

# Vietnam hosts the world's most endangered primates

■ By Rexie Jane Parreño

A surviving population of the eastern black crested gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*) and a new population of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) have been found in Vietnam.

According to the Vietnam Investment Review (2002), at least eight black-crested gibbons are surviving in a small fragmented forest in Trung Khanh district near the China border. The black-crested gibbon is known to be the world's most critically endangered primate, having a global population between 14 to 28 individuals. La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang, both Vietnamese biologists of Fauna and Flora International (FFI), discovered and documented the primates' occurrence in the area. Gibbons' songs were recorded and sent to Hannover Insti-

tute of Zoology in Germany to confirm their existence.

Another rare primate, Tonkin snub-nosed monkey, was observed in Vietnam. FFI biologist Le Khac Quyet has found 50 to 60 individuals in the Du Gia nature reserve in Ha Giang province, increasing the known population of the said primates from 200 to 260 individuals. The Tonkin snub-nosed monkey is a critically endangered primate, endemic to the Tuyen Quang, Ha Giang and Bac Can provinces of Vietnam.

The nature reserve's five staff are not able to act as protectors for the species that live on an area as large as 24 hectares. FFI, Frankfurt Zoological Society and Muenster Allwetter Zoo have been playing a crucial role in the establishment of

management systems for the Na Hang nature reserve in Tuyen Quang province, the first reserve for the protection of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey. With the assistance of the FFI, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has facilitated the establishment of a second protected area in Cham Chu, Tuyen Quang province. They aim to strengthen protected area management and community-based conservation intervention, and instigate local patrol groups and buffer-zone development programs around three nature reserves where the species occurs, in their fight to save it from extinction. ■

## Source

The Vietnam Investment Review, 2002. Distributed by WorldSources, Inc. Emerging Markets Datafile. 18 February 2002.

## National Biodiversity Reference Units (NBRUs) Directory

### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**HJ ABD Rahman bin Hj Chuchu**  
Director  
Forestry Department  
Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources  
Jalan Menteri Besar Negara,  
BB 3910  
Brunei Darussalam  
Email: [jphq@brunet.bn](mailto:jphq@brunet.bn)  
Website: [www.forestry.gov.bn](http://www.forestry.gov.bn)

### CAMBODIA

**Mr. Vathana Kol**  
Deputy Director  
Department of Nature Conservation  
and Protected Areas  
Ministry of Environment,  
No. 48 Samdech Prea,  
Sihanouk St, Tonle Bassac,  
Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Email: [012807191@mobil.com.kh](mailto:012807191@mobil.com.kh)

### INDONESIA

**Dr. J. Sugardjito**  
Senior Scientist  
Research Centre for Biology  
The Indonesian Institute  
of Sciences  
Jl. Juandra 18,  
Bogor, Indonesia  
Email: [ffi@indo.net.id](mailto:ffi@indo.net.id)  
Website: [www.lipi.go.id](http://www.lipi.go.id)

### LAO PDR

**Mr. Bouaphanh Phanthavong**  
Focal Person  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Department of Forestry  
Vientiane  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Tel: +856-20.514511  
Fax: +856-21.412343

### MALAYSIA

**Mr. Azhar Noraini**  
Principal Assistant Director  
Conservation and Environmental  
Management Division  
Ministry of Science, Technology  
and the Environment  
Level 4 Block C5, Parcel C  
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajan  
Persekutuan 62502, Putrajaya, Malaysia  
Email: [azhar@mastic.gov.my](mailto:azhar@mastic.gov.my)  
Website: [www.mastic.gov.my](http://www.mastic.gov.my)

### PHILIPPINES

**Atty. Wilfrido S. Pollisco**  
Director  
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau  
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources  
Ninoy Aquino Parks and  
Wildlife Nature Center  
North Avenue, Diliman,  
1156 Quezon City, Philippines  
Email: [pawb-plan@psdn.org.ph](mailto:pawb-plan@psdn.org.ph)  
Website: [www.pawb.gov.ph](http://www.pawb.gov.ph)

### SINGAPORE

**Dr. Lena Chan**  
Assistant Director  
National Parks Board  
Singapore Botanic Gardens  
1 Cluny Road 259569  
Singapore  
Email: [LENA\\_CHAN@NPARKS.GOV.SG](mailto:LENA_CHAN@NPARKS.GOV.SG)  
Website: [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg)

### THAILAND

**Ms. Duangmal Sinthuvanich**  
Director  
Natural Resources and Environmental  
Management Division  
Office of Environmental Policy and  
Planning (OEPP)  
60/1 Soi Phibun Wattana 7  
Rama 6 Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand  
Email: [duangmal@oepp.go.th](mailto:duangmal@oepp.go.th)  
Website: [www.oepp.go.th](http://www.oepp.go.th)

### VIETNAM

**Ms. Le Thanh Binh**  
Deputy Head  
Nature Conservation Division  
National Environment Agency  
67 Nguyen Du St.  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Email: [baoton@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:baoton@hn.vnn.vn)  
Website: [www.enviforum.vnn.vn/nv\\_protect/structure.html](http://www.enviforum.vnn.vn/nv_protect/structure.html)