MENTAWAI GIBBON CULTURAL AWARENESS AND GIBBON SURVEY TRAINING



JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023



In Mentawai, we have goal to conserve the gibbons in Mentawai islands through building capacity of communities through training for local teachers in Mentawai and enhance capacity of Malinggai Uma member to crease Mentawai biodiversity appreciation, through gibbon monitoring conducted in Tololago forest Teacher training this year was the 3rd organized with Malinggai Uma Mentawai, and was successfully conducted in Tololago forest, south west of siberut 20-30 March 2023, attended 16 local teachers and 9 membes from the Malinggai Uma. We also introduce new passive recorders and camera trap for gibbon monitoring . We printed 50 calendars and distributed in two district south and southwest of siberut, entitled with siripok bilou means gibbon's friend in Mentawai language. New survey location in Maupuk forest was conducted in July and August 2023, and we set up a camera trap and a passive voice recorder. In October, November and December we continue to survey two other locations nearby Maupu forest, i.e Simanggeak and Bat Toitet.

In Central Java, for the Javan gibbons, project activities the training will be conducted in October 2023, however gibbon monitoring have been conducted collaboratively with relevant stakeholder and using combination of classic gibbon vocalization -triangulation survey and passive voice recorders. The 10th gibbon field course has conducted successfully, 21 participants are invited, from Java, Kalimantan, and Sumatra representing universities, NGOs, and government staff who involved directly on gibbon conservation activities. The course also invites guest lecturer from China, to share knowledge and networking opportunities.



Activity Report

1. Teacher training in Tololago forest



The 3rd Mentawai Cultural School Teacher and Facilitator Training has been carried out according to the agenda. Taking place on March 28-30 2023, first day, was introduction event was held in Toloulaggo Hamlet, Katurai Village, Siberut Baratdaya District, as it was held the previous year. As many as 16 participants took part in this activity organized by Malinggai Uma .

The participants were representatives of Mentawai Biology and Culture teachers, both at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, in South Siberut and Southwest Siberut.

Apart from teachers, the training was also attended by facilitators from Malinggai Uma. There were also representatives from , local NGO, and government institutions in Mentawai , the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation and the Tourism agency of Mentawai Regency, Nature Conservation Agency of West Sumatra.

The objective of this training is to enhance and build capacity of local teachers to get better understanding on how's important value of Mentawai gibbon in the wild, as part of Mentawai culture and nature. this training will enable teachers of Mentawai to spread conservation message to their students, through field experience in their habitat.

Figure 1. photo group teacher training participants "Masih arepi sabbat "Masih arepi sabbat nasih pa agai Mateikeccat. Uma , Sibabara kabagat leleu Toloulaggo" The opening ceremony was enlivened by *turuk laggai*. This typical Mentawai dance depicts the behavior of animals in the forest, and performed as ritual for communication with the spirit, and the gibbon is one of the performed in this dance. The dancers' feet stomping accompanied by the accompaniment of musical instruments sounded so resounding. The dances that were performed in the two sessions were able to attract the attention of many children and the local community.

Trainee for this event were swaraowa team and a journalist from Tempo Magazine based in West Sumatra. Introducing about gibbons and Mentawai native wildlife was delivered by swaraowa team, who has been conducted survey in previous year in tololago forest. A journalist introducing how citizen journalism report can be produce to amplify value of Mentawai forest, culture and nature conservation.



Figure 2. Gibbon dance perfomance at opening ceremony

On the second and third day of the training, the participants were invited to make observations in the forest around Toloulaggo . Participants were divided into three teams, each of which was equipped with various tools and equipment, such as observation data sheets and binoculars. Gibbons were detected by it's calls and other wildlife that can be observed also noted or photographed as reports. At the end of the training participants prepared presentation and give talks for others of their findings and their field experience.

