



January 1st 2015

RE: 2015 - YEAR OF THE GIBBON

Gibbons, comprising 19 species, are one of the most threatened primate families globally. As such additional global attention and funding need to be realized to ensure that we do not lose any of these species in the 21st Century.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that 2015 will be recognized by the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group as the Year of the Gibbon. We hope that this will raise the global profile of gibbons and help contribute to their conservation.

This initiative will be led by the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group's Section on Small Apes (SSA). The SSA has been developed to address the conservation of the gibbons and we wish them the best of luck in this endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Russell A. Mittermeier'.

Russell A. Mittermeier, Ph.D.
Executive Vice-Chair, Conservation International; and
Chairman, IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group