

Ape Alliance Symposium 2019





Programme

14:00 - Doors open

14:15 - Symposium starts

Ian Redmond OBE (Ape Alliance Chair)

Professor Vernon Reynolds (BCFS)

Abi Gatty Irving (TGLF UK)

Tim Skeet (Bank of China)

Julian Oram (Mighty Earth)

Professor Volker Sommer (UCL Anthropology)

15:30 - Break

Jack Wootton (Project Sumatra)

Daniel Schofield (Oxford University)

Rachel Hevesi (Wild Futures)

Dr Susan Cheyne

(BNF/IUCN Section for Small Apes)

Rob Durgut (Orangutan Foundation)

Professor Amamnda Korstjens (LEAP)

Helen Slater (LEAP)

17:55 - Finish

18:05 - Raffle Prize Draw

Year in Review

Tapanuli Protest

One of Ape Alliance's main projects in the last two years has been protesting the Batang Toru dam in Sumatra. Many of our allies have been part of this, particularly Mighty Earth who coordinated international protests with us. The dam threatens the 800 remaining Tapanuli orangutans, as well as many other endangered species.

Apes in Entertainment: Campaigning

Our coordinator Iona has recently written an article on ethical wildlife tourism which has got over 30,000 impressions, 200 likes and 130 retweets. The article aims to make it easier for people to choose an ethical wildlife experience and explains some of the common pitfalls.

[Read the article here >](#)



Meet our new treasurer: Thin Green Line Foundation UK

The Ape Alliance has a new treasurer! Thin Green Line Foundation UK works internationally providing vital support to the park rangers and communities on the front line of conservation. The charity works predominantly with indigenous rangers in developing nations and conflict zones and raises funds and awareness in the UK and beyond to support the charity's objective. We are excited to welcome Thin Green Line Foundation UK to our alliance.

Year in Review Cont.

Oak Foundation: Grants

We would like to thank the Oak Foundation supporting us for the third year running. We receive this grant with enormous gratitude. Oak Foundation is committed to addressing issues of global, social and environmental concern. Their six main programmes are: Environment, Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women and Learning Differences.

School workshops

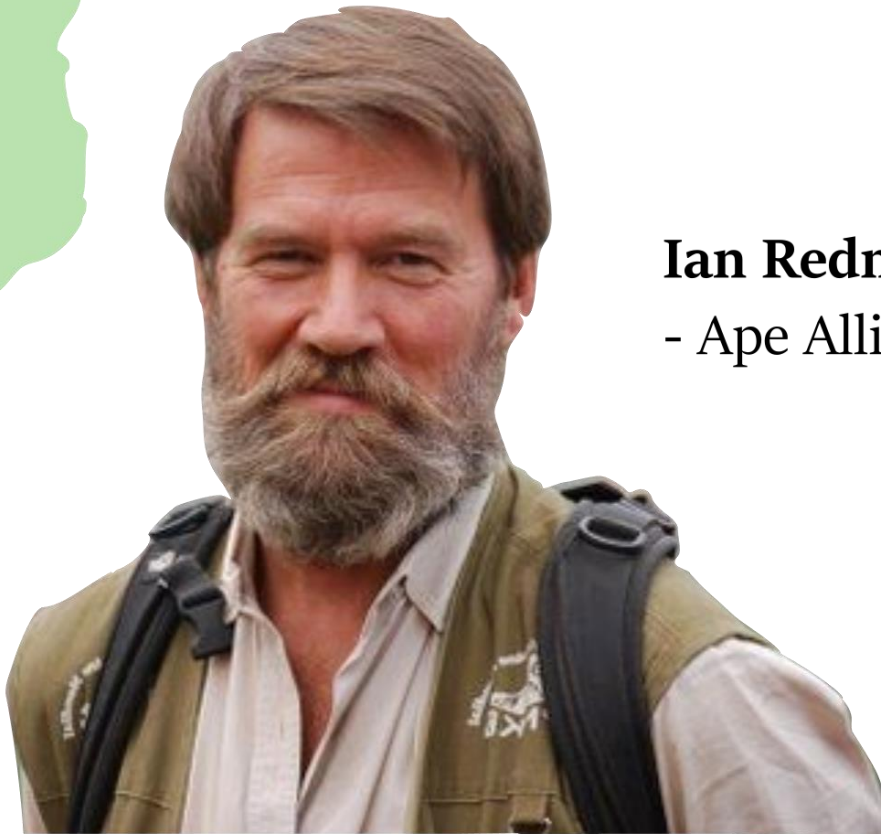
Our workshops are filled with interesting facts about apes and their behaviour, as well as how they fit in to global contexts such as deforestation or climate change. We bring VR headsets to each of our workshops in order to showcase vEco tourism's apps which allow students to experience apes in their natural habitat. This is often the highlight of our workshops as it allows children to feel a connection with wild landscapes and species.

