

Slow Loris Is Not a Pet And Let Them Free In The Wild

ISCP is Indonesian NGO operating in region North Sumatra. ISCP was established in 2011 in Medan, in the capital of Sumatra island. The center of the organization is located in Sibolangit, village near Medan. The main mission of ISCP is protection of nature and animals in Indonesia, education and socialization of local communities, and research. ISCP currently has 2 projects for conservation of songbirds:

Project Poksai began in June 2012. Project is aimed on protection endemic passerine Sumatran laughingthrush (*Garrulax bicolor*). Hunters catch these passerine from forest and sell them in the birds markets. The objectives of project is work with hunters, exchange with hunters Sumatran laughingthrush for canaries, rehabilitation and breeding them.

Another project is the Hill Nias Myna, protection of Hill Nias Myna (*Gracula religiosa robusta*). This species of Myna is endemic bird of Nias island and is probably extinct in the wild. The objective of project is to find remaining individuals in captivity, get them, rehabilitate them, breed them and conserve of this species for future generation.

Together with these projects runs a project called Serangga Tepung, whose aim is the production of insects and insect powder. These products are then used as feed for animals and for sale. The aim is to use insect powder for humanitarian aid as an important and valuable food for residents during natural disasters.

And the last project for conservation ISCP is the Sumatran Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*) rehabilitation program that in Indonesia Sumatran Slow loris we call "**Kukang Sumatra**". Slow lorises are a group of little studied and known night active primates of Asia and 3 species occur in the wild in Indonesia they are Javan Slow loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*), Borneo slow loris (*Nycticebus borneanus*) and Sumatran Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*). It is illegal to trade these primates across their range, but sadly there is a huge - and growing - illegal trade in lorises for pets, tourist photo props and Chinese medicine. In Indonesia mostly local use it as a pet and traditional medicine and of course many contribute to the illegal wildlife trade by paying for this endangered animals, caught from the wild.

The majority of these slow lorises have been mutilated; they have had their teeth cut with whatever tools at hand in order to prevent bite injuries to human handlers, you can see on this video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0PN5sc0aMc>. This practice causes splintered roots, gum infections and not rarely death for the animal, if they do not receive veterinary care. We are one of NGOs and animal conservation with the registered non-profit organisation in North Sumatra really care for Sumatran slow loris and need creation of a rehabilitation centre that can give these animals the care they require before release in to the wild or in to their habitats.

The Impact And Why We Need Help

Slow lorises are disappearing from our world faster than we can learn about them. It is so easy to say that if no-one paid for buy slow loris as a pet or traditional medicine with a wild-caught loris, they wouldn't be poached in the first place. But getting to that stage is not a straight forward step - so many people are unaware of the horrors behind the trade.

Education, socialization and awareness are the key! We need to change this demand for Slow Loris as a horrible pet or medicine myth before it is too late the slow loris will gone forever !