



The Jungle Times

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Inside this issue:

Page 2: Arrivals

Page 4: Departures

Page 5: Visitors

Page 6: Visit from Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid

Page 7: Nicole Duplaix Interview

Page 9: Winners of Borneo Jungle Diaries

Page 14: Family Visits

Page 15: Aberystwyth Field Course

Page 16: Science Corner

Page 17: Elisa's Award

Page 18: Conservation Corner

Page 19: Jungle Anagrams

Page 6:



Page 9: Winners of Borneo Jungle Diaries

Page 15: Aberystwyth Field Course



Arrivals

Alex Rose

Alex is the fifth and final PTY from Cardiff University for this coming year, having arrived at DGFC at the start of the month. Alex studies Biology and is thinking about carrying out his PTY project here on reptiles. In addition to enjoying the forest and wildlife, Alex is a keen sportsman, playing basketball for the Cardiff University team, and is keeping everyone on their toes at badminton.

Theo Jones

As well as a new PTY joining us, we also have a new volunteer! Theo will be staying with us for 10 weeks, helping with all the projects. Theo has had a change of heart after graduating from University with a degree in Engineering and is now looking to move into conservation. Theo has previously spent two years in Japan teaching English to children in a rural community. Theo learned about DG when he met recent DG MRes student Kasia, who took part in the same programme in Japan.

Juan Manuel Aguilar Leon

Juan is back again! He is here to collect more frog samples for his PhD on frog population genetics of the lower Kinabatangan Floodplain. Juan will be taking buccal swabs and tissue samples from frogs throughout the wildlife sanctuary.



Left to right: Juan, Alex, Theo

Departures

Owen and Kate!

This month we were very sad to say goodbye to two of our volunteers, Owen and Kate. Owen was with us for two months, and Kate for six weeks. Owen has returned to Cardiff ready for the second year of his undergraduate degree. Kate has travelled on to New Zealand where she starts the next leg of her exciting adventure. We wish them both good luck for the future, they will be greatly missed!



Visitors

Nicole Duplaix

We were lucky enough to have Dr Nicole Duplaix, a senior instructor at Oregon State University and the Chair of the ICUN Otters Specialist Group visit us at DG this month.



Melissa Savage



Dr Melissa Savage an Associate Professor Emeritus at University of California, joined Nicole on her trip to DG. Dr Melissa is interested in the human impacts on forests, forest restoration, fire ecology and resource and wildlife conservation.

The pair explored some of the trails around the centre, in the hopes of encountering some of the flora and fauna active both at day and night. Although they did not encounter any otters during their stay, they were lucky enough to find a herd of elephants whilst on a morning boat survey.

Visit from Tan Sri Zakri

This month, DG were privileged to receive Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Tan Sri was interested to visit DG after watching our Borneo Jungle Diaries series. He was very impressed by what we achieved since the opening of DGFC 10 years ago. He was accompanied by Puan Yatela Zainal Abidin, CEO of Sime Darby Foundation; Dr Simon Lord, Group Chief Sustainability Officer for Sime Darby Group; Mr. Lee Ming Enn, Head Environment, Safety & Health for Sime Darby Group; Mr. Benny Lim Seng Lee, Social Impact Specialist, Group Sustainability & Quality Management for Sime Darby Group; Mr. Tang Men Kon, Head Plantation Sustainability & Quality Management; Ms. Muzdalifah Mohd Nasir, Head Projects, Yayasan Sime Darby; Mr. Muhammad Hafizuddin Mohd Arif, Assistant Manager – Projects, Yayasan Sime Darby; Mr Augustine Tuuga, Director Sabah Wildlife Department; Mr Jimli Perijin, SWD's Kinabatangan District Officer and many others. A big thank you to the DG family for making this visit very special!



Interview with Nicole Duplaix!

Is this your first time in Borneo?

No, the first time I came was in 2010 for the Small Carnivore Conservation Congress in KK and then I went to Danum and this is my second trip. Although I've worked with Meg Evans since 2013 and with Leona who is now in the USA.

What has been your favourite part about staying here?

Seeing the elephants chomping away on the cane grass, that was very nice as I hadn't seen them the last time. And I love proboscis monkeys and crocodiles and we saw 4 species of monkeys yesterday so that was pretty cool.

How do you think the area around DG suits the needs of otter species?

