



The Kukang Rescue Program

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

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THE KUKANG RESCUE PROGRAM IN 2022

The Kukang Rescue Program is primarily focused on combating the illegal wildlife trade and protecting slow lorises in Indonesia, particularly in the province of North Sumatra. The year 2022 was still affected by the restrictions associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic, which, however, mostly gradually subsided. For the whole time, the pandemic limited the activities of the program only partially, and in 2022, everything could fully return to normal, with some new activities even being added. This report is thus a summary of the most important events that took place in 2022 not only in Indonesia but also in the Czech Republic and the rest of the world, including the Internet.

COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SUMATRA

In 2022, intensive cooperation with farmers from the Kukang Coffee community continued. The coffee team ensures that the coffee is of the highest quality, but also that the farmers involved in the Kukang Coffee community respect the ban on hunting protected species. More farmers joined the community in 2022, becoming conservationists. The community that creates Kukang Coffee and whose members pick, dry and sort coffee beans by hand counts around 700 people! Their village is located directly on the border with the protected Leuser ecosystem, and therefore it is possible here to more and more often see rare and protected animals in the fields or even while resting at home – slow lorises, pangolins, but also orangutans.





But it is becoming more and more difficult for our farmers to get good coffee seedlings. So, we decided to take the Kukang Coffee project one step further and provide 200 coffee tree seedlings to each member of the coffee community. In addition, each of them received 20 avocado tree seedlings, which after a few years after planting will form bio-corridors for wild animals. In addition, avocados will represent another important source of finance for farmers. We are thus getting into a point where not only do our partner farmers not hunt protected animals, but they have even started to create a better and more connected environment for the wildlife.

In 2022, another 800 kg of Kukang Coffee was exported to the Czech Republic, and even in a higher quality than ever before. An important role in this was played by the coffee house, which, with the support of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Indonesia and the Czech Development Agency, the program finished building in 2021 directly in the area where the coffee is grown. The processing and storage of our coffee have improved in this coffee house. The story of coffee, that protects nature was summed up in 53 seconds in a new video.









In 2022, regular annual monitoring of wild animals took place. In the past year, in addition to the monitoring of the area around the Kukang Centre, the monitoring in the field area where Kukang Coffee is also grown was renewed. Here, monitoring took place traditionally in cooperation with two former poachers, who are now part of our rescue program. On the very first day of the monitoring, the team came across a slow loris in the secondary forest near the village, and on the second day, the team members were in for an even bigger surprise when they broke the previous record for the number of slow lorises observed in one evening (9)! After three years of systematic monitoring, the results indicate that the number of slow lorises has been increasing here since the beginning of our conservation activities! By employing former poachers and growing Kukang Coffee, thanks to which the local people stopped hunting protected animals, we and especially the local people can enjoy such a large number of slow lorises.









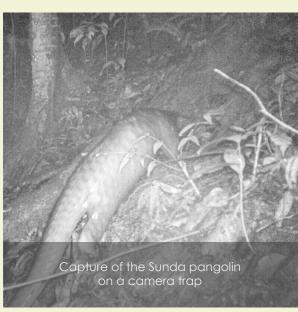




In the field area, where the program, with the help of the local community, pursues long-term conservation of slow lorises and where Kukang Coffee is grown, the team has started installing new camera traps. These camera traps help to reveal what animals inhabit the environment together with slow lorises or where, on the contrary, slow lorises do not occur. One example for all was <u>capturing a pangolin!</u> We were thus able to confirm that, despite previous intensive hunting of pangolins in this area, these animals still survive here.







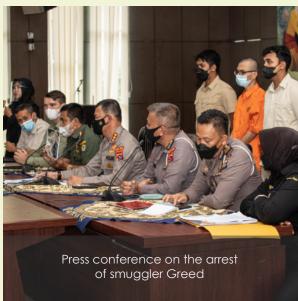


COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN INDONESIA AND THE FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE SMUGGLERS

