



Information for Local Education Authorities on the
Health & Safety measures taken to safeguard the
Operation Wallacea expeditions to
Indonesia

LEA HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES INDEX

1. Introduction	2
2. Structure of the Expeditions.....	2
3. Risk Assessments.....	4
4. Training Before the Expedition.....	4
5. Designated Leaders and Competencies.....	5
6. Use of Guides	8
7. Medical Procedures.....	8
8. Operating Procedures	9
9. Emergency Procedures.....	10
10. Insurance.....	11
11. Child Protection Procedures.....	11
12. Communications	12
13. Transport.....	13
14. Accommodation and Camp Security	14
15. Cultural Aspects of the Expedition and Local Issues.....	15

1. Introduction

The aim of this document is to highlight the procedures and protocols in place for school groups who are involved with Operation Wallacea research expeditions in Indonesia. It is intended to fulfill the criteria set by the local education authorities with regard to overseas expeditions and is based on the information requirements set out in *Guidelines for Educational Visits and Outdoor Education Activities 2004*, produced by Surrey County Council. The Surrey CC document in turn is based on the Department for Education and Employment *Health & Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits (1998)* and on the August 2002 document produced by the Department for Education and Skills entitled *Standards for LEA's in Overseeing Educational Visits*. As with all these documents the aim is to ensure that there are adequate preparations and safety systems in position to ensure that best practice with regard to Health & Safety issues is being used in the planning and implementation of the expeditions.

2. Structure of the Expeditions

The structure of the expeditions is a little different to that with many other expeditions or educational trips that are run by schools. Operation Wallacea run biodiversity and socio-economic research programmes in the tropical forests of the Lambusango National Park on Buton, Sulawesi, and on the tropical island of Hoga, Sulawesi. These surveys are led by university academics from a range of British and other universities worldwide with additional help provided by university students who pay for the experience. The school groups are joining this established survey programme and providing an important part of the survey team by completing detailed forest structure and habitat surveys on a variety of sample sites across the whole forest study area. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the forest camps within the Lambusango National Park. At some of these camps transects have been installed and sample sites positioned with a minimum spacing of 200m (either 20m X 20m or 50m X 50m). Each camp has a management team and a series of scientists completing biodiversity surveys using a variety of techniques and looking at various species including Buton macaques, tarsiers, anoas, Malay civets, and various herpetofauna, bird and small mammal species as well as forest structure and dynamics.

The school groups spend their first couple of days in the village of Labundo Bundo where they will be given health and safety briefings and taught how to complete the forest structure surveys. Furthermore they will be instructed in safe trekking procedures and in how to survey safely whilst in the forest. They will also join with scientists and university students working on the biodiversity surveys of the species outlined above, and learn about the history of the area and the geology through a combination of lectures and in-field tuition. For the second part of the week the groups will continue to work out of the village of Labundo Bundo or trek to Lapago camp and complete forest structure data collection on the study sites near to that

camp. This camp has a management team and a range of scientists and university students surveying various species, with which the groups can work.

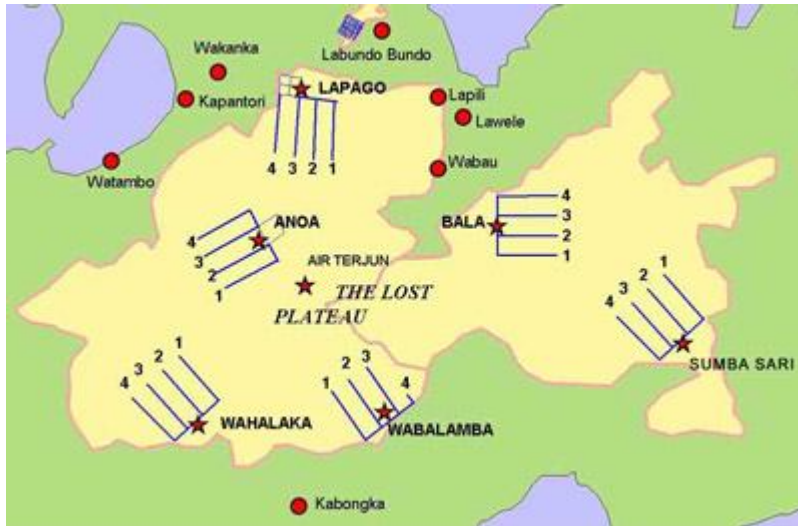


Figure 1 Position of the Lambusango National Park camps and transects.

