

Project title: The potential for enriched feeding in a mixed species aviary

Name of applicant: Kelly Chew

**Mandai Precinct Research Collaboration Proposal**

**About MWG**

Mandai Wildlife Group (“**MWG**”) is the parent company of award-winning attractions Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, Singapore Zoo and the River Wonders (collectively, the “**MWG Parks**”). The MWG Parks strive to be world-class leisure attractions, providing excellent exhibits of animals presented in their natural environment for the purposes of conservation, research, education and recreation.

MWG is proud to partner with many local and international institutions including scientific institutions, universities, government bodies, non-government organisations, other zoological institutions as well as nature interest groups. Through such evidence-based collaborations, MWG has contributed key scientific knowledge that is relevant to wildlife and wildlife conservation and management within Singapore, the Southeast Asian region and beyond.

Research at MWG must benefit either Mandai’s Living Collection (benefit the husbandry, health and care of the collection), Outreach and Education (research that is largely social science-based regarding visitor attitudes towards conservation and sustainable lifestyles, communication of conservation goals and environmental education) or Conservation Research, Wildlife Welfare and Care (any research that can support ex-situ or in-situ conservation). Within each of these three domains, there are a number of subjects that a specific research project may fall into:

(1) Mandai’s Living Collection Research (Animal Welfare & Care)

* Behaviour
* Nutrition
* Physical health
* Physical environment
* Mental welfare

(2) Mandai’s Conservation, Wildlife Welfare and Care Research

* Conservation-linked breeding
* Conservation translocations (including rescue, rehabilitation and release)
* Conservation genetics and biomaterials management (e.g. biosurveillance)
* Sustainability and environmental monitoring and management
* Mandai habitat enhancement and management

(3) Outreach and Education

* Visitor experience
* Human animal interactions
* Behaviour change

**In order to grow knowledge in these areas of interest, MWG’s aims are:**

* To conduct research that can help develop better tools and strategies for the management of captive wildlife populations and that will benefit conservation strategy planning for species in their native habitats;
* To conduct research that contributes information on local wildlife, and thus guide conservation or management strategies in Singapore
* To collaborate with like-minded organisations such as other zoological institutions, non-governmental organisations, government agencies, academic institutions and nature interest groups to ensure the best possible conservation outcomes for the species or environment of concern;
* To build local and regional conservation capacity and knowledge, as well as facilitate information-sharing initiatives through the publication of scientific reports and conference presentations

**In your proposal please ensure the following (where appropriate) are addressed:**

1. Project is relevant to MWG research objectives;
2. Project is feasible, scientifically valid and has high probability of success;
3. Project has conservation impact;
4. Project does not compromise animal welfare
5. Project funding is well-justified (if applicable)
6. Project contributes to capacity-building, education, and outreach, and takes into account human considerations;
7. Other considerations that you think might be relevant.

***Preference is given to projects related to species found in Singapore, Southeast Asian region, as well as those represented in the MWG animal collection and through which, a direct in-situ or ex-situ link can be accomplished.***

**How to apply:**

Submit a softcopy proposal to Vanessa Lee (Research Panel Secretariat) at [vanessa.lee@mandai.com](mailto:hsiangling.lee@wrs.com.sg) following the format outlined.

**Instructions:**

1. The applicant should fill out this form including all of the applicable appendices;
2. The applicant must read and sign off on Annex 1 of this document;
3. The applicant must provide all the required supporting documents (e.g. curriculum vitae, applicable permits);
4. The application should be typewritten in English in 12pt Courier or Times New Roman font;
5. Please strictly follow the instructions on the minimum word count and/or number of pages; and
6. For progress or final reports please use Appendix.

MWG reserves the right to disregard applications that do not conform to the above instructions or such other instructions which may be given by MWG from time to time.

MWG may request for additional information from any applicant.

