

GIBBON CONSERVATION IN VIETNAM: INFORMATION GAP AND FUTURE CONSERVATION REQUIREMENT

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The crested gibbon genus (*Nomascus*) is endemic to the Indochina region, however, population of this genus is facing decline in all its ranges. Vietnam is home to five taxa of crested gibbons such as *Nomascus concolor*, *N. leucogenis*, *N. siki*, *N. nasutus*, *N. gabriellae*, all of the taxa are listed as endangered or critically endangered throughout the country. The gibbon taxa however, distributes geographical strictly in some areas in the country, four taxa local in central and northern part and *N. gabriellae* is the only species distribute in southern provinces. Despite the fact, information on population, location and threat to gibbon is poorly documented. There is no complete review of population, range and survivability of the five taxa was undertaken hence, a weak protection effort and conservation measure was applied for the endangered gibbons accordingly. Filling this information gap will be crucial for any practical and long-term conservation of this endemic ape.

Due to a high illegal hunting and deforestation pressures, the remnant of gibbon population in Vietnam could be found mostly in remote forest which makes huge difficulty to survey effort in term of time, effective methods and financing requirement. Hence, some immediate population and threats survey and conservation effort should be made to assess population and the viability of each gibbon taxa should be one of the highest conservation actions for gibbon in the country. In addition, others critical conservation efforts such as establishing a conservation area for each gibbon species and active law enforcement on deforestation and illegal hunting and trade in gibbon will be key solution of the survival and recovery of these globally endangered gibbon in Vietnam.

Keywords: gibbon, conservation, survival, threats