



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 123

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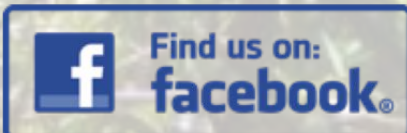
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Arrivals

Myra Mansell Venegas

Myra is from University of Kent, England. She is undertaking a professional placement year involving two three month stints in conservation organisations. She chose to come to DGFC following a field course in central Kalimantan where she was learning about peat forest ecology and wildlife. She will go to Chile for the remainder of her work experience.

Myra developed a love for tropical rainforests following her time living in Lima and visiting the Peruvian Amazon. In Sabah she hopes to develop her research and field skills. “I am hoping that my contribution to the important ongoing research here will help me to decide upon my future career. I would really appreciate the chance to help with the small carnivore project.” Myra understands that she has a chance to actively make a difference here, “Participating in any work that may directly aid the conservation of an endangered species would be phenomenal!”



PTY Arrivals

Harriet Miles

Harriet is a Cardiff University student originally from Southampton here at DGFC to complete her professional training year. She is the first of our new PTYs and spent her first two weeks with the Cardiff field course, which gave her an insight into all the research taking place here at the field centre. Harriet is keen to explore the jungle and can't wait to get up close and personal with all the fascinating creatures, especially spiders. Harriet is interested in how over populations is effecting climate change and having a knock on effect on our environment but is excited by conservation as a whole. Back in Cardiff Harriet is a member of the belly dancing society and hope to continue this hobby out here in the jungle.



Olivia Fitzpatrick

Olivia is our second PTY student from Cardiff University whose home town is Plymouth. While at DGFC Olivia is keen to explore the new culture, meet new people and immerse herself in a new language. Being away from the hustle and bustle of society has given her the opportunity to rediscover her love for reading and she hopes to make her way through as many novels as possible. In terms of wildlife Olivia is most excited about seeing wild orangutans in their natural environment but she also has an appreciation for the smaller insects who are often over looked.



Visitors

Oystein and Jenne Flagstad brought their daughters, Anna and Hana to the Bornean rainforest in the hopes of seeing wildlife in its natural habitat and to experience what it's like to do research in this tropical environment. During their stay they took part in primate surveys, night walks and they even helped to track our tagged pangolin.



'Wonderful stay at Danau Girang! Learnt a lot, saw a lot and met a lot of wonderful people'

Jack Burkett (left) and Karan Juj (right)

Two Cardiff University computer science students joined the Cardiff field course this year with the hopes of starting a long term collaboration between conservation and computer science. During their stay the boys tested their dissertation projects which focused on computerised solutions to antipoaching while also helping solve problems faced in an isolated field centre.



Visitors

Cécile Vanpé, Oksana Grente and Charith Perera

Cécile (middle) and Oksana (second from the right) visited us from France along with Charith (far left) from Cardiff University Computer Science Department. Charith came to work alongside Tommy (our data manager, second from the left) helping with camera trap data. Cécile and Oksana came to explore the jungle and helped us with many projects on the go. Cécile works on brown bears in a national park in France and was intrigued to see the similar techniques used here for sun bear research. We took them out on the late afternoon boat to do a primate survey and take some pictures of the wildlife around!



Departures

Ivan Bialy

After an inspiring six weeks at DGFC Ivan now plans to continue in the field of conservation but has discovered a new found respect for fieldwork. While faced with the challenges of mosquitoes, humidity and adjusting to tropical life Ivan also relished in the opportunity to take part in a civet procedure. Ivan was then fascinated to see the GPS data collected from the collared civet showing the individuals home range.



'Quickest 6 weeks of my life! Loved the work and the food and the people most of all'



Olivia Tejada and Jack Ford

Although they were only here for a month our visiting Cardiff students really got involved in everything DGFC has to offer. During her stay, Olivia established that jungle life was not for her but she leaves with lasting memories of elephants, orangutans and bearded pigs that she will always treasure. On the other hand, Jack continued to be inspired during his stay here and while the elephants and orangutans were a highlight for him he was also particularly fond of a specific primate boat which took him down one of the mighty Kinabatangan's tributaries and 'into another world'.

PTY Departures



Ben Pridmore

Ben is the penultimate PTY to leave from our 2018/19 bunch and even with medical difficulties holding him back at the beginning of the year he managed to persevere with high spirits and left with the largest data set ever collected for the elusive and endangered Storm's stork! With this data set in hand Ben will go on to hopefully publish a report on the ecology of this mysterious creature. Not only was Ben hard working and dedicated but he also motivated others to fulfil their potential. Ben was a much loved member of the DG family and we will miss his 'culinary facts of the day' and boot camp work outs.

Cardiff University

Cardiff University students joined us for two weeks this month here at Danau Girang Field Centre. In the first week they took part in several activities such as the primate survey, bird boat and pangolin tracking. They also had Dr Pablo Orozco-Wengel with them to run an entomology day for each small group, which ended with butterfly catching. Ornithologist Suzanne Tomassi also visited to show the students how to set up mist nets to catch birds. They did plenty of walks along the trails both day and night which helped them plan where to carry out their mini research projects in the second week. These projects involved primates, insects, reptiles and birds, and each pair did a small presentation on the final Friday. They left us early Saturday 20 July morning to visit the Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Sandakan.