I most enjoyed the VR, because
I felt like an ape. 😊

Pedal Powered Cinemas

In 2013, our Hope 4 Apes event raised the funds to send six pedal-powered cinemas to be used by charities in ape-range states. These cinemas can spread awareness of conservation issues in areas without any electricity. They also increase physical activity in students and are a lot of fun.

Speakers



Ian Redmond OBE
- Ape Alliance Chair

Ian Redmond OBE is the chairman of Ape Alliance, which he founded in 1996. He is renowned for his work surrounding the research, conservation, filming and ecotourism of apes and elephants. He has led anti-poacher patrols, guided film crews and/or special interest tours into close encounters with gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, elephants and erupting volcanoes, and worked to support local conservationists during the horrors of Rwanda's and D.R. Congo's civil wars. Under-cover investigations led him to play the role of a potential ape-buyer in order to infiltrate a poaching ring in Congo-Brazzaville and more recently a potential Coltan dealer in DRC. He also works with the UN, previously as Ambassador for the UN Year of the Gorilla 2009 and currently as an Ambassador for the Convention on Migratory Species.

Professor Vernon Reynolds

- Budongo Conservation Field Station

Professor Vernon Reynolds is a pioneer in chimpanzee field research and used his expertise to start Budongo Conservation Field Station in 1990. Since then, he has written two books on the chimpanzees who live there: 'Budongo: a forest and its chimpanzees' (1965) and 'The Chimpanzees of the Budongo Forest' (2005). He is currently an Emeritus Fellow at the University of Oxford and continues to visit Bundongo each year.



Abi Gatty Irving

- The Thin Green Line Foundation UK



Abi Gatty Irving is Operations Manager for Thin Green Line Foundation UK. Thin Green Line Foundation UK works internationally providing vital support to the park rangers and communities on the front line of conservation. The charity works predominantly with indigenous rangers in developing nations and conflict zones and raises funds and awareness in the UK and beyond to support the charity's objectives. At a time when our natural environment is coming under increasing pressure she believes it is crucial for organisations with related objectives to collaborate to find the best solutions. Abi is a trustee of Environment Trust and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Tim Skeet

- Bank of China

Tim Skeet started his career in 1981 and specialised in various technical aspects of bond markets and banking regulation, including advising government departments. Currently Tim combines a number of roles working at the London branch of Bank of China. He is senior adviser to the General Manager, works with the European branches on capital markets business and provides training courses. Tim is a frequent speaker at industry events, is a visiting fellow at Reading University and now also delivers green bond training on behalf of ICMA.



Julian Oram

- Mighty Earth

Julian Oram is the campaign director at Mighty Earth. He has more than two decades of experience working on international development and environmental policy issues, specialising in sustainable agricultural production systems and supply chains. Over recent years, Julian has been engaged as a consultant writer, researcher and strategy advisor for civil society organizations in Europe, Africa and the USA, including Mighty Earth, Greenpeace Africa, Oxfam, ActionAid International, The Fairtrade Foundation and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa.



