



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 64

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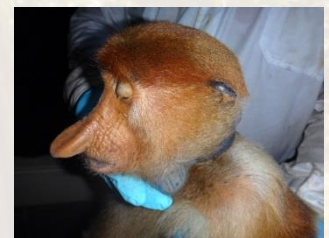
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# Arrivals and Visitors

At the beginning of April we were pleased to welcome Dr Carsten Müller of Cardiff University to DGFC for a couple of days. Dr Müller enlisted the help of Danica Stark, who is currently studying proboscis monkeys for her PhD, to help him collect proboscis monkey faecal samples for chemical analysis back in Cardiff.

We hope you enjoyed your stay here at DG, we really enjoyed having you here!



Minnie Parmiter, PhD student at Glasgow University visited DG at the beginning of April. She is working with the monkey bar project on mathematical models to understand the relationships between malaria in macaques and humans.



# Arrivals and Visitors

Miyabi Nakabayashi is a PhD student from Japan and was based in Danum Valley working on civets. She came to DG to meet with Meg and Sarah and to share their ideas. Hope you enjoyed yourself!



Julia Henke is from Vienna University and is studying veterinary medicine. She will be staying with us for 3 months and will be helping our vet Sergio with various projects. She will gain valuable wild animal veterinary experience. Welcome to DG Julia!



# Sharing our Research

DGFC was pleased to welcome the Monkeybar teams from Kudat and Banggi who came to visit us to experience the research that is being undertaken here. They were accompanied by Milena Salgado-Lynn and stayed with us for five days. They joined many of the projects including slow loris, crocodile, monitor lizard and primate surveys.



We were also pleased to welcome some of the research assistants from Wehea in Kalimantan, Indonesia who came to DG to join the researchers here and learn more about the projects. The team is working as part of the organisation *Integrated Conservation*.



# Civet double trouble

Meg Harris, PhD student at Cardiff University, has been working on the Kinabatangan Small Carnivore Project. She has been trapping and collaring civets to look at their home range and their usage of the area. April has been a lucky month for Meg, who has collared two male Malay civets within a week at a new site. So far Meg has collared five Malay civets. The two new civets are called Bandit and Nakal.



Bandit



Nakal

So far Meg has trapped 23 civets and collected hair and blood samples from them which she will use to look at differing toxin levels in the civets. Faecal samples have also been collected by PTY Sarah Joscelyne who is looking at civet diet.

# Croc captured

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, Luke Evans, PhD at Cardiff University, successfully captured a 2.79m male crocodile. The animal was processed, with samples taken for later genetic analysis. Unfortunately the croc was too small to tag. The students from Cornwall College here on the field course were lucky enough to watch to whole process and experience crocodile research first hand.



The last crocodile Luke collared, a 3.97m female named Zalim, was spotted by DGFC manager Budin recently with the tag still looking securely attached. Zalim is the first female crocodile to be satellite tagged in the Kinabatangan and the data has shown a far greater home range than the previously tagged male crocodiles.



# Cornwall College Field Course

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March we were joined by 9 students on a field course run by Andrew Smart from Cornwall College. The students spent most of their time carrying out fish and bird surveys and a few of them carried out their own projects such as assessing the fish diversity of the Kinabatangan river. The students also joined the researchers here at DG on their current research projects. They participated in monitor lizard trapping, nocturnal primate tracking and one lucky student got to participate in the sampling and collaring of a Malay civet. The students were also lucky enough to be present for the sampling of a crocodile led by PhD student Luke Evans.



# Cornwall photo album:





## Quotes from the students:



**Felicity Skilton** - This is where my dream came true! Seeing a wild orangutan was amazing, thank you everyone.

**Joanne Endean** – Better than I could have ever expected. I learnt so much and I am hoping to return next year to expand my frog project.



**Lauren Sheith** - Thanks for an amazing time here. I have shared some special memories with people that I will never forget. Everybody here has made this trip worth while.



# Proboscis Monkey Collaring



Danica Stark, PhD student at Cardiff university, is studying proboscis monkeys and their movement patterns. To do this she is satellite collaring individuals to assess home range and land usage. Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) have been here to help Danica try and collar four female proboscis monkeys. They have successfully managed to collar two females and one male while they have been here.

