Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conference, Indonesia 2014

3-6 December 2014

Final report by Matthew Linkie

Conference proceedings

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Rufford Foundation held a four day mini-conference for a selection of Rufford Small Grant (RSG) for Nature award winners from Indonesia. The main objectives of the conference were to:

- Provide a forum for grant recipients to discuss ideas, issues and create new networking opportunities;
- Increase communication between Rufford and its grant recipients; and,
- Increase Rufford participants' capacity in either scientific paper writing (to publish their project results) or sampling design/data analysis (to improve current or future Rufford project implementation).

The beautiful tropical island of Bali provided an inspiring location to hold this second Indonesia RSG conference, which was attended by 24 participants (18 Rufford grantees, 4 young Indonesian conservationists, 1 trainer and 1 conference organiser). The Rufford grantees these ranged from first-time RSG recipients (12) to second RSG recipients (3) to Booster recipients (3). The first day was allocated for project presentations, which were designed to highlight the logical progression in project implementation and evolution of project design from the first RSG to a second RSG to a Booster grant. The second day involved a field trip to two Rufford supported marine sites, hosted by the local customary marine leaders, fishermen and a community group. A third site visit was then made to the Bali Botanic gardens (http://www.kebunrayabali.com/) to learn about Rufford-supported project on invasive species management.

A summary of the conference proceedings follows with an emphasis placed on describing Rufford's added value as both an initial donor and longer term partner, but also on the inspiring conservationists who have been supported by RSG to champion their cause.

1) The RSG, although relatively small in nature, has been enabled disproportionately **large and tangible conservation impacts** to be delivered.

- **Eni Hidayati** developed a roadmap for youth-based coral reef conservation in Sumbawa island that used a conservation outreach approach to mobilise multiple stakeholder groups to participate in activities such coral nurseries for replanting and eco-gardens for providing alternative sources of nutrition. The initiatives have won national and

international awards, including Volvo Adventure Award (in 2013) and Emil Salim Award (in 2012).

2) Rufford has enabled emerging conservationists to **explore and test** their own locally developed approaches to biodiversity management.

- **Agung Nugroho** used an RSG to set up a bird watching club for Kerinci Seblat National Park, where he was then working for the park. He brought local school children to the forest edge to learn about and study the bird, engaged local birder sellers to inform them of which species were protected under Indonesian law, and created the 'Bulletin Kerinci Birdwatching Club', which the national park now continues to edit.
- **Ekaningrum Damastuti** is currently using participatory resource mapping to promote community-based mangrove management in Java, an island where >80% of its mangrove has been lost or degraded.
- Een Putra (representing RSG recipient Nanang Sujana) used his grant to highlight the plight of elephants in Bengkulu province through the media. He worked as part of a team that made a documentary to use in the project's outreach activities and invested efforts in local and national information dissemination (http://gajah-seblat.blogspot.sg/).
- Sena Subrata recently begun investigating whether civet dispersed coffee could be used to safeguard biodiversity in a site-based project located in Java. Still in its infancy, the project aims to assess the economic value added to a rural farming community through protecting civets in the wild that add a premium to coffee prices.
- Nurul Winarni is currently looking at how ecosystem services can support Bukit Barisan National Park, Sumatra, and the adjacent communities as part of a rethink towards protected area management. For example, farmers engaged by the project have already begun to realize that birds and bats from the nearby national park forest play a key role in pollinating crops such as durian and pepper.

3) Rufford has enabled early career conservationists to get that **all important first start** and mobilized sooner than they would have done otherwise.

- Dede Rahman used his RSG grant to initiate a field project that is conducting the first robust population assessment of the endemic Bawean deer (CR).

4) Rufford **fills a funding gap** in supporting projects that focus on species and ecosystems that are traditionally difficult to fund raise for, but nonetheless have high conservation value.

