

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Brent R. Loken
Project title	Protecting the Biodiversity of Wehea Forest in Borneo
RSG reference	8725-1
Reporting period	1 October 2010 - 30 September 2011
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	ethicalexpeditions@gmail.com
Date of this report	26 September 2011

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 survey and visually document fauna in the Wehea Forest in Borneo, resulting in critical biodiversity data needed by local community leaders to achieve legal protection status for Wehea Forest			X	A team of four scientists, 10 Wehea Forest rangers, three university students, and one photographer completed a biodiversity study of Wehea Forest. Through the use of camera traps, line transect surveys, small mammal trapping and mist netting, 53 mammal species were documented, including the re-discovery of Miller's grizzled langur. Other endangered species were documented including the Sunda clouded leopard, Bornean orangutan and Bornean gibbon. Results were shared with local community leaders and regional government officials and will be used to strengthen efforts to achieve legal protection of Wehea Forest.
To train the rangers of Wehea in scientific methodology for continued biodiversity monitoring in Wehea		X		EE scientists worked closely with local Wehea Forest rangers and provided training in camera trapping, mist netting, observational survey techniques, and tree climbing. A team of rangers is now independently continuing a camera trapping study and biodiversity monitoring efforts.
To spread awareness through digital media about the efforts of the Wehea Dayak to protect their forest.			X	It was standing room only when EE and a group of university students presented their results to the local Wehea Dayak community. Through short video, photos and stories, we brought the forest to the community. Due to the physical separation of the village from the forest from logging and palm oil, many young Dayak villagers have never travelled to Wehea Forest and were amazed at the wonders of this incredibly rich, diverse, forest. Video and photos are available on the EE website and used at speaking events in Indonesia and all over North America.

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

The entire region experienced a prolonged rainy season in 2011, thus conditions in the forest were much wetter than anticipated. This caused time delays and minor health problems. The delays were used as an opportunity to perform additional surveys near base camps located along the middle transect and health issues were treated with first aid supplies brought by EE. These issues did not negatively impact the project.

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

- *“Rediscovering” Miller’s Grizzled Langur:* Research in Wehea Forest in 2011 found and photographed at least two groups of Miller’s grizzled langur. This langur subspecies is endangered and has been listed as one of the world’s 25 most endangered primates (Brandon-Jones 2006). Miller’s grizzled langur is known only from the north-east Indonesian part of Borneo (Brandon-Jones, 1997). Its former stronghold of Kutai National Park has been largely deforested and a survey team led by Setiawan *et al.* in 2008, found no presence of Miller’s grizzled langur in Kutai NP, which led them to conclude it may be locally extinct. The team surveyed nine other locations in East Kutai and found only five individuals along the Baai River. These individuals were not located on a subsequent survey, leading the team to believe this local population was killed by hunting (oral communication Dr. Stanislav Lhota, July 18th 2011). The geographical boundaries of the range of this langur are unknown, and future surveys could result in it being re-listed as critically endangered. Currently, Wehea Forest is home to the only known population of Miller’s grizzled langur (Lhota *et al* unpub.).
- *Documenting a Biologically Rich Forest:* EE’s research in 2011 confirmed that Wehea Forest is rich in biodiversity. In only 2 months, the team documented 53 mammal species, 17 of which are listed as vulnerable or endangered on the IUCN Red List. This biodiversity is coupled with low species abundance, highlighting the need for legal protection of Wehea Forest and a sustainable forest management plan for surrounding forests.
- *Empowering Local Wehea Dayak Rangers:* Local Wehea Dayak forest rangers are now able to independently assist with research projects. They received training in camera trapping, mist netting for bats, observational survey techniques, and tree climbing. Tree climbing allows the rangers to access orangutan nests to collect hair and feces samples for DNA analysis, a population survey method currently being field tested in Wehea. A group of rangers is currently independently leading the camera trapping study, downloading data from the camera traps, analyzing the data and writing reports.

