

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

Your name	Dr Susan Cheyne
Project title	Orang-utans and gibbons compared: Implications of differences in feeding and behavioural ecology for conservation.
RSG reference	53-11-09
Reporting period	March 1 st – September 30 th 2010
Amount of grant	£5,960
Your email address	Susan.cheyne@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Date of this report	7 th December 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
Determining energetic expenditure of apes in Sabangau in different seasons			X	
Assessing density of apes in the three different habitat types			X	
Determining over-lap between main ape food trees and species targeted by illegal logging			X	Many of the key species for the apes are also commercially valuable – this has been passed onto the Ministry of Forestry in Jakarta and Palangka Raya
Determining the apes use of the forest in areas which are badly degraded.			X	Some areas of the forest are likely to be too degraded to be suitable as permanent habitat for the apes, while the apes may feed in these areas, they are marginal.

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

The prolonged wet season this year has created changes in the fruiting patterns of much of the ape foods, so the data are unusual. This will be analysed in more detail in comparison to our long-term forest productivity data.

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

1. Mapping of the habitat for suitability for the apes and initiation of a long-term GIS project to map the 3D home range use of the apes.
2. Providing data on the overlap between tree species targeted by illegal logging and those most important for the apes.
3. Obtaining accurate data on ape density and re-surveying areas to determine if there has been a change in the densities (and thus populations) over time (>2 years).

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

All activities are be coordinated with CIMTROP (Centre for the International Management and Cooperation for Tropical Peatlands), including fieldwork, feedback of results, local dissemination of reports and information. We have worked under CIMTROP's umbrella since 1999 and are closely integrated with their programs. As described earlier, CIMTROP are the local resource managers for the LAHG and consult locally and regionally on issues of peat swamp forest management and conservation of the entire Sabangau Forest. CIMTROP draws its research assistants and patrol unit

staff from the local community and these people work alongside us in the forest. Senior Indonesian research staff receive training in data management, analysis and presentation. We maintain a good relationship with all relevant local government agencies, including *Badan Pengkajian Penerapan dan Teknologi* (BPPT) the Department for Research and Technology that has overall responsibility for the LAHG; the *Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam* (BKSDA), the regional Department for Conservation of Natural Resources, which has current overall responsibility for the Sabangau Forest; the *Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah* (BALITBANGDA), the regional Department for Research and Development; the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and with other conservation groups.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This is a progression of long-term studies begun in 2003 on orang-utan and 2005 on gibbons. Focal individuals are followed during their active period (dawn to dusk) and behavioural data collected using standardised instantaneous sampling techniques. This yields a range of behavioural variables that can be monitored from year-to year to assess nutritional and physical health. These include population age-sex structure, length of daily active period, activity budgets, dietary composition and daily travel distance. This work is the longest continuous study of sympatric gibbons and orang-utans and takes place in the largest remaining continuous peat swamp forest in Indonesia. The adaptations of the apes to this habitat are not yet understood, nor are the full impacts of ongoing logging, encroachment and fire on the ape populations known. The presence of a long-term conservation research project is crucial for protection of the area and accurate science about the behavioural ecology of the apes is critical to ensure their long-term survival.

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

Results and reports are translated and disseminated to local forestry management authorities, other conservation agencies and through CIMTROP’s education program, as well as directly benefiting CIMTROP’s own conservation activities. As of January 2011, we will have a dedicated communications team working to produce reports and maintain more frequent updates for the blog. We also publish the work in peer-reviewed journals.

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

Funds were used from April-September 2010.

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
4 Indonesian research assistants' salaries @ £5/day (average) x 180 days	3,600	3,600	0	
Accommodation - Base camp 4 pax x 180 days @ £3/day (inc. food/facilities/electricity etc.)	2,160	2,160	0	
Insurance for all Indonesian staff	200	200	0	

(4x50/year)				
TOTAL			5,960	

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

To expand the area of forest in which we can operate and survey by increasing the research team, training more local Indonesians and working more closely with the National Park authorities.

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 features on our blog and on all presentations given relating to this work. The RSGF is mentioned in all publications as one of the key supporters of the long-term ape conservation research.