

# Jungle Times

Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Est. 2008



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*Photo of the Month Credit:  
Myra Mansell*

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# What's Going On?



## ABILITY FIELD COURSE

We recently hosted a group of 14-15 year olds from an international school in Singapore. They were only here for 5 days which meant their schedule was jam packed! They were split into small teams and got points for spotting different species on different activities, some of the things they got up to included: river clean up, mushroom counting, millipede counting, bird boat, butterfly catching and night walks. They also made some very entertaining videos summarising their time here, and had a go at setting up camera traps which managed to capture some very interesting animals!

# What's Going On?



## SWISS FIELD COURSE

A large group of college students stopped over here for a couple of days this month alternating their time between here and Kopel. At eco camp they helped to cut down the grass to make space for the riparian buffer that is being restored. They arrived from KK early in the morning and on their first day they all went straight out for a forest walk to observe the fungi and insects, they were also lucky enough to see an orangutan at the jetty in their short time here! They are all part of an environmental society so were interested to see the different birds and primates along the river.



# What's Going On?



## REGROW BORNEO LAUNCH

In collaboration with Cardiff University, DGFC has launched Regrow Borneo an initiative to help people balance out their flights carbon emission. Flights obviously are not great for the environment, but the reality is that flights are in many cases necessary, Regrow Borneo allows you to donate money back into re-growing the Borneo Rainforest every time you fly somewhere. The Regrow Borneo donation site can give you guidance on how much to donate depending on the length of your flight or you can donate how much you can afford after all it only costs £2 to grow, plant and maintain a tree for three years! The money donated will not only help to reforest the Lower Kinabatangan but will also help the local community sustain their local livelihood and culture. If you donate to Regrow Borneo you will be kept up to date with our progress and will be able to track your trees and see the carbon that these trees are taking out of the atmosphere, if you wish to learn more about

Regrow Borneo you can read about it here

(<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/sustainable-places/research/projects/regrow-borneo>) and if you wish to donate please follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/regrowborneo>



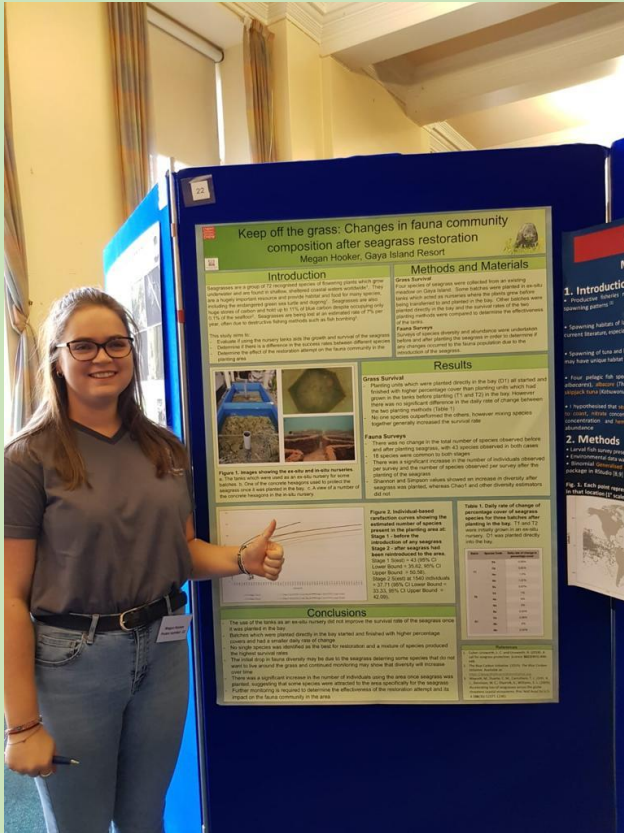
# What's Going On?



## FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE

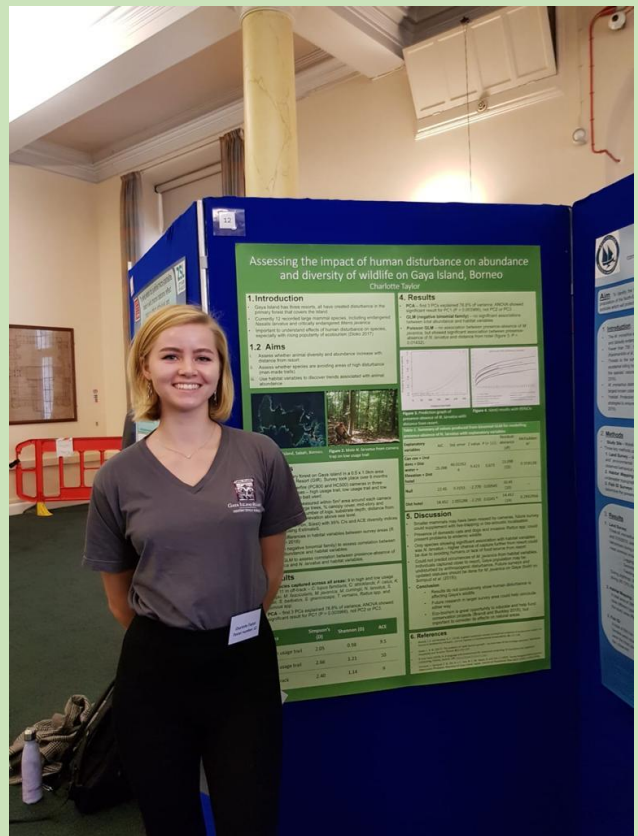
This month we have had Joe Wan from Fieldskills here teaching the staff and students valuable first aid and wildlife survival training. Over 3 days we learnt important skills and we're happy to announce that everyone involved passed!

