

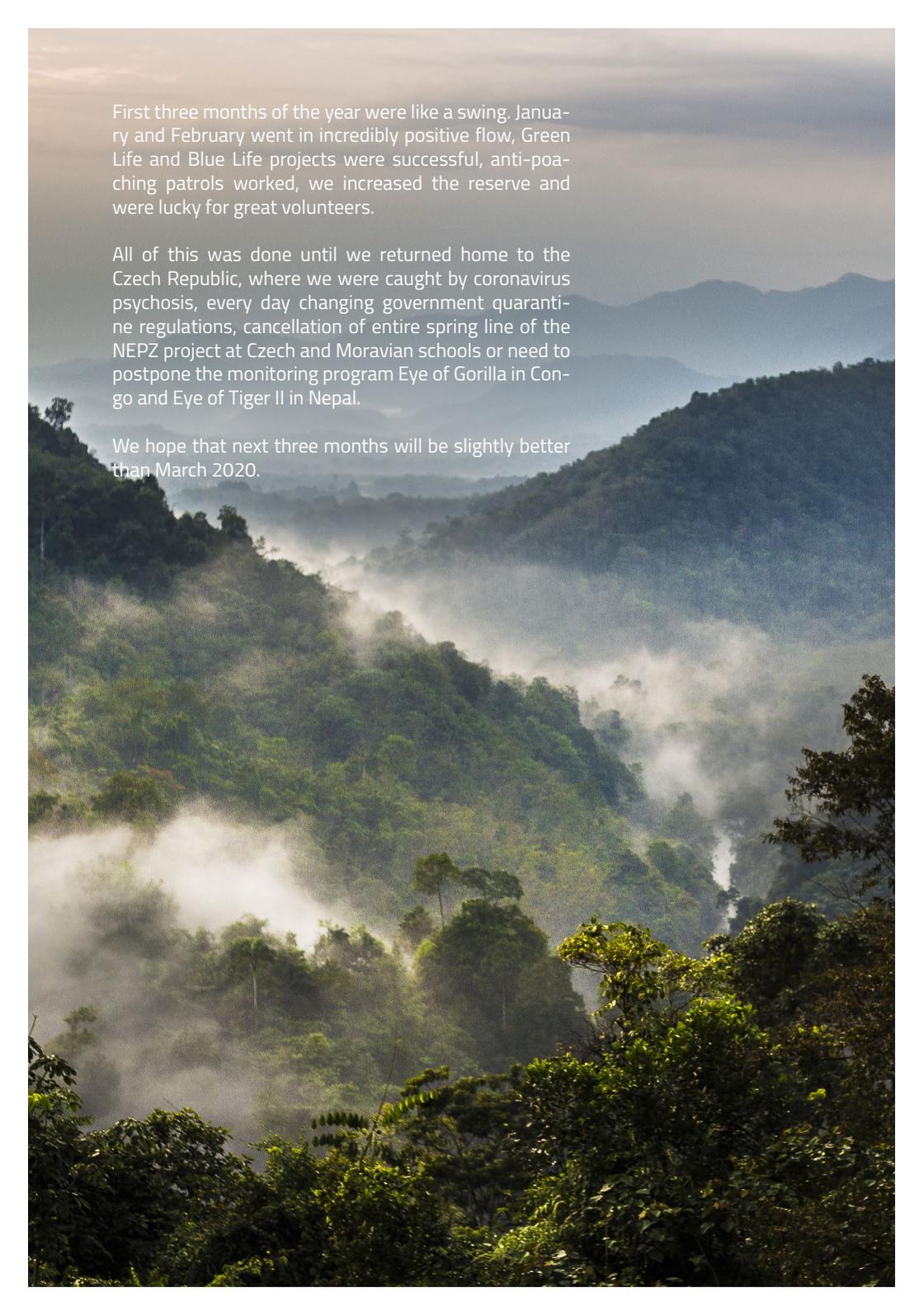
- NEWSLETTER -

JUSTICE FOR NATURE

JANUARY TO MARCH
2020



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First three months of the year were like a swing. January and February went in incredibly positive flow, Green Life and Blue Life projects were successful, anti-poaching patrols worked, we increased the reserve and were lucky for great volunteers.

