



PRESS RELEASE

Thanks to the development cooperation of the Czech Republic, a “coffee house” was built in Sumatra for Kukang Coffee growers, who help protect slow lorises, pangolins and other endangered wildlife species.

17th December 2021 - **The Czech Republic’s development cooperation under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Jakarta has supported a community of coffee growers protecting nature and endangered species in Sumatra, where The Kukang Rescue Program operates. Thanks to the support of a grant called “Small Scale Project” in the north of the island, there is now a special “coffee house”.**

The so-called “Small Scale Project” (hereinafter “SSP”) is a grant issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Jakarta. This grant serves to develop cooperation at the local level and was awarded to the Kukang Program to support the sustainable livelihood of the community of people in the village of Kuta Male in North Sumatra. In this area, the program has been cooperating with local people for a long time, helping to resolve farmers’ conflicts with wild animals coming to their fields, employing former poachers as assistants for field monitoring of the local forest, and building an English-environmental library for local children. Thanks to the established cooperation, the local community now produces environmentally friendly “Kukang Coffee” and at the same time protects endangered animal species. The main purpose of the grant was to establish a community of local coffee growers, the so-called “Kukang Coffee Community”, and to build a multifunctional “coffee house” in this field area. The grant was a continuation of the already implemented MLP from 2019, thanks to which the methodology of coffee processing was set up and not only the training and education of its local producers but also the environmental education of local children was supported.

The newly built Kukang Coffee House, construction and equipment of which were possible thanks to funds from the MLP 2020 grant, now serves for the correct processing and storage of coffee beans, which guarantees their high quality. But the premises are also an ideal place for coffee growers to meet and receive the necessary training. In addition, one part of the house will serve as a space for an English-environmental library for children and their education in nature conservation and English language.

Farmers in the newly formed Kukang Coffee Community must sign a formal cooperation agreement that gives them all the benefits of membership, such as a guaranteed purchase of their coffee by a project at a higher price than at the local market. At the same time, however, this agreement obliges them to protect endangered and protected wildlife species. *“We also managed to sign a cooperation agreement with the village of Kuta Male represented by its mayor. The agreement includes, among other things, points on the support and development of the Kukang Coffee Community and the ban on hunting protected species of wild animals in the area. The mayor of the village, Jhon Sembiring, a coffee grower*

himself, also joined the community,” praises František Příbrský, director of The Kukang Rescue Program, the establishment of cooperation with local residents on nature protection. As part of their membership, individual farmers receive advice from a team consisting of a coordinator and two assistants who used to be poachers. However, they now control not only the processing of coffee according to the set methodology, but also compliance with the ban on hunting endangered animals. *“Since last year, within the Kukang Coffee project, more than 50 farmers have been cooperating with us, from whom we have already bought about 3 tons of green coffee in parchment husks directly from their fields. Thanks to the established coffee community, local people benefit more from their coffee and at the same time have greater motivation and understanding to protect local endangered species. The project works great, and our area has become such a small paradise for these animals,”* explains Indonesian Kukang Coffee project coordinator Jhon Kartasima Gurusinga.

Green coffee beans from this area are imported to the Czech Republic, specifically to the Kukang Coffee café in the Ústí nad Labem city, which spreads this conservation story through its visitors. Learn more at www.kukang-coffee.org.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Jakarta deserve a big thank you for providing a grant that helped support the sustainable livelihoods of North Sumatra while protecting endangered wildlife. Sincere thanks also go to the program partners from the ranks of modern zoos for their long-term support, namely Ostrava Zoo, Olomouc Zoo, Liberec Zoo, Hodonín Zoo, Na Hrádečku Zoo, Zlín Zoo, Ústí nad Labem Zoo, Wrocław Zoo, NaturZoo Rheine, and Ouwehands Zoo.

The photographs in the appendix may be freely used for press, internet and television news purposes. Photo authors: Lucie Čižmářová and Jhon Kartasima Gurusinga.

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