

## Indian Post Special Cover Release - Western Hoolock Gibbon and ZOO's 25th

The India Postal Service provides a facility for organisations to design their own Special Cover and conduct a function dedicating it to the issue they want to promote. The covers can contain a letter or blurb about the issue and should be mailed the same day as the function with a special frank or seal provided by the organisation and approved by Indian Post. It is an official cover and ZOO wanted to use the opportunity to promote the Western Hoolock Gibbon.

Naturally there are very clear and stringent regulations as the public is involved with government here and the Indian Post should not face embarrassment. The regulations stated that the subject must be important at the state level. Well Western Hoolock Gibbon is not, to be fair, of particular interest to Tamil Nadu so we had to combine it with something that had more relevance. The 25th Anniversary of ZOO was relevant as ZOO is a registered society in the state and our office is based in TN for 24 years.

Why didn't we have it in Assam or another NE India state, as it is mostly NE Indian Hoolock Gibbon researchers who trek many miles in the North East Indian forests studying this shy primate and keeping track of its status. We began this postal project in order to lobby for a Project Hoolock Gibbon (as in Project Tiger, etc), as ZOO has been seriously involved with Hoolocks for some years now and concluded that nothing can save it except a Project Hoolock. We had a small grant for the Special Cover from Primate Action Fund also. We would surely have had it in NE India if the regulations and procedure had not been so onerous and the cost so high. We couldn't do it in another state, particularly one so far away as the NE. We had to have our own office to help and, even more, our officers of almost 25 years, President and Treasurer G. Rangaswamy and R. Nandini, who had done this function many times. Thus, our 25th Anniversary saved the Hoolock Gibbon promotion.

We had to be a person of established credibility, not indulging in activities which could be embarrassing to the Government. We seem to have passed all those inspections, surely helped by our association with the Rangaswamys. The rest of the points dealt with the design, which had to be secular in nature and devoid of possibly embarrassing nuances. The legend had to be bilingual, first in Hindi and then English with date and event being commemorated. There is MUCH more, but you get the point! It was hard work but finally the cover was ready.

As per tradition, we invited Postal Service, friends, colleagues, zoology students and nature clubs of GRG College where we had the Release ceremony, again thanks to the generous and patient Rangaswamys.

I have to say, in the end, having gone through the process, I wonder how we managed it. If anyone who has not done it realizes how much hard work is involved in such an event, they might think many times before embarking on the project. We had great help with our event from our Z.O.O. officers G. Rangaswamy and R. Nandini, who have been Z.O.O.'s President and Treasurer for last 25 years and very well-known throughout Tamil Nadu for their contribution to business and industry, as well as educational institutions. They conduct many such official events in their businesses and were very familiar with the procedure, as is their staff, for a Special Cover. Their great staff guided us thoroughly and absorbed much work of the actual function. Despite their substantial help, still, we were amazed at the sheer complexity and number of tasks for an official event of this nature.

The bulk of the work -- running around, interaction with the Postal Service, supervising the effort and engaging all our office staff to assist, etc. (many etceteras actually) was done by our great Latha Ravikumar who is now known and admired by all who have anything to do with ZOO. Our entire staff was involved fully, including our technical staff as well as Sanjay and myself. We enlisted Stephen Nash, an artist who pledged to Russ Mittermeier, President from Conservation International and Chair, IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, that he would complete a scientific drawing of every species and subspecies of primate in the world. Stephen had already done several drawings for our other Hoolock Projects but came up with other charming and accurate illustrations for both sides of the cover.

MUCH kudos goes to the Postal Service staff itself who take on the MOST enormous burden of work in order to provide this charming service of the Special Cover... from meetings to explain the procedure, reviewing the text and design, attending the function, setting up the sales booth and franking hundreds or thousands of covers. Hats off and thanks.

The Primate Action Fund PAF of CI on behalf of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group provided funds for this project of the Special Cover.

The Chandra group provided advice, Venue and a very nice tea afterwards. Many thanks to them for last 25years of help with various things.