For the second week the school groups will travel to the island of Hoga where they will have the option of completing a dive training course, or if they are already dive qualified or don't wish to dive, to complete a reef ecology course. This latter course consists of two lectures each day and two in water practicals (either diving or snorkelling) and teaches them how to identify the fish, invertebrates and corals as well as marine biological survey techniques.

Details of the travel between the various sites is provided in the transport section of this document.



Figure 2. Location of the Lambusanga National Park and Hoga Island.

3. Risk Assessments

A thorough assessment of all camps and activities are completed before the start of the season and reviewed throughout. Risk assessments are completed for each site as well as generic risk assessments for each activity. These risk assessments are published on the [website](#) and are available by hard copy if requested.

4. Training Before the Expedition

Operation Wallacea staff work closely with teachers to ensure that pupils are ready and prepared for the expedition abroad. Various joint meetings take place with the Operation Wallacea schools team and the teachers regarding facilities on site and skills required. A training session is arranged with each of the schools with the following aims:

Detail the level of fitness required from the pupils

The level of fitness required by students is outlined in detail, and testing fitness through a bleep test is recommended. For those students that have limited outdoors experience professional UK based outdoor adventure companies are recommended to provide this additional training.

Habitat survey methodologies

All the pupils are given a lecture on the aims of the surveys they will be participating in as well as the methodologies to be used so they are aware of exactly what they will be doing in the field.

Operation Wallacea also send out a pre-departure booklet to each student containing full details of the facilities at each site, the equipment that students will require, and any information that teachers or students may find useful in preparing for travel to Indonesia. The Operation Wallacea staff are always available to talk to any student, parent, or teacher, who has any questions about any aspects of the expeditions, and the preparation required.

Whilst Operation Wallacea aims to ensure that the pupils are well prepared for the expedition, the teachers are responsible for the dynamics and teamwork abilities of the group.

5. Designated Leaders and Competencies

Role of the teachers

The teachers accompanying the students are responsible for ensuring the pupils travel arrangements from the school until the expedition start time at 1 pm in Bau Bau on the Thursday. Internal flights, hotels and transfers between the airport and hotel can be arranged through recommended travel agent in Indonesia, Losari Tours (opwall@losari-tours.com). Once the expedition start the teachers will be travelling with the group and responsible for pastoral care issues and checking that the safety procedures run by Operation Wallacea are working in full. At the end of the expeditions the teachers and the group are returned to Bau Bau airport at approximately 13:00 on the Thursday and they are responsible for accompanying the group back to the UK.

Role of Operation Wallacea staff

Venture Leader

The Venture Leader for this project is Chris Majors. Chris has lived and worked in Indonesia for 12 years and has been involved in running our Indonesian expeditions for 8 years. He speaks excellent Indonesian and is responsible for ensuring the projects are run efficiently by the two subcontractors (Lawana Ecotone for the forest and Lembaga Alam for the marine side).

Dr Nancy Priston (Lawana Ecotone) is the Deputy Venture Leader for the forest side of the expedition. Dr Priston has assisted in managing the forest site for the past 6 years, has supervised students on the Operation Wallacea field trips to Indonesia for the last 8 years and speaks excellent Indonesian.

Phillipa Mansell (Operation Wallacea) is the Deputy Venture Leader for the marine side of the expedition. Miss Mansell has worked with Operation Wallacea for five

years, first as a lecturer in reef ecology and for the last three seasons as site manager. She is an extremely experienced field operative and speaks Indonesian to a high standard.

