



UCL

RESEARCH SEMINAR

CHINA NIGHT



Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon from Gaoligongshan

Historical Perspectives on Extinction: Using Long-term Archives to Inform Conservation in China

Dr Samuel Turvey

(Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London)

Wednesday 10 May 2017

6–7.30pm

Room 612

Institute of Archaeology Building

31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY

Chinese ecosystems are experiencing extensive current-day biodiversity loss. However, these ecosystems have been modified by human activities for millennia, and insights about ecology and extinction risk based only on recent data are likely to be both incomplete and biased. This research investigates the data content and usefulness of different long-term archives (local ecological knowledge and oral traditions; Western and Chinese historical archives; the zoo-archaeological and palaeontological records) to provide unique insights into past Chinese environmental baselines, to reconstruct the spatiotemporal dynamics of Holocene-modern extinctions, and to identify correlates of faunal vulnerability and resilience, in order to inform current-day conservation of threatened Chinese species.

+44 020 7679 1092; iccha@ucl.ac.uk