# What's Going On?



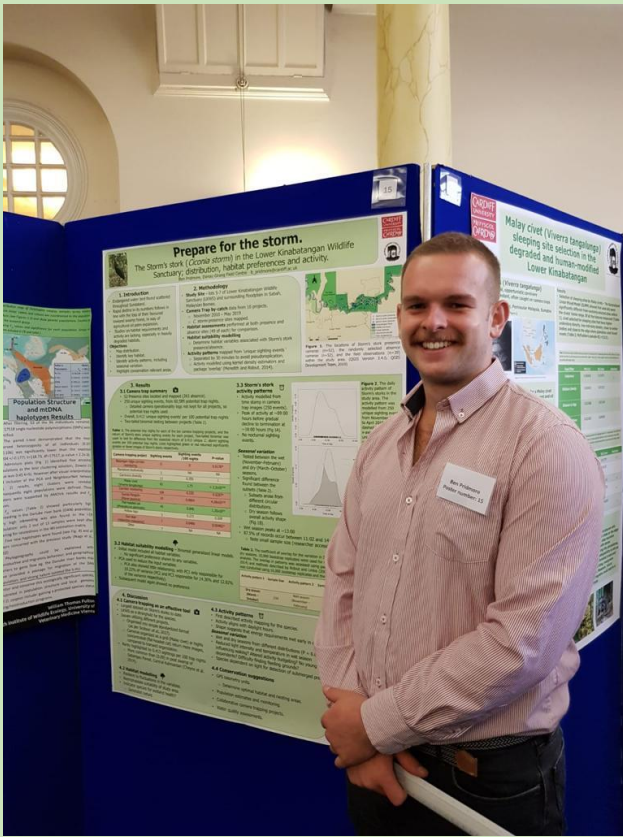
Megan Hooker (Gaya Island)

Charlotte Taylor (Gaya Island)

