



The Jungle Times

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Halloween in the Jungle



The night of October 31st is traditionally known for the return of goblins, zombies and other scary beings that go bump in the night. Here at DG, however, we took a more amusing and less scary route, with volunteers dressing up in homemade superhero costumes! All volunteers, researchers and staff joined in with carving pumpkins of all expressions, one talented primatologist even managed to carve a tarsier! All in all, it was a lively and enjoyable night for everyone.



New faces at DGFC

Danica Stark, who has recently featured in issues 20 and 21 of the Jungle Times, graduated from Oxford Brookes with a Masters in Primate Conservation has returned to DG, this time however, as a volunteer. She will be undertaking a variety of tasks around the centre, including habitat analysis and primate research which may include continuing the work on tarsier tracking currently being done by primatologist Leah Schein.



Kathrin Röper, a student from Germany, visited DG to study the site for a potential PhD project on proboscis monkeys. She has shown an interest in their bioacoustics and behaviour, similar to the work of undergraduate Anna Nesbit who was here in August. She has also been assisting current PhD student Jenny with her work on tree shrews. With all going well Kathrin hopes to return next year, to continue looking at proboscis monkeys as a PhD project.

Safuan Bin Samsir: A big congratulations to staff members Hasna and Samsir who had a new baby boy in the early morning of 12th November. The beautiful baby boy was given the name Safuan, and is their third child. Some volunteers and staff from DGFC were lucky enough to meet him the week following his birth and will be welcoming the family back to DGFC in December.



So long, Farewell, Auf wiederzehn, Goodbye...

After working here for 3 years as the manager of Danau Girang Field Centre, Zainal Abidin Ja'afar's reign comes to an end. Taking over from him will be Mark from Kota Kinabalu, whose previous job was working for the Wildlife Rescue Unit. Director, Benoit Goossens, says a few words about his time working with Zainal and his departure:



'I met Zainal for the first time in 2001, when I was doing my fieldwork in the Kinabatangan for my orangutan population genetics project. He and his wife, Asnih, were volunteering for the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project. When the idea of setting up a field centre at Danau Girang with the Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University came up, I asked Zainal whether he would be happy to help me in that task. He did not think twice, and him and Asnih accepted the challenge.

In September 2007, they moved to Danau Girang and after nine months of hard work, in July 2008, we opened the doors of Danau Girang Field Centre to the first group of students from Cardiff University. Zainal became the manager and until last month, we worked hand-in-hand to make DGFC a successful field centre. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Zainal for his contribution, for his hard work and for his friendship during this amazing adventure. Zainal, you will always be at home in DGFC'-Benoit Goossens



We also said goodbye to **Jenny** and **Kathrin** this month. Jenny has been here for three months doing a recce for a potential PhD project on tree shrews in order to prepare her PhD proposal. Hopefully we will see more of Jenny in the future when she returns to the centre for her PhD.

'I loved staying here at DG, it is like a family. This place took my breath away, it's such an amazing place and I want to wish a big thank you to everyone here who made my stay so enjoyable'.-Jenny

“Grim hope for the future of Kinabatangan orangutans unless corridors of forest are urgently created”

Researchers and conservationists in Sabah and United Kingdom have shown that a combination of modest translocation rates (one individual every 20 years) and corridor establishment will enable even the most isolated subpopulations of orangutans along the Kinabatangan to survive in the long-term. The study, carried out by the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) in collaboration with Cardiff University, Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC) and the NGO HUTAN was recently published in the scientific journal *Endangered Species Research* (free access on <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v12/n3/p249-261/>).



“We simulated the effects of non-intervention, translocation, corridor establishment and a mixture of the two latter approaches on future genetic diversity in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary’s orangutan population”, explained Benoit Goossens, Director of DGFC in the Kinabatangan and one of the authors of the study. “We found that non-intervention resulted in high extinction risk for a number of



subpopulations over short demographic time scales and that the exclusive use of either translocation or corridor establishment as a management tool was insufficient to prevent inbreeding and extinction in the most isolated subpopulations”, added Goossens.

“Our study emphasizes the importance of reestablishing habitat connectivity and to do it quickly, or else we will inevitably lose small orangutan populations through inbreeding and demographic instability”, stressed Marc Ancrenaz, Co-director of HUTAN and another author on the paper. “The last patches of forests found in Kinabatangan are disconnected by oil palm estates that cut off the forest up to the river bank. In these conditions, orangutans cannot move from one forest to the next. Although short-term solutions such as orangutan bridges can fix momentarily these issues, we need to reestablish contiguous corridors of forest along the river. Efforts from the government, the communities, the oil palm industry and other partners are necessary if we want to save the orangutan from extinction”, added Ancrenaz.



“Our study shows, once more, that orangutans will not survive in small pockets of forest if nothing is done to reestablish connectivity and allow individuals to exchange their genes”, concluded Dr Laurentius Ambu, Director of SWD and a co-author on the paper.

Guess the animal...

(Answers from last month; wood louse, clouded leopard, forest nymph, hawk moth).

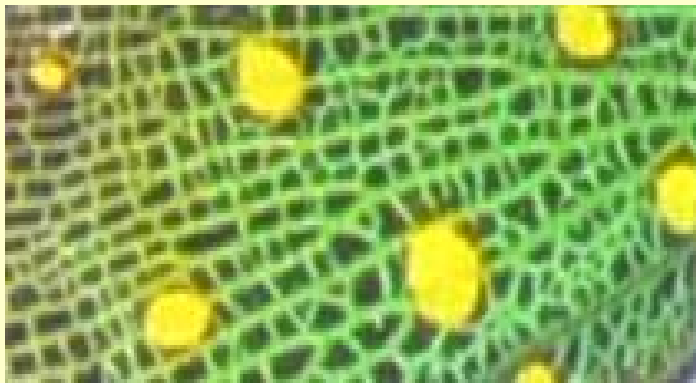


Photo Album



Clockwise from top left; A pair of sleeping scarlet-rumped Trogons, two critically endangered Storm's Storks, A bat from caves at Batangan – the limestone ridge 20km downstream, Guests of DGFC at the top of Batu Tulug, A crested serpent eagle above the river, A monitor lizard moving off the riverbank.



Danau Girang Field Centre

*Danau Girang Field Centre was opened in July 2008.
It is located in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary,
Sabah, Malaysia.*

Danau Girang is owned by the Sabah Wildlife Department and supported by Cardiff University. Its purpose is to further scientific research with the aim of contributing to long-term conservation projects in the area, and develop a better understanding of our environment and the living things we share it with.

Danau Girang Field Centre

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