During this training we printed 150 posters on primates, birds, butterfly and reptile and amphibian through participants and distributed for their schools.



report in Bahasa can be read here:

https://swaraowa.blogspot.com/2023/04/pelatihan-guru-dan-fasilitator-sekolah.html https://swaraowa.blogspot.com/2023/04/pelatihan-guru-dan-fasilitator-sekolah_10.html

2. Training for using of passive voice recorder for Malinggai Uma team

Malinggai Uma team have been involved in the previous gibbon survey, we introduce the new technology for gibbon survey using passive voice recorder. Training conducted two days (1-2 April 2023) in the long house of Uma Malinggai and field practice placement in Puro 2 forest. During this training 5 members of Malinggai Uma were joined and trained by swaraowa team.

3. Siripok Bilou, conservation branding for Mentawai gibbons

Bilou means gibbon in Mentawai language, and we designe new logo for the project "Siripok Bilou" means gibbon friends. In February 2023, We have produced this logo in Calendar 2023 and t-shirt. We printed 50 calendars and distributed in Mentawai Island and 30 t-shirts for participants of the teacher training.

https://swaraowa.org/siripok-bilou-mentawai-gibbon-friends/



Figure 3. Mentawaian with siripok bilou's 2023 calendar

4. Gibbon watching tour and gibbon monitoring in Maopu South of Siberut

In July-August 2023, team of Malinggai Uma conducted survey in new location Maopu customary forest, in South of Siberut. The location is being considered for educational and gibbon watching tour, considering closer and easy access from the port of Siberut. Gibbon watching tour have been promoted by swaraowa, collaborate with Malinggai Uma for sustainable economy and conservation purposes. Package tour will be 3 night four days in the field combine with cultural activities in Malinggai Uma. We got special guest wildlife enthusiast from US in July 2023, and successfully to spot gibbons and Mentawai langur.

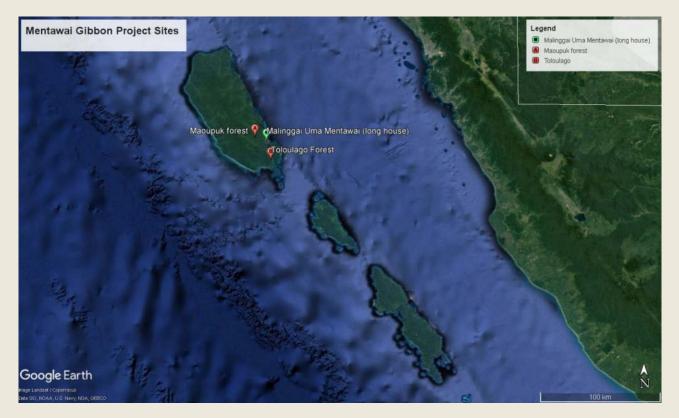


Figure 4. Map of project sites

In development of this initiative Malinggai Uma have been prepare collaborative agreement with a clan who manage the forest in Maopu, initiative to learn about gibbon in this area have been started by deployment of passive voice recorder and camera trap in early 9-12 August 2023.



Figure 5. Passive recorder deployment

5. Javan gibbon monitoring and training



Figure 6. Swaraowa's field station/information center

Since January 2022, swaraowa's conservation and education center has established in Sokokembang villages, the facilities are become field office for all swaraowa's activities in this dieng mountains landscape. The house with all facilities now become information center, coffee production facilities in sokokembang, community centers for forest commodities development and lodging for students who doing research and community development activities for the gibbon conservation in central java. last six months there are four students conducted study, using facilities in Sokokembang and provided two month logistic and accommodation scholarship.

The center also now being field secretariat for collaborative forum of petungkriyono forest management, storage for all equipments, data collection and provide class room for education and discussion purposes. Swaraowa's education center will host next the 10th sokokembang gibbon field course.

Javan gibbon and forest monitoring have been conducted with camera traps and wildlife sound recorders, 14 camera trap points and 12 passive sound recording points have been set up in the Sokokembang and Mendolo forests in the seven months since January 2023. During this time, we installed both types of equipment for periods ranging from 10 to 36 days in order to collect approximately one month's worth of data during the wet season. So far, the camera traps have recorded *Javan leopard*, *Southern red muntjac* and wild boar. Our passive sound recorders also show that in the remaining forests in Lebakbarang. We have been review this equipment and methods combine with classic gibbon vocalization survey-triangulation, by establishing listening post in Sokokembang, and observers records all calls of the gibbons during four consecutive days.