- Ady Kristanto described the challenges in safeguarding the last patch of mangrove forest in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, a city which has an incredibly high population density and intensive land development. This project site that might have otherwise been overlooked was partially funded through an RSG that enabled activities such as coastal clean ups, environmental education and biodiversity monitoring, which recorded Sunda coucal (VU) and black winged starling (CR).
- Cahyo Rahmadi was able to study biodiversity in caves and karst forests of Java, which are typically difficult to fund raise for, but greatly threatened by extractive industries such as the cement industry. His discovery of new species, documentation of biodiversity baselines and threat assessments were used to inform the development of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment's national karst ecosystem management plan.

- Sutomo is trying to unravel the complex interactions between invasive species, native species, burning pressures and grazing pressures on the stability of Indonesia's largest savannah located in Baluran National Park, an understudied and under-threat ecosystem.

5) Rufford grants have often acted as seed funding to establish teams, build local capacity, identify priority biodiversity conservation needs and begin to address these through developing **replicable models for future projects**.

- Hani Nusantari is working on marine conservation issues in Lombok. She used her RSG to develop high-quality class-based and field-based material for local schools, set up an international partnership with Australian schools and cultivate a local volunteer network called *Laut Sahabat Kita*.
- Wiwin Iswandi (representing RSG recipient Zubaidah Iskandar) described a novel social marketing approach that empowered an Aceh women's group, on the island of Sabang, to produce environmentally friendly soap that contained no detergents. This group has developed training manuals and a replicable business model that ensures demand continues to outstrip soap supply.
- Iding Haidir is camera trapping in Sumatra using an occupancy-based approach that will provide the first population trend estimates for clouded leopard (VU) and golden cat (NT) anywhere across their range. This will represent a milestone for small felid management.
- Ricardo Tapilatu engaged the Yembekaki community, its village elders and district government partners in West Papua to become active stakeholders in sea turtle conservation, especially for the leatherback turtle (CR). This work has complemented an initiative to create new marine protected areas in West Papua.

6) Rufford funds have enabled grantees to **train up a future generation of conservationists**, and often for critically important species or ecosystems that might otherwise have received little attention.

- Umilaela focused her RSG on first building the capacity of a field team of Indonesian herpetologists, which then travelled over 12 hours on a fishing boat to reach the remote island of Karimata, located off Borneo. The team not only added new information on this island, recording eight amphibian species and 18 reptile species, but also exposed the importance of this habitat an international conference.
- Victor Wodi's project (presented by Mathilde Chanvin) focused on raising awareness of the endemic crested macaque (CR), which now numbers only 5000 individuals, having declined by 80% in the last 40 years. The Tangkoko Conservation Education, under which the project is implemented, has trained local coordinators and developed a network of conservation volunteers who have reached out to 18 schools.

7) Published important biodiversity information through national and international media

- Muhammad Iqbal rediscovered a breeding colony of milky stork (EN) in Sumatra after a 20 years gap, as well as documenting other notable sightings such confirming the presence of Himalayan Griffon (NT) in Indonesia. The project findings have been published through eight scientific articles, including in the Journal of Wetlands Ecology and Australian Field Ornithology.

Issues raised and recommendations

Through a two hour long discussion, the RSG participants shared their own challenges and solutions on RSG project application and implementation, which are summerised below.

