

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Brent Loken
<b>Project title</b>	Protecting the Biodiversity and Culture of Wehea
<b>RSG reference</b>	11266-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	11-April-2013 to 1-May-2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£11,850
<b>Your email address</b>	bloken@integratedconservation.org
<b>Date of this report</b>	1-May-2014

**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
Increased economic opportunities for Wehea Dayak arising from protecting Wehea Forest		X		Over the past year, we have made important steps to ensure the economic sustainability of this project. We decided to focus more energy on the development of the research and eco-tourism programmes and less on the agro-forestry cooperative since we felt these programmes had the most potential for generation of revenue.
Steps taken by the Wehea Dayak to independently and sustainably manage Wehea Forest			X	We are happy to report that everything we set out to do in the Booster grant has been achieved. The Wehea Dayak have taken important steps to independently manage Wehea Forest but much more work needs to be done to ensure sustainability.
Increase of cultural connection to Wehea Forest thereby enhancing commitment and incentive to protect it			X	For a third year, ICON's Rediscovery programmes have been a huge success.
Greater knowledge on clouded leopard distribution in Wehea Forest and how habitat disturbance affects clouded leopard activity			X	ICON's research on clouded leopards is shedding important light on one of the least known cat species in the world.

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

**1. Governance changes in Wehea** – Over the past year, the Lembaga Adat, the governing body of Wehea Forest, has seen changes in leadership and in structure. These changes have impacted our working conditions to some degree since all activities have to be approved by the Lembaga Adat before being undertaken. In the past, we could work directly with the Forest Guardians, the individuals directly responsible for managing Wehea Forest. With this extra layer of bureaucracy, some of our activities have slowed down since we need to first obtain approval from the Lembaga Adat. We are in the process of working with the Lembaga Adat to develop a system in which we would submit an annual work plan and would report to the Lembaga Adat four times per year. This system would make it easier to help the Forest Guardians directly while still under the management of the Lembaga Adat. We hope to have this system in place by mid-2014.

**2. Increase in tourism in Wehea** – Since we discovered the previously considered extinct Miller’s grizzled langur, tourism has increased dramatically in Wehea Forest. This is in large part due to Lonely Planet’s visit and a glowing recommendation of Wehea Forest in their most recent (2013) Kalimantan travel edition. Because of this large increase in tourism, we have been forced to shift some of our focus to making sure the tourism programme is working properly and that tourists have a good experience in Wehea Forest. This eco-tourism programme will be good for the community and will not damage or negatively affect Wehea Forest.

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

**1. Use of the Wehea Center as the management center for Wehea Forest** – The recently completed Wehea Center is now serving as the hub of management for all activities in Wehea. This is the location where all meetings are held, where tourists stop by before they enter Wehea Forest and where cultural knowledge is passed on from elders to young people. This centre has exceeded our original expectations and is becoming the hub of all conservation activities in the region.

**2. Greater knowledge on clouded leopards** – from our work on clouded leopards in Wehea, we now have a much better understanding of their status and distribution on the island of Borneo. Newly published research on clouded leopards by Brent Loken is challenging the methods that are used to estimate abundance and density and also proposes an exciting research agenda in the coming years.

**3. Development of eco-tourism program** – because of ICON’s discovery of Miller’s grizzled langur in Wehea Forest, tourism is on the rise in Wehea Forest. This programme has the potential to generate important resources for the local community and to help us to develop a sustainable conservation program.

**Other outcomes:**

- 75 children educated through ICON’s Rediscovery programmes.
- 38,000 ha continues to be protected.
- Legal status for Wehea Forest was officially granted.
- Seedling capacity in Letap Hiq rose from 20% to 75%.
- 15 additional Forest Guardians were trained.
- At least 30 training sessions were held for Forest Guardians in the areas of budgeting, management and organization.
- All 6 Wehea Dayak villages met in Wehea Forest and agreed to a unified plan to protect the entirety of their traditional homeland which is more than 1500 sq km.

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

ICON’s training programmes in management, hospitality, computer and English will prepare the Wehea Dayak to independently manage Wehea Forest. ICON’s scholarship program for Wehea Dayak university students is ensuring local capacity is developed to sustain this conservation initiative. ICON’s economic development programme is decreasing reliance on external funding while providing permanent employment opportunities for the Wehea Dayak. ICON’s education programs are strengthening the commitment and incentive to protect Wehea Forest.

## 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, integrated conservation will continue to work in Wehea. Although we have achieved a lot over the past 3 years, we still have a lot more work to do before we can call the conservation programme in Wehea sustainable.

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

ICON has an active social media presence and has received a lot of media coverage for our research and work in Wehea Forest. Below is some of ICON's selected media coverage.

### **Discovery of orangutan terrestriality**

#### **Mongabay.com**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2013/09/bornean-orangutans-travel-along-the-ground/>

#### **Global News - ICON's ground-breaking research about orangutans**

<https://globalnews.ca/video/763417/orangutan-study>

#### **New Scientist**

<https://www.newscientist.com/lastword/>

#### **Science Daily**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/07/130729083300.htm>

### **Rediscovery of extinct monkey**

#### **Slate News**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVbfuEVVdo>

#### **CNN**

<http://lightyears.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/20/monkey-some-thought-extinct-found-in-borneo-forest/>

#### **Reuters**

<https://www.reuters.com/video/2012/01/20/indonesian-monkey-species-back-from-the?videoId=228863825>

#### **Scientific American**

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/nearly-extinct-primate-rediscovered-in-borneo-video/>

#### **National Geographic**

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/01/pictures/120120-grizzled-langurs-discovery-monkeys-indonesia-animals/>

#### **BBC Nature**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/16640198>Samples of ICON's own videos used for social media

Students      singing      a      song      about      clouded      leopards

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znaUdIMHPI>). Written during a recent Rediscovery program.