Professor Volker Sommer

- UCL Anthropology

Volker Sommer is Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology at UCL. His research focuses on the evolution of social and sexual behaviour as well as biodiversity conservation and animal rights. He conducts long-term field studies on monkeys and apes in the jungles of Asia and Africa. Sommer is on the scientific board of the Giordano-Bruno-Foundation, a German-based think-tank for the promotion of secularism and evolutionary humanism.



Jack Wootton

- Project Sumatra

Jack Wootton is an aquatic ecologist and documentary maker. The symposium will be the premier of his film 'Project Sumatra', which is an educational documentary delving into the issues between a growing global human population and the natural world. The project has been developed from 2015 and two filming expeditions have been made to Sumatra. He is hoping the documentary can be used as an educational tool.



Daniel Schofield

- University of Oxford

Dan Schofield is a PhD student at Oxford University in the Primate Models for Behavioural Evolution Lab. His recent research focuses on a computational approach for analysing large-scale video datasets in the wildlife sciences, applying methods from computer vision and deep learning to automate individual identification of chimpanzees in the wild.



Rachel Hevesi

- Wild Futures



Rachel Hevesi is the Director of UK primate welfare and conservation charity Wild Futures and has over 30 years' experience working with primates in the UK and South America. She is a specialist in captive care and rehabilitation with a particular interest in woolly monkeys. She has worked with various NGO's and government agencies in the UK and abroad, including rescue and rehabilitation projects in habitat countries, as well as writing protocols and advising on enforcement of legislation. Rachel has written two books for children, available from The Monkey Sanctuary shop, and contributed to and had her work featured in several specialist publications and on television.

Dr Susan Cheyne

- Borneo Nature Foundation/
IUCN Section on Small Apes

Dr Susan Cheyne is the co-director of Borneo Nature Foundation, and the Vice Chair of the IUCN Section on Small Apes. She is also the co-director of BRINCC, an organisation that works with local organisations (NGOs, Universities, Community Groups) to help fund and implement conservation projects. She has been conducting research in South East Asia since 1997 and Indonesia since 2002, including leading long-term studies on gibbons. Alongside this, she is a lecturer on the MSc in primate conservation at Oxford Brookes University.



Rob Durgut

- The Orangutan Foundation

Rob Durgut is the communication and project officer for the Orangutan Foundation, a founding member of the Ape Alliance. The Orangutan Foundation works to save all species of orangutan by protecting their tropical forest habitat, working with local communities and promoting research and education. Rob has previously worked in the field in the Batang Toru region of Sumatra in a field station ran by SOCP, PanEco and Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (YEL).

Professor Amanda Korstjens

- LEAP Research Group Leader

Professor Amanda Korstjens works at Bournemouth University, and leads LEAP (Landscape Ecology and Primatology) -an interdisciplinary research group aiming to develop methods for rapid assessment of forest structure and relate this to habitat quality for keystone species. Amanda's team is currently studying the importance of micro-climatic conditions inside forests and species biological traits for our understanding of ape responses to environmental change. They are also developing various science-art works together with Invisible Flock to promote public engagement and understanding of conservation and environmental issues.



Helen Slater

- LEAP Research Group



Helen Slater is a PhD candidate at Bournemouth University, who has studied primates in Indonesia since 2015. She works in the LEAP team to monitor forest structure, micro-climate and mammals in secondary forest in Sumatra. Her PhD project focusses on the importance of micro-climatic conditions within tropical forest to mammal ranging behaviour and habitat use, using direct observations of arboreal ape behaviour, and remote monitoring of other non-habituated wildlife, including passive acoustic monitoring and camera traps.

We would like to thank Professor Volker Sommer and UCL who have kindly hosted our symposium for the second time.

We are also extremely grateful to artist and conservationist Jacha Potigietter who generously donated our raffle prizes. If you missed out on a prize, head to his website ‘www.jacha.co.uk’ to shop online.

And of course, thank you to all our wonderful speakers, guests, and volunteers, all of whom the day would not have happened without.



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