

**Proposal to the Gibbon Conservation Alliance:  
Habitat evaluation of white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus  
leucogenys*) in Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve**

Fan Peng-Fei

Institute of Eastern-Himalaya Biodiversity Research,  
Dali University, Yunnan 671000, P. R. China.  
E-mail: fanpf1981@gmail.com

### Background

Gibbons were originally widespread in Yunnan Province, but only few nature reserves are believed to support gibbon populations at present. Based on an interview survey in 2008, supported by GCA, white-cheeked gibbon was found to be on the verge of extinction in China. Only three separated sites might still hold a very small gibbon population in Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve. However, a small captive population of eight gibbons kept at the famous tourist site “Wild Elephant Valley” may provide a good opportunity to raise gibbon conservation awareness and to conduct a gibbon rehabilitation and reintroduction project in China. One adult pair was released in the forest to attract tourists in 2008, and this pair gave birth in 2009. The remaining six captive gibbons (which were infants and young juveniles during the interview survey of 2008) are getting close to maturity, which makes them eligible for reintroduction at the site.

The potential reintroduction site at the “Wild Elephant Valley” is close to original gibbon forest but is not known to support gibbon populations in recent years. The specific object of this project is to evaluate the habitat quality at the potential gibbon reintroduction site. Based on the results of this project, I hope I can help the nature reserve to develop a reintroduction plan for this small population.

### Method

1. We will conduct the field survey to confirm the existence of gibbons in the last three potential sites.
2. We will set up 20 20x20 m plots in each site, totally 60 plots. We will identify the species, measure height, DBH and diameter of crown for each tree with DBH > 10 cm in the plots. And we will identify the species of all woody liana species with DBH > 2 cm in the plots.
3. We will set up another 60 plots in “Wild Elephant Valley” by using the same method for comparative research.
4. We will do some preliminary observations of the released gibbon group to collect data of diet, time budget and forest use.

**Budget**

<b>Travel</b>	
A jeep is needed to do the field survey in the remote area in Xishuangbanna.	
2,000 km (700 km from Dali to Xishuangbanna x 2 = 1,400 km, 600 km local travel) x 3 RMB =	6,000 RMB
<b>Food</b>	
Field gibbon survey: 3 person x 5 days/site x 3 sites x 50 RMB=	2,250 RMB
Plot survey: 5 person x 20 days x 50 RMB =	5,000 RMB
<b>Accommodation</b>	
80/night x (10 days for field survey + 20 days for plot survey) =	2,400 RMB
<b>Stipends</b>	
Fan Peng-Fei (field work, supervision, final report writing): 300 RMB/day x 20 =	6,000 RMB
Students and local guides: 100 RMB/day x 110 person-day =	11,000 RMB
<b>Various</b>	
Insurance, notebooks, batteries, etc.	1,000 RMB
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,650 RMB</b> <b>ca. 5,052 USD</b>