



# The Jungle Times

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# Arrivals

## Shakinah Ravindran

This month we welcome Shakinah to our team. She has just submitted her masters thesis at the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. For her masters project Shakinah was looking into pest control management on an island off Peninsula Malaysia using raptors. More specifically: controlling the rat population through the introduction of Barn owls.

Shakinah comes to volunteer at DGFC for two months to expand her research techniques and get more field experience. The pangolin and sun bear projects are of particular interest to her.

In the future she would like to pursue a PhD involving wildlife conservation.



# Visitors



In April, Dr Benoît Goossens invited his friends Marie and Franck Noyaret to visit the centre – Marie was a very good friend from his time at Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France, 30 years ago. The sunrise bird-spotting was particularly enjoyable for them, as was the sunset primate boat. They learned about all the important work DGFC staff and students carry out on a daily basis, and thoroughly enjoyed their brief visit to the rainforest!

# Cornwall College



The Cornwall College field course joined us this month. Dr Angus Jackson, a lecturer at the college, lead various activities which ranged from river mapping to identification classes of birds, primates, and fish. The field course students also assisted PTYs Ben, Jess and Lil with their Bachelor projects. Cornwall College was a small group but made up for it with enthusiasm and a witty group dynamic. We wish you all best of luck for the rest of your degree!

# Science Corner

Stark DJ, Fornace KM, Brock PM, Abidin TR, Gilhooly L, Jalius C, Goossens B, Drakeley CJ, Salgado Lynn M (2019). Long-tailed macaque response to deforestation in a *Plasmodium knowlesi* endemic area'. *EcoHealth* doi: 10.1007/s10393-019-01403-9.

When the land-use change results in an increasing spatial overlap between humans and wildlife, the rate of infectious disease transmission between people and animals may increase. It is hypothesised that the increase of malaria *Plasmodium knowlesi* in Malaysian Borneo is caused by deforestation and the resulting increase in contact between people and macaques. To test this hypothesis, DGFC's Danica Stark and team fitted long-tailed macaques with GPS collars to study the movement of these primates during a deforestation event in a *knowlesi*-endemic area in Sabah, Malaysia. From this data, land-cover maps and models were developed to evaluate how macaque habitat use was influenced by land-use change. It was observed that macaque ranging behaviour is disturbed by deforestation events, but begins to equilibrate after seeking and occupying a new habitat, potentially impacting human disease risks due to increasing contact between people and macaques.



# Conservation corner: Bornean sun bear

The Bornean sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) is the smallest bear species in the world and its love for honey and honey comb has given it the nickname 'honey bear'. Besides honey, this omnivorous species feeds primarily on termites, ants, beetle larvae and a large variety of fruits.

Sun bears do not hibernate as the tropical environment means that there is year round food availability. These bears are usually solitary animals, except for females with their young. Females mate at around three years of age and have one or two cubs. The cubs are born blind, hairless, are totally dependant on the mother, and are suckling for around eighteen months.

The primary threats to the Bornean sun bear are habitat loss and commercial hunting. They are also among the three bear species targeted for the illegal trade of bear bile and other derivate. These are factors which have lead to their 'vulnerable' status on the IUCN red list. The species is under Schedule 1 (Totally Protected Species) of the Sabah Wildlife Enactment 1997.



# What's That??



See if you can identify what animals have set off the camera trap, some are a bit camera shy.

## 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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