



Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to invite you to an information session about a potential two-week expedition to Indonesia in summer 2021 to help with biodiversity surveys run by Operation Wallacea. The presentation will be given on Wednesday 30th October, 18:30-19:30, in the chapel, and is open to Year 11 & 12 students with an interest in biology, ecology and conservation.

During the expedition, students will be based at two sites (TBC, one forest-based and one marine-based) in Sulawesi. The forests of the Wallacea region are one of the least biologically studied areas in the world and one of the most likely places to discover vertebrate species new to science, and students will be working with scientists and academics to collect data to support this application. There is a triangle of reefs in Eastern Indonesia that have the highest diversity of hard coral genera, the proxy commonly used to assess overall diversity of coral reefs anywhere in the world. Both the marine research stations being used by the Opwall teams are in the centre of this triangle.

For the first week of the expedition, they will be based in the forest of the park, collecting data as part of various surveys. For example, forest measurements, invertebrate surveys, bird surveys, herpetofauna surveys and bat surveys. While here, students will have the opportunity to become familiar with remote Indonesian culture, customs and language, and attend evening lectures on the local ecology.

For the second week the group transfer to a marine site. Here the students can take a PADI Open Water dive training course. If they are already dive trained or just wish to snorkel, they can take part in a coral reef ecology course, where they will cover different types of reef and marine habitats, threats to the reef and also reef fish and invertebrate identification. They will learn how to carry out a reef survey and to identify local species.

We estimate the total cost of the expedition to be £3,200. This price includes participation in the Operation Wallacea programme, flights, internal travel, park fees, reef fees, and dive hire but does not include the cost of PADI training (approximately £150 for pack & PIC). Operation Wallacea have a professional fundraising team who can visit and help the school group raise a substantial proportion of the total sum needed.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening. Until then, further general information can be found at <https://www.opwall.com/expeditions/school-expedition/indonesia-wallacea/>.

Miss Meera Lawrence