

Project Update: January 2009

The preliminary vegetation survey was undertaken in October 2008 in Ciampea. It was found that most of the limestone hills were covered with secondary vegetation. The permanent quarries are run by small company owned by a villager; small temporary quarries run by villagers are frequent. Besides quarrying, the villagers gather wood from trees and shrubs for firewood; they also employed shifting cultivation and gardening in the lower hills close to the village.

During the preliminary survey, we also explored a limestone hill in Nyungcung area to the west of Ciampea to look at more severe quarrying activity. Surprisingly, the remnant vegetation is more intact but much smaller in area than in Ciampea. The hill is almost destroyed, as a large company started the activity in the 80s; nearly 70% of the hill has gone. Thus, we will conduct the investigation of limestone floristic composition in Nyungcung and Ciampea.