All of this was done until we returned home to the Czech Republic, where we were caught by coronavirus psychosis, every day changing government quarantine regulations, cancellation of entire spring line of the NEPZ project at Czech and Moravian schools or need to postpone the monitoring program Eye of Gorilla in Congo and Eye of Tiger II in Nepal.

We hope that next three months will be slightly better than March 2020.

WINTER MONITORING EYE OF TIGER

During the „winter“ months monitoring program Eye of Tiger in Sumatra continued and it was successful. Once again the king of the forest showed up to us several times. Amazing fact is that all the shots are taken from the immediate surroundings of the Green Life reserve. Similarly, we monitored the environment of the treetops again, which brought beautiful video shots of orangutans, gibbons and other animals. Monitoring with photo traps has an exceptional means of

documenting life of animals in the wild and during the years of this activity we have become masters in this branch.

Thanks to all who has their partner photo trap in the project Eye of the Earth.





PARADISE OF ORANGUTANS IN GREEN LIFE

While the first batch of January volunteers was unlucky with the orangutans, the February group literally experienced from immediate vicinity an orangutans' paradise in the Green Life Reserve. A huge fig tree ripened and orangutans from the wide surroundings had nothing better to do than to feed on sweet fruits for the whole three weeks.

There were some incredible mornings to observe these endangered apes at their feast. Volunteers had a chance to meet eight to ten

eaters, including tiny cubs and stunning dominant male who illustrated beautiful atmosphere of the forest with its roar. Our thoughtfulness to these wonderful creatures was not only a duty but above all a matter of course. We had an amazing observation post behind the uprooted tree and observed them at greater distance by telescopes and film their natural life without disturbing even if they knew about us. Thank the forest for these amazing experiences.



DETECTION OF ILLEGAL FELLING IN THE RESERVE AROUND SINGKIL

In January 2020 we went with our colleague Darma from YSAN and his deaf colleague Mustafa to Singkil wetlands state reserve which is under control of government rangers from the BKSDA. Mustafa had already signed us in advance that he is going to show us places in the reserve where trees are illegally felled and orangutans are threatened because of it. His information was confirmed and after a few hours of



sailing through the narrow canals we arrived at the shack with still warm ash in the fire pit and parked boat ready to transport wood from the reserve.

There was officer from the BKSDA with us (and I dare not call him a ranger) who did not seem too interested in solving the problem. We took pictures of everything, found a poaching eye for animals and fish traps, but even that didn't disconcert the officer. We continued our search and came across two guys passing in a small boat but they didn't even have a chainsaw.

After a few hundred meters we found a trail that led us through the wetland forest about a kilometer to the point where we found a chainsaw, canisters with gasoline and oil, trucks to collect wood and other equipment. We decided to destroy it all, confiscate and

take away canisters and the saw. Obviously, the BKSDA officer was afraid and tried to dissuade us from this act. He tried to persuade us that they will deal with it next week, but our belief in their action was so low that we did it with Darma and Mustafa our own way. The return journey through the narrow canals was dramatic, we armed ourselves with sticks and Darma had an airsoft pistol. Finally, we drove all the way to the great river and headed for Singkil, where we eventually handed the chainsaw over the BKSDA. The whole event was attended by representatives of the Forest for Children, Slovak colleagues from the Prales det'om, Darma from YSAN and the lone guardian of marshes Mustafa. This guy eventually earned a new position and became the new ranger of Green Patrol – Singkil.



NEW GREEN PATROL RANGER

From March 2020, we have recruited a new Ranger Mustafa who is the basis for guard activity in Singkil wetlands. His job is monitoring of illegal activities, photodocumentation of it and passing the data on to Darma and us. Mustafa is the first member of the Green Patrol – Singkil. Despite the fact that Mustafa is deaf he has courage and huge heart for nature and animals. He is a kind of Indonesian Mowgli. We are honored to allow him to live with dignity as a community ran-

ger. He is paid for ten river patrols per month with a salary of 1,500,000 Rp + 500,000 Rp for petrol so far. If you are interested in support of our rangers please enter a permanent bank order at least for one hundred Czech crowns and become a virtual guardian of rainforests and the ocean. Thanks!



