

Hoolock Gibbon Books

Hoolock : The Ape of India

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Citation : Chetry, D; Chetry, R. & Bhattacharjee, P.C. . 2007. Hoolock: The Ape of India. Gibbon conservation Centre, Assam, India, pp. 1 - 133.

Hoolock : The Ape of India by Dilip Chetry, Rekha Chetry and P. C. Bhattacharjee is a welcome contribution to the primate literature of India. Dilip and Rekha Chetry are both primate researchers as well as husband and wife whose lives centre around Hoolock Gibbons, Golden Langurs, and other Assam primates. They run the Gibbon Conservation Centre (GCC) in India which was founded on 30th September 2004 to carry out research training and conservation activities on Hoolock Gibbon in particular and other NE Indian primate species. GCC conducts conservation programs for flagship species Hoolock in the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary. The Centre is very active with research, conservation and education works, collaborating with the Forest Department, schools and local NGOs. GCC feels that it is their duty to leave behind a green earth for future generations.

The book contains much information about the biology, behaviour ecology and conservation status of Hoolock Gibbon. There are also a very abundant number of colour photographs of gibbons, habitat, and maps. It includes information from the authors' own experience as well as referenced information, including a what to do sections with imported material from recent workshops and publications.

The introduction covers species and subspecies as well as gibbons' relation to human beings. The world of Hoolock chapter covers name, a time line in hoolock studies as well as distribution and description, ecology, diet, commensals in an overview. Remaining chapters go into detail about distribution and status in NE India, myths, conservation status, threats and action steps. It is written in a readable style which lends itself to purchase also by tourists who want to know something about the wildlife of the North East.

GIBBON CONSERVATION DAY was created and organised by the authors and the GCC. Following is a Report of GCD which is also in the book:

"Observation of the Gibbon Conservation Day was the most important event of the awareness program organized by the Gibbon Conservation Centre. The centre had come up with the unique idea of celebrating Gibbon Conservation Day in Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary on 30th July, 2004 because on this day in 1997 the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary was officially declared. However, later on, it was felt that in the rainy season it is somewhat inconvenient to organize the program smoothly and accordingly a unanimous decision was taken to celebrate the day on 30th August from the next year onward. The Gibbon Conservation Day has



been thus fixed on 30th August. The main objective behind the celebration of this day is to sensitize the local people with concept of conservation of Hoolock Gibbon and its habitats. It provides an opportunity to the people from different walks of life like administrators, politicians, teachers, students and the local people to sit together and to have dialogue on conservation related issues. Till now various programs viz. field trip inside the sanctuary, plantation of food plants and lodging trees of Hoolock gibbon and discussions on conservation strategy are being organized. Different competitions viz. essay, quiz, drawing, extempore speech on Hoolock gibbon etc. are also a part. Events which can be more stimulating and motivating are to be included in the program agenda in coming years to make the observation more meaningful.

GCC projects are getting good support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USA and recently signed an agreement with the Forest Department of Assam to help with research, conservation and education. Contact the authors via :

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