



PRESS RELEASE

Welcome to “Kukang Coffee” - a unique café in the Czech Republic helping protect slow lorises and other endangered wildlife in Sumatra!

16th June 2020 – At the beginning of June, “Kukang Coffee”, a unique conservation café in the Czech Republic, has welcomed its first guests! Here you can enjoy a cup of coffee and at the same time help protect slow lorises, pangolins and other endangered animals and support farmers from faraway Sumatra. Discover with us the story of coffee that protects nature!

The Kukang Rescue Program, which seeks to protect slow lorises and combat illegal wildlife trade on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, has opened a “Kukang Coffee” café. This café can be considered unique in the Czech Republic. It is part of the new “Kukang Coffee” project which was created to help farmers living in the Tanah Karo regency in northern Sumatra and at the same time to contribute to the wildlife conservation. The “Kukang Coffee” café sells coffee sourced from Sumatran farmers, and in addition, it allows people in the Czech Republic to learn more about the project, conservation of (not only) slow lorises, and other activities of the Kukang Rescue Program.

And how does it all work? As part of the “Kukang Coffee” project, a community of coffee growers was created, the so-called “Kukang Coffee Community”. In collaboration with this community, representatives of the Kukang Rescue Program have introduced a methodology for nature-friendly growing and processing of high-quality coffee. *“We buy the coffee grown by farmers at a higher price than they would sell it on the market. In addition, the purchase takes place directly at their home, which saves them the cost of transporting coffee to the market. We have therefore succeeded in ensuring that farmers make a significant profit from nature conservation,”* explains the benefits of this cooperation for farmers Jhon Kartasima Gurusinga, the coordinator of the “Kukang Coffee” project in Indonesia. *“In return, we demand that individual farmers from our community make a binding promise to protect endangered and protected animals and to observe a ban on their hunting. The ‘Kukang Coffee’ thus not only supports the locals, but also directly helps protect slow lorises, pangolins and other endangered wild animals in the nearby forest. Thanks to that, this area lying on the border of the protected and unique Leuser Ecosystem will be even better secured against poaching before the planned release of slow lorises rehabilitated in our rescue centre,”* adds František Příbrský, director of the Kukang Rescue Program. Moreover, the effectiveness of the entire project is enhanced by the fact that the functioning of the above-mentioned community is ensured by a field team composed of former poachers. Their employment in the past has significantly reduced the rate of poaching in this area, saving hundreds of animals from potential capture.

The idea of opening a café in the Czech Republic, where this coffee would be sold, was born in the heads of František Příbrský and his brother Luboš, a great coffee lover. After several months of work, the idea turned into reality. After being introduced to the friends of the Kukang Rescue Program and partners from other non-profit organizations and zoos on Friday, 29th May, the “Kukang Coffee” café finally welcomed the first guests from the general public on 2nd June. The café in the Kukang design with a lot of photos from the activities of the rescue program is located in the Pařížská Street in the centre of the Ústí nad Labem City, where both main authors of this idea come from.

“When I first visited Sumatra and the Kukang Rescue Program in 2018, I realized how much we can help local nature and people. Also, because I have been devoting myself to coffee, its preparation and taste for 30 years and it has become my hobby, I see great meaning in this conservation project. I know this story of coffee beans from growing them to a cup of coffee in the café, and I believe that ‘Kukang Coffee’ will become a unique coffee – both in terms of quality and benefits for nature conservation and helping people,” explains Luboš Příbrský, now the coordinator of the “Kukang Coffee” project in the Czech Republic.

And what makes the café exceptional? For visitors, it can be an unusual experience to see a coffee roaster directly in the café. Roasting green coffee beans obtained from farmers from the “Kukang Coffee Community” gives this high-quality coffee an even more special care. In addition, as part of an environmentally friendly approach, emphasis is also placed on minimizing the use of plastics and waste as such. For example, chilled soft drinks are sold in glass, coffee cups to go including lids are made of natural degradable material, and there are only bamboo straws in the café. Those interested can buy roasted coffee beans, also in their own packaging, or they can take away free coffee grounds as fertilizer for their plants.

The “Kukang Coffee” café is open from Monday to Friday from 7:00 to 18:00 and can be found at Pařížská 1217/9, Ústí nad Labem City, Czech Republic. You can follow the project on FB/Instagram “kukang coffee”.

The “Kukang Coffee” project could be implemented thanks to the financial support from the “Small Local Project” grant within the Czech Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Indonesia. Many thanks for the long-term support of the activities of the Kukang Rescue Program and the “Kukang Coffee” project itself also belong to partner zoos, namely Ostrava Zoo, Olomouc Zoo, Liberec Zoo, Hodonín Zoo, Jihlava Zoo, Wrocław Zoo and NaturZoo Rheine, and the Czech Coalition for Biodiversity Conservation. (CCBC).

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

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