ROYAL COBRA DISCHARGE IN GREEN LIFE RESERVE

In February 2020 there was an extraordinary event on Green Life. We were asked by a colleague from the Indonesian organisation SUMECO for the possibility of releasing rescued four meter long royal cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) in our reserve, which also happened.

Volunteers were fascinated being able to take part and see this super snake predator returning to freedom.

The Green Patrol brought the snake in a sack in the forest. Despite some concerns it turned out again that the animal want to get out of reach of people as quickly as possible. Since that day a beautiful royal cobra inhabited the Green Life Reserve.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS (WINTER 2020)

We are happy to say that what volunteers performed for the first two batches on the Green and Blue program was a concert for body and soul. Great groups of people aged from 19 to 64 have done an incredibly precise work not only in the Green Life Reserve, but also at Blue Life camp and Bangkaru Island while cleaning turtle beaches. We have to thank all participants for this winter's volunteer performance. It was an honor to be

there personally and cooperate. It is necessary to highlight the excellent work of supervolunteers Dáša Najmanová and Jenda Janoušek. Thank you all! We look forward to further cooperation anywhere in the world.





With the February group of volunteers we also visited Bangkaru and performed a concert of work on cleaning of beaches. It was not only about collecting plastic rubbish but mainly about getting rid of washed-out wood and tree trunks from the beach that directly threaten laying sites and make impossible for sea turtles to dig their clutch and for the little turtles to return back into ocean. Thanks to everyone for the performance and we must highlight excellent work of Dáša Najmanová and her partner Jenda Janoušek again. The reward for all of us was watching sea turtles including hatching youngs. Volunteers were able to leave Bangkaru with honor and good feeling for their work.

This winter has been really good. Volunteers wanted to leave a lot of great work behind which was also reflected in super service on the Blue Life camp on Sikandang Island. Reconstruction of cottages, outdoor paints, repaired bench or sunken second wreck on the sandbank in front of the camp, all this speaks for itself. We also built tiny beach bar and finished new beach table with seating area. The bathroom was repaired as well. Thanks everyone for your help!





HELP CAMP (MARCH 2020)

The first two groups of volunteers had done a lot of work on both, Green Life and Blue Life projects and we anticipated just the last group of volunteers in March. Everything began with a few worries already, because the COVID-19 panic started to spread around, but nobody had a clue what type of madness it was going to develop into. The volunteers had done a good job on Gree Life project and then, according to the plan, they headed to the ocean project where they should had clean the beaches and protect the sea turtles on Bangkaru island. They managed all this even though the serene end of the program and their return home were in danger. Those final days became lierally a nightmare for all of us.

We do not aim to discuss the worlwide panic around the coronavirus, but more the system collapse of the international transportation and the offices that affected not only our volunteers, but millions of people worldwide. There were multiple flights cancellations, huge problems with the Indonesian offices, absurd quarantines for foreigners and constant changes. The visa duty has been reintroduced and after exceeding the visa limit, due to the impossibility to travel anywhere, those who had the visa for more than 30 days were fined. It literally was an absolute failute of a common sense, state offices and willingness to solve this problem logically and humanly.





In the end everything was solved thanks to the communication of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their crisis center, and the Czech Embassy in Jakarta also played a huge role. We would like to thank both of these offices for solving the situation of our volunteers in Sumatra. The last volunteers returned home on 7th of April 2020. We are deeply sorry, but this was a situation we couldn't foresee and solve immediately.

Thank you for understanding, accept our apologies and believe that we are surprised by the behaviour of the airlines, but everything turned right in the end.

