



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals



We are very happy to welcome two volunteers to the centre this month! Jon Treasure (left), from Cardiff, is stopping at the centre on his way home from New Zealand after five months of traveling and farm work. This is Jon's second time at the centre, after visiting DG 10 years ago! He's loved seeing how DG has evolved over the last decade. Ceire Byrne (right) is a graduate from Anglia Ruskin University, who is originally from Ireland. She is returning to Sabah for the second time, after falling in love with the state on a trip last year. Ceire heard of DG in a hostel, and couldn't wait to return and get stuck in with all the research going on at the centre!

Dr Michael Kreger

This month we had a visit from Dr Michael Kreger, the Vice President for Conservation at Columbus Zoo. Dr Kreger was visiting Sabah to get involved in the projects that the zoo sponsors. At DGFC, Columbus Zoo sponsors our elephant, nocturnal primate, bearded pig and saltwater crocodile projects. During Dr Kreger's visit, he was able to join in these projects; assisting Dave in his trapping methods and following Kerisha on a crocodile survey catching hatchlings to get tissue samples for genetics work.

Also while at DGFC, Dr Kreger was able to get excellent viewings of the Bornean elephants which were making an appearance in the vicinity of the centre.

We are grateful for all the support Columbus Zoo provides and look forward to future collaborations.



DGFC Scientific Retreat



This month the students, lab staff and support staff all met at Beringgis Beach Resort for the annual scientific retreat! This gave all of the DGFC family the chance to brainstorm ideas, strengthen bonds and plan for the future. 2018 marked the biggest attendance for the retreat yet at 22 attendees! Celebrating 10 years of success for the centre, with plenty more to come!

Anglia Ruskin Field Course

Anglia Ruskin University came to visit from the 16th to 21st. The group of 20 masters students took part in, and helped with many of the projects currently running at DG. This included slow loris sleeping sites and the tracking of monitor lizards and civets. In addition to this they assisted with the ongoing PTY projects; habitat selection of raptors and pythons as well as assessing the functional diversity of frog communities.



A visit from the elephants!

This month, we were lucky to be visited by a herd of elephants passing DG. Many of the researchers at the centre had not yet had an opportunity to get a good view of these amazing animals, so it was very much enjoyed by all, including the field course who arrived at a very lucky time! There were several viewings from the river and some people even got to see them by the field centre.



Conservation Corner

Common name:

Dugong

Scientific name:

Dugong dugon

IUCN status: Vulnerable



Ecology and Behaviour

The dugong is a medium sized marine mammal and it is also the only strictly herbivorous marine mammal. The dugong is the only sirenian in its range, which spans the waters of some 40 countries and territories throughout the Indo-West Pacific. The dugong is largely dependent on seagrass communities for subsistence and is thus restricted to the coastal habitats which support seagrass meadows. The largest dugong concentrations typically occurring in wide, shallow, protected areas.

Conservation

The dugong has been hunted for thousands of years for its meat and oil. Traditional hunting still has great cultural significance in several countries in its modern range, particularly northern Australia and the Pacific Islands. The dugong's current distribution is fragmented, and many populations are believed to be close to extinction. Despite being legally protected in many countries, the main causes of population decline remain anthropogenic and include fishing-related fatalities, habitat degradation and hunting. With its long lifespan of 70 years or more, and slow rate of reproduction, the dugong is especially vulnerable to extinction.

Butterfly or Moth?

Guess whether each of the following is a butterfly or a moth!



Answers: Top left- moth, Top right- butterfly, Bottom left- moth, Bottom right- butterfly

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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