In 2022, we managed to carry out an intervention in Sumatra as if from a crime scene. A months-long undercover investigation of a Sumatran gang of wildlife smugglers led to the capture and arrest of its high-ranking member - a smuggler nicknamed Greed. Through several of his WhatsApp groups, which had hundreds of members, countless

endangered wild animals were sold daily, including slow lorises, pangolins, and even a baby Sumatran elephant in the past. An international team led by the Indonesian police from the province of West Sumatra (POLDA SUMBAR), officials from the local Nature Conservation Agency (BKSDA SUMBAR), Czech conservationists including the Kukang team and members of the non-profit organization Lestari was supposed to arrest Greed in his home right when he was selling animals. The intervention was unexpectedly dramatized when Greed changed the meeting place at the last









minute. But the intervention team promptly changed their plans and the smuggler's head was eventually caught. During the intervention, critically endangered animals were also seized, namely a Sunda pangolin, three young protected leopard cats, and an Asian giant tortoise. These animals were subsequently transported to quarantine and veterinary examination. As the pangolin and tortoise were freshly caught, they could be released back into the wild. Leopard cat kittens stay at the rescue station until they grow up and gain more strength. After that, ideally, they too will be released into a selected nature reserve.

However, this was not the only smuggling case that the international team managed to solve, this time with the support of a team from the Faculty of Tropical AgriScience of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Already in May, in cooperation with Indonesian investigators and the local police, it was possible to catch one of the ten biggest smugglers of mynas in Indonesia, who was operating on the island of Java. He had with him 5 critically endangered songbirds Nias hill mynas and a black sicklebill, a rare bird from Papua that is traditionally hunted for its feathers used in tribal headdresses. In the case, the investigators also tried to uncover the corruption that took place during the setting of the bail, thanks to which the smuggler went free. Through this case, Czech conservationists and their teams succeeded in infiltrating a network of smugglers of endangered birds. At the end of July, a local team of conservationists, in cooperation with the local branch of the nature conservation agency and the military, seized 11 Nias hill mynas from a trader on Tuangku Island, which would otherwise have been sold as pets. The total world population of this species numbers the last few hundred individuals. The mynas were in good health, so they could be released back into the wild the same day. Arrested hunters lost their earnings and were given suspended sentences. The case is still open. The aim of the investigation is to crack down on other key and higher-ranking coordinators of this smuggling network. A team of Czech conservationists has been drawing attention to the issue of critically endangered birds in Indonesia for a long time. Poachers are able to capture the entire population of one species in a single operation on a small Indonesian island and, thanks to corruption, often get away with it without punishment.





These successes started a whole series of other investigations. We believe that in the coming years we will be able to look forward to more cases of uncovering and combating the illegal trade in animals not only on the island of Sumatra.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE IN SUMATRA

At the Kukang Centre in the village of Bandar Baru, a several-day event was organized in April to de-worm and de-flea the four-legged pets of the residents of the area. The event ran for four days, including Earth Day on Friday, and was completely free. At the same time, the educational team tried to point out to visitors and dog and cat owners the difference between endangered wildlife and their pets, that it is not a good idea to confuse the two, and why wild animals are not suitable for the role of pets. The following video was created during this event.





Last year, in addition to the existing Kuta Male area, we started monitoring nocturnal wild animals around the Kukang Centre as well. This year we continued monitoring this area. One of the animals encountered by the field team in the vicinity of the Kukang Centre is the small-toothed palm civet (*Arctogalidia trivirgata*), whose occurrence in Sumatra correlates with the occurrence of slow lorises. Unfortunately, slow lorises were not observed near the centre. It turns out that animals are often hunted near human dwellings, and education of the local population is, therefore, a very important part of conservation activities.





Biodiversity measures in the Kukang Centre are starting to bear fruit and it is possible to meet more and more species of wild animals, which often raise their young here.





A rescued pangolin from the popular tourist area of Lake Toba also visited the centre for a short time. The pangolin was captured by a group of hunters with the help of their pack of dogs. However, one of the hunters did not want to kill and sell the pangolin, so he asked the Kukang team for help in rescuing the animal, which immediately responded and the pangolin was taken over. Releasing the pangolin back to the same location would be too risky as the area is still heavily poached. One day of rehabilitation at the rescue centre, hydration, a hearty diet of ants, and the pangolin could be released into the field area of the program. The selection of the place and the release itself were carried out by none other than a team of now-former pangolin and slow loris hunters. The rescued pangolin was thus released in the forest, where pangolins used to be poached, but today they are no longer hunted there thanks to the activities of the program. This story with (hopefully) a happy ending can be seen in the video. In the past year, the centre also rehabilitated a changeable hawk-eagle, which became a victim of the pet trade.









EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE

INDONESIA

At the Kukang School, for several years already, children from the vicinity of the rescue centre have been attending free English lessons, which can open the door to a modern world full of possibilities for them. Here, English is mainly focused on environmental topics, and children learn about nature and the animals they can meet in the surrounding forests. But it happens that the children have never seen with their own eyes wild animals that are so typical for the area, such as slow lorises or other primates. Children have the opportunity to see nature as part of field trips. The English classes at the school are divided into three classes according to the language level of the children. The aim of the school is to educate and entertain children at the same time, therefore teaching takes place in smaller groups in an interactive form using pictures, videos, and of course books. Anna Bartoňová, a student at Palacký University in Olomouc, helped with environmental education in 2022 during her two-month internship. The end of the semester was traditionally celebrated together with the students' parents. Five pupils successfully completed several years of study and were awarded graduation certificates. The mayor of the village of Kuta Male from the field area of the program personally attended the presentation and appreciated our long-term English-environmental program.









Kukang School has been a part of The Kukang Rescue Program since its very beginning. Together with active conservation in the field, whether it is monitoring or the hunt for wildlife smugglers, education of the population should go hand in hand. In the field of education, the activities of the program focus mainly on the future of nature protection children. The aim is to provide them with a facility where they can learn about nature and animals or learn English. Since the original school building is already falling apart and the lease on it is ending, a new, our own school is being built right in the Kukang Centre from the end of September, so that the children can learn in larger spaces closer to nature. The foundations are already standing on the hillside at the rescue centre. The construction was supported by zoos (mainly Hodonín Zoo and Wroclaw Zoo) and we announced a public collection on the Donio server for its completion. The building, primarily made of wood and bamboo, will contain two classrooms, an assembly hall, and a common room where children and their parents will be able to gather, read and participate in various activities. At the event of laying the foundation stone, prominent local politicians, religious leaders, and representatives of the local community gathered to support the project. The construction of the new school will be completed in 2023.









Kukang School is involved in the project Education4Conservation International. This project aims to educate pre-school children about nature and its protection and in addition to Indonesia, it operates in several other places around the world, such as Madagascar and Botswana. Education coordinator Novi was awarded the Best Teacher of 2021 certificate as part of this program. We believe that the new school building with a larger and more representative space will help even more effective education also through this ambitious project.





CZECH REPUBLIC AND ABROAD

The Czech part of the Kukang team has traditionally lectured and organized or participated in many events throughout the Czech Republic and abroad. The number of these events was high in 2022, so only their list and venue are given below without further detailed description.



Program days

2022 May Day in Plzeň Zoo, "Day for Zoos" in Olomouc Zoo, Earth Day in Ústí nad Labem Zoo, Children Day in Ústí nad Labem Zoo, European Heritage Days

3

Collections

Ostrava Zoo charity run for Nias Hill Mynas, Collection for Ukraine, Vernissage of photos by Lucie Čižmářová

3

Kukang Coffee stands

Kukang Coffee stand in Ústí nad Labem Zoo, Miladaton – Lake Milada, Kukang Coffee stand in Christmas Fair in Ústí nad Labem



Thematic lectures

Kukang - from poacher to conservationist, and what about wildlife smugglers, A miracle called the Forest, Photography in nature conservation, Don't pet that whale and others, e.g. in the Karel Hynek Mácha Library in Litoměřice or at Universitas Sumatera Utara in Indonesia

3

Attended festivals

Around the World Festival, Ústecký Majáles, Family Festival

2

Other events

Opening of the Kukang Coffee confectionery in Zoo Ústí nad Labem, Neurographics Course at Kukang Coffee Café





The Czech Coalition for Biodiversity Conservation (CCBC), of which our program is a part, offers discussions with Czech conservationists who protect endangered animals in various corners of the world, including members of the Kukang team. As part of these discussions, an <u>invitation by CCBC ambassador Viky was created</u>.

