

THE JUNGLE TIMES

Issue 16: April 2010



Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Established 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2 – G'Day Graeme!

2 – Family Business

2 – Did they really say that..?!

3 – Nocturnal Mammals Galore

3 – Big Snake!

4 – Spy Spy

6 – Photo Album

7 – Love is in the Air...

8 – Conservation Corner: The Pangolin

10 – Jungle Fashion: The Hornbill Collection



Meet the visitors on page 2



A bit of spying on page 4



A very full photo album on page 6



Conserving the Pangolin on page 8

G'day Graeme!

Dr Graeme Gillespie, of ... Zoo, Australia paid a visit to Danau Girang for two nights to take a look at how the anuran survey project (frogs and toads) is developing. Lending his expertise and trained frog-spotting eyes to Alice and Thibaut, he gave some much needed insight and helpful

suggestions to improve the survey technique as well as clearing up some confusing identification conundrums. After checking out the frogs at DGFC he spent the rest of the week in Sukau, where his visit was sadly cut short by an ankle injury – get well soon Graeme!



Left: Alice and her mum Cathy enjoying a boat cruise
Right: Graeme getting stuck in helping Alice with her buckets



Family Business

Alice's Mum Cathy came to visit this month to see how she was getting on and have some fun in the rainforest. After exploring the park and islands off Kota Kinabalu, Cathy got stuck in assisting the others with the small mammal and frog projects at

Danau Girang, as well as enjoying boat cruises and jungle walks. Cathy is a super keen bird watcher, so the array of avian species in the Kinabatangan was quite a delight!

Did They Really Say That.....!?!?

"We should spread the word; don't kill animals – just look at them, and marvel at the wonder of nature" – Alice's Mum Cathy

Andy: "Sometimes I like making strange noises at animals..."

Jen: "There's a scorpion.."
Andy: "What colour is it?"
Jen: "Dead."

Nocturnal Mammals Galore

The nocturnal mammals have been out in force this month, we saw TWO tarsiers AND a slow loris in the same evening! As well as multiple civet sightings, a pen-tail tree shrew and a Malay badger! Rachel Munds will be green with envy.



**Bornean
Tarsier**



Slow Loris

That's a BIG SNAKE!

Thibaut and Budin discovered the recently evacuated skin of a King Cobra when walking the Green Trail this month. On bringing it back to the centre, they were able to lay it out and measure it; the monster snake skin stretched in at 3.2m –

even longer than Andy! The skin was only recently slithered out of as it was still moist, so it could have been a potentially close shave for the boys. All of the Danau forest for this King of Cobras.



**The King
Cobra Skin**

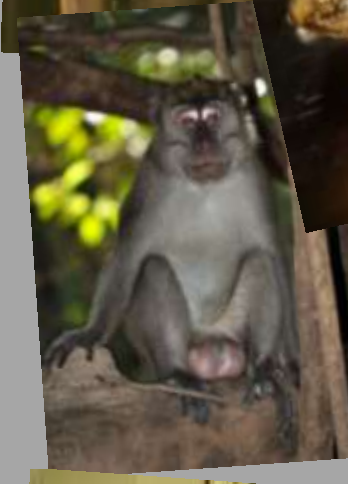
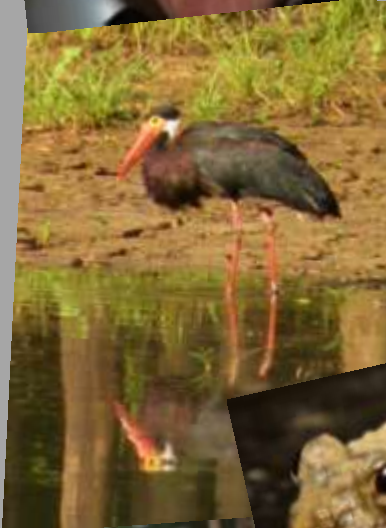