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| **Part I – Overview** | |
| **a. Title of project:** The potential for enriched feeding in a mixed species aviary | |
| **b. Project location:** Fragile Forest | |
| **c. Personal data** | |
| Name in full  Kelly Chew | Institutional affiliation  MWG |
| Nationality  Singaporean | Contact Information (email address, telephone number)  Kelly.chewci@mandai.com |
| Expected duration of project (with start and end dates):  August 2022 – 2023  *If you are a MWG staff member, please go to Part II.*  *If you are not a MWG staff member, go to Part III.* | |

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| **Part II – For MWG staff members only** |
| **Have you obtained permission from your supervisor?** Yes/~~No~~  **Name and designation of supervisor:**  Kumaran Sesshe, Assistant Curator  *Please go to Part IV* |

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| **Part III – For non-MWG applicants** |
| *Is this your first time applying to MWG for research collaboration?*  *Yes/No [if the answer is “No”, please go to Part IV]*  *If this is your first time applying to MWG for research collaboration, we will require you to provide the following:*   * *curriculum vitae – including institution affiliation and list of academic publications* * *two referees and their contact details*  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Referee #1 | | | Name | Institution | | E-mail address | Contact number | | Referee #2 | | | Name | Institution | | E-mail address | Contact number |   *For student applicants, also kindly provide:*   * ***proof of affiliation*** *in the form of an* ***endorsed letter*** *from your educational or research institution* * ***curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator/Supervisor*** *(if he/she has not formerly successfully applied for research funding/collaboration with MWG)* |

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| **Part IV – Project details** |
| 1. **Summary of proposed project:**   The theory of contrafreeloading (CFL) Wsuggests that animals in captive situations, when given the option, would willingly spend time and effort to obtain food even when the same resource is freely available. In large free-flight, mixed species aviaries, such as the Fragile Forest, due to the natural foliage and space available, the environment itself has many avenues of stimulus. However, food presentation in these settings is usually kept rudimentary for the sake of ease of handling and sanitation. If contrafreeloading does indeed exist, enrichment feeders can be a viable alternative that encourages for natural foraging behaviours not just in the exhibit, but in the dens as well.  The aim of this study will be to assess the implementation of enrichment devices as an alternative feeding method for mixed species aviaries. Properties pertaining to contrafreeloading (e.g., duration and/or frequency of <behaviour>) will be used to measure the efficacy of usage of the devices from the various species that reside in the Fragile Forest aviary. This study will also be assessing the theory on ring-tailed lemurs during the days that they are kept back-of-house (BOH) to observe for any differences when there is a change in the complexity and size of the environment. Contrafreeloading will be compared across four different feeding devices in the two different captive environments. The total duration and number of individuals interacting with four different devices over a three-hour period will be used to ascertain the preference for feeding devices over the plated food. The four types of devices are to encourage different interactions and behaviours to better determine if the interactions are towards the presence of the device or the design of the device. |
| **b. Details of project:** *3-5 pages (excl. pictures) stating* *Goals and Objectives, Methods, Expected results and conservation out-puts. To clearly address the support criteria above.*  *(please refer to appendix i)*  We will need to populate this with details. Goals and objectives, and Methods can be in point form. Expected results and conservation outputs (I can’t think of any) might need to be elaborated. |

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| **Part V: Nature of proposal** *(Please tick in the box and fill in the required sections below)* |
| **Research Project Funding** (MWG staff projects only): Complete **Section A** below |
| X  **Research collaboration involving MWG collection or visitors:** Complete **Section B** below |
| **Biomaterial Samples:** Complete **Section C** below. *Note: Biomaterial requests must be submitted a minimum of 3 months in advance.* |
| **Others:** Please explain here |

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| **Part VI: Ethical considerations and permits** |
| **How will this project affect the welfare of any live animal(s) or human(s), and how will these effects be mitigated?**  There will be no changes to the daily routine and diets of the animals involved. Therefore, the impact to welfare will be minimal, if at all. Possible improvements to the animal’s welfare housed in the biodome or BOH might occur. |
| **Has the project been assessed and approved by your institution’s human or animal ethics board (e.g. institutional IACUC, AAALAC, AWEC)? Please submit copies of any such letters of approval.** |
| **Does your project require any other permits from local and/or international authorities/agencies? What permits are these, and have you obtained them? Please submit copies of any such permits.** |

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| **Part VII: Acknowledgment and communication** |
| **a. How will MWG be acknowledged:**  *i.e. logo placement, publication, co-authorship, signage at project site etc.*  **b. What materials can be provided to MWG to communicate on project activities and results:**  *i.e. scientific publication, education materials, posters, presentation to MWG staff or public etc.* |

