

## Project Update: October 2009

We are reporting on activities during July – August and October 2009 on endangered primate conservation in central Java, Indonesia. People thought that the forest in central Java had disappeared but there are remnants of forest in the western part of Dieng Mountain that are the home for the last populations of Javan endemic flora and fauna. We first visited Sokokembang forest in the



district of Petungkriyono, Pekalongan Regency, Central Java Province with the aim of studying the primates and conserving all Javan endemic species such as Javan gibbon, Javan surili, Javan langur, Javan leopard, and Javan hawk eagle. Research activities in Sokokembang forest have begun by establishing a transect system in the forest covering an area approximately 2300 ha and from 400 m up to 1200 m. There are 7 transects, each 1 km long. These transects will be used for primate survey and for further monitoring and to survey other mammals, birds, and vegetation.

During July, August, and October 2009 (there were very limited activities during September due to the fasting month) we recorded 39 Javan gibbons, 26 Javan surilis, 15 Javan langurs and 9 long-tailed macaques; all species by direct observation. We have walked 16 km within the transect system and more than 8 km outside the system. A group of two gibbons is being habituated to study their behaviour and role as seed dispersers.

Along the transects, vegetation plots (with nested sampling of 20 x 20m, 10 x 10m, 5 x 5m, 2 x 2m, and 1 x 1m plots) lie every 100 m at a perpendicular distance of 20 m left and right of the transect. Trees, saplings, poles and seedlings are recorded, based on their vernacular names, and we collected specimens such as leaves and fruits for the herbarium, to determine scientific names of forest trees.

We also conducted a night search and mammal survey. However, up to this point we have not found the nocturnal primate, the Javan slow loris. On a recent night survey we have found flying lemur or Sunda Colugo (*Cynocephalus variegatus*); this may be the first record in Central Java.

### *Conservation Education*

The following activities have been undertaken.

1. Four forestry students participated during the first week (July 2009) in Sokokembang forest; the students received training on primate survey methods.
2. A primate researcher from Czech Republic visited the study site, stayed five days in the village (September 30th – October 4th 2009). We shared knowledge and experience on primate research and conservation in the field. This also encouraged people in Sokokembang village to realise that there was good forest in their village which is home to several Javan endemic species.

3. Presenting preliminary results at a Primate Lecture at Gadjah Mada University, on October 10th, 2009.
4. Joining villagers meeting every week on Thursday night in Sokokembang village.
5. Three selected villages will be surveyed (Sokokembang, Kroyakan, and Tinalum), to assess their perception of the forest and primate conservation and also to learn about useful forest trees which are often used by villagers. We have done this with 25 villagers in Sokokembang village.