**The Agenda included prayer, welcome, technical address, Release of Special Cover, address by PMG, Thanks and National Anthem. The various short presentations follow on next pages.**



Release of Special Cover



Stamp collectors or philatists look out for such functions or events whether for stamps or covers, as they want to purchase the items for their collection.



address by PMG after the Hoolock Gibbon special cover release

## Letter and points in the Indian Post Special Cover

### Dear Colleagues and Friends :

Zoo Outreach Organisation has been privileged to work with the North East foresters and primatologists in India for some years on their wonderful non-human primate, the Hoolock Gibbon. Over the course of a PHVA workshop held in Dhaka but well attended by Indian Hoolock scientists, foresters and zoo personnel, six 3-day educator workshops conducted in Assam attended by Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Bangladesh participants, two translocation training workshops conducted in Guwahati, and more recently attended a scoping workshop also in Guwahati, we have made friends and learned much about the plight and prospects of Hoolock Gibbon and of the dedication and expertise of the North Indians who want to insure Hoolocks long term survival.

Combining the information and experience obtained in these workshops and discussions we conclude that this species is not going to make it, despite all that is being done, unless a mighty force gets behind it. That force would be the Central Government who recognises the uniqueness of this taxa and the hopelessness of its plight without drastic measures. A Project Hoolock Gibbon is required with all the resources, both financial and academic, of MoEF, State agencies and primate researchers behind it. A strategic plan must be developed which would make the most out of whatever suitable habitat is left in the seven states to create national parks by melding the smaller populations of Hoolock Gibbon with the larger ones and protecting the lot. This is not a simple exercise - it is more like rocket science, but with help from Central Government and a co-operative, open-minded, forward-looking task force it can be done.

Hoolock Gibbon is a complex creature. This is not a species that can be captured and relocated without extensive knowledge of its ways, or left alone to multiply without monitoring and close attention from experts in its biology and behaviour. With the combined knowledge of its researchers, computer simulation modeling, and refreshed surveys sophisticated conservation planning can be done and used to save the species.

ZOO, on its 25th birthday, has chosen this project to promote along with our WILD partner and multiple networks. We call upon you to join us in making a case for a Project Hoolock Gibbon under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India encompassing the seven North East Indian states. Please see a list of reasons next column. Best wishes,

**Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur and the ZOO Crew  
B.A. Daniel, R. Marimuthu, Latha Ravikumar,  
etc. rest of staff**

- The Hoolock Gibbon, known by locals as the "Man of the Forest" for his human looking face and movements, is in big trouble.
- Hoolock Gibbon, a unique species, which occurs in 7 states in North East India needs massive help in order to survive in India.
- The Hoolock Gibbon is a swiftly declining species which can still be saved, but ...
- Hoolock Gibbon needs the kind of help only the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India can give.
- Hoolock Gibbon is particularly noteworthy among these primates because it is India's only ape and even among all gibbons it is uniquely attractive with its jet black fur and thick white eyebrows.
- Hoolock Gibbon is one of the many species of primates which occur in India and are threatened with extinction.
- Hoolock Gibbon's attractiveness and human-like characteristics have made it a popular pet and zoo exhibit which, along with locals liking Hoolock meat, has led to its drastic decline
- Hoolock Gibbon's habitat deterioration (brought about by human impact) has caused its home area to shrink, lose vegetation and turn inhospitable in other ways.
- So despite Hoolock's occurrence in 7 North East Indian states, the rate at which it is declining adds up to a ZERO SUM ... a tragic future.
- The Ministry of Environment, Government of India can create a Project Hoolock Gibbon with funds to support a strategy ... move some animals, select and protect appropriate habitat for all time to come, protect existing and good quality Hoolock environments, etc.
- Let's don't just let Hoolock go. Hang on to Hoolock ... hang on!



