



P.O. Box 335 Como 6952
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
www.silvery.org.au
email: silverygibbon@live.com.au

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
environment.reps@aph.gov.au

19 May 2015

Submission to the inquiry into the administration and transparency of the Register of Environmental Organisations and its effectiveness in supporting communities to take practical action to improve the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

The Silvery Gibbon Projects (SGP) mission is to raise awareness and provide support for the conservation of gibbons in Southeast Asia.

We are able to do this through actively seeking funding from donors, corporate sponsors and memberships, grants both within and outside of Australia, gibbon adoptions, sales of merchandise and funds raised through events and educational programs. These funds contribute to programs *in-situ* through partnerships formed with non-profit conservation organisations in the field.

Some of SGP's activities and achievements include;

- Establishment and ongoing operation of the Javan Gibbon Centre, a rescue and rehabilitation facility for Javan gibbons.
- Javan Gibbon Reintroduction Program- the release of rehabilitated gibbons back into the wild in Java.
- Training and operation of a Gibbon Protection Unit- protecting the reintroduced population of Javan gibbons and surrounding habitat
- Mobile Conservation Education Unit- delivering education programs to schools and community groups in Java
- Agroforestry and community development activities- providing training, support and seedlings to assist local farmers surrounding the Javan gibbon conservation area.
- Supayang reserve- Land purchase in the Supayang reserve, Sumatra.

SGP is on the Register of Environmental Organisations and maintains a membership of 81. The organisation raises around \$16,000 a year through tax-deductible donation. Without tax deductibility, SGP would find it enormously difficult to attract the donors that provide the ongoing support required to enable us to achieve our objectives.

SGP reports to donors in our annual report and well as regular newsletters and via social media. We regularly hold events where we are able to update donors on the progress of our field projects and raise awareness about the threats facing gibbons and their habitat.

The SGP is a volunteer based organisation, with limited resources to support administration. We would be very concerned if the Committee proposes making the administration of the Register more complex.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Beaton
Secretary
Silvery Gibbon Project Inc.