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STATUS REVIEW AND CONSERVATION ACTION PLANNING FOR *NOMASCUS* GIBBONS

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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. The survival of some *Nomascus* gibbon species is now completely dependent on *in-situ* conservation action. Following the *Nomascus* Symposium at this Congress, which will provide an update on the status of the genus in a formal way, this workshop will provide an opportunity for researchers and conservation practitioners working on *Nomascus* to come together to review their status and clearly outline steps for preparing an action plan for the genus. The workshop panel will facilitate a discussion to further update knowledge on status, threats, areas of further work and priorities. This information will form the initial basis of preparing an action plan.

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