What I'd like is that in spite of everything there is a riparian corridor more or less but I find the water very muddy and I worry about otters here. I know there are a few but there should be many more and that's because of sedimentation in the water and probably insecticides.

Interview with Nicole Duplaix, continued.

What activities have you been up to?

Well we went to see the oxbow lake but it was pretty low and I didn't expect to see otters there. Mainly what we've been doing is talking about projects and what we can do for otters in Borneo and future activities.

What are your plans for after you leave DG?

Make sure that we find the right people and the right funding to do those activities.

What inspired you to work in otter conservation?

When I was at University I volunteered at the local zoo which was the Bronx Zoo in New York and I wanted to study parasites and they said that's really boring, study otters! And that's how I got started and that was in 1966.

Winners

September marked the start in the visits of the Borneo Jungle Diaries Quiz winners!



Tan

Our first visitor of the Borneo Jungle Diaries quiz competition joined us for 4 days. Tan, a 19 year old chemical engineering student from Kota Kinabalu, stayed to lend a hand with all the research ongoing and was lucky enough to also see elephants during his stay.

Judy

Judy, our second winner (left), a secretary from KK and her friend Nicole joined us. The couple got hands on with the tracking of lorises, night walks and searching for pythons on night boats.



Interview with Tan

What was your favourite episode of Borneo Jungle Diaries and why?

That would have to be the first episode because that episode explains what's going on in this centre and the issues facing the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

What is your favourite thing you saw here?

The Bornean elephant that I saw just now.

What made you interested in conservation?

I can see the original rainforest that has a huge biodiversity of flora and fauna, and because I'm very interested in plants, I can see the old trees. I can now see the damage that has been done. I think there should be more effort to conserve our biodiversity.

Is this your first time in the Kinabatangan and, if so, what do you think of it?

Yes, this is my first time in the Kinabatangan. This place is awesome with a wide range of biodiversity like monkeys of various species such as the macaque and proboscis monkey, as well as other primates such as orang-utan. Also all of the many types of insects I have seen here, I love them.

Does being here make you want to work in conserving Sabah's wildlife?

Yeah, like you guys. Just maybe in the future after I finish my studies. So after my studies I would like to train to conserve the biodiversity here in Sabah.

Winners



Wen Qing

Our third winner Wen Qing also joined us with Judy and Nicole. Wen Qing, who is usually working in Singapore conducting bird surveys, brought her interest in birds to the centre, and was constantly enthused and eager to get

involved with any activity!

Amal Najmi

Our fourth winner and his brother Amal Naquib joined us at the centre on the 28th. Najmi is a third year veterinary student and his brother, a final year agriculture student at UPM, and they have been getting involved



with as much as they can. All the while Najmi was studying for his pharmacology exam on Monday. Good luck Najmi!

Interview with Judy and Wen Qing

Is this your first time in the Kinabatangan?

Wen Qing: Not my first, I've been doing photography here before.

Have you always been interested in conservation?

Judy: Yes I like nature so I get attracted to this kind of thing when it is shared on Facebook, that's when I saw the episodes.

Wen Qing: Yes I think exposure to TV series like National Geographic, made me carve out a path to work in conservation but it wasn't intentionally so, but I immersed myself when I did my undergrad in biological sciences in Singapore.

What were you most looking forward to before coming here?

Wen Qing: Definitely the birds and the Kinabatangan River and to see what research is being conducted with regards to local biodiversity and involving the local community and how they can integrate well together.

Judy: I was hoping to see the elephants which we did on the boat ride coming here, and to experience the Kinabatangan. I'm local but I've never been into the rainforest so this is an eye opening experience.

What was your favourite thing you've done while being here?

Judy: The boat ride and seeing the proboscis monkeys and elephants

Wen Qing: The boat ride and bird watching, that was the best.

What was your favourite episode of Borneo Jungle Diaries?

Both: Elephant!

Has this inspired you to want to do something with conservation?

Wen Qing: My main reason for coming here was to get to know the researchers better and then see how maybe in the future I can communicate that to a wider audience because I am interested in making documentaries, so I first need to understand what it happening before I can pass that on.

Judy: I feel I need to come back and stay longer because 2 days is just too short to see everything, if I am not working I will be here volunteering.

Interview with Amal

What was your favourite episode of Borneo Jungle Diaries and why?

