

PROJECT REPORT

POPULATION OF THE JAVAN GIBBON (*Hylobates moloch*)
AT GUNUNG SIMPANG NATURE RESERVE
WEST JAVA, INDONESIA

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Abstract

The Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) is an endemic primate species to Java, and is now found only in fragmented forests in Central and West Java. Population survey at Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve was conducted to generate reliable estimates of Javan gibbon population at the site. The average population density was estimated at 3.9 animals/km². Estimated group density was at 1.9 groups/km², and group size was estimated at 2.0 animals (range: 1-4 animals). Based on current information of the area size of Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve (15,000 ha), our best estimate on Javan gibbon population was 585 animals.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background

Indonesia is one of the highest country with the number of primate species. About 40 primate species have been identified in Indonesia, with approximately 30% are endemic species throughout Indonesia. Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch* AUDEBERT, 1797) is an endemic primate species to Java. The species is considered as Critically Endangered (CR) species on the IUCN Red List 2007, and listed on Appendix I of CITES.

Population estimate of the Javan gibbon in the wild was estimated at 2,700 animals (Asquith 1995; Asquith, Martarinza & Sinaga 1995). Five years later, in 2000, Javan gibbon has identified as one of 25 most endangered primate species in the world (Mittermeier *et al.* 2005). Current information on the status of the Javan gibbon population was estimated between 4,000-4,500 animals (Nijman 2004), while population estimate of the species in Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve was estimated a maximum population of 476 individuals (Djanubudiman *et al.*, 2005).

Currently, the Javan gibbon is confined to a handful of protected areas in Western and Central Java of Indonesia.

I.2. Aims

The overall aim of this project is to generate critical baseline data on the status of the Javan gibbon population at Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve, West Java.

II. RESULTS

The project focused on a population survey of the Javan gibbon during April and May 2008 in Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve, West Java (see Figure 1).

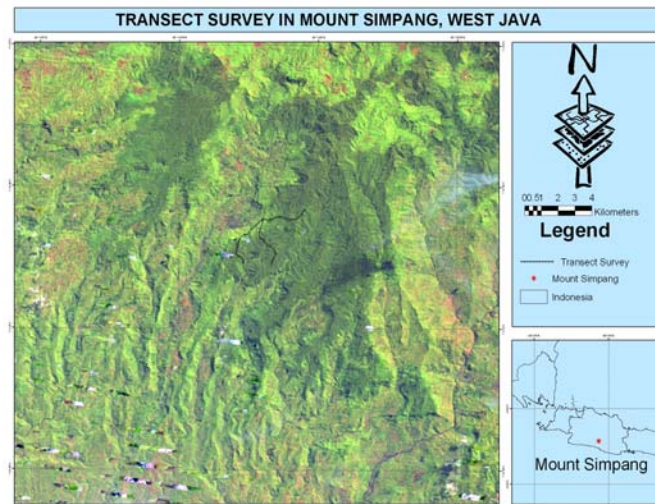


Figure 1. Location of Research Site: Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve, West Java, Indonesia

Population density has been determined using line transect sampling described in “Techniques for the study of Primate Population Ecology” (1981). Three transects were established in the site to conduct population survey (each transect was 3.5 km length, and strip width, 100 m). The average population density was estimated at 3.9 animals/km². Estimated group density was at 1.9 groups/km², and group size was estimated at 2.0 animals (range: 1-4 animals). Based on current information of the area size of Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve (15,000 ha), our best estimate on Javan gibbon population was 585 animals.

During the survey, three other primate species were observed along the transects. The Silvered leaf monkey (*Trachipithecus auratus*), the Javan leaf monkey (*Presbytis comata*), and the Longtailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*).



Figure 2. Javan gibbon in Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve, West Java, Indonesia

III. Outreach

A community outreach education programs for students at local elementary outreach program was conducted at elementary school near Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve. Approximately 80 students from 5th and 6th grade were attended the program (Fig 3). The outreach program was held to promote awareness of the importance of conserving wildlife and their habitat, and also the environment. We also provided variety of books, such as national park books, wildlife books, and conservation books to be put at school library.



Figure 3. The Outreach Program at Elementary School Near Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Drh. Joko Pamungkas MSc., the Director of the Primate Research Center, Bogor Agricultural University who was supportive of this research. I also would like to thank Prof. Randall C. Kyes, Walberto Sinaga, SHut and Ir. Kuswandono for their assistance and advice. My special thanks to Pak Odang, Pak Ceceng, Pak Ratja, and Pak Abih for their assistance during the survey. I acknowledge PIKA (Center for Information and Nature Conservation) for providing reading books and journals to be donated to the elementary school in the program of community outreach. This research was made possible by Conservation Grant from Primate Society of Great Britain.

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