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| **Part VIII: Conservation and research impact** |
| *Describe in not more than 500 words the direct impact this project has on the enhancement of health, and welfare of wildlife species under human care and/or the improvement of the long-term survivability of wildlife species in their native habitats*  This project will impact the welfare of the involved wildlife species positively. Should the results of the project be as hypothesised, we can implement the usage of enrichment devices as an alternative to typical feeding plates in a mixed species aviary. Even if the results do not conclude with our initial hypothesis it will be taken as an opportunity for the animal care team to further develop upon the method/framework.  By offering the animals with a more complex food presentation, it would allow them to engage in natural feeding and foraging behaviours which they may not have been able to display under human care. Although the environment of a mixed species aviary presents itself with greater opportunities for the animals to interact with the natural elements of the space, food presentation is often an aspect that is limited by husbandry practices (i.e. feasibility, sanitation, sustainability). Likewise, feeding in dens is often kept to a simplistic presentation – mostly for sanitation purposes.  The results of the project will serve as the direction in which animal care can take for Behavioural Management Framework (BMF) in free-flight aviaries and in BOH spaces. |

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| **Section A: Research Project Funding (for staff projects only)** |
| **Budget information** |
| **Total budget needed for project:** |
| **Amount requested from MWG:** |
| **Are you seeking funding or collaboration from any other organization or institution for this project? If so, please declare it here:** |
| **Itemized budget and justification for funds requested from MWG**  ***Example:***   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | ***Item*** | ***Quantity*** | ***Cost*** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | ***Total*** |  |  | |

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| **Section B: Research collaboration involving MWG’s collection or visitors** |
| *Please be very specific with regards to what is needed from MWG (i.e. equipment, manpower, facilities, quantities, access to collaterals, frequencies etc.)*  Equipment: 4 camera traps, 4 enrichment devices (as listed in appendix ii)  Manpower: 1 observer (intern), 1 keeper to assist observer where needed  Facilities: Fragile Forest Biodome, Back-of-House (BOH) Den  Access: Observer will have full access to the Biodome aviary, however, access to BOH dens will be provided by the keeper on duty.  Frequency: Monday to Friday, 0900-1200 and 1330-1630 |

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| **Section C: Biomaterial request** |
| *Note: Requests for biomaterials collection needs to be submitted a minimum of 3 months in advance.*  **Sample details**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Sample type: |  | | Quantity: |  | | Frequency of collection: |  | | Collection timeline: |  | | Expected outcome: |  | | Potential commercial application: |  |   **Collection protocol**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Extraction/collection method: |  | | Specialized equipment/tools required: |  | | Storage containers/buffers: |  | | Storage condition/maximum storage duration: |  | | Please state whether equipment/tools/storage containers/buffers will be provided by or requested from MWG: |  | | Delivery/pickup method: |  |   **Shipment protocol (if applicable)**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Package type: |  | | Packaging medium: |  | | Shipping medium: |  | | Please state whether shipment costs will be covered by or requested from MWG: |  | |

*For administrative purposes:*

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| **Research Panel Member** | **Approval (Signature OR Email)** |
| Dr. Shangzhe Xie, Assistant Vice President, CRV |  |
| Dr. Nathaniel Ng, Manager, Mandai Nature |  |

*For financial support approval:*

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| **Project funded** | **Research Panel Member** | **Approval (Signature OR Email)** |
| ~~Yes~~  / No | Dr. Sonja Luz, Vice President, CRV |  |

