

Jungle Times

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Best Pics Credits:

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Regrow Borneo Update

A new site has now been established called Sungai Pin, where the team have opened four restoration plots and are currently preparing a fifth plot. At this site we have undertaken biodiversity monitoring prior to opening the sites, where 1 plot is being used as a control area and was only cleared and allowed to naturally restore with no intervention from the team to assess the rates of restoration within managed plots compared to natural regeneration.

Frog surveys are in full swing within this new site, as well as small mammal trapping, bird surveys using mist nests, and pitfall traps to survey the dung beetles present. Camera traps have also been placed at the site to further monitor the wildlife!

Bird surveys, frog surveys and small mammal surveys are also currently being conducted in Laab 3.0, another new site due to be opened soon. Frog surveys have been completed in Kaboi Stumping 3.0, where Maz and the team will soon begin small mammal trapping.

Please continue supporting Regrow Borneo by donating on <https://regrowborneo.org/donate>.

We will continue updating you with the progress of the project.



INL Project – Training with Justice For Wildlife

During the most recent INL workshop, 32 representatives of the 9 Malaysian state departments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs gathered to participate in the Justice for Silent Victims X: Investigation, Prosecution and Courtroom Training.

This was jointly organised by the Sabah Wildlife Department, the US Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training, Justice for Wildlife Malaysia, and Danau Girang Field Centre. During this training participants gained experience in arrests, interviewing, prosecution and decorum methods within the courtroom composed of a mixture of presentation and practical exercises.

Unfortunately, the illegal wildlife trade and persecution are still very much an issue that threatens native endangered species and have been the focus of the wildlife enforcement agenda. This project is therefore important to establish strong cases for the proper prosecution to successfully convict criminals, with international support and global collaboration.

Moving forward, the INL allows the support of a strong interagency network, training together in crime scene investigation, biosafety and online investigations. This training forms the next step on the ladder to successfully prosecuting and convicting those that perform wildlife crimes.



Field Courses

We recently welcomed our first field course since the COVID pandemic, where we were joined by 15 students from Miami University and Project Dragonfly. They spent 5 days with us experiencing the jungle.



Soon after, we also welcomed 17 students from Cardiff University's School of Biosciences, who stayed for two weeks at the centre learning about tropical biodiversity assessments. During their time they were involved with Regrow Borneo, spent time tracking pangolins, watching orangutans, and getting hands-on experience in many other aspects of tropical biodiversity research.



After the Cardiff field course, we also welcomed a second group from Miami, who spent time learning about tropical jungle ecology with us.



Needless to say, all of our recent field courses have had an absolute blast. It is fantastic to finally be joined at the centre once again by groups such as these to enjoy, learn and conserve the forests of the Kinabatangan.

Jusma's Research Assistant Experience

Jusma has now been working at DGFC for 6 months and is having a fantastic time and learning a lot! "Working here gives me a lot of opportunities to help the visiting researchers in their work", she explained. "Honestly, here I can be extremely open with students and visitors who come to the centre, which allows for me to gain a lot of inspiration from them and their research. Being here is like killing two birds with one stone; I can help researchers and learn new things! For me, DGFC is a place full of knowledge that needs to be explored and conserved."



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Living with Elephants

There is never a dull moment here at DGFC and living in elephant stomping grounds. This can clearly be seen in the recent published press release below!

'Wrecking' spree brings joy



Travelling tuskers: Some of the 100 Borneo Pygmy elephants that went through the DGFC in Kinabatangan, Sabah.

Research centre happy to get a 'visit' from roaming elephants

By MUGUNTAN VANAR
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KOTA KINABALU: A herd of 100 Borneo pygmy elephants went on a "rampage", breaking the staircase of the Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC), destroying a water tank and tearing down a wall, besides causing other minor damage.

But this time, there was none of the usual consternation or anger caused by such invasions.

Instead, conservationists here were smiling over the "rampage" in the heart of Sabah's conservation area in Kinabatangan.

In most cases, such a herd would have drawn anger among planters, farmers and villagers as the animals usually cause a fair amount of damage to crops and property.

Last weekend's visit by the troop is, however, being seen as a good sign that the pachyderms are thriving in the conservation area.

DGFC director Dr Benoit Goossens said that his staff had enjoyed the presence of the elephants even though there was

some damage to their office.

"We love having them around even if they can create some damage. This is the price to pay for living in the elephant kingdom," he said when contacted over DGFC's quirky post about the incident on Facebook last week.

Goossens said it was normal for elephants to pass through the centre, situated at the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

"We are surrounded by the forest, we are in the middle of the jungle ... they eat whatever the jungle offers them - grass, vines and rattan, among others.

"The elephants are very playful, so they enjoyed playing with our water tanks, wires, water pipes and so on.

"They also like to scratch their bodies against walls, which they did, and one of the walls broke," he added.

Goossens said the herd of about 100 elephants was quite a large group compared with the usual herds that pass through the area.

"It happens two or three times a year. They travel along the



Minor damage: The elephants caused some damage after their visit to the centre in Kinabatangan.

Kinabatangan (river), sometimes in small units, sometimes in a large herd. Usually, July is the month they pass through DGFC," he added.