STOLEN WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN

In 2022, the Stolen Wildlife campaign presented the third series of educational photo panels by the environmental photographer and our veterinary care and welfare coordinator Lucie Čižmářová. The photos were premiered at the globally watched CoP19 CITES wildlife conservation conference in Panama, where the Czech delegation brought them as part of its EU presidency. The photos drew attention to the problem of illegal use of wild animals in the circles of world experts participating in decision-making on the regulation of the global trade in wild animals. The central theme of the new series is the globally current problem of killing and consuming endangered species of animals, whether it is bushmeat, turtle eggs, migratory birds in the Mediterranean, or even bats, and the related not only the loss of biodiversity but also the transmission of diseases from animals to humans - as the Covid-19 pandemic has also recently shown.

Also this time, Czech and foreign zoos joined the new series of educational panels. The third series will be seen in Jihlava Zoo, Plzeň Zoo, Olomouc Zoo, Ostrava Zoo, Hodonín Zoo, Na Hrádečku Zoo, Hluboká nad Vltavou Zoo, Safari Park Dvůr Králové, Dvorec Zoo, as well as Bojnice Zoo and Malkia Park in Slovakia or Riga Zoo in Latvia. The photos were traditionally taken in the studio of the Secondary School of Clothing and Services in Vizovice. Press data continues to be provided free of charge to those interested in spreading awareness - contact information can be found on the <u>SW website</u>.









A compilation from the CoP19 CITES conference in Panama through the eyes of the Czech delegation, which included members of Stolen Wildlife, wildlife crime experts Pavla Říhová and Dominika Formanová, can be viewed here. There are also shots of the Stolen Wildlife photo panels, all three series of which were exhibited at the conference.

BUILDING AN INDONESIAN TEAM OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE CONSERVATIONISTS

Even in the past year, we managed to recruit new members to the Kukang team, either in Sumatra or outside of it. This year, it was mainly several investigators of the illegal wildlife trade. The Indonesian team is doing a good job and is consistently supported by the work of a large team mainly from the Czech Republic, but also from other countries. Building an Indonesian team to handle most of the conservation activities associated with slow lorises and other wild animals is one of the main goals of The Kukang Rescue Program.

Not only the education of children but also the sharing of information between teachers is important. That's why we sent our teaching team to Java, where they visited the Little Fireface Project Indonesia focusing on primate conservation and research, The Aspinall Foundation, which is rehabilitating primates living in Java, International Animal Rescue rehabilitating confiscated wild animals and releasing them back into the wild, and Taman Safari Bogor. In all these organizations, Novi, Syifa and Ulfa got to know the work of their educational teams and took away important knowledge that they will then use when working in our Kukang School.

Teacher Syifa from the Kukang School got married in 2022. We wish her and her husband Mula all the best and a happy journey through life together.

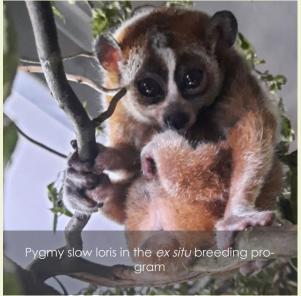




ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE POPULATION OF SLOW LORISES IN HUMAN CARE, I.E. *EX SITU*

Already in 2021, we have committed to another important mission, which is to support the provision of a sustainable population of pygmy slow lorises in human care, the so-called *ex situ*. This goal can be considered as a separate activity, in addition to the long-term comprehensive protection of slow lorises in the place of their natural occurrence (*in situ*). The Kukang program began to promote the construction of breeding centres for pygmy slow lorises (so-called "Slow Loris Arks") within the framework of modern zoos associated mainly in the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). For this, the program works with a group of experts on prosimians called the Prosimian TAG. These "Slow Loris Arks" are starting to be created in several zoos, and in 2022 it was already possible to bring pygmy slow lorises to some of them - specifically to the Ostrava Zoo and the Olomouc Zoo. The Ústí nad Labem Zoo is working intensively on a large-scale project of a breeding and exhibition complex with conservation and educational overlap, that is unique in Europe.