Elders teaching students (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jifrn2I6bZ8>) how to make traditional mats and baskets while singing Wehea Dayak songs.

Climbing into orangutan nests (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XB8UwAamN0>) to recover orangutan hair for genetic analysis.

A short video showing the beautiful (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAWbJ8uLMQI>) Clouded Leopards of Wehea.

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

We originally anticipated that funds were going to be used by December 2013. However, due to some changes in governance by the local community (described above), some of our work was delayed and funds were therefore used until March 2014.

**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
Transport costs of seedlings from forest to nursery	£750	£1750	£1000	Instead of paying to rent a vehicle each time, we decided to buy a secondhand vehicle, which in the long run is much cheaper and can be used for other aspects of our programme.
Expansion of current nursery facilities	£1580	£580	£1000	Without a vehicle, we couldn't get the seedlings from the forest to the nursery so we used some of the funds to expand the nursery and used these to buy a new vehicle.
Eco-tourism development	£312	£897	£585	Development of this programme became more urgent since tourists visiting Wehea Forest have increased dramatically over the past year.
Training courses (computers, management, data analysis, fund-raising)	£1405	£1405	£0	
English language courses in Yogyakarta or Samarinda	£625	£1270	£645	It was cheaper for us to bring in an English teacher from Canada to stay in the village and teach English for 4 months. For our budget we could have only gotten

				English language courses in Yogyakarta or Samarinda for 1 month.
Business training courses	£645	£0	£645	These funds were used to bring in an English teacher to live and stay in the village for 4 months. This person is also helping to develop the eco-tourism programme.
Camera traps	£1645	£1645	£0	
Batteries	£280	£280	£0	
Logistics for 5 months in Wehea Forest	£1300	£1300	£0	
Environmental education center	£1085	£500	£585	The environmental education centre is still in development and we used funds from this to help develop the eco-tourism programme since this became a more urgent matter and needed to be addressed.
Printing and t-shirts for outreach and rediscovery program	£623	£623	£0	
Transport and logistic costs for 4 rediscovery programs	£1600	£1600	£0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£11850</b>	<b>£11850</b>		

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

Wehea Forest is a biodiversity hotspot and home to some of the last and largest populations of rare and endangered species in East Kalimantan. Despite its global importance, the long-term survival of Wehea Forest is not guaranteed. Palm oil plantations continue to grow in number and size and new coal mines are being developed near Wehea Forest. This could lead to increasing fragmentation of the forests around Wehea and ecological isolation of Wehea Forest. If no action is taken (or half-hearted measures are implemented), the Wehea Dayak will find it increasingly difficult to independently manage Wehea Forest. Current funding from the regional government provides only basic salaries for the Wehea Forest Guardians, with no additional support provided for critical programs such as those developed over the past three years. Without continued financial, professional and moral support, the community may become demoralized, Forest Guardians may quit and local management could fall apart, thus leading toward a slow collapse of the conservation initiative in Wehea.

Despite these challenges, protecting Wehea Forest presents a truly unique conservation opportunity. The local community has a cultural bond to Wehea Forest, local leadership is strong and supportive, the regional government is motivated, a local monitoring programme is in place and there is a high level of trust between integrated conservation and Wehea leaders. In addition, Wehea Forest is still surrounded by large tracts of mostly undisturbed forest. Taken together, this forest block represents a continuous area of at least 200,000 ha of suitable habitat, enough to sustain viable populations of orangutans (and many other endangered animals). If logging is

sustainably managed, hunting kept under control, and expansion of palm oil plantations halted, this forest block could provide hope for the long-term survival of the Bornean orangutan. Building a sustainable conservation programme in and around Wehea Forest is within reach and continued funding from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation will provide the financial capital necessary for us to continue to build a sustainable and socially responsible conservation program. To build this program, we will focus on the following programs over the next 5 years.

1. **Eco-tourism development** – eco-tourism is on the rise in Wehea. This programme has the potential to generate important resources for the local community but if it's not developed wisely, it also has the potential of having a negative impact on the local community and damaging Wehea Forest. We will work with the local community on developing this programme.
2. **Research programme development** – research has the potential to not only increase knowledge about Wehea Forest, it also has the potential of generating revenue and helping to protect Wehea Forest. Some of the best-protected areas on the planet also have active and robust research programmes.
3. **Professional development** – the local community has taken significant strides in independently managing Wehea Forest. Despite this, more work needs to be done to ensure that the conservation program we are jointly developing is sustainable.
4. **Education** – there are still too many young people who know very little about Wehea Forest and the importance of protecting it. Education will always be a priority program area for our work in Wehea.

**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**

We always use the RSGF logo and acknowledge the generous support given by RSGF anytime that we do a presentation or publish work about Wehea.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation has played a critical role in helping to develop ICON's programmes in Wehea. Our programmes have been praised for their innovation and we have been called one of the most successful conservation projects in Borneo. We look forward to continuing to work with the Rufford Small Grants Foundation through the last two stages of funding. We will be submitting an application for a Continuation Grant within the next month.