



# The Jungle Times

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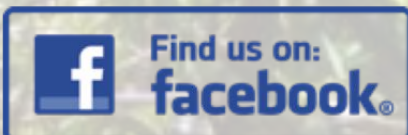
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# Arrivals

## Wong Lok Jinn – Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Jane is a Sabahan, who comes to DGFC as part of an internship scheme from her Uni. She has completed two years of her zoology degree, and joins us for 10 weeks to build on her practical skillset. So far she has thoroughly enjoyed learning about camera trapping and its uses for many of our projects. The reptiles and amphibians are of particular interest, with the sheer variety of frogs seen here taking her by surprise.

**“Seeing crocodiles up close in the wild is exhilarating! You can drive right past a four metre giant and catch a quick glimpse before it returns below the surface.”**



# Arrivals

## **Ella Hearne and Georgie Daykin – University of Cambridge**

Our latest arrivals join the team for 11 weeks in their summer break. The two girls are Natural Science undergraduates, coming to DGFC before beginning their final year in Cambridge. Both wish to pursue a career in conservation and are finding this opportunity to volunteer here invaluable. They are taking part in a field course in September and therefore decided to extend their time in Sabah beforehand, so they get the full experience of what the rainforest here has to offer.

Ella (right) is fascinated by the primates. “The orangutan hanging around outside my bedroom is hard to believe. I wanted to experience seeing them, but did not anticipate it would be able to see them this frequent and easily! Fantastic!”

Georgie (left) loves getting down and dirty trekking through the forest. “It’s great to see the diversity on display here in all its glory. I really hope to see some wild cats during my stay.”



# Arrivals

## **Global opportunities – Olivia Tejada Matthews and Jack Peter Ford**

These two Cardiff Bioscience graduates were lucky enough to receive a grant from Global opportunities to come and visit DGFC for 4 weeks. This is the second year students have been awarded with this grant, allowing them to experience the field research going on at DGFC.

Olivia is a geneticist, looking to gain an insight into the world of conservation and ecology. She wants to keep herself as many options as possible and came to DGFC to determine whether field genetics is the future discipline she wants to move into. “I enjoy being immersed in the elements of the tropics. I find it incredibly liberating!”

Jack is a zoologist and a keen writer. He has been inspired by his visit to compose some hard-hitting poetry about the struggles of conservation and his experiences with wildlife (see next page). Asked why he wanted to visit DGFC, he remarks: “I’ve learnt the theory, now it’s time to apply it in the field. No better place to come to see the impact that conservation work can have than at DGFC.”



## The Jungle Beats – by Jack Peter Ford

*Jungle beats.. Sweat and bleed,  
Jungle green.. Fresh and gleam,  
Humidity high, 100%, wet air and a heavy head,  
The scent of scat from bats and macaques, not the mention  
those wild cats,  
As wild wades through the thick density of wet leaves, fallen  
seeds and intertwined breeds of trees,  
The air swells with a flush of presence, a warming essence.*

*The tangled beams of trees, the mess of roots and ripened  
fruits encompass large swathes of this diverse land,  
and spills it's colour along the river banks,  
The fantastic Kinabatangan river!  
Cut right through blind strife like a fluid knife,  
Large, wide and full of pride.*

*The forest at night wakes up alive,  
Flooded with sound and insect surprise,  
And when the sun rises, the light breaks the sky,  
Hornbills take flight while nocturnes sleep in their hides,  
Heat starts to resonate through this complexity,  
Winding through the growing density,  
Reverberating the humid flow,  
and allowing all things green to grow.*

# Visitors

## **Priyatharisiny Vasu**

Priya is a masters student in journalism from Cardiff University. She came to DGFC for three days to film some shots for her final project which focuses on oil palm plantations. Although Priya is still a student, she has been a working journalist for over seven years. Having grown up in Kuala Lumpur oil palm and its impact on the natural environment is an issue close to her heart. As well as shooting in plantations, Priya was also able to take part in some exciting activities such as joining a night boat, snake hunting in plantations and searching for scat. She was also able to interview some of our scientists to get an idea of the important research that is taking place here at DG.