Figure 7. Placement of passive voice recorder for gibbon monitoring

Wildlife monitoring also conducted collaboratively with local govt forestry officials, to enhance their capacity , and provide latest biodiversity database and as part of contribution of swaraowa as member of collaborative forest management that have been initiated in 2018. Report for this wildlife monitoring are written and sent to all stakeholders members in Pekalongan regency.

https://swaraowa.org/wildlife-monitoring-in-the-forests-of-petungkriyono-and-lebakbarang/



6. Newest study of Javan gibbon

Figure 8. Javan gibbon (Hylobates moloch)

Newest study of Javan gibbon population estimate in the landscape of Dieng Mountains just published in July 2023, it's a decade population estimate after lates assessment in 2012, and significant increase of population about 23%. Press release and webinar have been conducted at 10 August 2023 to desiminate this study for public.

https://swaraowa.org/a-decade-of-javan-gibbon-in-the-landscape-of-the-dieng-mountains-central-java-indonesia/

article published: https://bdj.pensoft.net/article/100805/



1. The 10th Sokokembang gibbon field course



Figure 9. The 10th Sokokembang gibbon field course

On 22-26 November 2023, the 10th in 2023 Primate Survey Method (MSP) Training series known as Swaraowa's gibbon field course was held, located at swaraowa's field station, in Sokokembang Forest, Petungkriyono district, of Pekalongan Regency, Central Java. MSP is an annual activity organized by Swaraowa in collaboration with the Primate study Group at Gadjah Mada University, and this year national level participation representation of the presence of 9 species of gibbons in Indonesia, Kalimantan regions, Sumatera regions, and Java, we selected from various NGO, Universities, and forestry government staff.

The 2023 MSP invited totally 21 participants nationally, selected based on recommendation by their lecturer for students, by director or senior officer for NGO staff and govt officials.

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From Sumatera:

- 1. Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kehutanan Pantekulu Aceh.
- 2. YOSL-Orangutan information Center North Sumatera
- 3. Zoologi Museum Andalas University West Sumatera,
- 4. Hutan Harapan -PT. Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia-Jambi,
- 5. Riau State University
- 6. Indo Global Mandiri University Palembang South Sumatera,
- 7. Malinggai Uma Mentawai.

From Kalimantan:

- 1. Ecositrop,
- 2. Pustaka Tropis
- 3. Mulawarman University,
- 4. Palangkaraya University,
- 5. Fauna Flora -West Kalimant project

From Java:

- 1. NGO-Baraya Sanggabuana-Sanggabuana Wildlife Ranger,
- 2. NGO- Biodiversity Society,
- 3. Biolaska-Islamic university Yogyakarta,
- 4. BKSDA (Central Java Nature Conservation Agency),
- 5. Primate Study Group-Gadjah Mada University-Yogyakarta.

The course content and guest speaker:

Fisrt talk on 23th December, an introduction to the gibbon population survey using the vocal count triangulation method Dieng landscape, delivered by Salmah Widyastuti, from IPB University who has just completed her doctoral promotion session. The vocal count triangulation method is a classic method to calculate the density of the gibbons. After a lunch break, second talk on bio-acoustics and sound recognition of Javan gibbons, presented by Nur Aoliya, she is Swaraowa researcher who is currently studying for a master's degree at IPB University with a thesis discussing the same topic, namely bioacoustics of Javan gibbons.

In the evening, the participants who had been divided into three groups were gathered again to listen to the final lecture of the day about collecting voice data using the SM4 passive voice recorder which will be put into practice the next day by Kurnia Ahmaddin, biodiversity assistant of Swaraowa. Data analysis on the presence of Javan gibbons was carried out using the great call sound from female Javan gibbons using the Raven Pro software. On 24-25 December early started at 6.30 all participants guided by swaraowa team, go the forest divided in to three group and set up listening points and collect gibbon vocalization up 10.00 am. They also learn how to set up passive voice recorders. On the evening of 24 th December, we have guest lecture by Yan Lu from Cloud Mountain Conservation Foundation, she was invited to give a talk in this course and share here experience on conservation of Black Crested Gibbon (Nomascus hainanus). At the end of day participants presented their report and findings in each group. There is additional activities at last day we invite participants to join our gibbon watching trip, and visiting beekeeping site, to introduce one of the swaraowa's community development programs to participants.