**Andy is a
massive
6ft9.....**

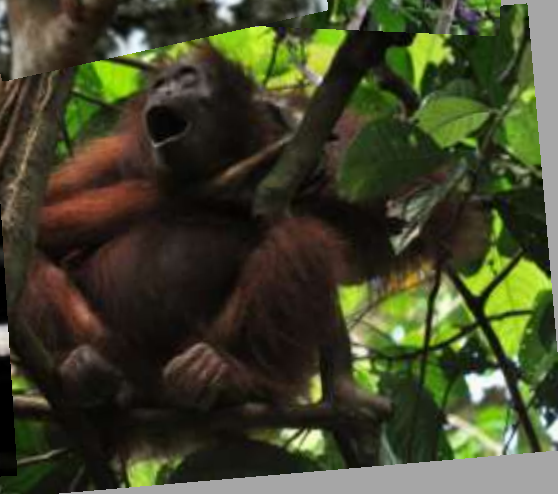
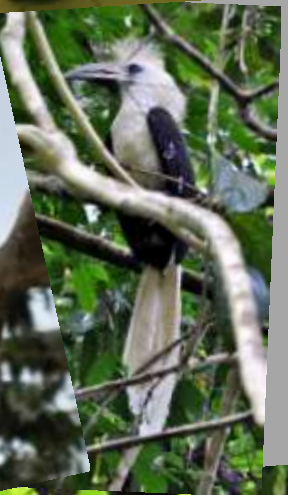
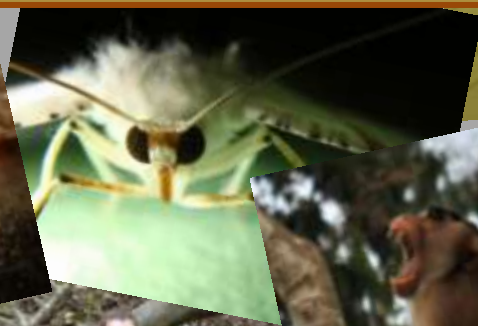
SPY SPY!!!

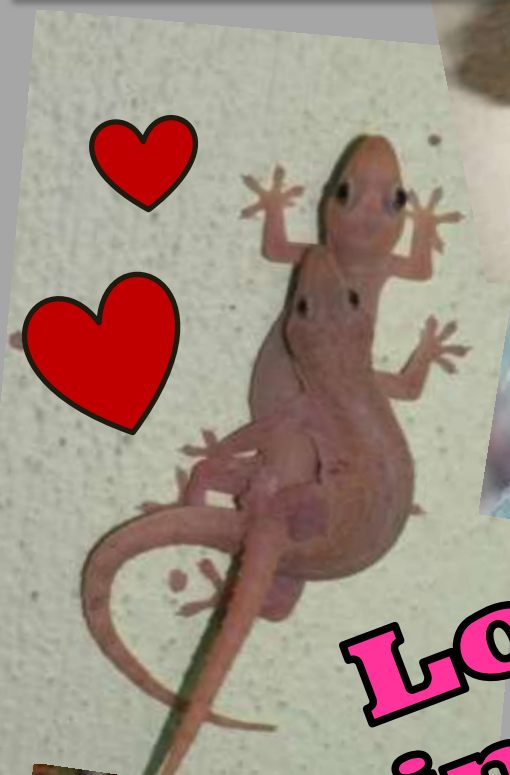


Three new camera trap stations were recently established in DGFC, and have had some exciting results. Camera traps are particularly useful for seeing the more elusive rainforest inhabitants, because they always hear you coming way before you manage to catch a glimpse! ***Clockwise from top left:*** Pigtail macaque, rarely seen in DG; bearded pig; cheeky long-tailed macaque; orang-utan with baby clinging to its tummy; sambar deer; small tooth palm civet; Malay civet; crested fireback; storm stork. The sneaky spy cameras have caught all sorts! DGFC would like to thank the Houston Zoo and our friends from New York for sponsoring the cameras.



Clockwise from top left: Sunrise over the Kinabatangan; praying mantis; Bendy Emma; naughty macaque; Jen and Ridzwan chillin to some beats; moth; white crowned hornbill; pigtail macaque; sleepy orangutan; kingfisher; students working hard; students playing hard; cheeky macaque; yellow bellied froggy; storm stork; tibo looking pretty.