- Several participants described their difficulties in obtaining three letter of references from referees who had an institutional email address. This stemmed in part from many government supporters not possessing such an email address. While this may have been an issue for some, all of the RSG recipients had clearly managed to overcome this issue and, as Rufford pointed out, this was one way of institutionally ensuring that genuine applications were submitted. This process will not therefore be changed, especially as referees have about six months to submit their letter.
- Some applicants suggested that the one year interval between grant stages was too long and disrupted project continuity and might therefore be shortened. However, Rufford cautioned against projects relying on RSG as a sole donor because of the inherent risks associated with an unsuccessful application and because RSG in some circumstances should be considered as providing a seed grant to launch a project that is continued and expanded through other donor agencies. Still, many participants (and not all had tried) had successfully diversified their donor base. A useful catalogue for funding opportunities can be found at http://www.terravivagrants.org/.
- Several applicants mentioned that they had difficulties in understanding the English instructions on whether Rufford continuation and completion grants required an institutional bank account, or not. Rufford has now stopped the continuation grants and made it as a second booster, with less money available but which can be paid directly to applicant.
- Rufford disseminates all project information through its website and keeps this routinely updated (http://www.rufford.org/rsg/projects/recent). A suggestion was made to also keep projects updated via Rufford's Twitter account @ruffordgrants and for RSG and its recipients to follow each other and consequently be kept up-to-date. Related to this, Eni Hidayati described the benefits of producing a short video documentary to increase effectiveness of project information dissemination. In fact, this then led to Een Putra producing a short video documentary of the Rufford mini-conference itself (http://vimeo.com/114009706). Cahyo Rahmadi recommended informing journalists about a RSG project and upcoming field trips, as this led to a national television crew covering his project in a national television news pieces.
- A point raised at the mini-conference held in Aceh in January 2014 which was reiterated in Bali is that Indonesia holds the second highest number of RSG project awards yet surprisingly has not had a single RSG receipt advancing to the Continuation stage. The Booster recipients in Bali indicated that they were indeed considering to apply for this follow-on grant when possible.
- To make a global contribution, RSG recipients should consider contacting the relevant IUCN Specialist Group Chairperson, if appropriate, with a view to contributing project data, such as on species distribution, which might also be useful for informing the IUCN/SSC Red List programme.

Capacity building workshop

On Days 4-5, two training courses were delivered through parallel workshops to the RSG conference attendees. The aim of these workshops was to increase participants' capacity in either scientific paper writing or sampling design/data analysis. The paper writing workshop focussed on providing the initial support and impetus to start the RSG recipients in

publishing their project results. Over two days, Matthew Linkie (trainer) took XX participants through the different sections of a scientific paper (from abstract to introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgements and references). Individual writing exercises were set that allowed time for the participants to draft a basic design for their own manuscript. Examples from the different sections of the manuscripts were presented to the group for feedback and revision. By the end of the workshop, each participant had successfully produced a manuscript framework, which they will now complete on their, with mentor support provided by the Trainer as needed. A goal for the group is to collectively produce several manuscripts for submission to The Journal of Indonesian Natural History (http://jinh.net/) for consideration of a special Rufford edition. Next, the data analysis and sampling design workshop was run by Hariyo Wibisono and Nurul Winarni. This first introduced basic statistical terms in wildlife survey and survey components, which was followed by theoretical and practical training in approaches such as capture-recapture, patch occupancy and distance sampling. This workshop allowed particpiants to get hands on experience in using data analysis software, such as PRESENCE, DISTANCE and SECR.

At the end of each workshop, feedback was sought from the participants. Overall, both workshops scored the highest marks for their usefulness in a participant's professional development. For the paper writing course, when asked to comment on the teaching methods, the participants indicated that its delivery through step-by-step explanations of the sections of a scientific manuscript was an effective approach. Others added that the tips for increasing an article's appeal to the general reader by setting it in its wider conservation context and the small breakout group sessions that enabled participants to give comments on each other's draft manuscripts worked well in improving understanding. Two participants commented that running the training over more days would have enabled better information assimilation, but these were the only comments on how to improve the workshop design. When asked about their biggest constraint to publishing scientific papers, the responses varied from not having enough time, difficulties with writing in English, lack of mentor support and thinking too deeply/procrastinating. Finally, all participants, except one, ranked scientific publishing as their number priority for professional development, indicating that it was a good choice to run for this group of RSG recipients. For the data analysis and sampling design course, all feedback on the teaching methods was positive. Two participants suggested allocating additional time to allow for practicing case studies and begin analysing their own data; useful inputs but would be beyond the scope of a short workshop. All participants on this course, ranked data analysis and sampling design training as their number priority for professional development, indicating that it was also a well-chosen topic for these RSG recipients.

