



# The Jungle Times

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# Arrivals

## **Amy Hilger & Dominee Cagle**

Amy (left) and Dominee (right) arrived at the beginning of July after completing a field course in Sabah where they learned about palm oil's effects on human and wildlife populations. Dominee studies Wildlife Sciences at Oregon State University and Amy has recently graduated.

Dominee is interested in tropical conservation, gaining field experience, and elephants! She has experience surveying amphibians, raptors, and bioacoustic monitoring of bats.

Amy is interested in the biodiversity of tropical ecosystems. She has experience tracking and trapping predators in Le Grande Oregon.



## **Martina Haufe**

Martina arrived midway through July to volunteer at DGFC. She has experience cleaning the Mediterranean sea floor and campaigning against shark fishing. Martina came to DG to experience life as a tropical field biologist and because of her interest in primates and insects.

In the future she would like to pursue marine field biology and conservation.

## Elizabeth Witcombe & Jamie Owen

Lil and Jamie recently arrived at DGFC to start their placement years through Cardiff University. They're both studying Biological sciences (zoology) and are both from the green county of Devon, England. Lil has a particular interest in primates and conservation biology. Jamie is most looking forward to hands-on experience tracking animals and learning about tropical conservation.



## Nicholas Lim Kang Wu

Nicholas has just finished his first year at Cardiff University, studying Biomedicine.

From Kuala Lumpur, this humorous multilingual volunteer is interested in parasites and reptiles. He hopes to use field experience at DGFC to further his studies into infectious diseases.

# Visitors



## Anthony

Anthony joined us this month after attending a conference in Kuching. Anthony works at Ocean Park in Hong Kong which funds many of the projects at DG. He joined in on python boats with Rich, camera trapping and was brave enough to go up the canopy platform!

## Angus, Hester, Cameron & Iona

Angus visited in August as an instructor for the Cornwall College field trip and returned to DGFC with his family for a few days as part of a tour of Borneo! They took part in night walks, night boats and even set up their own camera trap!



## Thye Lim and Lin May

Joined us from the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. They helped to set up baited camera traps for the Sun Bear project. The resulting photos will be used to identify individual bears from their chest markings.

# PTY Departures

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to the rest of the 2017/18 batch of PTYs here at DG. Aaron, Alex and Luke have spent the last year at the Centre, helping out with all the ongoing research and completing their own projects. The boys are now returning home for summer before heading back to Cardiff to finish their under grad.



Alex from Cornwall has been looking at habitat selection in pythons. Alex was the resident jungle gym junkie and would always be a source of motivation for people to get active.

Luke from Cardiff was looking at perch site preference in raptors along the Kinabatangan. The nerdiest of this batch of PTYs, without him there will be significantly less Star Wars chat around the dinner table!





## Aaron

Aaron from Swansea has been looking at the functional diversity of frog populations here at DG. He also did a great job at training the new PTY's. Aaron had a great sense of humour and an infectious laugh, and he will be surely missed. DGFC will be a lot quieter without him!



# Departures



## **Ceire Byrne**

Ceire is returning to the UK after spending 2 months here at DG. She plans on developing her knowledge of tardigrade taxonomy, then returning to Borneo in the hopes of identifying new species. We wish Ceire the best of luck on her search for new “beasties”!

## **Sarah Foster**

Sarah is a graduate from Cardiff Uni and has been with us for the last 5 months gaining some field experience. Sarah is now heading back to the UK where she hopes to start a Masters in scientific imaging!



## **Sarita Mahtani-Williams**

Sarita was with us for just a month but became an integral part of the team. She returned to Cardiff just in time for her graduation! She now plans on starting a Masters in conservation and biodiversity at Exeter Uni! Good luck Sarita!



# Miami University



The second Project Dragonfly course from Miami University joined us this month. The students helped out with the ongoing projects at the centre, as well as conducting their own research inquiry. Inquiry titles ranged from: epiphyte abundance at edge vs interior forest, differences in bioacoustics in with varying distance from the centre, as well as seeing whether having a scientific background impacted whether someone would chose a western researcher over a local guide.

The group was enthusiastic and great fun, we wish you all the best of luck with the rest of your Masters programme!



# Cardiff University



Cardiff University joined DGFC this month for two weeks, led by Dr Benoit Goossens and Dr Pablo Orozco-terWengel. The Cardiff group got involved in many activities being undertaken here at DG such as tracking the slow lorises, primate boats and bird mist netting. On their last day they were even lucky enough to see the elephants as they came right up to the main building!

During their time here, the field course students also undertook their own projects with titles including: "How human disturbance affects skink numbers and flight response around the DGFC centre", "Habitat characterisation of python sleeping sites" and "Species richness and evenness of butterfly populations on the forest edge vs further into the forest."

# Gaya Island

For the first time DGFC have two PTY students from Cardiff University working on Gaya Island! Currently Megan Hooker and Charlotte Taylor are shadowing the naturalist team at Gaya Island Resort and taking part with the hopes to lead in the future the activities that they offer for the guests. These activities include guided nature walks, kayaking through the mangrove forest, night walks and off-tracking into the jungle. They are also assisting in the ongoing research projects at GIR, which includes monitoring of mammals such as proboscis monkeys and red giant flying squirrels. They are hoping to begin their own research soon to aid the current work of the team.”



# Scientific Papers

## **Spatio-temporal ecology of sympatric felids on Borneo. Evidence for resource partitioning?**

Understanding how species coexist can inform conservation strategies. This study focused on four Bornean felid species, the Sunda clouded leopard, bay cat, marbled cat, and leopard cat. From 2007-2014 intensive camera trap surveys were carried out in forest areas and oil palm oil plantations. The study revealed evidence of niche separation, both temporally and spatially, among the four species. For example the smaller marbled cats and bay cats avoid habitats commonly occupied by the larger clouded leopard. While the bay cats and marbled cats overlap spatially and temporally, the marbled cat is adapted for arboreal life which separates their niches. There was also tentative evidence that prey selection may vary between all felids which would aid co-existence.