The project has a very high overall level of staffing (approximately 1 staff member to each volunteer onsite) with up to 200 staff at any one time running the surveys or providing logistical support for the expeditions.

Leadership during transfers from the hotel to the forest site

Losari Tours organise all the travel arrangements for incoming staff and volunteers to Bau Bau. A senior staff member from Losari Tours will meet and brief all the groups at the start of the expedition on arrival at Bau Bau airport. In addition Chris Majors will also be present to provide additional input and will travel with the incoming groups.

From Bau Bau the group will travel in buses to the village of Labundo Bundo. There is a staff member in every bus. The journey takes approximately three hours.

Leadership in Labundo Bundo

The manager of the Labundo Bundo field-station is Agus Aswar. Agus has managed the Labundo Bundo field-station for several years and a great breadth of expedition experience with a variety of expedition providers. He is a fluent English speaker and is a director of Lawana Ecotone, a locally based NGO that organises expeditions into the Lambusango forests.

Leadership in the Node Camps

La Juri is the manager of the Anoa and Bala node camps and Hallyday is the manager of the Lapago node camp. They have both worked as camp managers for the past five years and have a knowledge of English.

Leadership for training in jungle skills and trekking

The Senior Jungle Trainer is responsible for organising the skills training in trekking, dangerous plants and animals in the forest, safety procedures to use when living in the forest and how to respond to an emergency. The Senior Forest Jungle Trainer is Rio Kornel who has had five years experience with Operation Wallacea and has experience in training Indonesian Special Forces in climbing techniques.

Rio has excellent English and has passed the Harvard English Course. He has an Advanced level certification from SKYGERS Climbing School in Bandung, an Advanced Open Water PADI qualification, an Instructor Certification for Work-at-height with PPE and Rope Access from SKYGERS Safety & Vertical Rescue and the Director General Training and Watching of Labor, Department of Labor and Transmigration of Indonesia. He is also Conservation Educator certificated from CTRC SEAMEO BIOTROP bureau, Bogor and most recently has most recently achieved his Level 1 Sport Climbing Certification from the Southeast Asia Climbing Federation

Rio has over 10 years experience in leading tropical forest expeditions, establishing and running camps in remote forest areas and lecturing on jungle survival skills. There is no relevant qualification that combines the skills needed for this post or the staff reporting to Rio that carry out the instruction. Rio therefore recruits staff based on a minimum of three years running jungle survival courses in Indonesia. These staff being appointed to run training with some of the volunteers in jungle skills are then trained by Rio and their competencies tested in the field.

Leadership for Canopy Access training

Grant Harris runs the canopy access training. Grant is a level 1 rope technician with IRATA and has an NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council) Diploma in Arboriculture and Tree Climbing.

Leadership for forest structure and habitat training and surveying

During their active habitat surveying time in the forest, there is one habitat surveyor for every group of 8 students as well as at least one local guide. All habitat surveyors are required to have at least one of the following: previous forest mensuration experience, minimum one season experience with Operation Wallacea in the Honduras or Indonesia forest surveys, or minimum one year experience of working with youth groups on outdoor activities.

Leadership for biodiversity surveys

When school students join biodiversity surveys from the village or a node camp these are led by academics from British, Australian, or North American universities and each group has a guide. Each of the biodiversity survey leaders must have relevant academic qualifications, previous research experience and publications in the area of research they are conducting. The Senior Forest Scientist is Dr Phil Wheeler, an academic from Hull University. A full list of academic staff participating in the biodiversity surveys is published on the OpWall website just before the start of the season.

