

# YELLOW-CHEEKED GIBBON



## What is a gibbon?

Gibbons are 'lesser apes'. Like other apes, they have no tail. Gibbons have very long arms and legs in relation to their bodies. Their hands are also very long, with hook-shaped fingers. Adult male yellow-cheeked gibbons are black with yellow cheeks. Females are bright yellow or pale orange. Babies are born yellow, but turn black in a few months. Females turn yellow again when they are mature.

## Where do they live?

The yellow-cheeked gibbon is found in tropical forests in southern Laos, southern Vietnam and eastern Cambodia.

## How do they live?

Gibbons live mainly in the treetops, where they are safe from predators. They sleep and rest in the tallest trees. Gibbons hang from branches by their arms and move by swinging quickly arm over arm through the canopy. This is called brachiation. They can also walk on two legs, using their arms to balance. Gibbons

live in small family groups. They defend their territory by singing loudly, usually in the early morning. One baby is born every two to three years. Young gibbons stay with their parents until almost fully grown. Gibbons can live for up to 50 years.

## What do they eat?

Gibbons eat mainly fruit, but also feed on leaves and insects.

## Why are they in danger?

Gibbons are threatened by loss of their forest habitat and by hunting for food, traditional medicine and the pet trade.

## Saving the gibbon

Wildlife At Risk is working to ensure that gibbons and other endangered Vietnamese primates receive better protection within and outside national parks. You can help by NOT buying gibbons and NOT keeping them as pets.