

# Jungle Times

Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Est. 2008



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February 2021 +  
March 2021

*Photo of the Month Credit:  
DGFC's ecological drone!*

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# Regrow Borneo Update!

The situation in Kaboi Lake is back to normal after a few weeks of being submerged underwater. As most people might have expected, all the saplings that we planted should have been dead by now. We went to the site to see how much damage the flood has done on the plot and surprisingly, we found out that a substantial amount of saplings survived the big flood! After assessing the botanic plot within the 2-ha restoration site, we identified a total number of 110 saplings survived which is equivalent to 24% survival rate. Good news!

A team of over 20 locals from KOPEL along with the DGFC team, had rendezvous in Kaboi Lake restoration site to replace the dead saplings with new ones. Five different species were planted: Mengkapon, Bongkol, Selongapid, Pulai, and Payung-payung. We were all divided into groups of three, each with a different role. Each group would have a digger, a planter, and a tagger. By the end of the first day, we successfully replanted over 1000 new saplings in our restoration plot. Since then, the team has planted over another 1000 trees!



# Pangolin Update

Last month, a wild male Sunda pangolin later named 'Galak' (means fierce) was successfully captured, fitted with a VHF transmitter, and then safely released. Since then, Galak is tracked and important data e.g., its sleeping sites were collected. Elisa Panjang and the team have VHF and GPS tagged 12 pangolins (there were a mix of wild and translocated individuals). Elisa is a Malaysian PhD student at Cardiff University and is leading the Sunda pangolin research project here at DGFC. The Sunda pangolin is a critically endangered species and is one of the most highly poached animals in the world. Due to this, all eight pangolin species in their home range states have now become rare. Elisa and her team were so lucky to encounter the pangolin! Before release, Elisa and her team collected biological samples such as blood and ectoparasites for genetic and virology studies. Stay tuned, there will be updates about this study in the future!



**Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria**  
in Conjunction with  
**WildAid & Wildlife of Africa Conservation Initiative**  
Present

**WORLD PANGOLIN DAY 2021**  
(Virtual Conference)

**Theme: Towards Sustainable Pangolin Conservation in Nigeria**

 <b>Prof Olajumoke Morenikeji</b> Chair, Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria	 <b>Cristian Gruppi Ph.D</b> Center for Tropical Research Institute of the Environment and Sustainability University of California, Los Angeles	<b>DATE: 20TH FEBRUARY 2021</b> <b>TIME: 12PM WAT</b> <b>ZOOM ID: 846 9079 8940</b> <b>ZOOM PASSWORD: PANGOLIN</b>
 <b>Akeredolu Excellence Ph.D</b> Director of Programs Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria	 <b>Elisa Panjang</b> Danau Girang Field Centre Malaysia	<b>Partners</b> 
<b>Website: <a href="https://www.pcwgn.com.ng/">https://www.pcwgn.com.ng/</a></b> <b>@pangolin_group</b> <b>Facebook - Pangolin Conservation Working Group Nigeria</b> <b>For Further Information</b> <b>Please Contact: (+234) 803 471 3526</b>		

**WORLD PANGOLIN DAY 2021!!!**

In February, DGFC proudly joined together with local and international conservation partners to celebrate World Pangolin Day. Elisa who is also a Pangolin Conservation Officer at DGFC and the education team co-organized several virtual activities e.g., pangolin chit-chat with local celebrities, talks and video contests actively highlighting the pangolin plight on DGFC's social media. In addition, Elisa also worked with local television and radio stations as well as journalists to produce short videos, podcast, and articles to educate people about pangolins. You can read, listen, and learn about these activities by visiting any of our social media! We at DGFC are committed to protect and conserve pangolins through our research, conservation, and educational programs!

# Python Project Update

The field work for the python project has now come to an end, as Rich Burger, one of our PhD students studying the reticulated python, has now finished his data collection and left DG this month. Rich had high hopes to do more with his tagged individuals, however in the last couple of months flooding has made it impossible to access them. However, the team at DGFC will continue tracking four pythons within the plantation, in order to get a full year worth of data!








In the end Rich has managed to sample data from 161 individuals including spatial tracking data from 16! We wish Rich luck back in the UK with the rest of his PhD!

# Recent Publications

In this edition we present three papers that were published in the past couple of months of which we were involved!

The first looks at how agricultural habitats are prime habitat for Asian elephants, and how that may cause human animal conflict. To read this paper click [here](#).

## **There will be conflict – agricultural landscapes are prime, rather than marginal, habitats for Asian elephants**

J. A. de la Torre<sup>1,2</sup> , E. P. Wong<sup>1,3</sup> , A. M. Lechner<sup>1,4</sup> , N. Zulaikha<sup>1,3</sup>, A. Zawawi<sup>5</sup>, P. Abdul-Patah<sup>5</sup>, S. Saaban<sup>3,5</sup>, B. Goossens<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>  & A. Campos-Arceiz<sup>1,10,11</sup> 

The second paper focuses on the first ever capture and collaring of a flat headed cat in Sabah by members of our team here at DG! To read the abstract in the current issue of the Cat Specialist Group newsletter click [here](#). If you wish to read the full article an issue can be ordered by emailing [ch.breitenmoser@kora.ch](mailto:ch.breitenmoser@kora.ch).

## **First capture of a flat-headed cat in an oil palm plantation in Sabah, Borneo**



The third paper covers sun bear predation on an oriental pied hornbill nest, which was caught by one of our video camera traps. To view the abstract, and how to read the full paper click [here](#).

## **Sun bear predation on an oriental pied hornbill nest**

Authors: Kunde, Miriam N., and Goossens, Benoît



Fig. 1. Two adult oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoseros albirostris*), female at the back, male in front (picture credit: Rudi Delvaux).



Fig. 2. Screenshot of the camera trap video. An adult sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) predating on an oriental pied hornbill nest (*Anthracoseros albirostris*). Here the bear appears to pull the female out of the nest.



# Photos of the Month

February – March 2021

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### 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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