The pangolin episode because they are endangered animals and its nice to see a group of people working with this animal and I am really proud that the woman behind this research is Elisa Panjang, she is Malaysian, Sabahan so I am proud. I also liked the crocodile and slow loris episodes.

What is your favourite thing you saw here?

The first thing would be the main building of DGFC itself because I have only seen it on TV shows so when I came here it was a dream come true. The second thing would be the people, I love the people that are working in DGFC, the fact that this small group of people are doing something big. So DGFC and the people and then the animals.

What made you interested in conservation?

I started with wildlife and then I moved to conservation. Most people are only aware of species that lots of people are talking about but they forgot about small groups of species that are also facing danger or extinction, like the clouded leopard and porcupines. So conservation is very important for these species and they need attention from people.

Is this your first time in the Kinabatangan and, if so, what do you think of it?

This is my second time in Kinabatangan, my first time was with a programme in Sepilok. I think it is quite good and very stable and composed of important wildlife and habitats. It's good to know there are people keeping the ecosystem stable and the wildlife in good conditions.

Does being here make you want to work in conserving Sabah's wildlife?

First I am going to study for my exams and then I'm looking forward to coming back if I have the chance. Since I'm a veterinary student, I'm planning to have more wildlife conservation experience and do my final year project on reptiles. If I have the chance I may do research here.

Family Matters



The Burgers (+ Molly)

The rest of the Burgers came and joined Rich at DG for a second taste of jungle life after a family holiday to Danum Valley. The Burgers went on several walks on the trails surrounding DG and even went out to catch pythons.

Dr Kntayya

Kerisha's dad came down to DG this month to support Kerisha during her presentation in front of Tan Sri Zakri. Dr Kntayya, a retired Social Science researcher, also got to see first hand what research his daughter is doing on saltwater crocodiles.



Aberystwyth Field Course

Joining us again at the centre for their 10-day field course, the group spent their time collecting botanic samples for BOLD (Barcode of Life Database), which will aid studies into plant-pollinator interactions and diet analysis.

Additionally, they took samples from saplings, in order to identify them using BOLD, as the saplings can't be identified morphologically. This will allow Dr Natasha de Vere and her team to compare the current adult tree community to the sapling community and then predict what the rainforest might look like in the future. Some of the field course students were lucky enough to see an orang-utan, and all had the opportunity to see the capture and processing of reticulated pythons.



Science Corner – Published Paper

Co-infection patterns of intestinal parasites in arboreal primates (proboscis monkeys, *Nasalis larvatus*) in Borneo

Annette Klaus, along with DGFC Director Benoit Goossens and others, published a paper this month in International Journal for Parasitology. The paper focused on co-infection of intestinal parasites in proboscis monkeys. The study identified that there is a high prevalence of various gastrointestinal parasites that have potential transmission pathways related to soil. The parasites have zoonotic relevance in wild proboscis monkeys and thus these findings should be considered when suggesting new conservation actions in habitats near human settlements, as well as managing captive populations.



Elisa's Conservation Award

This month, DGFC member Elisa has been chosen to receive the Houston Zoo Wildlife Warrior Award! The award was designed to honour outstanding conservationists from developing countries instrumental in protecting their local wildlife. Well done Elisa!



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Bornean falconet

Scientific name:

Microhierax fringillarius

IUCN status: Near Threatened



Description and Ecology:

The Bornean falconet is the world's smallest bird of prey, measuring 15cm in length. This species of falconet is endemic to Borneo and found only in Sabah. It is classified as near threatened since the population is declining, predominantly due to forest degradation, though it's thought the species is tolerant to some degradation. Forest edge habitat serves as the most suitable habitat to the Bornean falconet with the population being widespread but scarce across lowland and hill terrain. Its diet typically consists of large insects but falconets are also able to catch small birds and lizards.



Conservation:

- It is listed on Appendix II of CITES
- Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Trapping for the cage-bird industry

Jungle Anagrams

Can you rearrange these anagrams to reveal the Bornean animal?

- a) rutanagno
- b) tanelhp
- c) ceuqama
- d) cicordelio
- e) tinorom zardile
- f) livres gaurnl
- g) ticev
- h) toyphn
- i) nocrhosier nohliblr
- j) kiskn

a) Orangutan b) Elephant c) Macaque d) Crocodile e) Monitor lizard f) Silver langur g) Civet h) Python i) Rhinoceros hornbill j) Skink

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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