Leadership for forest to marine site transfers

The groups will return from Labundo Bundo to Bau Bau by bus. The buses will travel in convoy and a staff member will travel in the last bus in the convoy. On arrival in Bau Bau the group will have dinner then board the ferry to Wanci. The boat travels overnight to Wanci where the group will be met by the Bintang Sedang, Operation Wallacea's live aboard dive boat, for the last leg of the journey to Hoga. There is also an option to fly from Bau Bau to Wanci. For the Bau Bau to Hoga leg of the journey, the group will be accompanied by Adrian Dalope. Adrian is a fluent English speaker who has worked with Operation Wallacea for five years. He is a director of a local NGO that runs expeditions to the Wakatobi National Park.

Leadership on Hoga

The Hoga base Manager is Philippa Mansell. Logistic support is provided by 'Lembaga Alam Mita Wakatobi' a local NGO set up by the community on Hoga to run expeditions to the area. They have 11 years experience doing this.

Leadership for diving activities

All dive training is led by PADI qualified Dive Instructors or Master Instructors. Dive training is done at a ratio of 1 Dive Instructor per 6 students plus 1 Dive Master. For qualified divers the ratio is 6 divers per 1 Dive Master. The Hoga Island research station is a registered PADI Dive Centre.

Leadership from marine sites to Bau Bau

Adrian Dalope will accompany the group between Hoga and Bau Bau, where the expedition will end and flights are taken back to Jakarta.

6. Use of Guides

Every group leaving a camp must be accompanied by a group leader (see above) and a local guide. No formal guide qualifications exist in Indonesia, (particularly that are available to the local people in the remote communities in which we work) so the appointment of guides relies primarily on their levels of experience and their suitability gauged via personal references from senior village members. The Senior Forest Operations Manager has the responsibility of employing locals as guides. A number of skills are required by all guides including:

- Knowledge of the local area
- An awareness of dangerous species including venomous snakes

Each newly appointed guide would have training on how to respond to dangerous situations, basic first aid and how to lead a group. Their training follows a 3-stage induction period: shadowing a more experienced guide; then leading a group while supervised; and finally leading a group on their own.

7. Medical Procedures

This section summarises the medical and evacuation procedures report which has a much more detailed description of the staffing, First Aid facilities and procedures to be followed.

Information and records

All school staff and pupils are required to complete an Operation Wallacea medical questionnaire prior to their departure and those participants who are diving during the expedition will be required to also complete a PADI medical questionnaire according to the rules and regulations set out by PADI. All volunteers are required to get their GP to sign the declaration on the reverse of the PADI form if they have answered yes to any of the questions. These forms are required to be completed and returned to the Operation Wallacea Medical Coordinator at least 3 months in advance of the expedition. All the medical staff that will be working in Indonesia that year will review the medical forms received and identify any potential medical issues that could restrict sites or activities for individual pupils or staff, or aspects which require additional information before the start of the expedition. All medical

information is held securely under the guidelines provided by the data protection act.

On site medical information about each pupil and teacher is provided to the Medical officer in Labundo Bundo and a file is created for each person. There are additional forms for treatment provided and the individual files follow the pupils and the teachers to other sites to which they travel. The records are retained at the last site. All medical problems, illnesses, injuries and near misses are recorded at each of the sites. At the end of the season, these data are collated and a health and safety report is completed and published on the website. This report classifies incidents into 7 categories and allows comparison between the expeditions and other activities. The policy of publication of the accidents and illnesses recorded on the expedition is a unique aspect of the Operation Wallacea expeditions and helps ensure the procedures on site are followed fully.

Medical staffing

Operation Wallacea employ sufficient qualified medical staff including doctors, nurses and paramedics to provide the medical support at each of the field sites. In 2008 there are 10 medical staff contributing to the medical cover at various points over the season. All the medics are required to have at least 18 months postgraduate training with some experience in accident and emergency. Medics are a mixture of Western and Indonesian doctors, nurses and paramedics.

Medical facilities

A full medical kit is provided by Operation Wallacea which includes the equipment and medications needed to be able to deal with the minor conditions that may be encountered in the field. This reduces the need to rely on general medical care and enable us to continue working in the field.

