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WARMING WORLD: CAN GIBBON TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE ?

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Climate change is a global-scale process, but with diverse regional manifestations. The ecological impacts are typically local and vary from place to place and species to species Gibbons are not an exception. This global change is transforming ecosystems at extraordinary rates and scales. 18-25% of global GHG emissions are from deforestation. As each species responds to its changing environment, its interactions with the physical world and the creatures around it change- triggering a cascade of impacts throughout the ecosystem, such as expansion into new areas, the intermingling of formerly non-overlapping species, and even species extinctions. Gibbons are frugivorous and strictly arboreal apes found in China, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Many species are globally endangered, and are threatened primarily by loss of their prime forest habitat due to deforestation, illegal logging. Isolated populations face the additional threats arising from the intrinsic effects of small populations. Due to special foraging behaviour and top canopy species, the gibbons are very much vulnerable to the rapid changes in ecosystems. The increasing intensities of forest fire out break due to global warming and the changes in the forest structure in terms of phenology, productivity and composition are another stress experienced by the gibbons. There are possibilities of morphological, physiological, behavioural and socio-sexual changes are correlated with the climate change manifestations. From the review of literature it has been found that there is gaps in information and scientific data on the impact of climate change on gibbons.

Keyword: Gibbons, and, Climate, Change