## Welcome Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen! WELCOME!

Our Honorable Chief Guest, Post Master General of the Western Region of Tamil Nadu, Shri V. Rajarajan became an officer of the Indian Postal Service in August 1988. As he is an avid bird-watcher and naturalist, Shri Rajarajan must be happy with the primary subject of our Special Cover Release today, the Western Hoolock Gibbon. I admit the Hoolock Gibbon is not a bird ... it is a primate, in fact, an ape. It is the world's smallest ape. It is India's only ape and occurs only in South Asia. It is highly threatened, living high in trees that are being felled in the declining forests of North-east India. For some years we've been conducting workshops, training, and education in NE India with the dedicated field biologists there to generate support for Hoolock Gibbon. We hope that Sri Rajarajan will come to appreciate our Hoolock Gibbon as much as he would a bird and perhaps help us get a postage stamp released for Hoolock Gibbon sometime!

Our Honorable Guest Mr. G. Rangaswamy, is my saviour, friend, and President of Zoo Outreach Organisation for 25 years. Our Honorable Guest Mrs. Nandini Rangaswamy is also my saviour and friend and Treasurer of Zoo Outreach Organisation also for 25 years. Why do I call Mr. and Mrs. Rangaswamy my saviours as well as my friends. Because they helped me to move to Coimbatore and set up Zoo Outreach Organisation in this friendly environment. Many of their friends in business helped Zoo Outreach Organisation for quite some time until we could establish ourselves.

If it were not for them in Coimbatore, there would be no Zoo Outreach Organisation and it pleases me to tell you that there are people in many parts of the world who would consider our absence a loss for wildlife.

Zoo Outreach Organisation was not my idea. The Department of Environment, Government of India suggested I start a national version of the Friends of Mysore Zoo, an organisation I founded in Mysore. That was the birth of Zoo Outreach Organisation. Now ZOO is known for its publications, educational material, positive and constructive thinking and activities and its overwhelming desire to help wild animals in zoo and wild, and well as wildlife researchers, zookeepers, zoo managers and wildlife officers who care for and about wild animals.

The Western Hoolock Gibbon is symbolic of the kind of work we do in Zoo Outreach Organisation, so it was selected as our 25 year anniversary talisman. Hoolock is located way up in North East India but ZOO, a southern NGO, is taking serious interest in it. ZOO takes interest in projects and species that seriously need help, especially species which are not so large and charismatic. We neglect tigers and go after endangered butterflies, frogs, snakes, bats, even rodents and primates! That is our speciality -

small, often non-charismatic and highly threatened wild animals.

The Special Cover featuring Hoolock Gibbon will find its way to many Government officials, foresters, researchers and naturalists when it is posted today. It contains a letter describing the plight of Hoolock Gibbon and its need for immediate action, before its forest disappears and Hoolock declines irrevocably.

By such actions, Zoo Outreach Organisation has made a modest mark in conservation in South Asia. All credit goes to the Rangaswamy's, our friends and colleagues, the ambience of your beloved city, Coimbatore, and our amazing and hardworking staff members, Sanjay, Latha, Daniel, Marimuthu, Pravin, Arul, Ravi, Raveendran, Geetha, Radhika, and Saroja, I salute them all and thank them and all of you for being here today to release this Special Cover featuring Hoolock Gibbon and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Zoo Outreach Organisation. Thank you! **Sally Walker**

## Technical presentation

India is one of the most biologically diverse countries with its biodiversity, the wild fauna, flora and fungi. Among all the tropical countries, India stands within the top 10 in number of species. A wealth of different organisms contribute to making this country a biodiversity hotspot. In fact, India is one of the few countries to have no less than four biodiversity hotspots designated within the country so that we live in one of the world's ten greatest biodiversity hotspots. We have the Western Ghats in the South and North Eastern India which includes Eastern Himalayas and the NE states going down to Myanmar. We also have the Andaman Nicobar Islands, which, alone, have been designated as two different biodiversity hotspots. The Andamans Group of Islands comes under the Indo-Burma hotspot and the Nicobar group of islands comes under the Sunda Island hotspots. Politically they are all within India.

So we must be proud that we have such a diverse landscape and also to have four biodiversity hotspots. This is good news but it means that we have much more responsibility than other countries for conserving these different hotspots. The reasons behind hotspots being created are related to the combination of species biodiversity being very high along with human density being very high. So with these four hotspots we have species richness, diversity richness and a richness of human density as well.