Breeding slow lorises in human care is not a simple discipline at all. With the aim of summarizing all available information on their breeding, the world's first ever comprehensive handbook was created. Members of the Kukang team participated in the creation of this document together with the greatest slow loris experts from around the world. The prosimian TAG group of prosimian experts also took over the auspices of the document. The manual contains everything from the biology of slow lorises, through advice on their breeding to their conservation. The document is free to preview and download at this link. In addition, the Kukang team has created a summary of the most important information regarding the breeding of pygmy slow lorises, which will be easier to read for zoologists and breeders than the extensive manual itself. The EAZA Best Practice Guidelines for the slow loris species is central to the plan for the creation of Slow Loris Arks, and thus the backup population of pygmy slow lorises in modern zoos.

PARTNERSHIP

In 2022, we became fully involved in the investigation of wildlife smugglers, focusing on pangolins, other small mammals as well as mynas. On this activity, we closely cooperate with the team of the Czech non-profit organization Lestari, which also operates in Indonesia, where it deals with research and protection of critically endangered animal species and entire ecosystems. The creation of the organization is linked to activities to raise awareness about the negative impacts of the palm oil industry. Over the years, however, the organization began to focus more on island ecosystems and the endangered species of animals that inhabit them. It is currently focused on three project areas – the protection of the highly valuable conservation islands of Bangkaru and Babi, the protection of the critically endangered species of Nias hill myna (*Gracula robusta*), and the protection and research of sea turtles.



PUBLICITY

Slow lorises from the Kukang Coffee project area in Sumatra appeared on Netflix in 2022, even with former US President Barack Obama! On 13 April, a 5-part series called Our Great National Parks (official trailer) was released on Netflix. One of the national parks in the series is the Leuser National Park in the north of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, where The Kukang Rescue Program, together with local people, successfully protects slow lorises and other wild animals from illegal trade. In addition to the "Gunung Leuser, Indonesia" episode itself, where slow lorises from the field area of the program and the Kukang Coffee project appeared, a short documentary was made about the conservation activities of The Kukang Rescue Program. This short documentary was released on the same day that the series premiered on the Netflix platform. The second bonus was a video dedicated to the Kukang Coffee project and former poacher Kaban.



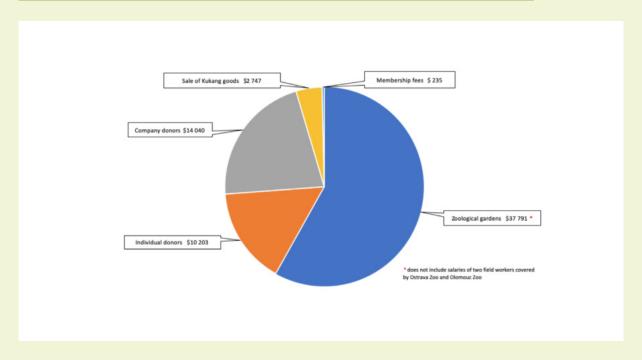


In the past year, The Kukang Rescue Program has appeared in several television reports, radio, articles on the Internet and in print media. Here is a summary of some of the most important media outputs:

