

POPULATION SURVEY OF THE JAVAN GIBBONS (*HYLOBATES MOLOCH*) IN WEST AND CENTRAL JAVA

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A population survey of the Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) was conducted at six conservation areas in Java; four in West Java: Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve, Leuweung Sancang Nature Reserve, Gunung Papandayan Protection Forest, and Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park; two in Central Java: Gunung Slamet Protection Forest, and Pegunungan Dieng Protection Forest. The survey was conducted during April 2008 through July 2009. The goal of the project was to generate critical baseline data on the population status of this species. All surveys involved the use of line-transect sampling along transects of 3.0-3.5 km in length. The average group and population densities of the Javan gibbon at Gunung Gede Pangrango NP were greater (2.4 grps/km² and 5.7 individuals/km²) than at other sites, while the lowest group density was found at Gunung Papandayan PF and Gunung Slamet PF (both estimated at 1.2 grps/km²). Leuweung Sancang NR had the lowest population density (2.7 individuals/km²). Average group size was greatest at Gunung Papandayan PF and Gunung Slamet PF (both with 2.4 individuals/grp), while Leuweung Sancang NR had the smallest (1.7 individuals/grp). Gunung Simpang NR had the largest population (estimated at 468 individuals) while Leuweung Sancang NR had the smallest (estimated at 42 individuals). The population of the species was under serious threat due to habitat destruction. Without action to protect their habitat, this endangered species will extinct in the wild. The project was supported by the National Geographic Society Conservation Trust (Grant Number C 141-08), and the Primate Society of Great Britain Conservation Grant.

Keywords: population, javan gibbon, *Hylobates moloch*, endangered