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| **Annex I: Terms and conditions of Conservation & Research Assistance**/ **Applicant Declaration**  *(Any assistance by MWG extended to the recipient shall be governed by the following terms and conditions)* |
| **1. Proposal approval procedure**   1. All incoming research proposals will be circulated to MWG’s Research Advisory Panel and Heads of Department (where necessary) for review. 2. As such, applicants should still expect minimum waiting times of two months for proposals that do not require funding, and three months for proposals that request for funding. Additionally, longer waiting times can be expected if there are revisions.   **2. Use of funds or other forms of assistance**   1. Monetary funds or other forms of aid must be used for the agreed purpose only as described in the project proposal. 2. MWG does not provide support of institutional indirect costs such as overhead component and GST (goods and services tax). 3. Funds must be managed by the researcher or project manager named in the proposal. 4. Detailed accounts must be kept and made available for inspection at MWG request. 5. MWG must be notified of any changes in funding requirements, staff and equipment, length of study, scope of the project etc. 6. The researcher or project manager must provide adequate contact details at all times. 7. If biomaterials are requested from animals from the MWG collection, MWG reserves the right and discretion to control or decide on how the results are being shared publicly. In the event of any public sharing or publication plan in relation to such samples, the party wishes to publish or share publicly, shall notify and seek MWG’ prior written consent. 8. Funds will be made available via direct transfer (from one bank account to another). 9. Funds will be transferred progressively at pre-agreed intervals. 10. MWG must have acknowledgement of receipt of all funds.   **3. Data and material ownership**   1. Any materials that are provided by MWG to research collaborators for use in an approved research project:    * 1. may be used by the recipient solely to perform the activities assigned to the recipient party as stipulated in the project proposal;      2. may be used only by the project’s Principal Investigator or individuals under his or her authority;      3. may not be sold or otherwise transferred or provided to any third party;      4. may not be used for any other purpose, including without limitation to provide any service, or for any research or collaboration other than the project; and      5. except as may be expressly set forth in the project proposal, may not be re-used (in the case of consumable materials), disassembled, reverse-engineered, decompiled, reverse-assembled, and/or separated/extracted /isolated from other components with which it was transferred, or analyzed to determine the methods of operation or to reveal proprietary properties.      6. Upon MWG’s request, the research collaborator will return any materials provided by MWG which have not already been used up or discarded. If permission is granted by MWG for the collaborator(s) to discard any used or non-used samples, this must be done in accordance to the relevant prevailing legislation on disposal (e.g. biomaterial waste disposal guidelines).      7. In the event that a collaborator desires to amend the project resulting in a need to violate any of the above stipulations, the collaborator is required to submit a Project Amendment Form and obtain approval from MWG. 2. Each collaborator receiving samples from MWG agrees that it will obtain all necessary approvals, permissions, and funds sufficient for their use of such samples in the project, and the eventual release, dissemination, and publication of project results. This includes having all applicable permits or permissions indicating compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as the necessary government authority permissions required for the transport of the requested Materials out of MWG premises and/or Singapore. 3. Unless otherwise stipulated in the approved project proposal or memorandum of understanding, MWG holds joint ownership of all research data generated or obtained from MWG resources (including collection animals, materials, manpower, laboratory equipment and resources etc.). 4. MWG must be notified and consulted for permission before any data or information derived from MWG resources is disseminated or used in any commercial or non-commercial way. 5. For all potential publications and/or disclosures of research results or information obtained through use of MWG resources, MWG must be furnished with copies in advance of the public disclosure or the submission of any proposed publication to a journal, editor, or other third party. MWG shall, within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the proposed publication or public disclosure, notify the collaborator in writing of its objections. 6. In the unlikely event of objections from MWG, MWG reserves the right to negotiate with the applicants on how to best proceed without compromising scientific integrity as well as professional relationships between MWG, the applicants, and any other third party which may be affected by the publication/disclosure. 7. For published research, subject to the rights of the publisher, each party may reproduce and use any publication or other public disclosure for marketing and other academic and commercial purposes after publication.   **4. Progress reports and use of results**   1. Updates and current results of the project are to be sent to MWG every six (6) months (from the commencement of project) for the entire duration of the project (for progress reports please use the format provided in the appendix). 2. For MWG staff applicants, these reports can be in the form of a written report, presentation, or poster, as decided by the applicant, his/her supervisor, and the associated Liaison from the Research Advisory Panel. 3. A copy of the final manuscript is to be made available to MWG for retention (for final report please use the format provided in the appendix). 4. The publication of all reports, articles, etc. relating to the funded project must include acknowledgement of funding or aid, partial or in full, by MWG. Co-authorship of any MWG staff for papers to be published in peer-reviewed journals (if appropriate), will be reviewed and agreed at the discretion of MWG’ Management including Head of Conservation & Research. 5. The results of the study or project may be made available to the public, international zoo and/or scientific community. 6. The final manuscript may be made available to the public through the MWG website or other medium with due acknowledgement to the researcher. 