**Viverridae Conservation, Research and Education Center**

**at Chiangmai Zoo, Thailand**

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**Abstract**

 Since 2008, Chiangmai Zoo and the Zoological Park Organization Conservation and Research team conducted research about Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*) in captive breeding facility at the Royal Project in Ban Dong Yen, Jomthong district, Chiangmai. We were aiming to relief hunting pressure of wild civet population for farming purposes. This problem might be caused by the increasing demand in civet farming, both for musk and coffee production. We are also trying to preserve the disappearing of appropriate knowledge/local wisdoms about civets management by ‘Tai Dham’ ethnic tribe in Petchburi Province. The first Small Indian Civet breeding propagation project was originated in the Demonstrated Farm of Royal Project by the command of H.M. Queen Sirikit. The main objective is generating alternative agriculture for the civet farmers by transferring knowledge of civet captive breeding, health management and civet farm sanitation to to help them breed civets by themselves. Ultimately, this method can reduce wild civet trapping for farming proposes. Moreover, this project focused on raising awareness for appropriate use and civet conservation. Following the completion of the 1st Phase of the research, ***Viverridae Conservation, Research and Education Center*** was established in Chiangmai Zoo since 2013. The objective of this project is to display, conserve and breed Viverridae species in captivity. At present, this center has 4 species of Viverridae including; **1)** **Small Indian Civet** *Viverricula indica*; **2) Large Indian Civet** *Viverra zibetha*; **3) Large-spotted Civet** *Viverra megaspila*; **4) Asian Palm Civet** *Arctogalidia trivirgata*. There are 2 species, which usually using in economic purpose (Small Indian civet and Asian palm civet). Currently, this center is open to the public for people and civet farmers to learn the methods of appropriate civet farming, husbandry and breeding management, disease protection, based on the animal welfare principles. In addition, ZPO collaborates with Huai Hongkrai Royal Development Study Center to establish a “Demonstration Center for Small Indian civet and Asian palm civet for economic utilization and sustainable conservation”. This center is formed for transferring the knowledge of Small Indian Civet and another Viverridae species in captive breeding for utilizing in community and society along with the sustainable conservation by following the Royal Initiative of H.M. the King. Currently, we also research about “Animal Welfare and Management Standard for Small Indian Civet and Common Palm Civet Economic Propagation” for developing animal welfare and management standard for this species.

**Keywords:** Small Indian Civet, Viverridae, Royal Initiative, Conservation