Spatio-temporal ecology of sympatric felids on Borneo. Evidence for resource partitioning? HEARN AJ, CUSHMAN SA, ROSS J, GOOSSENS B, HUNTER LTB, MACDONALD DW, 2018. *PLoS ONE* 13(7): e0200828.



# Conservation Corner:

**Common name: White Crowned  
Hornbill**

**Scientific name: *Berenicornis  
comatus***

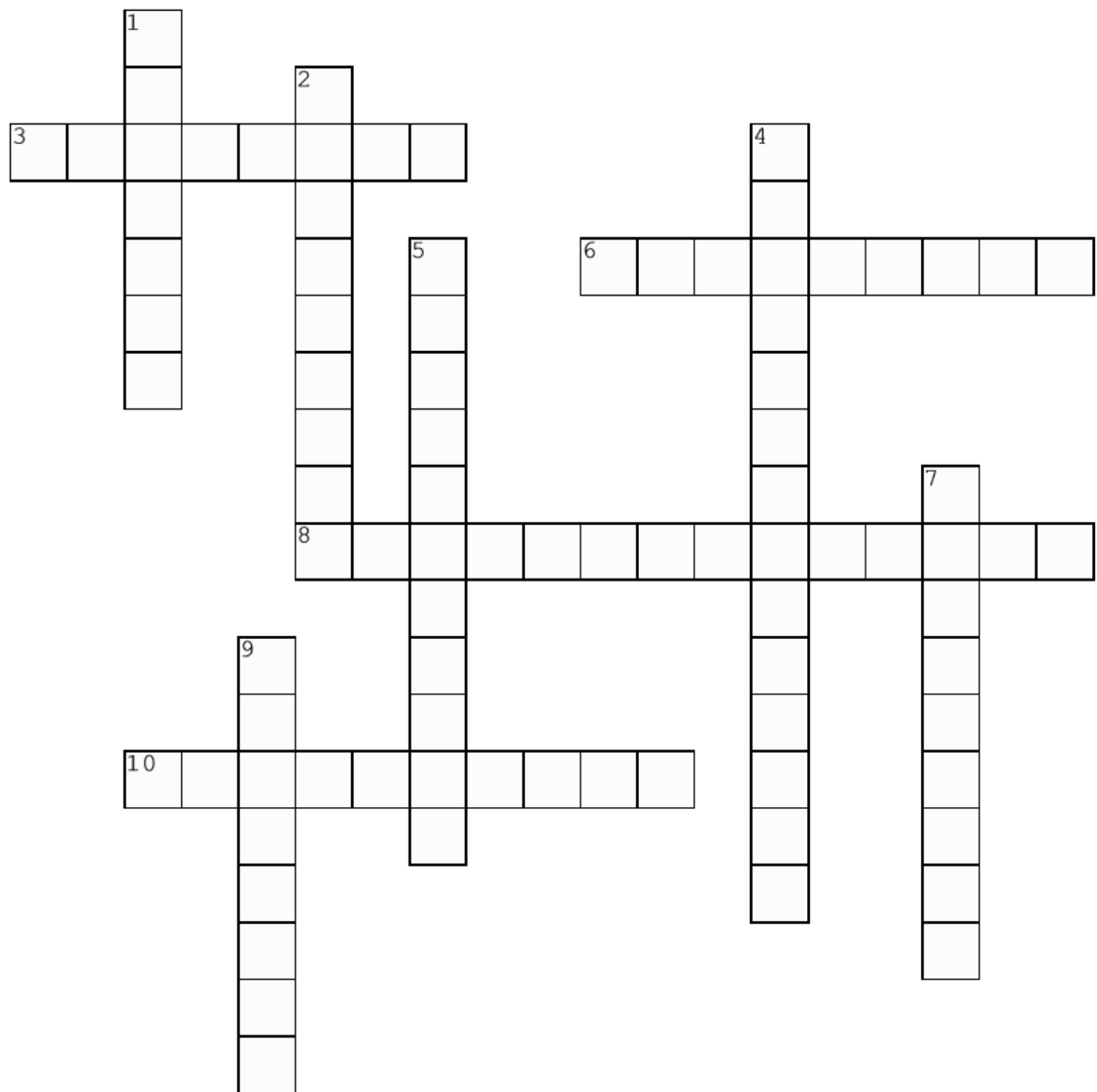
**IUCN status: Near Threatened**



## **Description and Ecology:**

The White Crowned Hornbill is a large hornbill, reaching a length of 83–102 centimetres. Females lay their eggs in a tree hole before sealing themselves in by blocking the entrance to the nest with droppings, debris and mud. The male, and other adults and young forming a cooperative group, feed the breeding female and the chicks through a narrow hole. The female breaks the sealed area and leaves the nest when the chicks are able to fly.

This species is found in the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo and inhabits rainforests at low and medium altitudes, usually at an elevation below 900 meters. It may also be found on fruit, oil-palm and rubber plantations. It is threatened by habitat destruction.



**Across**

- 3. Keratin + electric, gas, and water
- 6. People of the forest (Malay)
- 8. Largest living land mammal's lawn
- 10. Emperor Angler

**Down**

- 1. Nocturnal, long tail, don't feed after midnight
- 2. A thousand feet
- 4. Keep an eye on this reptile
- 5. Unshaven schwein
- 7. Flies pollinate parasitic plant
- 9. Crescent breast crest.

## 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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