Read complete report of the 10th sokokembang gibbon field course here : https://swaraowa.org/the-10th-swaraowa-gibbon-field-course-msp-x-2023/

2. Javan gibbon monitoring

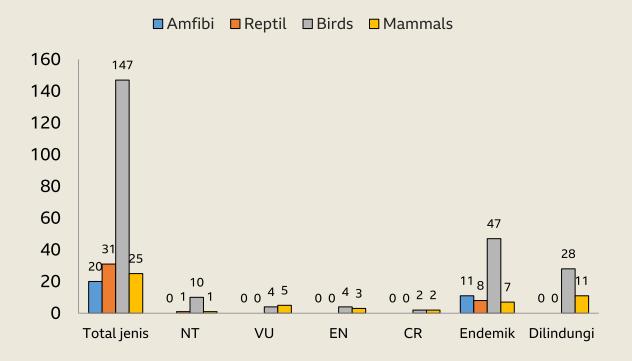
Conducted monthly, with forestry stakeholder in Petungkriyono to enhance forest protection. Report for this activities can be read here :

https://swaraowa.org/biodiversity-monitoring-collaborative-forum-for-petungkriyono-forest-management/



Figure 10. Collaborative forest patrol and monitoring team

Check list fauna and flora of Petungkriyono and Lebakbarang have been created from last two years monitoring, summary for the fauna species presented in this table, categorized based on IUCN status, endemicity, and protected by Indonesia law (dilindungi, -list of protected species by Indonesia Law) :



Distribution map for the fauna (included Javan gibbons) that we observed during monitoring are here :

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1CzeK0w_CG5fwrnpAkrpb2yLQHY3NShc&usp=sharing

3. Mentawai gibbon monitoring

The activities conducted by Malinggai Uma team in October, November and December, continuing previous activities in August, to survey 3 locations i.e Mopuk, Simanggeak and Bat Toitet. We mapped the locations here in google maps (https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=16e3Q6HN_J90_jjXyY3-XbFjij7nbszA&usp=sharing). The survey also has aimed to establish communication between Malinggai Uma and the local landowner of the forest. Through series of monitoring activities, we collect information on gibbons distribution in this area, and learn about threats for the population and it's habitat. Hunting for primates including the gibbons are still happening in this three locations, hunting for traditional ceremony purposes and opportunistic meat sources conducted using air rifle and arrow.

Malinggai Uma will continue to communicate with the landowner clan, to protect the forest for educational and eco-tourism purposes. The series of monitoring activities that are being conducted will prevent more hunting. Series of meetings with elders of the clan have been conducted to strengthen protection of gibbons and other wildlife in their forested area.



Figure 11. Sapou, a family house of Mentawai

4. Public Dissemination and Presentation

- a. "Calling from the Wild: Mentawai Gibbon Conservation Fieldwork " Arif Setiawan and Damianus Tateburuk, Book chapter : Cheyne, S.M., Thompson, C., Fan, P.F. and Chatterjee, H.J. eds., 2023. Gibbon Conservation in the Anthropocene. Cambridge University Press.
- b. Oral Presentation at IPS-MPS Conference, Kuching Sabah Malaysia 19-25 August 2023, i.e :
 - 1) Siripok Bilou : a grassroot initiative for Mentawai Gibbon Conservation (Author: Arif Setiawan)
 - 2) Quartet game : Strengthening cultural values for Primate Conservation In Mentawai (Authors: Arif Setiawan and Damianus Tateburuk)
 - 3) Building science and conservation capacity for the next generation of Indonesian primatologists; Confirmed (Author: Nur Aoliya)





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