# Departures

## Shakinah Ravindran

Shakinah spent three months with us here at DG getting involved in all our current research projects. She particularly enjoyed tracking our tagged pangolin Berkot, especially when she was able to get a visual of this elusive creature. Shakinah was able to gain valuable skills while volunteering at DG: not only did she become proficient in camera trapping she also took part in her first small carnivore collaring procedure (a Malay civet). In addition to the exciting field work that takes place at DG, Shakinah also enjoyed the many delicious cakes and getting involved in a heated game of Blitz.



**‘So long and thank you for all the food! Hopefully I’ll be back here in the future with a project of my own.’**

# PTY Departures



## Jamie Owen

Jamie is the first of our 2018/19 PTYs to leave DG and we were all sad to see him go. Jamie spent the year researching butterfly abundance and diversity in the forest surrounding the field center using trapping and transect data. Jamie has now moved on to take part in a field course on Gaya Island and will then return to Cardiff to complete his undergraduate degree.

**‘Thank you to everyone at DGFC, for making all the amazing memories and experiences. I will never forget this year.’**



# PTY Departures

## Elizabeth Witcombe

Lil spent her PTY investigating hollow logs around DG, focusing on what animal taxa uses them and what they are using them for. Her research has the potential of informing future projects on how artificial hollow logs could be used in plantations or regenerated forest to increase and improve biodiversity. During her time here, Lil enjoyed learning what it really means to be a researcher and recalls acting as vet assistant during a clouded leopard procedure as one of her highlights. Lil was a much loved member of the DG family and will be sorely missed.

**'I have had such a wonderful year. Thank you!'**



# Miami University

DGFC were delighted to host 18 masters students from Miami University this month, all of whom were eager to get involved in all this field centre has to offer. As well as fieldwork, the students also enjoyed multiple talks about the importance of our current research projects. They also carried out individual projects and presented their findings to the group at the end of the week. However, it was not all work and no play! As Miami's stay came to an end, these lovely ladies threw a talent show much to the delight of everyone here at DG.



**'Thank you for your time and your patience! We loved every experience you provided'** Alicia

**'Thank you so much! We loved learning everything from pythons to pangolin research. What was most inspiring was to see your perseverance even when things don't always work out. I have a whole new appreciation for the work that each of you do.'** Diane

# Civet collaring

June has been a very busy month at DGFC as carnivore project leader, Dr Miriam Kunde, has opened up civet-, sun bear,- and clouded leopard traps. She is hoping to catch and collar these amazing animals to find out more about their spatial ecology and how they adapt to a human disturbed landscape.

So far, with the guidance of DGFC's very own civet expert Meg Evans and the help of our wonderful new vet Maca, we have successfully caught and collared two male Malay civets in lot 5 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. Welcome to the family, Harold and Edward!



# Science Corner

## **Shift of paradigm needed towards improving human–elephant coexistence in monoculture landscapes in Sabah**

DOI: 10.1111/izy.12226

You can request a PDF from: [goossensbr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:goossensbr@cardiff.ac.uk)

Members of the DGFC team recently published a paper in *International Zoo Yearbook*. The paper is focussing on the struggles faced by elephants and humans co-existing in the palm oil landscape that covers large parts of Sabah.

At the time of writing, the land-use planning system favoured by the government insufficiently incorporates the ecological and management needs for elephants across the entire landscape. The article also highlights the conflicts between humans and elephants, and the importance of improving collaboration between stakeholders.



# Conservation Corner



Common Name:  
Malay Civet  
Scientific Name :  
*Viverra zibetha*  
IUCN status:  
Least Concern

The Malay civet (*Viverra zibetha*) is part of the Viverridae family and can be found across the whole of Malaysia as well as the Philippines. These nocturnal omnivores feed on invertebrates, small vertebrates and fruits. Due to their opportunistic nature they can also be found stealing scraps from human occupied areas which puts them under threat of being hunted as pests.

These civets play a vital ecological role both in seed dispersal and rodent control and are reasonably tolerant of degraded habitat. However, there is a paucity in the spatial ecology data for these animals. This is why we have and are continuing to GPS collar individuals to gain more insight into how they are using this environment.



# Where's Judi Dench?

DGFC had the pleasure of hosting the fabulous Dame Judi Dench back in April while she was filming her up coming documentary 'Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure', episode one airs on ITV1, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Episode two, which will feature DGFC, airs 9<sup>th</sup> July, ITV1.

Oh no! Judi and the PTYs went for a walk in the forest and have managed to get lost!

Try and spot Jamie, Jess, Judi, Lil and Ben



## 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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