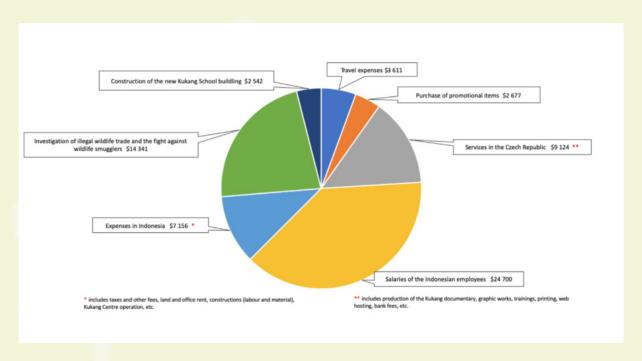
DATE	TITLE OF THE MEDIA OR REPORTAGE	MEDIA LINKS
1/2022	The Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic visits the Kukang Centre and the planned construction of breeding facilities.	The Kukang Rescue Program Facebook
1/2022	About the many aspects of the illegal trade in wild animals and plants not only in the Czech Republic.	Podcast of FTA CULS Prague
3/2022	Czech zoologists are hunting wildlife smugglers in Indonesia. "We are trying to create little paradises of wild nature," they say.	<u>Český rozhlas</u> iRozhlas
5/2022	"We employ former poachers," says Lucie Čižmářová, who filmed a documentary about slow lorises with Netflix.	<u>Givt.cz</u>
5/2022	"Former poachers also helped us catch the head of the smuggling gang," conservationists say DVTV	Aktuálně.cz
6/2022	The very first extensive EAZA Best Practice Guidelines for slow loris breeding.	EAZA.net
6/2022	Endangered Dobré ráno	<u>Česká televize</u>
6/2022	About slow lorises, Netflix, and the fight against smugglers with František Příbrský.	<u>Český rozhlas</u> <u>Sever</u>
6/2022	Why slow lorises? That, and not only that, explained by František Příbrský in an interview for Prima mazlíček.	CNN iPrima, Prima mazlíček
6/2022	What the term environmental photojournalist means and how difficult this profession is you will learn from Lucie Čižmářová.	ZOO Ostrava
7/2022	Animal conservationists about catching smugglers. In what is it similar to catching Pablo Escobar?	Proti proudu
9/2022	Kukang or how poachers became animal protectors in Indonesia.	Hedvábná stezka
9/2022	A documentary with the voice of Barack Obama was filmed in "his" reserve. "Our slow lorises are not afraid of people."	iROZHLAS
9/2022	Annual report of Kukang in WAZA. Our annual report received the attention of world organizations.	WAZA's Flash Newsletter
10/2022	Field zoologists working in Indonesia describe how many animals die before the poachers can sell them.	Český rozhlas Radiožurnál
10/2022	František Příbrský and Tomáš Ouhel on Nias hill mynas and their conservation.	Český rozhlas Sever
10/2022	Interview with František Příbrský in Canvas Rebel - Meet František.	<u>Canvas Rebel</u>
11/2022	Interview with Lucie Čižmářová in Canvas Rebel - Meet Lucie.	<u>Canvas Rebel</u>
11/2022	Buy Coffee, that protects nature.	Giving Tuesday
12/2022	At the age of 12, she saves turtles and transports bicycles to Africa: I was only afraid of a prison visit - DVTV	Aktuálně.cz

REVENUES AND EXPENSES IN 2022

REVENUES OF THE KUKANG RESCUE PROGRAM IN 2022



EXPENSES OF THE KUKANG RESCUE PROGRAM IN 2022



IN CONCLUSION

The Kukang Rescue Program has had another busy and very varied year full of both traditional and completely new activities. The system where activities in Indonesia are provided by the Indonesian PATRON Foundation, actively supported by the Czech non-profit organization The Kukang Rescue Program, z.s., is still bringing positive results. Apart from the conservation activities, The PATRON Foundation ensures also legal integrity in Indonesia, whereas The Kukang Rescue Program, z.s. provides financial support and educational and awareness activities in Europe. Like every year in the Czech Republic, the general meeting of the Czech non-profit organization The Kukang Rescue Program, z. s. was held, this time at the Ostrava Zoo. The past year was discussed there, as well as plans for the following months.





The pre-Christmas time has once again proven to be a time of generosity. Traditionally, our activities have been supported by the Hand in Hand group's pre-Christmas money collection, and this year, even slow loris Christmas tree decorations were created. The company Decor by Glassor has made Christmas decorations with a motif of the slow loris, where a part of every "glass slow loris" sold goes to support the protection of these animals in the wild. The well-known Czech outdoor company Bushman produced a PANGO-LIN charity T-shirt (for women and for men), where 300 CZK from each T-shirt sold goes to the salaries of our team of investigators, who are uncovering the smuggling networks of traders with pangolin scales in Sumatra.





Finally, we would like to thank all our partners and supporters, companies and individual kind donors, for their support, positive feedback, and constant influx of motivation to keep going. We especially thank our increasingly numerous partner zoos, without whose financial and moral support we would not be where we are today. We greatly appreciate the fact that despite the complex post-covid and war situation in Europe, coupled with high energy prices, their support has continued. Of course, big thanks also go to our growing great team of volunteers who, in their free time, go to Indonesia or various corners of the Czech Republic to promote our program and its mission at the Kukang stand or who help in other ways, for example online. Last but not least, we would like to thank all our colleagues from conservation organizations, zoos and their unions, partner government institutions, universities and others for fruitful and friendly cooperation and constant inspiration. Thanks to all of you, the Kukang program is where it is. Thank you and we sincerely hope that you will continue to walk with us on our journey to protect wild animals.



























































