

Project Update: October 2014

I have conducted two village meetings and preliminary fieldwork. At the first meeting in July



Figure 1 - Village meeting to introduce our project to local people.

2014, I (and my team) introduced my project to the local people and their leaders. Although they have known me and my team previously, I needed to explain more on my new project on civet. In this meeting I also took the opportunity to raise their awareness on biodiversity conservation. I did a presentation about wildlife conservation. At the second meeting in early September 2014, I met a small group of villagers that is possibly interested to my project. At that meeting, I got impression that they would like to support my project as long as the project benefits them.

I also conducted preliminary fieldwork to test and adjust some techniques in collecting Civet feces. I did it right after second village meeting (early September 2014). I have spent 2 weeks in the field, but I found only a few samples. From the fieldwork I know that collecting civet faeces will be effective only when the coffee is ripe. This year, the coffee is ripe in May – July, so I was too late to conduct fieldwork. According to the people, the coffee harvest time is sometime unprecedented due to climate change. If I proceed the fieldwork, it will be costly. I considered to conduct fieldwork again next May 2015. It will be more effective.



Figure 2 - Paddy field adjacent to forest: ideal location for conserving biodiversity simultaneously with providing income for people.

So, I would like to ask you about re-scheduling project activities. Is it possible to postpone fieldwork until May next year? The consequence is that data resulting from fieldwork will also be delayed. During October – November 2014, I will do first some preliminary laboratory works using civet faeces sampled from captivity. I will also plan to initiate contact with coffee trader to get information about civet coffee market. I think, it is the best option.