Annex. A. Participant list and timetable

No.	Presentation order	Time (minutes)	Time	Title	Grant
-		-	0700-0900	**Breakfast**	
1	Matthew Linkie	30	0900-0930	Participant introductions and introduction to the 2014 Rufford conference for Indonesia	Booster
2	Ady Kristanto	10 (ppt) + 5 (Q&A)	0930-0945	Conservation of urban wetlands and threatened birds in Metropolitan Jakarta	RSG 1
3	Agung Nugroho	10+5	0945-1000	Bird Conservation & Education in Kerinci Seblat NP, Sumatra: Building Local Foundation to Address Increasingly Chronic Pressure on Bird Habitat & Population	RSG 1
4	Cahyo Rahmadi	10+5	1000-1015	A cave fauna of Java - the diversity and its contribution to karst conservation	RSG 1
5	Dede Aulia Rahman	10+5	1015-1030	Estimation of density using capture-recapture analysis of camera traping & behavior study of a threatened and poorly known deer: the Bawean deer (*Axis kuhlii*)	RSG 1
6	Ekaningrum Damastuti	10+5	1030-1045	Participatory resource mapping to enhance community based mangrove management in Indonesia	RSG 1
-		20	1045-1105	**Coffee & fruit break**	
7	Nanang Sujana (Een Putra presenting)	10+5	1105-1120	Sumatran Elephant Struggle to Survive	RSG 1
8	Wiwin Iswandi	10+5	1120-1135	Sustainably Managing Local Marine Area Through Social Marketing	RSG 1
9	Ricardo F. Tapilatu	10+5	1135-1150	Monitoring and Conservation of the Sea Turtle Nesting Population at Yembekaki Beach on the Waigeo Island of West Papua	RSG 1
10	Sena Adi Subrata	10+5	1150-1205	Civet coffee saves biodiversity: obtaining Civet's population data toward sustainable coffee production in Petungkriono forest, Indonesia	RSG 1
11	Umilaela	10+5	1205-1220	Frogs diversity for ecological monitoring in Karimata Island	RSG 1
12	Hani Nusantari	10+5	1220-1235	Celebrate the international year of biodiversity by increasing awareness of marine biodiversity among primary school children in East Lombok	RSG 2
13	Muhammad Iqbal	10+5	1235-1250	Survey and conservation of Milky stork in the east coastal of Sumatra Island	RSG 2
-		90	1250-1420	**Lunch/networking**	
14	Iding Achmad Haidir	10+5	1420-1435	Assessing Sumatran Wild Cats Population And Conservation Status Using A Science-driven Approach to Conserve Sumatra's Small Cats	RSG 1
15	Sutomo Sutomo	10+5	1435-1450	Establishments of Plant Species Diversity Following 2010 Catastrophic Eruption of Mt. Merapi, Java Indonesia: Implication for Conservation and Restoration	Booster
16	Eni Hidayati	10+5	1450-1505	A Roadmap to Youth-Based Coral Reef Conservation in Sumbawa Island	Booster
17	Nurul Winarni	10+5	1505-1520	Building and Mapping the Indicator of Biodiversity Ecosystem along the Park Boundary	RSG 2
-		20	1520-1540	**Coffee & fruit break**	
18	Victor Wodi (Mathilde Chanvin presenting)	10+5	1540-1555	Tangkoko Conservation Education, conservation education programme around the Tangkoko-Duasudara-Batuangus nature reserve in North Sulawesi, Indonesia	RSG1
	Matthew Linkie (facilitator)	125	1555-1800	Discussion - lessons learned, project sustainability and future plans	-
	Relax		1800-1900		-

