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## REVIEW OF *NOMASCUS* GIBBON CONSERVATION

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The genus *Nomascus*, the “crested gibbons”, is the most threatened group of gibbons, with four species currently listed as Critically Endangered and the other two considered Endangered. All species within this genus are found east of the Mekong River in Cambodia, China, Laos and Vietnam. These countries have experienced turbulent recent histories, involving political upheaval and isolation, warfare and extreme poverty, and today all strive towards rapid socio-economic development, where biodiversity conservation is given scant regard. This has placed most natural habitats in these countries and the biodiversity they contain under immense pressure and gibbons are no exception. Habitat loss is a major threat to gibbons in these countries, in addition to opportunistic hunting. The survival of some *Nomascus* gibbon species is now completely dependent on *in-situ* conservation action. Additional species priorities include increased information on southern light-cheeked species distributions and taxonomic affinities. *Fauna & Flora International* is currently working with local partners, frequently government, in all *Nomascus* range state countries to implement conservation activities to protect these species. This symposium will provide an opportunity for researchers and conservation practitioners working on *Nomascus* to share experience and knowledge on ongoing *Nomascus* gibbon conservation activities.

Keywords: crested gibbons, *Nomascus*, status review, action planning