Within India we have nearly 36 species and subspecies of Primates, a huge number when you compare it to that of any other country within this region or even the world. Thirty-six species and subspecies contribute significantly to the Primate diversity of Asia. Nearly 15 percent of Asia's primates occur in India. South Asia is a composite bio-geographical region with India and seven other countries. In

South Asia the number of primate species goes up to 46, which is also a very huge number. But something to know is whether all the primate species are safe in India? Or in South Asia?

Zoo Outreach Organisation conducts Red List assessments of a whole range of taxa and when we assessed primates, we came to know that more than 50% of primates in India and South Asia are threatened with extinction. What we mean by threatened is that many of them are on the verge of vanishing from the wild as a result of a wide variety of threats. Hoolock Gibbon, India's only ape is one of them and it is threatened within its entire distribution range. Today, we are raising a flag with the Special cover for Hoolock Gibbons because it is so much in danger of extinction that if we do not do anything for it in the next few years, its numbers will fall to such depths that it can never come back ... it will be extinct.

In a workshop we organized in 2005 in Bangladesh we realized that populations of Hoolock Gibbons were declining so fast and were so fragmented that without timely action we could lose the species in the next 50-70 years. We realized that the rate of deforestation currently occurring could push Hoolock Gibbon and many other species over the edge of survival into extinction.

Threats are many for this species. Hoolock faces many threats resulting from development, deforestation, fragmentation, all of which lead to its population crashing to very small numbers which cannot thrive as populations. Hoolock Gibbons are threatened by a unique situation in that NE India is not governed by the same rules and principles as the rest of India. In most of India the Forest department owns much of the forest lands which are Protected Areas but in NE India only a the Forest minuscule proportion of forests (less than 10%) are Protected. Most of the forest area in NE India is controlled by the local people so if we want to save Hoolock Gibbon we have to get the local people on board with dramatic awareness and education and social programmes. With help from government, researchers and ngo's to work with the local people this species can be saved. I will close on this positive note that it is still possible to save Hoolock Gibbon, if we start from today. **Sanjay Molur**

### **Postmaster General's Address**

I take special pleasure and privilege to be part of this celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Zoo Outreach Organisation which coincides with International Year of Biodiversity, and with the 5th year of the Primate Specialist Group Network in South Asia.

I feel privileged to release a Special Cover on the Western Hoolock Gibbon, the only ape found in India which occurs in North East India. This cover is beautifully designed with two happy-looking Western Hoolock Gibbons playing merrily before a backdrop of evergreen forest of Northeast India. What

is more interesting is on the reverse side of the special cover, the passion of Ms. Sally is, reflected in a small poem. In the first part of the poem, a very disturbing question asked, and in the second part, there is a reassuring note. It goes like this:

*Thick, black, fur...shining, defining  
Handsome Hoolock's black face;  
Startling, thick, white eyebrows,  
Taking a pride of place,  
Framed by dark evergreen forest,  
Admire today; sorrow tomorrow! Why?*

This is a disturbing question but side by side with it there is a reassurance given as well

*Gorgeous glowing blond lady  
Hoolock with white ruff round her face;  
Fragile, yet human-like being in a fragile forest,  
Delightful, but daily-declining treasure...  
Value we can never measure....  
Hang on, Hoolock, hang on!*

Is man trying to spread the reassurance? This disturbing question and the reassurance say it all. We do not have to explain the plight of the species any more than this.

On this cover also, we have beautiful stamp, which was brought out by the Indian Post Office in connection with International Year of Biodiversity. There is also a cancellation with a picture of a Cheetah, which is already extinct, and not only Cheetah but many more under threat. There are many endangered species of plants, animals, insects, snakes, birds, etc. in line to vanish, unless we care. You may ask, so what if some species are going extinct. Even in the evolutionary process some species are bound to perish. "So what?" might be a question. Dinosaurs became extinct so our Cheetah may also. But species go extinct in the evolutionary process is not a valid point here. If nature takes the call, we salute. If another species, such as us, defines which species survive and not, it is a sorry state of affairs. Species have taken million of years to reach this stage of evolution; they have every right to continue in the universe.

