



# The Jungle Times

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# Visitors



This month we were joined by Zander, Calix and Nicholas along with their film crew and family for three nights. The team were filming for a program aiming to encourage young people to get involved in conservation. Whilst here they participated in a number of different activities and were lucky enough to take part in a crocodile tagging procedure getting up close and personal with this amazing reptile. Hopefully they can inspire the next generation of budding scientists to continue to protect and research the amazing wildlife this world had to offer.



# Departures

## Steve

In November we said goodbye to Steve, a masters student from Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Steve has been with us for two months collecting primate fecal samples for his project; looking at the anthropogenic pressures on distribution and diversity of zoonotic gastro-intestinal parasites.

It has been hard graft, with very early mornings and very wet afternoons gathering samples and performing censuses. We wish him all the best in finishing his masters thesis.





# Sabah Scientific Community Forum

The first Sabah Scientific Community Forum, organised by Sabah Wildlife Department, DGFC, HUTAN, Project Seratu Aatai and WWF-Malaysia and funded by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, was organised in Kota Kinabalu on the 28<sup>th</sup> this month. It was attended by about 50 national and international scientists working in Sabah. The participants designed a series of recommendations to mitigate possible results of human-wildlife competition in non-protected forests.





# Connecting Sunda clouded leopards across Sabah

A half day workshop called “Connecting Sunda clouded leopards across Sabah” was held in Kota Kinabalu on the 29<sup>th</sup> this month. It was hosted by the Sabah Wildlife Department, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, University of Oxford and DGFC. The objectives were to present a cutting edge toolkit approach to model the effects of land use change on wildlife populations, and to discuss more widely the issues affecting the population connectivity of Sunda clouded leopards in Sabah. The workshop built on the earlier efforts of our 2017 International Workshop on Sunda clouded leopard Conservation in Sabah that was funded by Yayasan Sime Darby, and aimed to discuss the potential effects of the Sabah Development Plan on these rare and elusive felids.





# Crocodile tagging

Another successful crocodile tagging took place this month as part of Kerishas' PhD project. The crocodile was named Tenang, a three metre female. Well done to everyone that helped!





# Update from Gaya Island

Charlie and Meg have been at Gaya Island Resort for 4 months now. They have both started working on their projects now, and Charlie has started setting up 30 camera traps in order to understand the impact that the resort and the trails used by the guests have on the wildlife. Meg is building a nursery for seagrass and is planning to visit close by seagrass meadows on the island to collect seeds and shoots to start propagation. They recently assisted in the rescue of a juvenile green turtle which had been caught in a fishing net and were lucky enough to be able to help during its release a few days later when it was shown to be completely healthy.





# Conservation corner:

## Bornean Elephant



*Elephas maximus borneensis*, this beautiful subspecies of Asian elephant is listed as endangered on the IUCN red list, as there are approximately 1500 left in the wild. Bornean elephants are the smallest type of elephant in the world, are more gentle natured than their Asian counterparts, and have a complex social system. They have large brains that allow them to memorise behaviours, locations, and scents.

Females have extremely

strong bonds with their offspring and stay together in herds roaming through their home range. Adult males live solitarily in their own home range. Home ranges are determined by the matriarch or the elephants' need for water, minerals and certain types of food. Bornean elephants eat over 130 different plant

species and consume around 4% of their body weight each day which can be up to 5000kg.

Unfortunately, Borneo elephants continue to be threatened by habitat loss, hunting, poison in water or food, and isolation of herds which can lead to inbreeding.





# Match person to project

Miriam



Rich



Elisa



Kerisha





## 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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