

**CONSERVATION STATUS OF *NOMASCUS* GIBBONS IN CHINA**

P-F. Fan

*Institute of Eastern-Himalaya Biodiversity Research, Dali University, Yunnan 671000, P. R. China.*

*Presenter's Email: fanpf1981@gmail.com*

Abstract: China supports one of the world's richest *Nomascus* gibbon faunas with 4 species: *N. concolor*, *N. nasutus*, *N. hainanus*, and *N. leucogenys*. This is topped only by Vietnam, which has 5 species. China holds the biggest population of *N. concolor* in the world. Of the four subspecies of *N. concolor*, all except *N. c. lu* occur in China. *N. c. jingdongensis* has a population with about 100 groups distributed in Mt. Wuliang, central of Yunnan. *N. c. concolor* has a very small population in southern Yunnan, and a larger population in Mt. Ailao. *N. c. fuvogaster*, the only taxon of *Nomascus* gibbon occurred in the west bank of the Mekong River, received little attention in years. No population estimate is available for this subspecies but the population is presumed to decline based on preliminary information. A recent interview survey showed that *N. leucogenys* has a very small population with maybe less than 10 individuals in Xishaungbanna, Yunnan and could not survive in a long time. A captive population in Xishuangbanna preserves a hope for future reintroduction of this species to its natural habitat. *N. nasutus*, rediscovered in 2006, has ca 20 individuals in three groups in Jingxi, Guangxi. *N. hainanus*, the rarest gibbon species and the only endemic gibbon species in China, has ca 20 individuals in two family groups in the world. All four species have been listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN Redlist 2008. Their long-term survival is heavily relied on human conservation activities.

Keywords: gibbon, *Nomascus*, conservation, China