And for us to do the kind of damage which is threatening their survival is not right legally, ethically, or morally. If asked, what are the elements of our Indian Heritage many will reply "our great epics Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc. Others may say Taj Mahal, the big temple of Tanjore, Ajanta Caves. Others point out our traditional music and dance. But would you find in that list the glorious Bengal Tiger, the majestic Asiatic Lion, the Great Indian Bustard, and other that are part of Indian Heritage. Human beings were leading a harmonious life with Mother Nature which had a beautiful balancing mechanism. Things started deteriorating when greedy humans began destroying habitats of many species and even eating the species themselves. Things have become so bad that it is difficult for nature to set right this damage. It requires external

intervention. That is why there are UN Resolutions, national legislation, enforcement agencies, etc. There are also unrelenting organizations like the Zoo Outreach Organisation which is trying to save the species which are vanishing day by day.

But I will tell you resolutions and legal instruments will not work until you and I become part of the exercise. You may wonder what you and I, small entities on the earth can do for animal and nature conservation. Fortunately in any complex situation, the solutions are simple, and the solution is very much available with us. We can lead a simple life. It's as simple as that! We can live simply and reduce consumption. We must draw a line between need and want. I don't mean we should not have what we need but when we consume more than what we need and all of what we want, we should think twice. When I say consumption, I mean, anything we consume. When we consume we leave our footprint on the earth and the less we consume, the less footprint we leave and the less damage we do.

Another thing we must do is to stop waste, be it a piece of paper, water, electricity, ... anything, If we stop wasting, we stop damage to the earth; less waste...less damage; less wastage...less pollution. So we can indirectly contribute to the conservation of Nature. There need to be more constructive things, such as planting trees, water harvesting, and waste management in our place, keeping our space neat and clean. These are all small things we each can practice and contribute to the major

activities. These which Madam is taking forward, and which the Governments are striving to do, and which International organizations are striving to do. But it has to start from us.

All the resolutions and legislation are going to fail if you and I are not part of this. More importantly we have to understand the urgency of the situation and spread the message of our awareness to others. That is what Zoo Outreach Organisation is trying to do today by bringing out a special cover on this Western Hoolock Gibbon. Western Hoolock Gibbon is only a symbol. The bigger picture is the whole Conservation of Nature.

India Post takes pride in taking part in such a noble endeavor, I would say. India Post has always been there for such endeavors. In fact the stamp on the Special Cover released today was brought out by India Post to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. India Post also brought out a set of stamps in 2009 on the endangered species of North East. I was telling Mr. Sanjay just now, unfortunately Western Hoolock Gibbon did not find a place in this set. There are three stamps, one on Red Panda, a felid and a primate. Maybe Gibbon also has to find a place in the stamps. On this occasion let us resolve that not only for Western Hoolock Gibbon, but for the entire Nature, we will all stand up and resolve to contribute our might in this big effort. Thank you. **Mr. Raja Rajan, IPS, PMG Coimbatore.**

## Indian Hoolock Gibbon researchers & scholars

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**Surajit Baruah**, State Coordinator, WWF-India, Assam. sbaruah@wwfindia.net  
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## Z.O.O.'s Interest in Hoolock Gibbon

ZOO has taken interest in Hoolock Gibbon since 1997 when we organized seven CAMP workshops in one year for India's Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project BCPP. One of the 1000+ species we assessed using the IUCN Red List was the Hoolock Gibbon. At that time we came to know how critical the status of this fragile primate was and from that time, we were very interested. It was ten years before we could follow up our interest with concrete work however. At the 2002 South Asian Primate CAMP workshop, we again assessed Hoolock Gibbon but this time we had invited more NE India field biologists and they really gave a lot of information, all good info but none of it good news. It was clear by the locality tables the researchers made at the workshop that many, many of the Hoolock Gibbon populations were isolated in small fragments of forest, which would not be sustainable as populations or habitats unless big time intervention (a miracle) was done.

At the CAMP workshop one of the recommendations was to have a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for Hoolock Gibbon for India and Bangladesh. At that time, there was no knowledge of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon yet, and very little was known of the Myanmar Hoolock. That was before the taxonomists had their fun! Now, Hoolock Gibbons Eastern and Western are full SPECIES and the taxonomy is still being investigated.