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

The Wehea ranger programme provides employment and professional development for local community members. Every aspect of this project involved the local rangers, from research training to coordinating logistics. Wehea community leaders have been seeking legal protection of Wehea Forest since 2004. Data collected during the biodiversity study was presented to community leaders and the regional government and is being used to further the case for legal forest protection. Leaders from the Wehea community and Wehea Rangers participated in meetings with the regional and provincial government to present findings from the biodiversity study. This was the first time

that local Dayak leaders and rangers participated in such a meeting and this was seen by the government as an important step by the local community in working to protect their forest.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

EE recently signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding with the regional government for cooperation in building sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of biological diversity in Wehea. The biodiversity study funded by RSGF was Phase I of EE's sustainable development and conservation work in Wehea, with Phase II already underway. Phase II will build upon the research results from Phase I and include work in both the forest and the village.

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

At the conclusion of the biodiversity study, we shared our results locally through a community presentation and meetings with elders. We have also written reports for, and held several meetings with, regional government officials.

EE scientists are in the process of publishing articles highlighting 2011 research results in both lay and scientific publications. Presentations, such as an upcoming symposium at Simon Fraser University, Canada, are a regular activity for sharing results. Results are also shared through videos, photos and information on the EE website.

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

The RSG was used from October 2010 - September 2011. This time period represents the completion of Phase I of EE's work in Wehea Forest. Phase II is underway and builds upon the results from last year's research.

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
3 GPS Units	730	833	(103)	Slight difference in quoted price
4 Binoculars	434	388	46	Slight difference in quoted price
4 Camera Traps	700	1194	(494)	After initial field testing, we determined a higher quality camera trap was needed
Living costs Biodiversity Study (10 people)	2416	1803	613	Living costs were less than originally discussed with the forest manager
Ranger Salaries for cutting transect	750	733	17	
Salary for Wehea ranger logistics team	870	762	108	One less ranger was needed for the logistics team
Logistics for rangers cutting transect - food	100	287	(187)	The transect took longer than expected to cut due to difficult terrain and field conditions
Total	6000	6000	0	Local Exchange Rate: 1 USD = 0.694464 GBP and 1 USD = 9000 IDR

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

- **Continue ranger training:** It is our goal to train 50% of the Wehea rangers as parabiologists by August 2012. Local training is needed to ensure sustainability of applied research efforts in Wehea Forest.
- **Scaling up research efforts:** We have documented that certain species such as the clouded leopard, sun bear and Miller's grizzled langur are found in Wehea. Our goal is to continue research on these endangered species to estimate population sizes, distribution and ecological attributes. This information will help the local community and regional government to better manage their forest.
- **Education:** Hunting is still a problem for endangered species such as the clouded leopard and Miller's grizzled langur. Our goal is to initiate an environmental education programme in communities surrounding Wehea, helping to reduce human impacts that threaten the survival of the endangered species found in and near Wehea.
- **Legal protection of Wehea Forest:** EE will continue to provide information and work with the government to achieve legal protection status for Wehea Forest and to develop a sustainable forest management plan.
- **Wehea Conservation Center:** Research in 2011 confirmed the need for a conservation center in the local community. The forest rangers do not have a central workspace in the village, nor a venue for sharing their conservation work. A conservation center in the village will serve as a hub for environmental education, research and conservation activities.

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?

EE always credits RSGF for their generous support at speaking engagements and presentations and will do so in upcoming publications. The RSGF logo is on the main page of the EE website and on EE's organisational summary sheet. We are proud to receive support from RSGF and when possible, share the important role RSGF has played in supporting our work in Wehea and helping the Wehea Dayak to protect their forest.

11. Any other comments?

Wehea Forest is a biologically rich forest, home to one of the last intact orangutan populations in East Kalimantan, and conservation efforts have full support from the local community, a nearly unique situation in Indonesia. Ethical Expeditions is one of the only NGO's working on the ground in Wehea village and Wehea Forest to help protect this important and beautiful ecosystem. We are building relationships with the local community, NGOs, government, scientists, and private companies to explore the most effective options for management of Wehea Forest. EE is honoured to work in Wehea and help the community protect its incredible forest. Thank you to RSGF from the entire Wehea community for making this work possible!

References:

Brandon-Jones, D. (2006). Miller's grizzled surili, *Presbytis hosei canicrus* Miller, 1934. In: Primates in peril: the world's 25 most endangered primates 2004–2006, pp.11, 23. *Primate Conservation*. (20): 1–28.

Setiawan, A. et al (2009). A Survey of Miller's Grizzled Surili, *Presbytis hosei canicrus*, in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Primate Conservation* (24): 139-143.