So far Danica has managed to download the points from 2 out of the 3 monkeys which is excellent news as it shows the collars are working.



# Easter celebrations

The 20<sup>th</sup> of March was a day of celebrations. Not only was it Easter day but it was also French student Morgan's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Thanks to a generous tip from Leiden University we were able to celebrate with a feast of pizza, burgers, BBQ chicken and a ginormous chocolate cake. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this delicious event.



We also baked some Easter goodies using cornflakes and Milo paste.



# Elephant update

DGFC, Sabah Wildlife Department and WWF-Malaysia are using satellite collars to track the movement of elephants in central Sabah. So far five female elephants from different herds have been collared. The data from the collars is also being used to look at the elephants' land usage. This information will be used in conservation friendly land-use planning and to try and reduce conflict between the elephants and humans.



Movement data for three of the five females until March 2014

A two day workshop was held in Sukau, Kinabatangan and attended by staff from the Sabah Wildlife Department, HUTAN and DGFC about human-elephant conflict. Most of the people attending had more than 10 years experience working in this area. The reason for the workshop was to discuss a systematic way of gathering information on human-elephant conflict to help better understand the issues. Training on technologies such as GPS and satellite tracking was also undertaken.



# Other news...

Sad news from Tabin Wildlife Reserve this month. It has been discovered that the female rhino, Iman, captured in Danum Valley, who at first displayed signs of pregnancy, actually has a large collection of tumours in her uterus. This significantly lowers her chances of becoming pregnant which is a huge blow for Asian rhino conservation. The large size of the tumours suggests that Iman has not been sexually active for five to ten years, highlighting the small population size of wild Sumatran rhinos. Hope is not lost though and plans for in vitro fertilisation and other techniques are under way.



DGFC/WildCRU/Gilmoore

A mother binturong and her cub were caught on a camera trap. This is only the second camera trap picture of a binturong captured in 4 years!

# Other news continued...

Baby loris update! Boss, the collared slow loris, and her baby are doing extremely well, with the baby starting to move around by itself and follow its mother. PTY Hannah Wilson will be following them both closely to monitor their relationship.



**LUSH**  
FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS

DGFC and the Sabah Wildlife Department are pleased to announce their new partnership with LUSH cosmetics. LUSH is a cosmetics company that takes a tough stance on animal testing and is donating \$29,000 towards "Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade – Pangolin Project in Sabah, Malaysia"

Tour operators are putting their clients in danger by allowing them off the boat to get a closer look at the elephants. Not only does this seriously endanger the tourists, it also disrupts the migration patterns of the elephants. This needs to stop before someone is seriously injured.



# Match the Fur

Can you match the fur to the animal?



Bay cat

Malay civet

Sun bear

Otter

Clouded leopard

## Jungle Fact of the Month

Proboscis monkeys have evolved webbed feet and hands to help them swim when they cross rivers and tributaries

Answers: 1 = Bay cat, 2 = Malay civet, 3 = Clouded leopard

# Conservation Corner: Rafflesia

**Common name: Rafflesia (Corpse flower)**

**Scientific name: *Rafflesia arnoldii***

**Status: Endangered**

## Threats:

- Deforestation
- Over collection

## Ecology:

Rafflesia is a parasitic flowering plant. The flowers have a penetrating, repulsive smell like rotting meat. *Rafflesia arnoldii* is the largest individual flower on earth. The flower can have a diameter of up to 106 cm and can weigh up to 10 kg. Rafflesia is totally dependant upon a vine called *Tetrastigma*, which is related to the grapevine.



## Conservation:

- Found only in Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, southern Thailand, Borneo and southern Philippines.
- All known species of Rafflesia are threatened or endangered.
- Most species are highly localised and are therefore vulnerable to extinction because of habitat disturbance.



# Photos of the Month!



Pictures left to right: Baby slow Loris; Centipede; Otter; Kieran and the children; Clouded leopard with collar; Wehea team with DGFC staff; Harlequin tree frog; Proboscis monkey; Clouded leopard team; Male orang-utan; Caterpillar.

## 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**

Lot 6  
The Jungle  
Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sabah

Email: [danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com](mailto:danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com)

*Editors: Hannah Wilson and Anya Tober*

*Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens*

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