It was one of our more exciting PHVAs as there was so much information for the computer simulation model and the output was extremely interesting. According to the VORTEX population simulation, it was clear than Hoolock Gibbon was declining very fast indeed and if the causes of decline were not addressed seriously, it wouldn't take many years for this unique animal to disappear entirely.

After the PHVA and publication of the Report, Zoo Outreach Organisation took up what was for all practical purposes a "campaign" to help the North East Indian and Bangladesh wildlife researchers spread the word about Hoolock Gibbon as much as possible.

After several years of watching to see what happened to Hoolock Gibbon, it seemed that nothing was moving. According to information and recommendations gathered at the PHVA, it was obvious that Hoolocks needed better protection and also that it was important to make the most of every individual. We noted that a number of Hoolock Gibbons were in isolated locations near human habitats and needed moving to better habitats. The problem was, there was no expertise in the kind of moving they needed. They needed careful translocation by trained persons who would go by the guidelines of the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG). It was time for training so we applied for funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and planned two translocation workshops,

trying to get personnel from every Hoolock state, and particularly people who were willing to learn something new.

Cecilia Kierloff had translocated over 100 primates from "wild to wild" without a single casualty. Her groups also got established every time, Mike Jordan, an RSG regional chair who has done many translocations, and Dr. David Chivers from Cambridge, delivered a fantastic training which was well attended by the NE India primate researchers. We organized the same training again next year only for Chief Wildlife Wardens hoping they would take some action. I wrote papers and presented them at international forums urging people to understand the Hoolock situation.

The Special Cover for Hoolock Gibbon laid out the essence of the Hoolock's plight in print went to a very large number of Ministry officers and state foresters as well as researchers and others, calling for a Project Hoolock Gibbon. Letter is next page.

### **-- Some HG activities of ZOO year by year--**

#### **1997**

- HG species status assessed by Mammal CAMP, Bangalore, Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project.

#### **2002**

- HG Species status assessed at South Asian Primate C.A.M.P. Workshop, Coimbatore, 5-9 Mar 02

#### **2005**

- P.H.V.A. Workshop HG, Feb 2005, Dhaka, B'desh  
- HG PHVA Report published and distributed

#### **2006**

- SRW attended 21st Congress IPS in Entebbe, Uganda, June 06; delivered 2 presentations; successfully lobbied for HG for World's 25 most Endangered Primate list.  
- PHVA HG Summary published & distributed  
- Education materials on HG in English, Hindi, & Bengali. Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoolock Education Packet in English, Hindi, Bengali. Hoolock Gibbon Poster "Hang on to your survival". Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore.

#### **2007**

- A series of six conservation educator training workshops held on HG, NE India, 1-28 Feb 07, Assam.  
- Published HG Teaching Manual.  
- Compiled web based HG Researchers directory  
- Published Report of HG educator workshop

#### **2008**

- Wild to Wild Translocation Training for HG I, Assam Forest School, Jalukbari, 15-19 Sep 2008  
- Education Packet on HG revised  
- Count Down 2010 Poster: Save Hoolock Gibbon- Save Biodiversity  
- SRW & SM attended 22nd IPS Congress, Edinburgh; successfully lobbied for HG for World's 25 Most endangered Primate list.

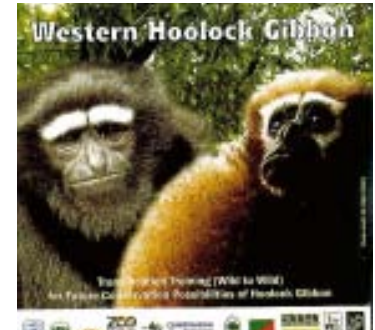
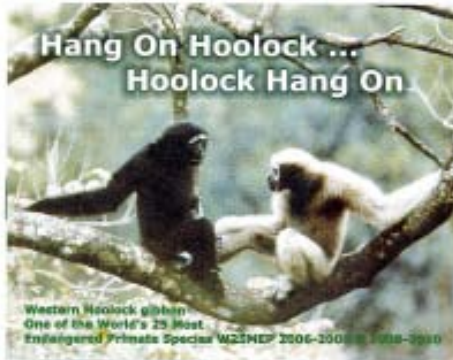
#### **2009**

