

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

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Panut Hadisiswoyo
Project title	Orangutan Conservation Village Initiative
RSG reference	RSG 25.02.09
Reporting period	September 2009 – September 2010
Amount of grant	£5,986
Your email address	panut@orangutancentre.org
Date of this report	3 November 2010

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
Village selection			X	The villages of Kaperas and Sulkam were selected, from four areas surveyed, based on their close proximity to the Gunung Leuser National Park, and their dependence on monoculture crop cultivation for subsistence. These are leading conditions associated with forest encroachment and human-wildlife conflict, so it is important to develop a culture of conservation in the region.
Conduct regular community meetings			X	A total of 18 formal meetings were held in Sulkam and 16 in Kaperas. The communities identified local environmental problems and explored solutions based on available resources. During these series of meetings, local people were also engaged in participatory planning for the development of their community. We conducted training in biodiversity transects, village ecology and village potential assessments, to enhance the planning and implementation processes.
Community Conservation Training for Conservation Village Coordinators (CVCs)			X	Two groups of CVCs were formed, with 13 members in Sulkam and 14 selected for Kaperas. Training was held on compost production, natural pesticides, and agroforestry development, including visits to an organic agro technical learning centre in the nearby region of Bohorok.
Participatory mapping training			X	Two groups of CVCs and other community members were enrolled in participatory mapping training. This provided them with the skills to highlight the potentials of local natural resources and help village governments plan for sustainable natural resource use.
Community mobilisation training			X	Two community groups were established in each village to work on revitalising existing, but often overlooked, customary laws related to

				natural resource conservation and fair use of resources. These groups then advocated for village governments to utilise these principles as standard village regulations. This has helped ensure that the underlying conservation values of the OCVI are supported by the community.
Action plan specific training			X	The CVC groups outlined the priorities for action plans based on the collective desires of their communities. These included establishing tree nurseries to produce agricultural and forestry seedlings, organic farming and agroforestry training, restoration of degraded land, and the implementation of village customary regulations on natural resource protection.
Produce awareness materials and implement awareness-raising activities in villages			X	A number of materials were produced, including 1,000 calendars, 1,000 posters, 1,000 leaflets, 1,000 badges, and two permanent signboards installed, one in each village.
Implement community action plans in each village			X	<p>a. Tree Nurseries</p> <p>The community nursery in Sulkam village has already produced 3,000 rubber (<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>), 2,000 mahogany (<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>), 200 duku (<i>Lancierium domesticum</i>), 200 cocoa (<i>Theobroma cacao</i>), 100 sawo (<i>Manilkara zapota</i>), 100 avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>), and 100 coconut (<i>Cocos nucifera</i>) seedlings. The nursery in Kaperas village has produced 3,500 rubber, 1,500 mahogany, 200 mangosteen (<i>Garcinia mangostana</i>), and 200 cinnamon (<i>Cinnamomum burmannii</i>) seedlings.</p> <p>b. Tree Planting</p> <p>The community tree planting programme involved CVCs and community members in both villages. Thus far in Sulkam 1,000 seedlings have been planted: 300 mahogany seedlings, 200 duku seedlings, 200 cocoa seedlings, 100 sawo seedlings, 100 avocado</p>

				<p>seedlings, and 100 coconut seedlings. In Kaperas, 900 have been planted: 500 mahogany seedlings, 200 mangosteen seedlings, and 200 cinnamon trees. The planting took place mainly on degraded farmland, in water catchment areas, and community forest areas that were previously negatively affected by encroachment.</p> <p>c. Organic Farming</p> <p>This action plan helps local farmers to establish alternative income sources. Organic demonstration plots (demplots) were established in Kaperas and Sulkam, of 4,000 m² and 2,000 m² respectively. Various horticultural crops, as detailed below, were planted between monocultured crop systems of candle nut, rubber and cocoa, to demonstrate the benefits of agroforestry systems.</p> <p>At their current stage the demplots are predicted to provide harvests of at least 0.25 tonnes of ginger per rante (a common measure in Indonesia, of 400 m²) approximately every 8-10 months, 1.5 tonnes of chilli peppers per rante approximately every 4 months, 1.5 tonnes of tomatoes per rante approximately every 3-4 months, 1 tonne of string beans per rante approximately every 2 months, 1 tonne of water spinach per rante approximately every 1-3 months, and 1.5 tonnes of mustard per rante approximately every 1-3 months. These yields already represent as much as a 20% increase over current rates, which is a welcome addition for these communities, and can only be expected to continue to rise as the mixed crop systems further develop.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The villages' lack of facilities such as toilets and stable electricity initially affected the scope of action plan decisions, with an emphasis on constructing such infrastructure, which are not directly relevant to the achievement of the OCVI. Through working with the CVCs we were able to explain to the

people that conservation action plans would be profitable financially, and would benefit both wildlife and people, through restoring and maintaining valuable natural ecosystem services.