BLUE PATROL IN ACTION

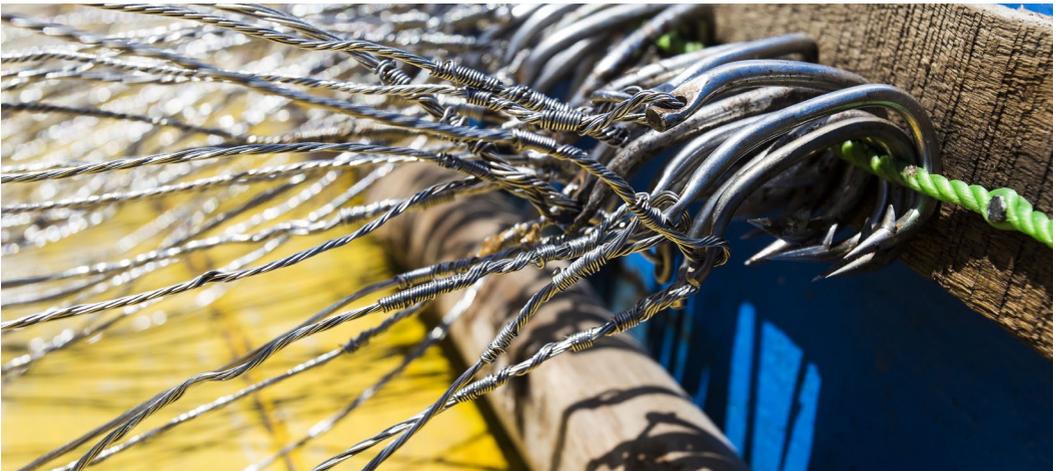
At the end of February (22. - 24. 2.) we participated on guard activity on Bangakru Island together with our anti-poaching Blue Patrol team. Their work was excellent and we saw that support nature protection and fight against illegal activities in this form makes sense. We marched with them not only for patrol and monitoring along Amandanga Beach, but also worked with on reconstruction of the guard station or construction of a bridge in swamps. On 22th of February we set out on a naval patrol and boat con-

rol around Bangkaru Island. We checked two boats and both inspections led to shocking findings. On the first boat from Singkil, which we had been monitoring the day before and filmed by drone a mile and a half from Amandanga Beach as they hunted with the net, we found dozens of vanikori and guitar sharks. Fishermen said they caught it somewhere else, outside Bangkaru. One of them was injured by a peruvian and writhed in pain on the board.



They were informed about the protection zone around Bangkaru and then left. The second check was even more shocking as we came across a shark fishing boat using a “long line method”, a hundred-metre-long sillon with many hooks on steel ropes. Their cooling boxes were filled with sharks about one metre size but the top was a whitish shark about 2.5 metres long. These beautiful animals were killed without us being able to do anything about it. They’re not protected by law. The ship docked in bay near Bangkaru, but it was from Banda Aceh. Fishermen knew only how to hunt sharks but they did not know who would buy it not even the boat belongs to them. The owner trades in sharks and sells it most likely out of Indonesia. Fishermen take such a lousy salary that they can only feed families by still being at sea and plundering underwater life. We informed them about the protection of sea turtles and the ban on fishing in nets around Bangkaru and also in the 500m protection zone. Then we left the ship and realized how much work is still ahead of us before we could change for the better at least another piece of that monstrous human mosaic of destruction and rape of nature. It was a tough day in the full sun, confronting reality.





DETECTION OF SMUGGLING OF NIAS HILL MYNA BY SOLDIERS

At the end of February 2020 we detected smuggling of an endangered and legally protected hill mynah as we sailed by public boat from Tuangku Island to Singkil. The young of the bird was placed in a paper box with holes and its captors were two uniformed soldiers transporting it. After being warned that they were carrying out an illegal act they did not respond and pretended that nothing was happening, including other passengers on the boat.

We called Darma from YSAN immediately who alarmed the BKSDA but in the end it did not have the authority to detain soldiers. They were picked up by other senior soldiers who took them with the hill mynah to the barracks. We have documented the whole event and will look for further solutions of similar cases.



EXTENSION OF GREEN LIFE RESERVE

In March we have purchased another 4 hectares in favour of expansion of the Green Life reserve. It was a historical moment when we crossed the saddle „U Francouze – At French“ and extended the protected area along the NPGL border further to Berkail River.

