



The Jungle Times

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OUR 100TH ISSUE OF JUNGLE TIMES!

Special thanks to everyone who has had a hand
in publicising the efforts and achievements of
DGFC

Inside this issue:

Page 2: Arrivals

Page 3: New PhDs

Page 4: Goodbyes

Page 5: Primate Field Course

Page 6: Project Dragonfly

Page 8: Portland State University

Page 10: Wan's Wedding

Page 11: Pangolin Release

Page 12: Future of Clouded Leopard

Page 13: Conservation Corner

Page 14: Classification Jumble



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Arrivals

Aaron Sambrook

Our fourth PTY, Aaron, has joined us this month arriving 4th August. Aaron studies zoology and is interested in doing a project on the many resident frog species. Throughout this month, the PTYs here have helped Aaron settle in and brought him up to speed with all the day to day tasks.

Kate Dwyer

Kate arrived in August and is working at DG as a volunteer. Kate has a degree in biochemistry and has previously worked in microbiology positions but is now starting a new adventure gaining valuable experience here before moving to New Zealand.



New PhDs

We have two new PhD students joining us this month as well. Rebecca Brown from Dundee, undertaking her PhD at Glasgow University, is working on vectors of malaria *P. knowlesi* mosquitos found in primates. Rebecca has previously worked with one of our current masters students, Maz, on the MonkeyBar project in Malaysia. So far during her stay here, Rebecca has been out testing collection methods for mosquitos and then will be setting mosquito traps under macaque sleeping trees.

Our other PhD arrival is Dave Kurz from Maryland, who is studying how fragmentation has affected movements of bearded pigs at the University of Berkeley. Before forests became fragmented, during times of mass fruiting, bearded pigs would undergo migrations in herds across large regions, but now fragmentation is likely to stop these movements. Dave will be at DG for approximately ten months and will be collaring pigs throughout the sanctuary.



Goodbyes

Angus Chaplin-Rogers

Unfortunately, Angus' year at DG has finally come to the end. His project involved assessing the impacts of fragmentation on sauria parasite populations and the effects this has on the lizards themselves. Angus also helped set the majority of PTYs in good stead for their year ahead; training them on activities such as tracking animal sleeping sites and canopy. We wish Angus the best in his final university year and future career!



Ellie Rankin

At the start of this month, we were sad to say goodbye to Ellie. Ellie arrived with the University of Kent field course and then stayed as a volunteer for two months. Ellie was particularly helpful in Kasia's small mammal project. Ellie has now gone back to finish her final year of university with an idea of doing her dissertation on chimpanzees in the illegal pet trade. None of us will forget Ellie's bubbly and excitable personality and we hope to see you again soon!



Primates Field Course

Earlier this month, the primatology field course completed their time here, led by DGFC member, Danica. Many of the participants were studying psychology at University of Portsmouth, others were students from Italy and the Netherlands. The students got involved in slow loris sleeping site tracking, parasite work and primate surveys, as well as having the opportunity to look for wildlife on the canopy platform. Their projects included examining learning types in infant macaques, environmental and human effects on proboscis monkey vigilance, play bouts, isolated play and group play in infant long tailed macaques, stress levels in long tailed macaques and the effect of the group state on the intensity of aggression in adult long tailed macaques.



Project Dragonfly

A few weeks after our first Miami field course, we had the second half of the Project Dragonfly cohort visit us for five days. Maximising their time here, everyone had the opportunity to take part in research projects, exploring the rainforest and developing their own research. They were able to get involved in current projects such as the nocturnal primate project by tracking slow loris sleeping sites, exploring the rainforest via bird and primate surveys along the Kinabatangan river, as well as night walks. During their time, they were able to see many species of primates, birds of prey, hornbills and a special sighting of a male elephant that was passing through camp. Aside from these activities, the group also got to conduct their own short research projects. Projects were produced on topics such as class diversity of invertebrates between the buildings and jetty as well as distribution of elephant faeces in the rainforest.