When asked about the cost of damage, he replied: "I don't really know. Maybe around RM5,000, nothing that can't be fixed. The pleasure of seeing elephants around us is priceless."

DGFC is a research and training

facility co-managed by the Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University.

The centre carries out a variety of research on Sabah's wildlife and provides feedback to the state government on steps to be taken for conservation while also working with various stakeholders and NGOs in carrying out conservation measures.



Recent Publications

Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 27 July 2022](#)

Understanding the spatial distribution and hot spots of collared Bornean elephants in a multi-use landscape

[N. K. Abram](#) , [B. Skara](#), [N. Othman](#), [M. Ancrenaz](#), [K. Mengersen](#) & [B. Goossens](#) 


[Scientific Reports](#) **12**, Article number: 12830 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

1431 Accesses | **50** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

In this study GPS telemetry data from 2010 to 2020 for 14 collared elephants to map their entire known ranges and highly used areas (hot spots) across four land use categories and estimate time spent within these. If you want to read this paper it is available [here](#).

Original Paper | [Published: 20 April 2022](#)

Examining diversity of terrestrial mammal communities across forest reserves in Sabah, Borneo

[Eve Bohnett](#) , [Benoit Goossens](#), [Mohd Soffian Abu Bakar](#), [Tommy Rowel Abidin](#), [Hong-Ye Lim](#), [David Hulse](#), [Bilal Ahmad](#), [Thomas Hcctor](#) & [Penny Gardner](#)

[Biodiversity and Conservation](#) **31**, 1709–1734 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

285 Accesses | **3** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

This paper used camera trapping data to estimate species richness, beta diversity, phylogenetic and functional diversity in nine forest reserves with different management classifications and backgrounds. If you wish to learn more the paper is available [here](#).

An Approaching Motor Boat Induces Stress-Related Behaviors in Proboscis Monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*) Living in a Riparian Area

[Marina Davila-Ross](#) , [Helen Pople](#), [Violet Gibson](#), [Senthilvel K. S. S. Nathan](#), [Benoit Goossens](#) & [Danica J. Stark](#)

International Journal of Primatology **43**, 677–697 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

1370 Accesses | 1 Citations | 71 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)


The goal of this project was to test whether the approach of a motor-boat induces stress-related and other behaviors in proboscis monkeys in the light of increased primate based eco-tourism. If this topic is to your interest the full paper can be read [here](#).

Serological evidence of exposure of Bornean wild carnivores to feline-related viruses at the domestic animal–wildlife interface

[Sergio Guerrero-Sánchez](#)^{1,2,3} | [Amanda Wilson](#)^{3,4} | [Macarena González-Abarzúa](#)³ | [Miriam Kunde](#)³ | [Benoit Goossens](#)^{3,5,6,7} | [Rosa Sipangkui](#)⁷ | [Liesbeth Frias](#)^{3,8}

This study conducted an exploratory serological survey to evaluate the exposure of Bornean wild carnivores to several viruses common to domestic felids, at interface areas between protected forest and industrial agriculture in the Kinabatangan floodplain. To read the full paper it is available [here](#).

External environmental conditions impact nocturnal activity levels in proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*) living in Sabah, Malaysia

[Sophie J. Kooros](#) , [Benoit Goossens](#), [Elisabeth H. M. Sterck](#), [Richard Kenderdine](#), [Peter T. Malim](#), [Diana A. Ramirez Saldivar](#), [Danica J. Stark](#)

First published: 18 July 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23423>


This study investigated the presence of nocturnal activity and the influence of masking effects on the level of nocturnal activity displayed by wild proboscis monkeys. If this topic piques your interest the full paper is available [here](#).

▼ Use of accelerometer-informed GPS telemetry in mortality detection of a tagged leopard cat by A. Wilson, H. Bernard, M. González-Abarzúa, S. Guerrero-Sánchez, L. Frías, M. Kunde, R. Burger and B. Goossens

The use of accelerometers ACC combined with Global Positioning System GPS collars has enhanced our knowledge of animal movement and ecology. In a study of leopard cats, *Prionailurus bengalensis*, in the Kinabatangan floodplain (Sabah, Malaysian Borneo), we were able to detect the death of a collared animal in the field with greater precision after the collar was found shortly after deployment. Here, we review the events around mortality of a collared leopard cat using ACC-informed GPS technology as an investigative tool.

This article, published in the latest edition of Cat News, is not available open access, but a copy of the issue can be ordered following instructions [here](#) if you wish to learn more.

Exposure of Primate Reservoir Hosts to Mosquito Vectors in Malaysian Borneo

[Rebecca Brown](#) , [Milena Salgado-Lynn](#), [Amaziasizamoria Jumail](#), [Cyrlen Jalius](#), [Tock-Hing Chua](#), [Indra Vythilingam](#) & [Heather M. Ferguson](#)

[EcoHealth](#) **19**, 233–245 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

593 Accesses | **7** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

The study demonstrated the use of thermal imaging and mosquito magnet independence traps (MMIT) to assess the abundance, diversity and infection rates in mosquitoes host seeking near long-tailed macaque sleeping sites in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Malaysian Borneo. If you wish to read more, the paper is available open access [here](#).



Best Picks of Pics

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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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