

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Your name	Dr Susan M. Cheyne
Project title	Orang-utans and gibbons compared: implications of differences in feeding and Behavioural ecology for conservation.
RSG reference	17.12.07
Reporting period	April 2008-09
Amount of grant	£4,800
Your email address	susan.cheyne@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Date of this report	1 st April 2009

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To identify the foods/tree species of greatest importance for Asian apes			X	
Identify energy intake and periods of food stress			X	
Determine relationship between diet, food availability and energy intake			X	
Assess travel in the canopy and how this may relate to energy intake			X	
Assess behavioural differences and susceptibility to ongoing disturbance			X	

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The main problem was the 30% increase in fuel costs, which had the knock on effects of doubling our living costs and food costs almost overnight. As a result of this, wages for the Indonesian staff were also raised accordingly. Money ear-marked for improvements of camp infrastructure was used to cover the shortfall.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Initiated consultation with forestry department about conservation and protection of ape food trees based on long-term monitoring of ape feeding ecology
- Determined the energy intake and contents of different foods and highlighted the importance of a varied diet (>90 species) for the apes
- Created awareness of the behaviour and biology of gibbons and orangutans in peat-swamp forest and how this is very different to other habitats. Thus the peat forests are of great importance for the conservation of these apes.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).

- We work with our Indonesian sponsors (CIMTROP) to help fund alternative livelihood programmes.
- Yayasan Cakrawali Indonesia – local lead education group with whom we collaborate to develop community education activities and workshops
- Tim Serbu Api Kalimantan – local fire-fighting teams. We help fund equipment and training for the staff as well as training about forest regeneration
- Based on the success of this work we hope to be able to employ 3-4 more Indonesian staff from summer 2009 on a permanent contract.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project has made a commitment to the Sebangau National Park and we intend to be working in this area long-term. Through our local contacts and partners we can disseminate the research results and conservation message of our work, while working to facilitate improvement of lifestyle for local people and providing employment.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Our work on the importance of different tree species for ape diet has already been sent to the Indonesian Department of Forestry. Copies of all publications are filed with our Indonesian sponsor CIMTROP and the Ministry for Research and Technology. We have incorporated basic information about the results into a newsletter (in Indonesian) for local people. Our findings have been presented at several international scientific conferences.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

May 2008-March 2009

This was shorter than the planned period (12 months) due to large increases in fuel and living costs in Indonesia in 2008 and 2009. We also increased our Indonesian staff wages to fall in line with the increased costs of living, which resulted in the money not stretching as far.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
4 Indonesian research assistants' salaries	2520	3000	480	
Accommodation x 4 pax	2160	3000	840	
Insurance for all Indonesian staff (4x£30)	120	120	0	
TOTAL	4800	6120	1320	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

There are areas still subjected to high levels of disturbance and there is a lack of local government capacity to combat these. The presence of the research camp and team is vital to gaining a greater understanding of this unique and complex ecosystem. Additionally, when possible we provide jobs and training to local people and students in collaboration with Palangka Raya University. Although our previous research has encompassed a broad scope of baseline ecological data, there are still large gaps in the depth of our knowledge of this distinctive and important ecosystem. Our studies to date have indicated what research areas need to be addressed in more detail, which will allow a truly comprehensive and effective integrated management plan for this rare habitat and the long-term, sustainable success of Sebangau National Park.

Results will be disseminated to all interested parties, in particular CIMTROP's education team, who work closely with the local community and schools to educate them on conservation-related issues. Results will be translated into Indonesian and made available to the Indonesian Institute of Science and Department of Forestry, the latter of which have recently commissioned CIMTROP to write a

report on important ape food trees in order to refine logging regulations to better protect orangutans and gibbons for which we will provide the data for and which represents an excellent opportunity for us to influence local/national conservation policy. Results will be disseminated to an international audience by articles in peer-reviewed journals and popular magazines and by working with the media (a BBC film crew has already filmed the threats faced by orangutans (2006) and gibbons (2007). Additionally, we have been featured on local Indonesian TV and MSNBC radio (USA).

This project helps protect orangutans, gibbons, and their habitat through several important avenues: (1) *We will provide knowledge essential for conservation management.* Local resource managers, and especially CIMTROP, will benefit from scientific data to support their work, enabling them to evaluate and justify their protection and restoration activities, and help them communicate their effectiveness both locally and internationally. The results of long-term monitoring will provide direct, data-based feedback on habitat management activities. The information we collect has been crucially important in formulating regional- and species-specific Action Plans and Population and Habitat Viability Analyses. (2) *We help deter illegal activities and provide data on the impact of such activities.* The presence of researchers and research stations has been well documented as having the important effect of reducing the threat of illegal logging and poaching. Our presence, and employment and feedback into local communities, has helped to protect the LAHG and bolstered the CIMTROP Patrol Team's activities. We are documenting changes in diet, ranging and activity patterns in logged forest and comparing it to data gathered in less disturbed areas. These data help us get a better idea about the impact of logging on apes and can inform logging practices and conservation efforts. (3) *We will increase the capacity of local organizations to carry out conservation programs.* High quality scientific data that proves the success of habitat management actions provides the best justification for continued funding and support of those actions. By introducing scientific techniques, equipment and experience to a region, and training local staff to carry out this research, we improve the local capacity to carry out well-rounded conservation programs. We will enhance the ability to apply these techniques elsewhere in the region by demonstrating the feasibility and usefulness of monitoring in the LAHG.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The logo has been used on the project website and weblog as well as on all presentations and publications relating to this work.