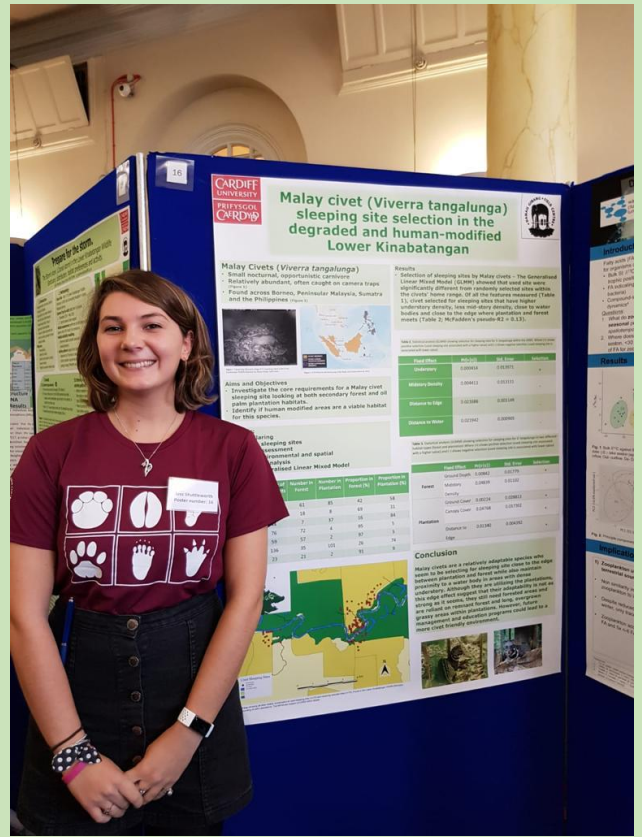


## PTY POSTER PRESENTATIONS

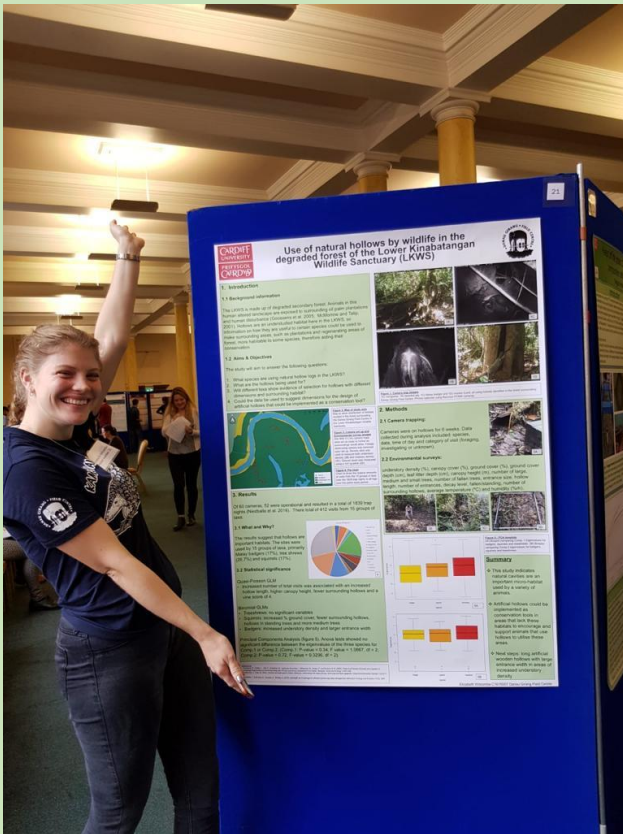
This month our previous PTY students presented posters summarising their research project to lecturers and peers to be assessed back at Cardiff University.



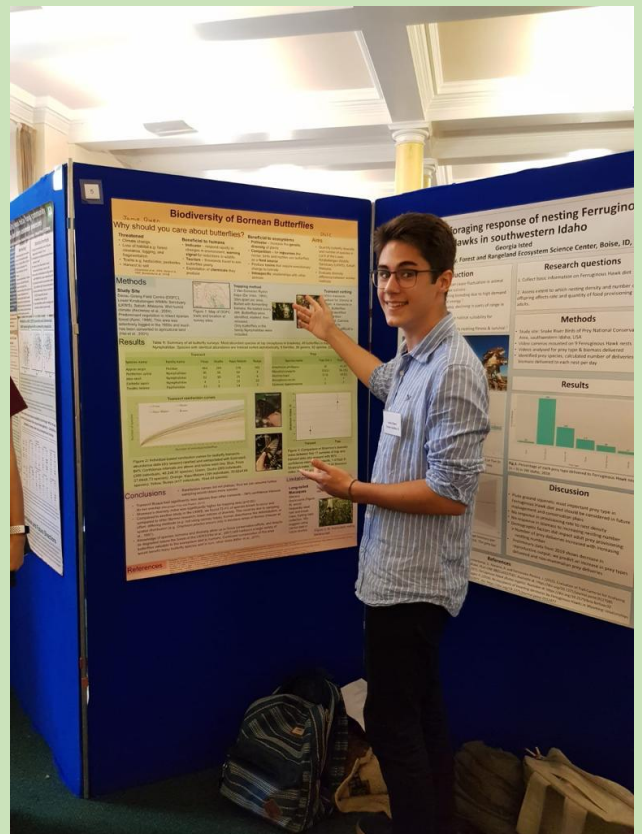
Ben Pridmore (DGFC)



Jess Shuttleworth (DGFC)



Elizabeth Witcombe (DGFC)



Jamie Owen (DGFC)



# The Otter Project



Leona Wai spent some time here this month in preparation for her PhD which she will be starting in January. She plans to look at all four species of Otter found in Sabah through various different techniques including some traditional techniques such as camera trapping, paw prints and sleeping site analysis. During her visit to DGFC this month Leona and our research assistants have been learning how to sample eDNA with the help of Eric Bairrao Ruivo, Jean-Baptiste Decotte, Gabriel Michelin and Nicolas Renault. This will allow her to sample any Otter DNA that could be in the Kinabatangan or other bodies of water around Sabah and will greatly help her to survey the density of Otters here in Sabah.

Eric Bairrao Ruivo is originally from Portugal but now lives and works in France with Beauval Zoo, the biggest zoo in France, in which he started and now directs a research and wildlife conservation association called Beauval Nature. Eric drives Beauval Nature towards providing long term support to field researchers, not only to support the projects but also to support those scientists and people involved.





# Otter Project Continued

Jean-Baptiste has been working with eDNA (environmental DNA) for the last 4 years. He began working with eDNA for a company called SpyGen, a private lab in France whose research focuses on obtaining DNA samples from water bodies, and the production of filtration methods to extract that DNA. For the last 3 years he has been an ecosystems manager and the director of Vigilife, a partner company to SpyGen. Both companies work closely with Beauval Nature on many conservation projects around the globe.

