

# The Legend of the Ulluk Song -- Hoo hoo hoo hoo hoooooooooooo



## About this Booklet

This book was inspired by work on the educational programme *Save Hoolock Gibbons, Protect Forests Conserve Biodiversity*, following a *PHVA Workshop for Hoolock Gibbon*. Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) joined with Oxford Brookes University graduate student, Ms. Corrin La Combe, to evaluate the proficiency of their most popular conservation education programme. The text of the book is in Bengali which was translated for publication in ZPM.

This book has been created to inspire young conservationists. The story and sample illustrations are meant to be used as a guide. Students can be asked to re-draw all illustrations as part of a competition. The winning artists will become the official illustrators of this book and their work will be shared with students throughout Bangladesh to promote awareness. This black and white edition of the book can be used as a colouring book.

Gawsia and Corrin

## About the Authors

**Corrin LaCombe** is a master's student from Oxford Brookes University. She studies primate conservation with special focus on environmental education in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. Ms.

LaCombe is also a film producer who works primarily on wildlife documentaries.

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## The story in this booklet

Once upon a time long ago two Bangladeshi children became friends with a very special wise, old gibbon. His name was Mr. Gibbon. Mr. Gibbon lived high in the treetops like all other gibbons, but he was extra special because he could talk to people. However, Mr. Gibbon did not talk to everyone, and only spoke to children who loved the forest.

Mr. Gibbon could tell that these two Bangladeshi children loved the forest very much. He decided to become best friends with them. He even gave them two special names, Ranger Arun and Ranger Ahona.

One day Mr. Gibbon came to Ranger Arun and Ranger Ahona to tell them that he was worried. Travelling through the forest he noticed people were cutting down



young trees! "These trees are supposed to grow up to become my home!" exclaimed Mr. Gibbon. "I use the trees to travel! I use the trees to take care of my family. We and many other animals use the trees to get food and use them for many other purposes". "What should we do?" the children asked. "Please tell the people not to cut the trees! If they do cut trees tell them to replace the ones they take!" Mr. Gibbon explained. Eager to help Mr. Gibbon, Ranger Arun and Ranger Ahona ran to inform the people.

"Do not tell us to stop cutting the trees", the people replied. "We need wood to make fire and to build our houses". The children did not know what to say. The ran back to get advice from Mr. Gibbon.

"People need the wood to make fire and build things", the little rangers explained. "How can we ask them to stop?" they both wondered. "Oh, my little rangers," Mr. Gibbon said, "you forgot the most important part". "If they DO NEED to cut the trees then tell them to replace the ones they take! They should plant new trees. This will ensure that my forest home has trees. The people will have wood for themselves too. This can be done easily by putting a branch of a tree into the soil!"

"You see," Mr. Gibbon continued, "everyone needs trees". "I need trees to live in, to eat fruits from and to keep my family safe". "People need trees to make fire



and to build things. People and animals BOTH need trees to make oxygen. Trees protect us from storms. Also they help control the rain". Mr. Gibbon explained. "Trees are our friends!"

Arun and Ahona went to talk with the people again. They told them everything Mr. Gibbon said. To their surprise, the people agreed! Soon people started to re-plant trees! Mr. Gibbon watched and listened from his treetop home. He was extremely pleased. His forest home was becoming full and lush again.

Ranger Arun and Ranger Ahona were happy too! They never knew that they could make such a difference! They did not know that they could help animals AND people so much! Arun and Ahona grew up to become real forest rangers. They continued to protect the forest for years and years to come. After all, they loved the forest!!!!

As the legend goes, gibbons still sing today because of their love for Ranger Arun and Ranger Ahona. They also sing to remind people that everyone can help protect the forest. Next time you hear gibbons singing, remember that they need your help! You have the POWER to make a difference and to keep the forest beautiful! In return, the animals of the forest will keep blessing your days with song, colour, trees, and love!

Mr. Gibbon and his family were so happy with their new life in the forest. They even started to sing! All together in a happy chorus the family would sing each morning. They were singing to welcome the beautiful day and to thank the children for all their hard work. Soon other gibbon groups joined in the morning song.

