



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Steve Peter

Steve joined the centre this month from Kota Kinabalu. A Masters student from Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Steve is studying parasitology of the primate species in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. Steve conducts surveys along the river to locate primate groups and collect faeces, before analysing the parasitic load in the lab. Steve has already collected samples from many species around the centre, including an orangutan!



Sophie van der Hart

Leiden University Masters student Sophie arrived at the beginning of the month to start her three month ant and termite field work. Alongside Elisa, Sophie is completing a survey of the species present here in the Kinabatangan, in order to gain more information about the diet of pangolins. Sophie is surveying three different habitats; hills, palm oil plantations and riparian forests. Already during her field work, Sophie has been able to find giant forest ants! We wish Sophie the best in her field work!



Visitors

Bob Hartley

Bob is co-founder of Robotix Dragonfly in Kota Kinabalu. He visited DG this month to do a recce for future aerial surveys of the Wildlife Sanctuary. He also taught masters student Maz about drones for use in detecting macaques.



Andrew MacIntosh

Andrew came to DG with new Masters student Steve to help him start his project on primate parasites by collecting faecal samples.

Andrew is an Associate Professor at Kyoto University Primate Research Institute Japan which have a collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah in Kota Kinabalu.

Annual General Meeting

On the 10th and the 11th of February, DGFC held the Annual General Meeting! Most of the DGFC field, KK office and lab staff came together at the centre to discuss the upcoming year, and what improvements can be done to make the field centre more efficient. Discussions were also held on the new exciting projects that will begin this year and what they entail. The Annual General Meeting was a special time for the DGFC team and was a chance for the lab, office and the field staff to see each other and catch up!



Annual General Meeting continued

On the second day of the meeting, DGFC held a sports day that was organised by DGFC members Maz, Leona and Kerisha. The DGFC team were split into 3 groups, that competed against each other in mini games to win different prizes. Many were played and in the end team Froglin came first!



The Winners – Team Froglin

Protected Pangolins!

The launch of the pangolin sculpture at Sandakan airport coincided with the Sunda pangolin being granted total protection in Sabah, preventing hunting and trade of pangolins.

The sculpture was unveiled by Future Alam Borneo and DGFC, and graced by Datuk Kamarlin Ombi, Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment. It was created by artist Japson Wong using recycled plastics.

Earlier this month Elisa, Houston Zoo's Wildlife Warrior, had travelled to the US to attend the ZACC conference to present her work on the Sunda pangolin. Elisa then visited Houston Zoo, who sponsors her work to learn more about the conservation work they do at the zoo and around the world.

We are all proud of the work achieved by Elisa and everyone involved in protecting the world's most trafficked mammal – the pangolin.



Science Corner

Bearded pig (*Sus barbatus*) utilisation of a fragmented forest–oil palm landscape in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo **Published in Wildlife Research**

Bearded pigs utilise the fragmented forest and oil palm landscape in Sabah. The bearded pig is of great ecological, social and conservation importance in Borneo, and has been seen to be in decline in many areas throughout the island. Past PTY student Kieran Love used survey data from transects and camera trap data in order to assess pig activity patterns, body condition and minimum group size. Kieran found signs of pigs in all forest transects and 80% of plantation transects, finding correlations between increased canopy cover and pig presence, and, a negative correlation between presence and grass cover. The paper outlines that though the pigs are present in both habitats the pigs are far more prevalent in forest sites, these sites are being used for a wider range of activities, highlighting the importance of forest sites for pig populations in the study area.



Science Corner continued

Global Demand for Natural Resources Eliminated More Than 100,000 Bornean Orangutans Published in Current Biology

Exploitation of natural resources is increasingly affecting tropical areas, though advancements in technology has allowed for more information to be gathered on land cover change, the long term effects are largely unknown. Using field survey data, predictive modelling and remote sensing has shown that between 1999 and 2015, half of the orangutan population was affected by deforestation, logging or the conversion of forest to plantation. Selective logged and primary forests were found to have the highest levels of loss, despite having lower rates of decline, due to the greater number of orangutans. The paper then goes on to explore ways of addressing the complex causes of this decline across political and social sectors.

Nasalization by *Nasalis larvatus*: Larger noses audiovisually advertise conspecifics in proboscis monkeys Published in Science Advances

This month a paper has been published on this charismatic Bornean primate, linking the size of the male's iconic nose to body, testis and harem size. This finding supports both male-male competition, and female choice as factors for the evolution of this trait. Nasal enlargement systematically modifies the resonance properties of the male vocalisations, which is likely to indicate male quality. Meaning enlarged noses act as an audiovisual advertisement to females. This is the first primate research to evaluate the evolutionary processes involved in linking morphology, acoustics, and socioecology with unique masculine characteristics.

Snake Shindig!

This month Rich successfully tagged two new pythons! Named Terung and Tebing, the snakes have been released with their VHF tags, and are being tracked every other day. Tebing will give interesting data far from the centre and being the first snake to test run Rich's new tag 'back pack' design.



Camera Trap Mishap

Some camera traps have malfunctioned and caught out of focus images! Please help the team by IDing some of the animals seen around the centre.



Turn to the next page for answers!

Conservation Corner:

**Common name: Bornean
frogmouth**

**Scientific name: *Batrachostomus
mixtus***

IUCN status: Near threatened



Conservation:

No current conservation actions are in place, however several have been proposed. These include surveying specific sites to improve knowledge of the Bornean frogmouth's ecological requirements, and then assess its potential distribution and likely threats to its survival. Areas of suitable habitat can be prioritised for protection against threats.

Description and Ecology:

Some taxonomists consider the Bornean frogmouth to be a subspecies of the short-tailed frogmouth, but others believe it to be a distinct species. It is restricted to Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia, and Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Threats:

The main threat to the Bornean frogmouth is habitat loss. Forest loss has been extensive in Borneo due to logging operations, agricultural expansion and severe forest fires in Kalimantan.

A: Long Tailed Macaque, B: Malay Civet, C: Storm's Stork, D: Bearded Pig

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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