



MID-PROJECT REPORT

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Javan Gibbon Research and
Conservation Project

Engaging Local Community in Conservation of Endangered Javan Gibbon in Gunung Halimun Salak National Park



Mid-Report for Gibbon Conservation Alliance

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A. Technical Section

- **Monitoring Program**

The pandemic hit Indonesia in March 2020 and forced the government to imposed restrictions on travel and close all of the conservation areas, including our site in Citalahab Forest, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park. It has exposed us to several negative impacts, such as the interruption of long-term data collection, delayed collaboration research for Indonesian and foreign students, budget efficiency, and also our community engagement program.

Our field staff who are mainly part of the local community also at the risk of losing their livelihood since they rely on the research project as their income, and we do not want to sacrifice the field staff employed by us. To minimize the risk for our local field staff that could lose their income due to this closure, we coordinated with the national park authority to allow our local field staff to enter the forest twice a week between June to July 2020 and checked the Gibbons condition while at the same time helping the authority to monitor the illegal activities around the unguarded area and they still secured their earning. We found the agriculture expansion has occurred in the peripheral area and we have reported it to the authority and suggested having a community meeting in the future.

Started from August 2020, we received permission from the authority to operated again with the new safety field protocol that we developed following the advice of the IUCN Primate Specialist Group for projects operating in great ape and gibbons' habitats (2020). Therefore, we were able to back monitored the three groups of Javan gibbons that we called Group A, B, and S and collected their activity budget. In February 2021, we found out the adult female of

Group S has a newborn and now we are watching closely the other two females from Group A and B.



Figure 1. Our field site in Citalahab Forest, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park



Figure 2. The monitoring activity conducted in daily basis



Figure 3. The adult female from Group S with a newborn

- **Outreach Program**

Due to the closure of schools as a result of the pandemic, we could not conduct our regular conservation class. However, we were adapted and still committed to bringing awareness to the young generation through a different method. Compare with its cousin – the Orangutan, or other primate species, Javan gibbons have been neglected and received less attention. Therefore, to mainstream the existence of Javan gibbons and raise awareness, we collaborated with Shirohyde, a content creator from Indonesia, to develop a comic strip about Gibbon folklore that we have explored from the forest-edge community and translated in in Bahasa Indonesia, english and more importantly, in Sundanese as local language. We used this folklore as a media campaign and share it widely through social media (@owahalimun) and distributed it to the community, where this story is originated and being preserved for the future generation.



ONCE UPON A TIME, PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT IF JAVAN GIBBON'S SONG IS BEING HEARD FROM THE FOREST, IT MEANS THAT THE GIBBONS ARE ASKING THE SKY TO MAKE THE RAIN FALLS.

GIBBONS ARE KNOWN AS THE TREE DWELLERS, AND ARE AFRAID TO GO DOWN TO THE FOREST FLOOR, OR AFRAID TO DRINK THE WATER FROM THE RIVER BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE BY DOING SO THEY WILL PUT THEMSELVES IN DANGER. HENCE TO OVERCOME THEIR THIRST, THEY WILL MAKE A SONG AND BEG THE SKY TO LET IT RAIN. MOVED BY THE SONG, THE SKY WOULD FINALLY LET THE RAIN FALLS SO THE GIBBONS WILL NO LONGER FEEL THIRSTY.

NATURALLY, JAVAN GIBBONS WOULD GET WATER FROM THE TREE HOLES, THE DEW ON THE LEAVES, AS WELL AS FROM THE FRUITS THEY CONSUMED.

BASED ON LOCAL STORY FROM GUNUNG HALIMUN SALAK NATIONAL PARK
SOURCE: MUHAMMAD NUR



Figure 4. The folklore about Javan gibbons

To celebrated International Gibbon Day on October 24th, we collaborated with Gibbonesia, the online Gibbon campaign under Indonesian International Animal Rescue (IAR) to organized an online poster competition. More than 90 posters were received and eight winners were selected. The selected posters will be used for the campaign in schools and the public in 2021 and 2022.



Figure 5. Two winning posters in the celebration of International Gibbon Day

- **Our next steps**

1. We will continue to observe and collected behavioral and ecological data from three groups of Javan gibbons until July 2021 and trained more local community members to be included in the research and conservation project.
2. We will invite students from the local university to do an internship program and build the next generation of conservationists.
3. The community engagement program will be conducted from June to July 2021 by capacity building in biodiversity monitoring and community-based ecotourism.

B. Financial Section

The \$5,000 funds were used according to the budget we submitted with several adjustments. As a response to the pandemic, we also cover the medical expense for the field staff and did the Covid-19 tests whenever our team goes back from a different area.

No.	Type of expense	Amount (USD)
1	Administration	40
2	Permit to enter national park	100
3	Medical supplies	70
4	Field supplies (rubber boots, rain coats, backpacks)	100
5	Food supplies for team members	435
6	Transportation	400
7	Education materials	200
8	Honorarium for field staff	940
	Total	2,285