

**CASE STUDY ON TRANSBOUNDARY CAO VIT GIBBON CONSERVATION IN VIETNAM AND CHINA**

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In 2002, the Critically Endangered cao vit gibbon *Nomascus nasutus* (also known as the eastern black crested gibbon) was rediscovered by an FFI survey team in Trung Khanh District, Vietnam on the border with China. Soon after, FFI initiated a project to protect this population, focusing mainly on community forest patrols, interventions to reduce firewood extraction and establishing a protected area in 2007. In 2006 the FFI China Programme also began conservation measures in the adjacent border area, which led to establishment of a nature reserve in 2009. A transboundary census of the gibbon population was conducted in September 2007 over the entire viable habitat resulting in 18 different groups being recorded, totalling c. 110 individuals. The population estimate was much higher than expected, and the results of the census were a milestone indicator of the success of conservation efforts to date. Since 2007, FFI has coordinated various activities to promote transboundary conservation in both countries. Exchange visits and stakeholder workshops have been organised for counterpart local nature reserve and government staff to exchange information and experience. Multi-lingual awareness-raising materials have been designed to allow the same conservation message to be delivered more widely. Research on the gibbon ecology and phenology of the forest has been carried out and data shared for comparison and to improve conservation decision making. Looking to the future, habitat restoration is now a priority and will need stronger transboundary cooperation from two countries, for which FFI will continue to play its role as facilitator.

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