There were a number of traditional ceremonies held in these villages, such as weddings, funerals, and cultural events, some of which could take as long as one week to complete, which at times distracted from the implementation of the project. This was especially pertinent when CVCs had to initiate community meetings and focus group discussions to decide on action plans. As a result, the action plan process had to be delayed, which affected the timing of project implementation. In order to proceed, the CVCs made an agreement with the participants that if an OCVI event collided with traditional functions, the project activity would be implemented the following day after the ceremonies were completed.

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

- I. Two farmer groups have been established as a result of the programme, the Maju Bersama (Proceed Together) Farmer Group in Kaperas village, and the Olakisat (a local Karonese ethnic group name) Farmer Group in Sulkam village, whom are continuing their village's community action plans to promote conservation through sustainable agriculture and forest restoration. These groups are now maintaining tree nurseries that produce horticultural and forestry seedlings for sale to local people and neighbouring villages, at affordable prices. The tree nurseries are managed by members of these farmer groups, creating a sense of ownership and instilling pride in their conservation work. They have already generated a modest amount of income from these initiatives, of around Rp 500,000 (~£35), from seedlings planted in May, and harvested in July, which in this area is not a negligible amount.
The seedlings grown in the nurseries have both economic as well as ecological values and are therefore useful for both agricultural and reforestation purposes. Each nursery centre will continue to produce 5,000 seedlings each of various species such as those listed above, and others such as ketapang (*Terminalia catappa*), pulai (*Alstonia scholaris*), and ingul (*Toona sinensis*), with each cycle taking approximately 4 months for production and maintenance.
- II. The organic farming and agroforestry demplots are operating at an optimal level and serving their purpose to educate the local community. The yields are far higher than the previous land-use model, where only rubber or candlenuts were grown. These can only be harvested once every 4 months and require a full hectare of land to produce up to 200 kg. Other factors, such as rain at the time of harvest, affect the quality of the rubber, and it is preferable for farmers not to rely on a single crop for their livelihoods, which may be affected by fluctuating prices and the possibility of disease. This programme has resulted in the diversification of crops cultivated and increased income. Farmers have learnt how to create and maintain sustainable, organic farming and agroforestry systems. Most importantly, there was a shift from monoculture plantations, to more financially robust, biodiversity friendly mixed agroforestry systems.
- III. The project has provided sustainable alternative livelihoods to local communities, who continue to run their tree nursery centres and maintain their organic farming and agroforestry systems in order to earn a higher income, whilst at the same time discouraging other farmers from encroaching into forest lands for further agricultural development. To this end, the village governments of Sulkam and Kaperas have already issued legal drafts for protecting the existing 12 and 2 ha customary forest patches,

respectively, which are now regarded as sacred forests. The OCVI has had a direct impact on the condition of the community lands and the adjacent national park, and over time will benefit the habitat of several endemic, endangered species such as the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*), Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), Sumatran elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*), Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), Thomas leaf monkey (*Presbytis thomasi*), long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), pig-tailed macaque (*M. nemestrina*), slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*), gibbons and siamangs (Family Hylobatidae) and numerous unique reptile, insect, bird and plant species. Thus, this programme has helped ensure that biodiversity levels are maintained and, over time, increase.

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

The OCVI activities were managed by the local communities themselves, with support from OIC staff, through the establishment of CVCs. These leaders were trained to implement various activities and engage the local people in project initiatives. The CVCs were themselves from the communities involved, and therein had a direct understanding of local needs, as well as a strong interest in sustainability initiatives for their villages, which greatly assisted in generating community action plans that were conducive to local development. Furthermore, through their training and education, CVCs were empowered to work with and influence others in the region to work more sustainably through the proposed action plans.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The local people have expressed their wish to begin an ecotourism enterprise in the area alongside the current action plans. This would provide an additional sustainable alternative income for the community whilst also supporting biodiversity conservation by giving them a stake in the preservation of the national park. The surrounding forests host a wild orangutan population, which could be attractive for tourism ventures. Furthermore, the region also has many natural wonders, with rivers, caves, hot springs, a 100 ft waterfall, and of course the rainforest of the Gunung Leuser National Park, which offers countless experiences itself (for example, the parasitic *Rafflesia arnoldii*, the world's largest individual flower, can be found in the area). However, in order to ensure that problems associated with mismanaged tourism, such as negative impacts on the health and behaviour of the wildlife that ecotourists pay to come and observe, are avoided (Dellatore *et al.*, in prep, Dellatore *et al.*, 2009), it is necessary to develop within the local community a high standard of environmental knowledge, conservation management and commitment. In this sense, it could be dangerous for conservation and biodiversity, were the people to implement their own programme, without expert guidance.