Miami University II

The second group from Miami University joined us for four short days this month. Studying an online masters in conservation communication, they brought a variety of backgrounds and experience to Danau Girang. Instructor Debbie Clemens gave an inspiring talk on the conservation of orangutans in Indonesia, while discussions and workshops were held throughout the week on topics such as social media and education. During their stay they took part in an array of different activities from night walks to primate boats, as well as conducting their own studies on the wildlife surrounding Danau Girang including butterfly abundance and the behaviour of proboscis monkeys.



Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure

DGFC were honoured to host the wonderful Dame Judi Dench back in April 2019 while she filmed part of her ITV documentary 'Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure' right here along the mighty Kinabatangan! The documentary aired in the UK at the beginning of this month and showed Judi's journey from primary rainforest in Danum Valley down to Borneo's coral reefs just off Gaya Island, stopping off along the way to explore the wonderful wildlife this island has to offer. Whilst here at Danau Girang Judi and her chap David Mills got involved in a crocodile procedure, helped microchip a reticulated python and solved a murder mystery involving a hornbill nest and a vicious sun bear. Judi also took the time to get to know all the scientists at DG and showed genuine interest in our research projects and what she and other can do to help in the ongoing fight for Borneo's wildlife.





Science Corner

Donna Simon, Glyn Davies, Marc Ancrenaz.

Changes to Sabah's orangutan population in recent times: 2002-

2017 A peer reviewed research article was recently published in PLOS ONE estimating the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) populations in Sabah. Malaysia is one of the world's largest producers for palm oil, but also one the two countries that is home to wild orangutans. For conservation efforts to work there has to be an understanding that the country depends on the production of palm oil for the economy. Fortunately, it appears that the orangutan is much more resilient that previously thought which means they may be able to survive in degraded forest. However, the numbers are still decreasing in non-protected forest. Their method involved aerial nest surveys, which were then compared to data produced from 2002 surveys of a similar method, this time however they increased the survey effort by about 20% cover. This allowed them to observe groups that have been stable for over 15 years. The current population estimate is around 9,000, with some other studies recording further 800 orangutans in the Lower Kinabatangan region.



Science Corner

Seed dispersal by proboscis monkeys: the case of *Nauclea* spp.

Thiry et al. 2019

A two-year study was recently carried out in the Lower Kinabatangan Floodplain on proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*). This study was investigating the role that these animals might play in seed dispersal, as to date the effect of colobines might have been underestimated. Fecal samples from the field were collected and the species of the seeds they contained were narrowed down to eight plants. *Nauclea* were the most abundant species (98% intact seeds). From their results the researchers suggest that proboscis monkeys enhance the germination success of some plant species seeds. However it is still thought they may contribute less to seed dispersal than other frugivores.



Conservation Corner



Common Name:
Banded Kingfisher
Scientific Name :
Lacedo pulchella
IUCN status:
Least Concern

Photograph by Harry Pawson

The banded kingfisher (*Lacedo pulchella*) is part of the family Alcedinidae and is the only member of the genus *Lacedo*. This picture shows a male bird at night in the forest, which is its most common habitat, the female looks very different to this, having a brown covering instead of blue feathers on the back, they both have the distinctive red bill. They nest in a hole in a rotting tree trunk and lay 2-5 white eggs. It is an active bird which hunts from high and low perches, it commonly eats insects usually taken from the tree, but sometimes they hunt small reptiles. Occasionally they hunt on the ground too. They are usually around 20cm long. The birds normally sit around a while which means they are great for a photo opportunity! Their voice is a drawn-out series of high-pitched notes (“*taweo*”) at a constant speed, the call begins with at least one loud note and then becomes softer.

BORNEO'S PRIMATES

P A K U T I A Z A L V P L Z F
 R W T A R S I E R Z N L Y H F
 O W J P L G N O B B I G O A I
 B X R P B N J E X I M A H H V
 O C K F W N J L U W G C O D E
 S P Z T X O R A N G U T A N Q
 C F O E G M R Q K A D B B J O
 I Y L P T A M B G H O H B A S
 S Q M T X C N H U V L P R S A
 M T A L B A Q T C T L W I V U
 O L H V Q Q N Y O Z V W C L S
 N P J G E U S G E E J H O Y D
 K T O J B E B N E T F C B H F
 E N C A H Q F M E O W B C J M
 Y J J A W S I R O L W O L S Y

- ORANGUTAN
- MACAQUE
- SLOW LORIS
- GIBBON
- TARSIER
- PROBOSCIS MONKEY

Answers to word search

BORNEO'S PRIMATES



- ORANGUTAN
- MACAQUE
- SLOW LORIS
- GIBBON
- TARSIER
- PROBOSCIS MONKEY

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

Lot 6
The Jungle
Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary
Sabah

Email: danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com

Editors: Jessica Shuttleworth, Harriet Miles,
Olivia Fitzpatrick

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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