



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Tom Smart

Tom is a recent arrival at DGFC and will be staying at the centre for eight weeks. He is half-way through his Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation at the University of Leeds, and has come to DGFC to build up his field skills and experience. He has a particular interest in behavioural ecology, and is considering applying for a PhD in this field after completing his Master's.



Sarita Mahtani-Williams

After recently graduating from Cardiff University with a First, Sarita has flown out to DGFC. Having completed a laboratory placement for her PTY, DGFC now offers her the opportunity to gain fieldwork experience. Sarita will be undertaking a Master's in Conservation and Biodiversity at Exeter University.



Departures

We are all extremely sad to be saying goodbye to two integral parts of the DG team, PTYs Jaz and Max have returned to the UK after completing their year long placement at DG! Jaz spent her year studying the nesting sites of the Bornean bearded pigs and how their presence effected the composition of the forest.



Jaz brought her enthusiasm and creativity to both the field, and the games she created for jungle times. Max's project was on millipede diversity in the wildlife sanctuary and assessing the efficiency of sampling techniques. As the self appointed 'Head PTY', his initiative and attention to detail benefitted everyone at the centre. We wish both of you a great summer, and best of luck for the rest of your undergrad.

Dave Kurz

After eleven months at DGFC, it was time to say goodbye to PhD candidate Dave who has returned home. Having been the first person to collar a Bornean bearded pig, nicknamed the jungle hipster, Dave was looking to uncover pig movements in a human impacted landscape. Historically, Bornean bearded pigs undertook large migrations across Borneo upon mass fruiting events. However, this may no longer occur due to readily available palm oil food source surrounding many forests in Sabah. Back in the USA, Dave will complete the genetics component of his PhD. Dave will certainly be missed by all of the team.





Also leaving us at DGFC this month were **Nikolaj Marggrander** and **Jon Treasure**. Nikolaj was undertaking an internship here as part of his Master's, gaining valuable fieldwork experience. During his time here, Nikolaj was renowned for his enthusiasm. *Wi warden dich vermissen!*

Jon was volunteering at DGFC after spending time in New Zealand. Jon made himself a valuable asset to the team, helping the PTYs to finish their fieldwork. We wish Jon all the best.

University of Kent

Students from University of Kent visited DGFC at the start of this month. The students all designed and carried out their own projects during their stay. Project topics ranged from primate behavior, dung decomposition and millipede diversity. They also took part in camera trapping and bat sampling led by their lecturers. The group was lucky enough to see an adult and adolescent orangutan on their first day!



Oregon State University

Visiting DGFC for only a few days, Oregon State University got stuck in exploring the rainforest and following along with the projects currently ongoing. They were able to observe a python being sampled, and surveyed for birds and primates. During their short stay, they saw some of the exciting wildlife here such as a slow loris and rhinoceros hornbills.



Miami Field Course

The first of two groups from Project Dragonfly from Miami university came to stay from the 23rd to the 28th June.

While here, the students helped with the projects currently running such as slow loris sleeping sites, flat-headed cat camera trapping, and the python project.

They also came up with their own projects that they collected data for during their time. These included projects on bird abundance in disturbed versus undisturbed areas, macaque behaviour, butterfly abundance in open and dense areas, and the distribution of mosses.

You guys came here with so much enthusiasm and you will all be greatly missed, thank you!



Conservation Corner:

Common name:
Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Scientific name:
Caretta caretta
IUCN status: Vulnerable



Description and Ecology:

The loggerhead sea turtle is the world's largest hard-shelled turtle. The average loggerhead measures around 90 cm and weighs approximately 135 kg. The skin ranges from yellow to brown in colour, and the shell is typically reddish brown.

The loggerhead sea turtle is found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. They spend most of their lives in the open ocean and in shallow coastal waters, only briefly coming ashore to lay eggs. The loggerhead sea turtle has a low reproductive rate; females lay an average of four egg clutches and then become quiescent, producing no eggs for two to three years. They are omnivorous, feeding mainly on bottom dwelling invertebrates.

Loggerheads are classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Untended fishing gear is responsible for many loggerhead deaths. Turtles may also suffocate if they are trapped in fishing trawls. Loss of suitable nesting beaches and the introduction of exotic predators have also taken a toll on loggerhead populations. Efforts to restore their numbers will require international cooperation, since the turtles roam vast areas of ocean and critical nesting beaches are scattered across several countries.

Under the Sea

Guess the sea creature

B _ U _ _ _ I N G C R _ _ _
N _ _ _ _ I _ U S

- crustacean
- cephalopods, lives in deep waters

_ _ _ O _ S _ S _ _ U _ D
_ _ G E _ _ P _ A W _

- Absolutely massive!
- Gets its name from its stripes

S _ _ C _ _ _ M _ _ R
_ _ A N _ _ C _ _ M
N _ D I _ _ A _ _ H

- Marine invertebrate
- Largest Bivalve
- Mollucs that can have extraudonary colours

T _ _ _ _ _ T F _ _ H

- Long animal found in Caribbean waters

_ _ U _ T _ G
B _ _ D _ D B _ _ _ E _ _ L _ _ I _ H

- Dory
- they often swim in pair. Colouration helps to camouflage

_ _ T T _ _ _ I S _

- can change the colour of its skin

_ _ _ W _ _ F _ S _

- symbionts with sea anemones

C _ E _ A _ _ _ T _

- once thought to be extinct

S _ _ _ T _ _ N S _ _ N G _ _ _

- often spends time near the sea floor

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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