

## PRESS RELEASE

### **New brochure advises Indonesian farmers on how to protect farms from wild animals while leaving them alive.**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – **The conflict between humans and wild animals has become more frequent and more serious problem in many areas all over the world. Due to the loss of natural habitat and food sources, animals have been forced to look for another space to live. That is why they more often penetrate neighbourhood of human dwellings and farmland where they are labelled as pests, they are chased and killed. In response to this problem, The Kukang Rescue Program has created a new, unique brochure in order to show Indonesian farmers how to protect their fields from wild animals without having to kill them. Moreover, the brochure will also serve as an educational material on endangered species living near the farmers.**

In addition to a brief description of each of key localities where the addressed farmers live, the brochure presents different species, the threats they have been under, and also their contribution to the whole ecosystem and to the farmers as well. Primarily, it provides simple tips and tricks on how the farmers can prevent wild animals from destroying their crops without harming or killing those animals. It also highlights sanctions for killing or capturing protected animals. The brochure is available in three languages, i.e. Czech, English and Indonesian, and it is complemented by original drawings of introduced species by Marion Schön a Judith MacKay from the ABUN (Artists & Biologists Unite for Nature) art group.

The brochure is a result of cooperation of The Kukang Rescue Program's anti-conflict team with 67 Indonesian farmers and their families living in several areas on borders of a protected forest in the North Sumatra province whose farms are frequently visited by wild animals that destroy their crops. Both Czech volunteers and members of the organization as well as its Indonesian employees were members of the anti-conflict team. Their efforts were to prevent conflicts between the farmers and wild animals. Using questionnaires, they surveyed what knowledge about animals the farmers have, what kind of relationship there is between the farmers and wild animals, and also which species visit their fields and how often. Based on this information, a list of 18 species, which come most likely into conflict with the local people, has been created.

Slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*) is one of endangered animal species, which is considered pest of fruit trees on farms and which often becomes a victim of farmers; the slow loris is a target species of The Kukang Rescue Program. However, the program also seeks to protect other chased and endangered species in northern Sumatra and throughout Indonesia. Creation of this brochure is one of the most important tools that should contribute to achieve this goal. *"As long as the local people and the farmers in particular do not know wild animals and do not know how these animals are important for nature and for the farmers as well, they will never start to protect these animals,"* Lucie Čižmářová, veterinary care and welfare coordinator of The Kukang Rescue Program, explains.

*"Although the brochure is primarily intended for farmers in northern Sumatra, we believe that introducing species, their significance and threats, and especially the ways how to keep them away from human dwellings and farmland without the use of violence, will be useful for example for other conservation projects not only in Indonesia, but also in other areas in which*

*conflicts between wild animals and humans are frequent,"* František Příbrský, leader of The Kukang Rescue Program, explains.

This brochure was created thanks to the support of and cooperation with The Rufford Foundation, Ostrava Zoo, Olomouc Zoo and Liberec Zoo that are longtime partners of the program.

The brochure can be found and downloaded [here](#). The brochure can be freely distributed, subject to declaration of The Kukang Rescue Program authorship.

Attached photographs may be freely used for press, internet and television news. Author of the photographs: Lucie Čižmářová.

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