



PRESS RELEASE

The Kukang Rescue Program has responded to the current global environmental pollution issue by launching a new project.

12th June 2018 – **The Kukang Rescue Program is launching a new waste sorting project in Sumatra. It is a response to the issue of environmental pollution in Indonesia that endangers animals not only in the oceans but also on land. The aim of the project is to introduce a concept of municipal waste sorting and recycling, which should lead to a reduction of pollution in a village situated on the boundary with the protected Leuser Ecosystem. It is home to many endangered animal species, including slow lorises whose protection the organization deals with.**

In Indonesia, waste management is currently in a very poor condition and as a result, there is a considerable environmental pollution. The gravity of the situation is illustrated by [videos](#) capturing ocean contamination by plastics in a coastal area of the popular island of Bali, which recently flew around the world. In most of Indonesia, there are no collection points and there is not any possibility of waste sorting and its further processing. The Kukang Rescue Program has responded to this issue in the Kuta Buluh area in the northern part of the Indonesian island of Sumatra where the program has been protecting slow lorises for several years, and has launched a new waste management project. One of its aims was to acquaint local inhabitants of all ages with basic principles of waste sorting, its reduction and further processing. Also, collection points for sorted waste and a simple composting site were built. Our partner non-profit organization Arta Jaya, based in Medan, the capital of the North Sumatra province, will ensure regular collection and further processing of sorted waste. *"The project focuses on finding more comprehensive and effective solution of the issue. The waste collection itself has only a very short-term effect,"* Tomáš Bušina, a scientist based in Indonesia and the project advisor, adds.

The target area is located near the protected Leuser Ecosystem where wild populations of critically endangered Sumatran orangutan, Sunda pangolin, Greater slow loris, Malayan sun bear, and many other endangered animal species live. In this area, The Kukang Rescue Program has built a library for children where free environmental education lessons take place. The library is equipped with books on nature written in Indonesian and donated by [Green-books](#) organization, and with educational colouring books from the Ostrava Zoo, which is also the main partner of the waste sorting project. *"We have been cooperating with the community in this area for a longer period of time as we consider its neighbourhood as one of possible localities suitable for releasing rehabilitated animals,"* Lucie Čižmářová, a field zoologist in the Olomouc Zoo and a coordinator of veterinary care and welfare in The Kukang Rescue Program, explains the reason for the aforementioned activities of the rescue program.

In addition to lectures for village residents, local children were also involved in an entertaining way during the weekend when the project was officially launched. *"In order to raise children's interest in waste sorting, we gave them paints and paintbrushes and let them decorate new bins in the village according to their own ideas. They are now proud of their creations,"* Tomáš Bušina adds.

One of the organizations seeking a global solution to the issue of plastic pollution is [Trash Hero](#). You can find further information on environmental pollution in Indonesia [here](#).

The attached photos may be freely used for press, Internet, and television reporting. Author of the photos: PASAL Foundation.

Katerina Holubova

Spokeswoman for The Kukang Rescue Program

Phone: +420777153133

E-mail: holubova@kukang.org