP School Supporting Director.

2004 – 2010, Traditional Knowledge and Community forest management Advisor at the school area.

### **Publications:**

Khoe Kay Biodiversity in Peril, Published: KESAN 2008

Endangered Wild Elephant in Megatha Forest Karen State, Burma Published; KESAN 2010.

Saw Blaw Htoo and Grindley, M. (2010), Hoolock Gibbon and Biodiversity Survey on Khe Shor Ter Mountain, Nattaung Range, Luthaw Township, Mudraw District, Karen State

### **Languages:**

Karen: Excellent

English: Very good

Burmese: Very good

Thai: Fair

### **Hobbies**

Writing, reading, playing sport, birds and animal watching

E.mail; Sawthulae@hotmail.com

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