Gabriel Michelin works for the environmental association in France and uses eDNA in two conservation programmes working with amphibians. One species that Gabriel works with is the bullfrog, which is invasive in France. Gabriel said that “eDNA is a beautiful tool”, and that it is “really helpful in identifying water bodies where bullfrogs are present”. Additionally, he was also one of the founders of SpyGen, and winner of the Beauval Nature Award. Nicolas Renault is a director and wildlife film maker, who has been accompanying Beauval Nature on many of their projects around the globe and has compiled footage of many of the animals involved with their in-situ conservational ventures.

# Visitor Fact File



MATTHEW COX

Matt works as a programme manager and education expedition leader based in Kuala Lumpur, he works all throughout South East Asia and one of the companies he works for is Ability who brought the UWC field course to DGFC. This trip (along with a visit to eco camp) was about allowing a group of 14-15 year olds to experience and get a first hand view of conservation.

Matt was originally inspired to pursue this career because of his degrees in zoology and marine biology, he loves education and relates to young people so can relay ideas about the environment in an understandable and enthusiastic way. While here he was teaching the students about a new programme launched by the UN called the anatomy of action, which involves young people and social media to promote sustainability across multiple groups, having a big impact over a short space of time. His highlight of his trip to DGFC was seeing a white crowned hornbill, blue eared kingfisher and grey headed fish eagle.



# Visitor Fact File



**CHARLOTTE DAY & JON DUNN (pictured top left)**

At the start of this month we had the pleasure of hosting Charlotte and John for nearly a week. They are both from the UK but are currently based in Australia for Charlotte's work as a wildlife vet. John is a keen photographer and they both enjoyed going out on the bird and primate boat activities, they were also a great help when going civet tracking. The photo above was taken when they accompanied us on a trip to the restoration plots managed by Kopel, where we chopped down grass to make a space for the new saplings planted.



# Visitor Fact File



SEBASTIEN PINCHON AND SANDRINE MENUENZ PINCHON DGFC had the pleasure of hosting Sebastian and Sandrine for 5 nights during their honeymoon this month, traveling all the way from France the happy couple most enjoyed seeing the orangutans! Sebastian specifically liked being in a tropical forest again and Sandrine enjoyed discovering the wonders of the rainforest. Sebastian is a conservationist who works mainly in Africa, where he worked with Benoit ten years ago with chimpanzees. Next up on their honeymoon they will spend a week on Gaya Island to soak up the sun and avoid the mud!



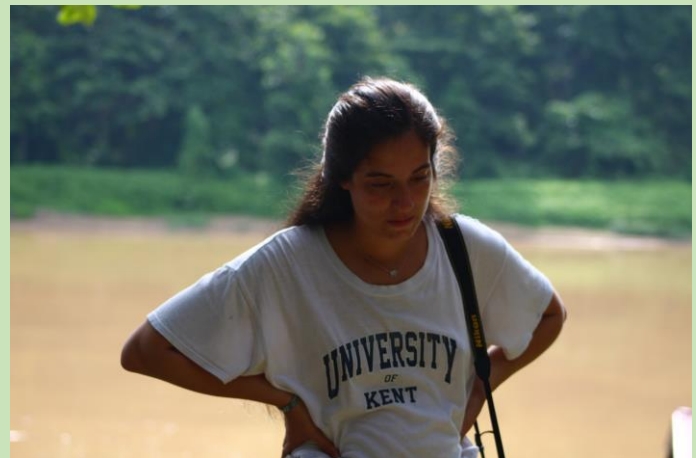
# Volunteer Arrival



ARIFF AZLAN ALYMANN

Ariff has just graduated from his Zoology undergraduate degree from University of Nottingham. He is originally from Kuala Lumpur and is particularly interested in the fauna of South East Asia. He has come to DG to meet Sergio who will be his supervisor for his upcoming MRes in ecology. He is only with us for a short period of time but has already got on board with the daily activities here, such as helping Miriam to camera trap local oxbow lakes to find out more about flat headed cats. His highlight so far is photographing the different hornbill species on the early morning bird boat.

# Volunteer Departure



## MYRA MANSELL

Our last summer volunteer left us this month to move onto the next part of her placement year with Kent University. Myra flies back to the UK for a quick stopover in Canterbury before she returns home to Chile where she will undertake a 6 month volunteering position. Myra was an amazing photographer and we will definitely miss her beautiful photos. Her highlight of the 3 months was visiting Kopel to assist with the restoration ecology work being carried out there and going to Batu Puteh!

*Photography Instagram Account Handle:  
@my\_mansell\_photos*



### 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 Departments 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.*

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