7. The researcher or project representative may be requested to give one or more presentations to MWG and/or members of relevant community. 8. Unless stated otherwise and subject always to clause 3.8 below, the ownership of the works, and responsibility for its identification, protection and management vests with the researcher. The researcher hereby grants to MWG, an irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license in all countries of the world and in perpetuity, to use, adapt and/or exploit the works for any purpose and in any way it sees fit including enabling MWG to use, archive, preserve and disseminate the study. 9. The researcher is to notify MWG of any commercial exploitation arising from the results of the funded project, in which case, a different set of conditions may be subjected, including without limitation conditions setting out joint ownership of Intellectual Property Rights between the researcher and MWG and/or the percentage in the proceeds of the commercial exploitation which MWG is to be entitled to.   **5. General**   * 1. MWG may cease funding immediately without further obligation in the event any of the conditions herein have not been complied with or remedied within thirty (30) calendar days of being requested to do so. If termination of funding occurs, MWG reserves the right to recover funds in part or full and/or all rights in any works created by the researcher as a result of the funding.   2. MWG reserves the right to amend these conditions at its absolute discretion. Any change will be notified in writing to the researcher and/or on MWG’ website.   3. These conditions shall be governed by the laws of Singapore. All disputes or differences relating to the assistance and these conditions will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Singapore.   4. MWG reserves the right to immediately terminate any agreement that it may have with you at any point in time in the event that you, your organisation(s) and/or any other person, programme or initiative connected to you or your organisation(s) becomes associated with any media reports (traditional, social or otherwise) that may unfavourably impact MWG’ reputation by its association with you, your organisation(s) and/or any other person, programme or initiative connected to you or your organisation(s). Prior to serving termination notice, MWG shall at the earliest opportunity discuss with you its concerns with a view to address the best interests of MWG.   5. In the event that more than 10% of the samples in a research project comes from MWG, the option to contribute to the publication as an author must be offered to at least one MWG staff member.   **6. Collection of Personal Data**   * 1. MWG and/or its subsidiaries, affiliated and associated companies recognize the importance of an individual privacy and Personal Data. MWG’ data protection policy found on MWG’ website ("**Data Protection Policy**") outlines how MWG manages the Personal Data which is subject to Personal Data Protection Act 2012 in Singapore (the “**Act**”). By submitting information to us, communicating with us, or signing up for any products and/or services offered by MWG, you agree and consent for MWG collecting, using, disclosing and sharing amongst ourselves your Personal Data, and disclosing such Personal Data to the MWG' related corporations, indirect parent companies, authorised service providers and relevant third parties in the manner set forth in the Data Protection Policy. For more information, please refer to our Data Protection Policy at [http://www.MWG.com.sg/policies-data-protection.html](http://www.wrs.com.sg/policies-data-protection.html).   2. “**Personal Data**” shall bear the meaning given to it by the Act.   3. We may collect, use and disclose your Personal Data for any or all of the following purposes:      1. performing obligations in the course of or in connection with our provision of the goods and/or services requested by you;      2. verifying your identity;      3. responding to, handling, and processing queries, requests, applications, complaints, and feedback from you;      4. managing your relationship with us;      5. processing payment or credit transactions;      6. complying with any applicable laws, regulations, codes of practice, guidelines, or rules, or to assist in law enforcement and investigations conducted by any governmental and/or regulatory authority;      7. any other purpose for which you have provided the information;      8. transmitting to any unaffiliated third parties including our third-party service providers and agents, and relevant governmental and/or regulatory authorities, whether in Singapore or abroad, for the aforementioned purposes; and      9. any other incidental purposes related to or in connection with the above.   4. Withdrawing your consent      1. The consent that you provide for the collection, use and disclosure of your Personal Data will remain valid until such time it is being withdrawn by you in writing. You may withdraw consent and request us to stop using and/or disclosing your Personal Data for any or all of the purposes listed above by submitting your request in writing or via email to our Data Protection Officer at MWG.dpo@MWG.com.sg.      2. Upon receipt of your written request to withdraw your consent, we may require reasonable time (depending on the complexity of the request and its impact on our relationship with you) for your request to be processed and for us to notify you of the consequences of us acceding to the same, including any legal consequences which may affect your rights and liabilities to us. In general, we shall seek to process your request within fifteen (15) business days of receiving it.      3. Whilst we respect your decision to withdraw your consent and have every intention to honour your decision, please note that depending on the nature and scope of your request, we may not be in a position to continue providing our goods and/or services to you and we shall, in such circumstances, notify you before completing the processing of your request. Should you decide to cancel your withdrawal of consent, please inform us in writing within five (5) business days of our notification.   5. Our reliance on you      1. We generally rely on Personal Data provided by you. In order to ensure that your Personal Data is current, complete and accurate, please update us if there are changes to your Personal Data by informing our Data Protection Officer in writing or via email at MWG.dpo@MWG.com.sg.   **Acceptance of conditions of assistance from MWG**  I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, having requested assistance from the Mandai Wildlife Group Pte Ltd (MWG) for a research project as set out in this application documents, have read and accept the conditions for provision of assistance from MWG, and agree to comply with them.  Signature:    Name:  Date: |