

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	Simon Husson
Project title	Monitoring ape populations in the Sabangau Forest, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia
RSG reference	22.07.07
Reporting period	January 2008 – February 2009
Amount of grant	£ 4894.00
Your email address	simon_husson@yahoo.com
Date of this report	10 May 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
Identify locations of four remote monitoring sites			X	
Cut, measure and mark transect at four remote sites			X	
Survey forest structure, orangutan density and gibbon density at each site			X	
Produce monitoring protocol and database			X	
Produce Training DVD's		X		Gibbon survey DVD produced, Orangutan survey DVD currently in production

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

N/A

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

- Established a system of monitoring and feedback for the Sabangau Forest to integrate with and strengthen habitat management activities.
- Improved local capacity to conduct field research and improved local awareness of the conservation importance of the Sabangau Forest.
- Improved the capacity of local conservation managers to identify problems, successes and otherwise carry out effective conservation management.

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

Indonesian researchers, field assistants and support staff worked on all aspects of this project. This was an extension of the already successful collaboration between the Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project and the village of Kereng Bangkerai. Local conservation managers at CIMTROP and the Sabangau National Park office have received the results from these initial surveys and will continue to receive reports from the regularly scheduled monitoring surveys as feedback on the success or otherwise of their habitat management activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work will be continued on an annual basis for the foreseeable future, as part of the Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project's ongoing research program. The Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project has made a long-term commitment to research and conservation in the Sabangau Forest.

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

Reports have already been given to the most important organisations, CIMTROP and the National Park Office. Future monitoring data will be combined to highlight trends, and reports and papers for publication will be produced with this information. This project has already been socialised to an international conference on peatland conservation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2007. The training DVD's will be distributed widely.

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

Between January 2008 and January 2009.

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
Travel	780	1000	+220	Contingency used to cover higher than expected transport costs
Accommodation and subsistence	1134	1134		
Materials	930	930		
Staff salaries	1440	1440		
Reports and DVD's	300	300		
Administration	90	90		
Contingency	220	0		
TOTAL	4894	4894		£1 = 16,500 Rp

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

Now that the remote sites have been established, ensuring that future monitoring takes place is the first priority, and the first re-surveys will take place during 2009. We will ensure that results are distributed to the important conservation organisations and government departments locally, and that the trends are properly interpreted – i.e. that the feedback is of a kind that can be easily understood and acted upon by non-scientists. We will examine the use of a scoring system that has been trialled elsewhere – i.e. 1= major negative change, 3 = no substantive change, 5=major positive change – based on expected results, the natural variation in measurements and so on.

In the first instance we have identified three major target groups for monitoring – the area's flagship ape species and the forest itself. We recognise that there are other components of peat-swamp forest

biodiversity and structure that are also worthy of monitoring – either because they might respond more rapidly to change, and hence are better at providing an early-warning system; or because they are variables at different spatial scales – i.e. suitable indicators may exist at the individual, community, population or ecosystem levels. Future research will test a number of different indicators, resulting in a final suite of indicators that covers the spectrum of responses required for a successful ecological monitoring project. There is also the potential of expanding this project to new areas throughout the National Park, and fully integrating habitat protection with scientific feedback.

Finally, the scientific feedback provided needs to be tied to real conservation action on the ground, thus requiring good cooperation, mutual trust and quick and effective responses. The foundation for this is already in place and this is a major goal over the coming years.

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.

11. Any other comments?

We welcome the comments / advice / suggestions of anyone, or any organisation involved in this kind of work.