- Wild to Wild Translocation Training for HG II, Guwahati, Assam 28-29 Jan 2009  
- SM represented in USFWS / WADWT "Strategic planning workshop on HG for Assam on 3-4 Nov 2009, Assam Forest School, Jalukbari

#### **2010**

- Released Special Cover on Hoolock Gibbon

# Educational material - some samples



**Conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock hoolock*) in India and Bangladesh**

Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (P.H.V.A.)  
Workshop Report, 2005

**Summary of the Status of South Asian Primates**

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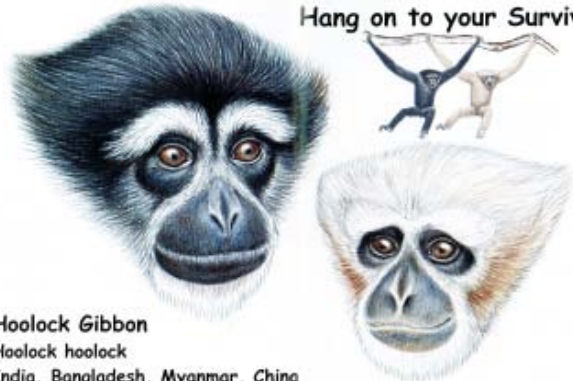
2003

Extracted from Status of South Asian Primates C.A.M.P. Workshop Report




# Posters

Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoolock  
Hang on to your Survival




**Hoolock Gibbon**  
Hoolock hoolock  
India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China

HELP(ING) HOOLOCK  
GIBBONS HANG ON



A Manual to make Every Teacher  
a Conservationist and  
Every Conservationist a Teacher



Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoolock - Hang on to your Survival

Hoolock Gibbon is a charming, non-like primate species found in India, Bangladesh Myanmar and China. There are two subspecies, the Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock hoolock*) found over several states in a large expanse of North East India and in isolated forests of Bangladesh. The other is the Eastern Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock leucogeny*) found in Myanmar and China and (recently discovered) in a small area in India. Both are apex, (no tails, accelerated mental development, bi-pedal). In fact, they are the only apes which occur in South Asia. Locals call hoolock "little man of the forest".

However, all you really need to know about Hoolock Gibbon is that it is classified as **CRITICALLY Endangered** in Bangladesh and as **Endangered** in India. It is almost certainly threatened also in Myanmar and China. Threats to hoolock are habitat destruction, development, fragmentation of their forests, capture for pet-keeping and public exhibition, for food or medicine and general disturbance of their peace. If we don't do something to help, all of these charming animals may die out. No more Hoolocks. What can YOU do for hoolock?


Just anyone

- Be concerned.
- Find out more about its problems.
- Let governmental authorities know you care.
- Educate others\*
- Vote for environment and wildlife friendly politicians

Those who live in or near hoolock habitat

- Do not disturb hoolock in its habitat
- Do not take them for food, or pets or for zoos or any reason
- Do not tell trappers and animal dealers where they are
- Convince your family and friends to help hoolocks hang on to survive.

\* For help in educating others write to ZOO, POB 3682, Coimbatore 4, TN, India or email [conservation@zoo.gov.in](mailto:conservation@zoo.gov.in) or [main@zoo.gov.in](mailto:main@zoo.gov.in)



Release of Special Cover on Hoolock Gibbon  
Man of the Forest ... Hanging on to Survival



Hang On Hoolock, Hang On



**COUNTDOWN 2010**  
\* SAVE HOOLOCK GIBBON \* SAVE BIODIVERSITY \*



Hoolock Gibbon is a flagship for all Indian and South Asian primates. If Hoolock Gibbon is to be saved, its forests have to be saved. If Hoolock Gibbon forests are saved, many other species will be saved. If all primates and forests are saved much of Indian biodiversity will too.



ZOO WILD

Teaching with Drama Kit  
Hoolock Gibbon



Zoo Outreach Organisation  
South Asian Network of ZOO