



Project description

Use of and behavioural adaptations to peat swamp forest habitat by Kloss Gibbons (*Hylobates klossii*)

Kloss` gibbons tend to live primarily in lowland rainforest where they utilise the upper canopy of the forest for their suspensory locomotion/foraging and as such require habitat with continuous canopy cover. They are famous for their long ranging, melodic songs which are species and gender specific (see Geissmann 2002), showing substantial individual variation (Tenaza 1976, Haimoff & Tilson 1985). In this study, we will focus on individual variation in relation to habitat structure (primary rainforest, peat swamp forest), whether Kloss gibbons adapt their songs to these different environmental conditions. Aims of the study:

- i) to compare Kloss gibbon songs (*Hylobates klossii*) in two differently forested habitats, i.e. lowland rainforest and peat swamp forest,
- ii) to describe possible vocal flexibility in Kloss gibbon songs, and
- iii) to determine the extend to which gibbons use the peat swamp forest as home range/habitat.

Different groups of Kloss gibbons will be recorded in two locations. The first location is the SCP field station within the primary rainforest. The second location is the peat swamp forest near the ecolodge on the northern coast of Siberut. The transition between peat swamp forest and primary lowland forest occurs approximately 2.5 – 3.5 km away from the seashore.

The recorded songs will be analysed at the German Primate Centre in Goettingen, Germany following established procedures analysing nonhuman primate vocalisation including gibbon songs (see Ey et al. 2009, Thinh et al. in press).

The result will show whether Kloss gibbon are able to adapt their songs to different environmental conditions. Further, the results will enhance our knowledge about the possibility of Kloss gibbon to use peat swamp forest habitats and therefore give us further implications for conservation