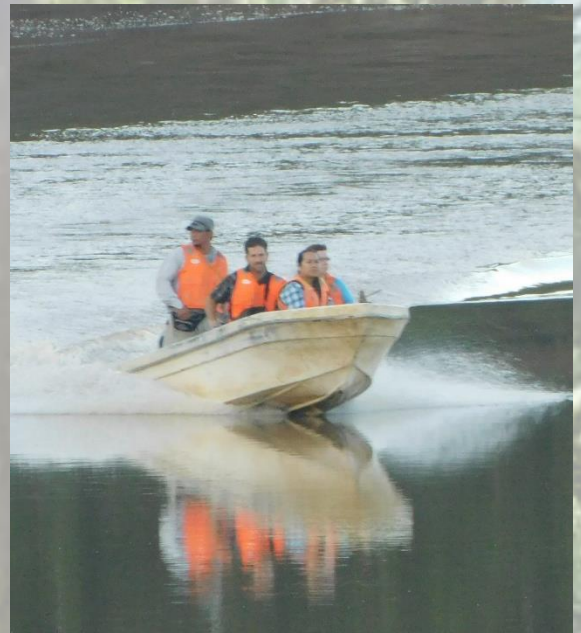


Project Dragonfly Continued

“The staff here have been amazing! Showing us the forest and the wonders that can be found within has been a truly amazing experience. Thank you, thank you for all your hard work trying to save the world”
– Darcy Richardson



“You all have been inviting with tours and lectures. Thank you for warming up to us so quickly. Keep up the good work and very excited to see what results you find. Good luck!”
– Jessica Peterschidl



“Thank you so much for the incredible hospitality during our stay. The staff were incredibly accommodating with so much. We also learned so much during our trips out and around the centre. We also were happy to get to meet with everyone during informal times too. We felt very welcome!”
– Camden Hanzlick-Burton

Portland State University Field Course

Portland State University returns for its second visit to DGFC, with 9 students arriving on the 20th August. The students were accompanied by Dr Luis Ruedas, an associate professor of the Department of Biology.

The field course was the last class many of the students had to participate in before they graduate. Their time at DG was spent doing botanical plots, measuring the tree trunk diameter and canopy cover to see if there was a significant difference between different sites in the forest. They also utilised data collected by PhD student Rebecca, to see if genera of mosquitoes correlates with aspects of the site's physiognomy.



Portland State conc.

“DGFC has been a very refreshing and a life long experience I will always remember. Everyone who keeps this place running is awesome! I really enjoyed having no internet connection. It was a nice change” - Alec Anderson



“This has been an unforgettable experience. Thank you for demonstrating what onsite tropical conservation looks like. It’s good to get out of the city for a while!” – Andrew Clements

Wan's Wedding!

Congratulations to our logistics officer Wan on getting married this month! We would like to welcome Noneh to the DGFC family!



Pangolin Release

This month the residents of DG were lucky enough to see a pangolin release carried out by our PhD student, Elisa. The pangolin was being sold in Sandakan when a very generous person bought it and gave it to Elisa to be released. The female Sunda pangolin was named 'Kirana' which means 'beautiful' in Malay.



The future of the clouded leopard

A recent article by Mongabay highlights DG's collaborative work and explores how the expansion of palm oil and subsequent habitat fragmentation has affected the clouded leopard species in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

It highlights that researchers are developing a toolkit to use extensive data in Sabah to identify potential areas for reconnection. However without action, director of DG, Benoit Goossens, believes that the future is bleak.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Crested fireback
Scientific name: *Lophura ignita*
IUCN status: Near Threatened



Description and Ecology:

The crested fireback is a medium sized forest pheasant. The crested fireback is found in lowland forests of the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo. The species is sexually dimorphic with the male having a peacock-like dark crest, bluish black plumage, reddish brown rump, black outer tail feathers, red iris and bare blue facial skin (pictured above). The female is a brown bird with a short crest, blue facial skin and spotted black-and-white below (pictured below). The diet of the crested fireback mainly consists of plants, fruits and small animals. The female normally lays between four and eight creamy white eggs.

Conservation:

- It listed on Appendix III of CITES in Malaysia
- Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Overhunting



Classification Jumble

Connect the scientific names to the correct classification level

Kingdom: **Pholidota,**

Phylum: **Manidae,**

Class: **Chordata,**

Order: **javanica,**

Family: **Animalia,**

Genus: **Mammalia,**

Species: **Manis**

Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Pholidota, Manidae, Manis javanica

ANSWER

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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