

CAPTIVE BREEDING MANAGEMENT OF JAVAN GIBBON (*Hylobates moloch*) AT THE PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER OF BOGOR AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, BOGOR, INDONESIA

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Introduction

The Owa Jawa or Javan gibbon or silvery gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) is an endemic primate species to the Indonesian island of Java, and is considered as critically endangered species. In the years 2000 to 2004, this species was included into the list of 25 most endangered primate species in the world (IUCN/CI 2000). The present population of *Hylobates moloch* is placed the number between 4,000-4,500 animals (Nijman 2004). Human activities with their heavy industrial pattern have increasingly had a devastating direct impact on the conservational aspects of the primate habitats, with one of the primates affected is the Javan gibbon. Responding to this condition, the Primate Research Center of Bogor Agricultural University (PSSP-IPB) in cooperation with Taman Safari Indonesia, established an ex situ breeding facility for the Javan gibbon at the PSSP-IPB breeding facilities. These activities have been officially acknowledged by the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Department of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia. The objective of the program is to support conservation program for the species through ex situ captive breeding.

Materials and Methods

One pair of Javan gibbons was introduced to the facility at PSSP-IPB in 2003. Ari (male) and Mimis (female) were housed in separate cages allowing them to have vision contact only, and went through intensive medical check-ups, including sperm quality tests, determination of cortisol and testosterone hormone levels, tuberculin skin tests and several other medical diagnostic tests. They were also observed on the behavioral aspects to record any possibility of agonistic behavior.



In June 2004, the connecting doors between the two cages were removed so that both animals could occupy one (common) cage and have physical contact. Behavioral observation was continuously observed for about two months after they were put together.

Results

The first signs that Mimis was pregnant were observed in mid October 2004. After about seven months of pregnancy, a male baby named OJ was born in the early hours of April 5, 2005 without human assistance and under completely unattended conditions. The baby and the parents continuously went through medical check-ups, as well as behavior to observe their health and to find out whether or not aggressive behavior would occur. A second female baby named J-Lo was born from the same parents on June 11, 2006 (14 months after the first baby was born). Up to recently this second birth from Mimis proven to be the shortest birth interval reported among all Javan gibbons kept in captivity in the world. Eighteen months later, a third female baby named O-La was born in the same captivity. The parents and all three offspring were continuously went through medical check-ups and behavioral aspects.

Discussions

The captive breeding of Javan gibbon at the PSSP IPB is the only one captive facility that has succeeded in breeding the species

with so far three **alive offspring**. The birth interval of 14 months was the shortest reported birth interval of Javan gibbon in captivity. A question of what to do with these offspring in the future is a subject to be addressed and handled at multi-institutional level.

References

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