Despite the fact that the whole world and the Czech Republic are shaken by the coronavirus panic and economic recession, Forest for Children continues its mission to protect the rainforest. We have promised all people and animals that we will not leave this journey

even in difficult times as long as people support protection of endangered animal species and their natural environment. We hereby thank everyone for support and we can tell you that in April 2020 the largest purchase of forest territories is under way in favour of the Green Life reserve. Despite these difficult times there are people who see that the rainforest is more important than social problems of mankind. Thanks everyone!



NEW TOWER IN THE SEKELAM VALLEY

Slowly but surely there's a new watch tower growing, following our Nepali colleagues' pattern, in the Green Life's area in Sekelam Valley. Stable concrete pillars will carry the wooden house that will serve as an observing point.

The volunteer camp III had to be moved due to the problems with NP Gunung Leuser borders that had been poorly measured by the NPGL officers in the past. But we took it as an opportunity to build this unique hut with beautiful view overlooking the Sekelam river, where the elephants migrate up the stream and where the Sumatran tigers live.

This watch tower will serve as the station for the ranger's watch and also for volunteers who will be heading there as soon as the borders are re-opened. It's hard to say when and what year that will be.



YOU MAY SUPPORT FOREST FOR CHILDREN VIA DARUJME.CZ NOW!

Dear supporters, patrons and all of you who are interested in the activities of the Forest for Children association.

Due to the current situation we are working from home and we are using the time to finish the tasks we were delaying before, because we preferred working in terrain. One of those tasks was the registration on **DARUJME.CZ** to ease the way for you to support us.



DARUJME.CZ

It's our pleasure to inform you that you can support us with a simple act - the choice of one time only or a regular support and click on the button **DONATE...** We launched the first collection project on the website Darujme.cz . You can take a look **HERE**.

You can also donate via our website **www.justicefornature.org** where you can find the portal under the **DONATE** button. The way of support will be easy to find for you and your friends. We believe we make it easy for you to decide to support our worldwide mission with your donation or sharing with others. Thank you very much for any contribution that enables us to work better and develop more activities abroad and in the Czech Republic. The Forest for Children team

DONATION

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One-off Monthly

Donate in €: [Other amount](#)

€10	€20
€50	€100

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Thank you for your time and trust.


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CRISIS during CRISIS

The new coronavirus unexpectedly caused huge changes which, of course, show also in the field of the nature conservation. Sadly the terrain conservation is getting in a huge trouble. The national parks are closed and the whole communities with economics based on an eco-tourism are colapsing.

The Blue Life project, especially the work of anti-poaching watch Blue Patrol and waste programs in surrounding villages, which were supposed to be financed by the summer volunteer camps, are getting into very serious crisis.

The governmental conservation group BKSDA has called off their rangers from the watch station on Bangkaru, so there's only a Blue Patrol team left to work on turtles' nests protection on Anandanga Beach. Everything now lays on our organization, which will either finance everything or the watch over Bangkaru will fall and the sea turtles' protection with it.

We would like to point out that the poaching activities or illegal fishing are not dormant even in the time of the crisis. So it's only upon us if the turtles in this area will survive or not. The whole Blue Patrol depends on the financing in the form of regular monthly contributions of 100CZK. We now need another 100 contributors for the Blue Patrol to go on in the long term. We are secure until June 2020 only and after that future of the watch is uncertain.

If I could ask all of you, please, contribute monthly on the Czech transparent account, the name of the account is Blue Patrol, account no.: 2290115729/2010, IBAN: CZ552010000002901151729, BIC/SWIFT: FIOBCZPPXXX

Thank you very much for your support!



FOREST FOR CHILDREN
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WHAT WILL BE NEXT?

In the next newsletter coming in June you will find news from the civic patrol Justice for Nature. After the winter we operate in the field again. We search for poisons in the Czech landscape and monitor environmental crimes. Unfortunately findings and evidence are there.

We will also take a look at the further development of antipoaching activities on Sumatra.

Nowadays we are facing several difficult months of the coronavirus crisis which can bring many unforeseen changes in the Czech Republic and the world, leading to unexpected decisions.

We march boldly on and use forced stay-at-home situation to finalize things that we have pushed aside due to direct actions in field. But we also create. Lets see what will come out of this "incubator"



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