Research into medical facilities in country are completed prior to the start of the season by the in-country representative and are checked at the start by the Operation Wallacea medical coordinator or senior medical officer. Operation Wallacea has very close links with the hospitals in Bau Bau and Makassar, the recompression chambers in Makassar and the emergency services.

8. Operating Procedures

There are detailed operating procedures for all aspects of expedition management. The main measures used to minimise risk are included in the risk assessments which are published on the web site but are summarised below if they are not included in other sections of this report:

Groups leaving camps

At all camps there is a whiteboard system operating, where all groups leaving camp have to sign out, with details of the group leader, the group members, the intended location, departure time and estimated time of return. The group leader has to take a radio so they can communicate with the main base, a First Aid kit and ensure all

group have appropriate attire (eg hats, boots) and have enough water for the trip. In addition a local guide has to accompany the group. No school group members (pupils or teachers) are allowed to leave any of the camps unless this procedure is followed. Navigation from each camp is fairly easy since there are marked transects and survey sites and maps available of the transect layout at each camp.

Trekking

The guide takes the front of the trek line with the slowest group member immediately behind and the fittest group member at the end of the line followed by the group leader. There are no deepwater river crossings on any of the trails that Operation Wallacea work at.

Diving

All diving follows protocols that are more conservative than PADI procedures. All training dives are completed with a ratio of 1 Dive Instructor plus 1 Dive Master to a group of no more than 6 students. All qualified divers are accompanied by a Dive Master at a ratio of 1:4. Maximum diving depth is 18m, maximum dive time is 50 minutes and all divers have to perform a 5 minute safety stop at 5m on the way up. Minimum surface interval time is 3 hours. No night diving is allowed for school group members unless they are already a qualified Advanced Open Water diver or have achieved an equivalent qualification in another SCUBA diving course. If one or more of the group wish to undertake the Advanced Open Water dive training course they will need to do one dive to no deeper than 30m as part of the course. This dive would need to be completed as the first dive of the day and only one additional dive would be permitted that day. These restrictions mean that all divers are well within the limits allowed for no-decompression recreational diving by PADI.

Snorkelling and swimming

No snorkelling is allowed unless accompanied by a Dive Master and carrying an inflated SMB. The Dive Master will ensure the group stop every 2 minutes and look around them for boats. Swimming is only allowed in designated areas.

Alcohol

Alcohol is available in Labundo Bundo and on Hoga. Whilst the school group is under the care of Operation Wallacea no school group member under 18 (the legal age for drinking alcohol in Indonesia) is permitted to consume alcohol.

9. Emergency Procedures

This section summarises the medical and evacuation procedures report which is a much more detailed description of the procedures used at each of the sites.

Training of staff

Carefully planned evacuation protocols are in place in all of the sites in Indonesia and are designed with the worse case scenario in mind and have worked well in previous years. All staff have training on evacuation procedures, and protocols are rehearsed prior to the expeditions starting.

Emergency levels

Operation Wallacea has four levels of evacuation as follows: **Emergency** (requiring an air evacuation from Bau Bau, Wanci or Kendari), **High Priority** (requiring the patient to be moved at the fastest speed possible by land/sea/or sea to hospital facilities in Makassar), **Medium Priority** (requiring the patient to be moved as quickly as possible without the need to hire special vehicles or boats to the nearest appropriate medical facilities) or **Low Priority** (a patient needs to be taken to medical facilities in Bau Bau but the patients condition is not serious and time is not a major issue).

In all Emergency or High Priority cases where a patient is being transferred to medical facilities they are accompanied by the relevant Medical Officer or someone appointed by the medical officer as fit to accompany the patients. The absence of the Medical Officer from the site whilst the patient is accompanied to the hospital will require the suspension of all activities at the site until the Medical Officer is back on site. In the case of a Medium Priority evacuation (eg transfer to a hospital for a confirmatory X-ray) another suitable staff member other than the Medical Officer may be nominated to accompany the patient.

