

Project Update: April 2023

Since the beginning of this project funded by The Rufford Foundation, in February 2022, we started our project studying the baseline information on human-macaque negative interaction, mainly due to crop-foraging of the long-tailed macaque in Padang West Sumatra. Our first work is to understand the extent of conflict that occurred and how people perceived the crop-foraging long-tailed macaque through an interview questionnaire (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Interview survey to understand the extent of macaque crop-foraging in Padang West Sumatra.

We successfully discussed with 200 farmers in five districts and collected data on their experience, perception, and attitudes towards crop-foraging long-tailed macaque and their suggestion in conservation and conflict mitigation. We found from the interview that the issue of crop feeding long-tailed macaque in Padang, West Sumatra, has lasted for many years, would occur daily, produced human-macaque interactions, and gradually rendered agriculture unviable. Financial losses were the main concern of most farmers. More than half of farmers stated that current protection methods are ineffective in reducing damage caused by crop-foraging macaques. In the following month, we started doing observations to predict the temporal pattern of crop-foraging long-tailed macaque. We first make a line transect (500 x 500 m) in the forest to monitor forest fruit availability for the macaque (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Set up line transect and monitor forest and crops food availability.

We also set up a camera trap in the farm area to detect a crop-foraging event (Fig. 3). We successfully monitored forest fruit and crops availability from March to January 2023. We monitored 28 species of important forest fruit trees for the macaque, with 283 individuals. We also monitored farm productivity. However, we missed a 1-month observation (November) due to a dangerous landslide near our study site. We obtained information on crop-feeding events from the camera trap by the long-tailed macaque, such as frequency, intensity, time of day, crops targeted, and the number of individuals macaque involved. During this study, we also successfully collected a fruit sample (crops vs. forest) eaten by a macaque to analyze its nutritional value. In February 2023, we successfully conducted a focus group discussion. We invited the local farmer to

participate in a one-day meeting to share the progress of our research. Also, In February 2023, we conducted conservation awareness through education to the local student (Elementary students) to raise their attention towards treats and conservation of the long-tailed macaque (Fig. 4).



Figure 3. Set up camera traps to monitor crop foraging event of the long-tailed macaque.



Figure 4. Education campaign to raise people awareness towards the treats and conservation of long-tailed macaque.