Therefore, we plan to propose the Marike Ecotourism Development Initiative (MEDI)¹. This programme would make use of the results of the OCVI, as well as the appreciation for conservation established in the local people, and tie together these factors into a long-lasting conservation and development platform for the area. Ecotourism training would include interpretive guiding and effective management of an international tourist site. This would be based on our past experiences

¹Marike is the name of the overall region encompassing the villages involved in this programme

Participatory mapping and planning												
Village Workshop to decide village action plan												
<i>Conservation training</i>												
Participatory community mapping and planning												
Community mobilisation												
Selected action plan training												
<i>Produce awareness materials and Implement awareness roadshow</i>												
Design, produce, and distribute information materials												
Awareness roadshows in surrounding villages												
<i>Implement the village action plans</i>												
Implementation period												

Project implementation ran largely in accordance with the original timeline proposed to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, with minor changes made, as mentioned above in Section 2.

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
Snacks for village selection	£75	£73.30	£1.70
Snacks for community meetings	£60	£73.30	-£13.30
Food for Focus Group Discussion	£80	£79.40	£0.60
Food for workshop on village action plan	£40	£39.70	£0.30
Food for participatory mapping and planning	£80	£79.89	£0.11
Food for training programmes (5 days each)			
- Food for participatory community mapping	£400	£399.46	£0.54
- Food for community mobilisation	£400	£399.71	£0.29
- Food for specialised action plan training	£200	£199.85	£0.15
Snacks for awareness roadshows (3 days each)	£675	£673.41	£1.59
Petrol for village selection	£50	£48.86	£1.14
Petrol for community meetings	£40	£39.70	£0.30
Petrol for Focus Group Discussion	£40	£39.70	£0.30

Petrol for workshop on village action plan	£20	£19.85	£0.15
Petrol for participatory mapping and planning	£40	£39.70	£0.30
Petrol for three training programme			
- Petrol for participatory community mapping training	£40	£39.70	£0.30
- Petrol for community mobilisation facilitation and campaigning training	£40	£39.70	£0.30
- Petrol for specialised action plan training	£40	£39.70	£0.30
Petrol for awareness roadshows	£180	£183.24	-£3.24
Staff accommodation in villages for training sessions (5 days each)	£630	£629.61	£0.39
Staff accommodation in villages for awareness roadshows	£158	£158.00	£0.00
Boards, paper, notebook, and pens for training	£48	£47.95	£0.05
Photocopying and binding of village assessment reports	£50	£49.96	£0.04
Displays and signboards for villages	£100	£99.25	£0.75
Printing 1000 leaflets	£50	£73.30	-£23.30
Production 1000 badges/pin	£100	£97.73	£2.27
Printing 1000 posters	£150	£164.92	-£14.92
Printing 1000 calendars	£200	£199.00	£1.00
Action plan budget (example):Tree saplings and replanting for agroforestry	£2,000	£1,995.48	£4.52
Total	£5,986.00	£6,023.38	-£37.38

Expenditures were largely in synchronization with the proposed budget, with only minor differences in a few items. The final balance for our account after this programme period ended was -£37.38.

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

A continued presence from a conservation body such as the OIC is needed in the area. Support must be maintained in order to further improve natural resource management and sustainable development, and to fully train the community to work independently. The CVCs, together with farmer groups, are becoming more independent and empowered with the various skills and knowledge in community development. With these valuable resources in place, the communities' ambitions for their sustainable development have grown. Ecotourism development has been discussed, which would be an effective initiative to engage local communities in a continued conservation effort, whilst also supporting the local economy. As the region has huge potential for ecotourism development, the next steps will involve securing funds to be able to guide local communities to promote and develop a low impact ecotourism programme, all of which will utilise and ensure the continued implementation of the actions of the OCVI.

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?

Yes, the RSGF logo was placed on each of the campaign materials produced, as well as the permanent signboards in each village area.

11. Any other comments?

There is strong potential to develop hydropower energy for the area, through the presence of the



large Saringgana waterfall in Sulka. This could help in solving the region's energy needs, as the waterfall has a large flow of water, from a height of approximately 80 m. Such a development would also be conducive to promoting ecotourism in the area, with this use of green, renewable energy.