-			1900-2030	**Dinner**	

Annex. B. Training workshop timetables and feedback

I. Scientific paper writing

Trainer	Time (minutes)	Time	Topic
Day 4			
	-	0700-0900	**Breakfast**
Matthew Linkie	120	0830-1030	Introduction to paper writing
			Participants: self-introductions & study (aims, data, intended journal)
			Writing a scientific paper, why + how?
-	**20**	1030-1050	**Coffee & fruit break**
Matthew Linkie	120	1050-1250	Writing: *Introduction*- last (aims) paragraph; *Title*
-		1250-1400	**Lunch**
Matthew Linkie	60	1400-1500	Writing: *Results* (draft structure + writing)
-	**20**	1500-1520	**Coffee & fruit break**
Matthew Linkie		1520-1800	Writing: *Results* (draft structure + writing) cont…
			Writing: *Methods* (draft structure + writing)
-	**-**	1800-	**Dinner, relax**
Day 5			
	-	0700-0900	**Breakfast**
Matthew Linkie	120	0830-1030	Recap: Introduction; Recap: Results
			Writing: *Methods* (draft structure + writing) cont…
-	**20**	1030-1050	**Coffee & fruit break**
Matthew Linkie	120	1050-1250	Writing: *Discussion* (draft structure + writing)
-		1250-1400	**Lunch**
Matthew Linkie	60	1400-1500	Writing: *Title* & *Abstract*
-	**20**	1500-1520	**Coffee & fruit break**
Matthew Linkie		1520-1800	Participants write paper (under supervision); Next steps for publishing
-	**-**	1800-	**Dinner, relax**

II. Sampling design and data analysis

Trainer	Time (minutes)	Time	Topic
Day 4			
	-	0700-0900	**Breakfast**
Hariyo Wibisono			Basic statistical terms in wildlife survey
			Introduction of survey components
-	**20**	1030-1050	**Coffee & fruit break**
Hariyo Wibisono			Software installation
			Basic Capture-recapture terms and sampling design
-	**-**	1250-1400	**Lunch**
Hariyo Wibisono			Capture-recapture data structure development
			Intro to CAPTURE 2; Practice using example dataset (provided)

-	**-**	1500-1520	**Coffee & fruit break**
Hariyo Wibisono			Basic Patch Occupancy terms and sampling designs
			Intro to PRESENCE; Practice using example datasets (provided)
-	**-**	1800-	**Dinner, relax**
Day 5			
	-	0700-0900	**Breakfast**
Nurul Winarni			Basic Distance Sampling terms and design
			Distance data structure development
-	**20**	1030-1050	**Coffee & fruit break**
Nurul Winarni			Intro to DISTANCE; Practice using example dataset (provided)
		1250-1400	**Lunch**
Hariyo Wibisono			SECR data structure development
-	**20**	1500-1520	**Coffee & fruit break**
Hariyo Wibisono			Intro to SECR; Practice using example datasets (provided)
-	**-**	1800-	**Dinner, relax**

Annex C. Conference photographs

Day 2 – A selection of presentations

Dream Team line up! End of a stimulating day – presentations over.

Day 3 – Field trip to three Rufford project sites in Bali

Entrance to the Rufford-supported project site implemented by Reef Check. The Rufford project was entitled, “Development of Community Based Tourism in Bondalem Village, Bali Province, Indonesia, as Part of Bondalem Marine Manage Area Threats Control and Management”.

Learning about a local approach to establish a marine managed area - Discussion and Q&A session with the Rufford conference participants and community representatives.

Rufford discussion with fishermen and other important community members in Bondalem village

Rufford grant recipients enjoying the site visit - One of many group photos from the conference

Bali Botanical Garden research centre - Learning about the importance of a Rufford project in helping to control invasive plant species to protect a savannah landscape, one of Indonesia's rarest and most under threat ecosystems.

Day 4-5 Training workshops

Hariyo Wibisono leading the data analysis and sampling design training workshop, with co-trainer and Rufford grantee Nurul Winarni

Scientific paper writing workshop – Rufford grantees hard at work