10. Insurance

£1 million medical and evacuation insurance cover has been purchased by Operation Wallacea for all expedition participants. The advantage of this approach is that the Medivac planes and hospitals likely to be used during any evacuation can be contracted in advance by the insurance company so if there is a need for an evacuation then there are no delays.

In addition to this Operation Wallacea have comprehensive combined liability insurance with up to £10,000,000 for public/product liability.

11. Child Protection Procedures

We endeavour to ensure that all school students participating in our activities are safe in accordance with the Protection of Children's act 1999. This is done a number of ways:

Supervision and accompanying adults.

Operation Wallacea offer a free teacher place with every 10 students thus giving an automatic ratio of at least 1 to 10 (in line with the DfES). For each activity provided by Operation Wallacea in the field the following ratios apply:

- 1 to 8 ratio for Habitat Survey work (plus at least one guide)
- 1 to 6 ratio for participating in other biodiversity survey activities (plus at least one guide)
- 1 to 6 ratio for training dives (plus a Dive Master)
- 1 to 6 ratio for dives with qualified divers

These ratios do not include other supervisory staff such as guides, medics or the schoolteachers. Overall there is 1 to 2 ratio of adult staff to students on site providing a very high level of supervision. Teachers are asked to accompany students on as many activities as possible.

Minimum number of students

No school pupil is allowed to participate in any activity without at least one other pupil from the school or a teacher being present.

Criminal Records Bureau Checks

There are over 200 staff working on the survey expeditions as well as a further 150 university students. Up to 50% of these staff and some of the students are from countries where no CRB check facilities exist or spend a significant part of each year outside the UK, so CRB checks are incomplete. Completing blanket coverage of CRB checks on all these staff and students is not possible since a number could not be checked through the UK system. All UK based staff are CRB checked. If UK based university students were checked then it would still only provide partial coverage and would add significantly to the costs of the expedition for the participants. The strategy used by Operation Wallacea therefore is to ensure that at all locations where pupils are sleeping that there is a CRB staff member in attendance. The accompanying teachers are already CRB checked and there will always be an accompanying teacher at any overnight location.

All Western medical staff are also required to be checked and will have had enhanced checks completed by either their University or place of work. Operation Wallacea use a copy of these as part of the recruitment process of medics.

Codes of Practice

All Operation Wallacea staff in the field are required to sign a code of conduct before they are employed. The Code of Conduct commits each staff member to not entering into relationships with school volunteers as well as conformity to restrictions on alcohol use and a complete ban on drug abuse. Operation Wallacea will dismiss staff that do not follow the code of conduct.

Complaints procedure

Any complaint by a school pupil about inappropriate behaviour from any staff member or other student will be treated as a formal complaint and documented. The accompanying teacher will be informed immediately and together with the senior Operation Wallacea staff member on site will investigate the complaint. If the complaint is upheld then any individuals involved will be dismissed from the expedition and a police file created if the incident was serious enough.

12. Communications

All groups entering the forest carry a VHF radio. This can communicate with either the node camp or Labundo Bundo base. The node camps and Labundo Bundo have

SSB radios and these are the main form of communication between nodes, Labundo Bundo and the Bau Bau office. A satellite telephone is also kept in Labundo Bundo. A mobile phone signal can be found approximately ten minutes drive from Labundo Bundo.

Staff accompanying the group between the forest and Bau Bau always carry mobile phones for which there is a reliable signal for most of the journey.

On Hoga the main form of communication is via the mobile phone network which is reliable on Hoga. There is also a satellite telephone, SSB radio and email on the island. The boats used by Operation Wallacea for the transfers between Bau Bau and Hoga all have an SSB radio and the accompanying staff member carries a satellite telephone at all times.

There is an Operation Wallacea 24 hour emergency officer based in Canada (tel +44 (0)7800 605 039) in the event of an emergency message needing to be passed on to the field. The direct numbers for the key staff in Indonesia during the expeditions are published on the web site shortly before the start of the expeditions.

