

# DRAFT Recommendations: Wild to Wild Rapid Translocation Training for Conservation Potential of Hoolock Gibbon

(Combined from Sept 2008 and Jan 2009 workshops)

## Objectives and Principles

**Subject** – Scoping workshop in Wild to Wild rapid translocation of otherwise doomed Hoolock Gibbons from non-supportive isolated, habitat fragments to suitable localities in which they can survive over the long term.

**Over-riding purpose** – to save those individuals and families which will surely die and at the same time substantially improve the probability of long-term survival of Hoolock Gibbons.

**Conclusion** – Wild to wild translocation, systematically and expertly implemented, is likely to have the most potential for long-term success for these isolated populations.

## Recommendations by participants

### It is recommended that :

...small, isolated groups of Hoolock Gibbons at risk of imminent extinction should be identified for urgent action and translocated to form larger, more secure populations.

... healthy, wild gibbons in threatened small habitats, should be rescued by translocation to secure habitats in preference to being removed into captivity; however, individuals that are injured, or, long-term habituated to human beings, or have been isolated on their own for some time may be better taken into captivity as part of the CZA Coordinated Captive Breeding.

... the health and welfare of the individual animals should receive the highest consideration during all the activities undertaken.

...in view of the complexity of conservation translocations, translocation teams consisting of a few external experts and appropriate local individuals should undertake small scale trial translocations in order to train new practitioners with the process in their first exercises.

.... capacity building required for translocation should be organized on census methods, equipment, basics (including orientation) of all skills needed for translocation exercise and appropriate training for different levels of staff.

... all activities must preserve the genetic integrity of the two separate species, *Hoolock hoolock* and *Hoolock leuconedys*, and any other additional taxa identified.

... GIS mapping, including ground-truthing (or confirmation in the field) should be carried out on the habitats of Hoolock Gibbons across their historical range in India (and Bangladesh).

...urgent up-to-date census (or presence/absence survey in inaccessible areas) of population numbers and threats to Hoolock Gibbons in its entire historical range should be carried out on priority basis (within a year if possible).

...a standard protocol and form should be developed for collecting data in a consistent and comparable manner across the entire Hoolock Gibbon range and a centralized database should be established at WADWT, Assam for all the states. It should include food plants and lodging trees, published articles, survey results and past history.

...detailed habitat assessment should be done for every potential release site, including threats and the past history of the site and species.

...effective protection should be in place for all release sites.

...local people should be involved in protection of Hoolock Gibbon in order to insure their cooperation and support.

... education and awareness activities should prioritize local stakeholders as well as general public and also national and vernacular press and other media in all the Hoolock Gibbon states. This activity should precede and form an integral part of the translocation exercise and commence as early as possible.

...funding should be assured for the whole process of translocation before animals are captured.

...any translocations of Hoolock Gibbons should be carefully planned and implemented using the best practice guidelines developed at the 2008-09 Wild to Wild Hoolock Gibbon Translocation Training workshops, in accordance with the advice of the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group.