13. Transport

All transport arrangements conducted by Operation Wallacea in the field are subject to stringent protocols. Transport used to move pupils from various sites have been assessed by the Operations Manager and his team in Indonesia and only reputable companies with an excellent safety record are used. The transport in Indonesia is not as comfortable as in Western countries but it is adequate and most importantly, safe.

Buses

The buses are given a full safety check prior to the start of the season and are checked prior to every journey. The drivers are briefed prior to every journey and a staff member travels with every vehicle to ensure that safe driving practices are followed.

Operation Wallacea only use trusted buses and drivers.

4x4 trucks

All vehicles are subject to pre-departure checks for each journey, which include checking the fluid levels and ensuring that tyres are adequate for the journey. In addition to this all staff are required to have their driving assessed by the Operations Manager if they are to transport volunteers. All vehicles travel in convoy when making long journeys so if a vehicle breaks down there is support available. A senior member of Operation Wallacea staff will also accompany the convoy of vehicles to ensure a slow and steady pace. No scheduled movements are due to be conducted during the hours of darkness to maximise the safety of those being transported. All vehicles are subject to the health and safety standards of Indonesia.

Bau Bau to Wanci Boat

The journey between Bau Bau and Wanci is made by a wooden ferry with a capacity of around 300 passengers. Operation Wallacea supplies lifejackets for all our passengers. The boat leader (Adrian Dalope) carries a satellite telephone at all times and conducts a safety check prior to every voyage. This crossing would not be attempted in extremely rough weather.

Dive and research boats on Hoga

There is a whiteboard system operating on Hoga, so that all boats leaving the centres have to sign out and complete various safety checks (presence of life jackets, oxygen, First Aid kits, radio test etc). The whiteboard contains details of where each boat has gone and the estimated return time. Hoga base is in radio contact with each of the boats.

14. Accommodation and Camp Security

Students are never allocated accommodation on their own and are always as close to staff members as is practical. All accommodation comes with bedding and mosquito nets and have lockable doors where possible.

Labundo Bundo and Lawele

The groups will stay with local families. All rooms are single sex with three or four guests per room. Medical and bathroom facilities are shared with the hosting family, though prior to the season Operation Wallacea teams conduct a full assessment of the facilities to ensure that they are safe, clean and have acceptable levels of privacy. All students are made aware of where each staff member is located including medical staff in the event of an emergency during the night. Security staff patrol the village 24 hours to ensure the safety of volunteers.

Lapago and Bala

Accommodation here is hammocks or tents. Hammocks are located in the centre of the camp and in close proximity of both the teachers and medical staff in the event of emergency. As the camp is deep within the forest, it is extremely unlikely that unauthorised individuals will enter the camp. However guards operate at each of the camps 24 hours a day for added protection.

Hoga

Accommodation is in locally owned wooden huts with school groups given neighbouring huts in the Bounty Bay area. Huts are same sex with two or three students to a hut. Toilet and washing facilities are attached to each hut. All students are made aware of where each staff member is located including medical staff in the event of an emergency during the night. Security staff patrol the research base 24 hours to ensure the safety of volunteers.

15. Cultural Aspects of the Expedition and Local Issues

The model of conservation used by Operation Wallacea is strongly rooted in principles of suitable economic growth in areas whose biodiversity is under threat. This means that huge efforts are made to ensure that conservation is tied with development of alternative income sources to minimise, for example, logging and hunting.

Operation Wallacea has been working in Indonesia for over 12 years now and has very strong links with each of the communities. Operation Wallacea has been involved in bringing financial assistance to the communities via accommodation for volunteers, provision of food, availability of season jobs to support the expeditions and has funded a scholarship scheme for bright children from the local communities to cover their university costs. There is strong local support for the projects in all the communities in which the school groups will be staying.

All students are encouraged to get involved with the community if they wish and several school groups have helped before by fundraising for local schools, tidying the local school area and getting involved in sporting events such as football matches. Students are also given Indonesian lessons, introduced to farming issues and can attend the local market and help to teach English in the primary school.