**Love is
in the
Air...**



Spring has sprung, and the animals of the rainforest are gettin' all-a-twitterpated! From dancing butterfly mating displays; frogs calling for some lovin'; to Macaques down-right getting it on in public; it seems the birds and the bees are really doing it like they do on the Discovery Channel.



Conservation corner – The Sunda Pangolin, *Manis javanica*



A sunda pangolin, www.mongabay.com

What is a Pangolin?

If you ask someone ‘What is a Pangolin?’ chances are they won’t have a clue. Show them a picture and they become a lot more intrigued. The pangolin is a very unique and interesting animal, described by some as a cross between an armadillo and an anteater, an accurate description as it’s also known as the scaly anteater. Like the anteater, it also uses its thick powerful claws to dig into soil in search of ant’s nests and termite mounds. There are four species of pangolin in Asia: the Chinese, Sunda/Malayan, Indian, and Palawan Pangolin. The Sunda Pangolin, or Malayan Pangolin is found in areas throughout S.E Asia including [Thailand](#), [Indonesia](#) ([Java](#), [Sumatra](#), [Borneo](#) and the [Lesser Sunda Islands](#)), the [Philippines](#), [Vietnam](#), [Laos](#) and [Cambodia](#), and [Malaysia](#) and [Singapore](#).

Why do they need to be conserved?

Pangolins are animals that help increase species diversity as the burrows made by them can also be used by other animals for shelter or breeding. The Malayan pangolin is listed as endangered by the IUCN and back in 2000, the CITES organization passed an order banning all export and commercial trade of these animals. Pangolins are also protected by the UN’s Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), but unfortunately this does not necessarily mean the Sunda Pangolin is protected in practise. This protected status has not stopped poachers hunting them for their scales and meat, as **pangolins are among the most numerous illegally traded animals in S.E. Asia.**

Chumphon Sukkaseam, an official from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wildlife Enforcement Network says: “More than a 100 tonnes of smuggled pangolin meat heading to China was confiscated in the region last year but that is only 10 to 20 percent of the amount of Pangolin meat successfully smuggled into China”.

Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy in China, and although the price for pangolin meat is high (between RM200 (\$84) and RM300 (\$127)) per kilogram; restaurateurs are still able to earn a nice profit from selling dishes containing pangolin meat.

Thus the restaurateurs will keep pangolin meat in demand, meaning poachers will still want to hunt the pangolins and earn money selling the meat to restaurant owners. Chumphon also added that one of the main problems allowing for this extent of pangolin smuggling is due to the borders between countries, as they are porous and easily penetrated without detection. As well as poor communication and exchange of information regarding smuggling cases, the punishments for smugglers are not harsh enough – the small fines will not deter smugglers and poachers from doing it again.

What is being done?

But there is action being taken to try and stop the illegal poaching, smuggling and

selling of these elusive creatures. Wildlife rangers and authorities are being trained to identify pangolin hunters and traders and crack down on the trade. Studies into the ecology, life history and biology of pangolins is being undertaken to improve understanding of this rarely studied species such as in this recently published paper “Pangolins in peril: using local hunters” <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v6/n1/>. Rescue and Rehabilitation centres such as the Angkor Centre for Conservation and Biodiversity <http://www.accb-cambodia.org/> are pioneering husbandry techniques for rescuing and caring for injured and stressed live pangolins seized from the illegal wildlife trade. Education programmes raise public awareness about pangolin conservation through such as projects as the Harapan Rainforest in Sumatra (<http://www.harapanrainforest.org/>), and conservation websites such as (<http://www.savepangolins.org/about>).

What can YOU do?

Don't buy pangolin products.
Report wildlife crime to local authorities.
Support organizations such as <http://www.accb-cambodia.org/>, <http://www.asean-wen.org/>, and [https://secure.ga6.org/08/Donate Now](https://secure.ga6.org/08/Donate_Now) .

JUNGLE FASHION

The beauty of the jungle and its creatures is inspirational for photographers, artists and nature lovers alike, so why not for fashion too? The Jungle Times presents JUNGLE FASHION, for the latest looks inspired by the Kinabatangan.



WHITE CROWNED

ASIAN BLACK

RHINOCEROS

WRINKLED

This month's JUNGLE FASHION is inspired by the infamous Hornbill bird. The Hornbill is the signature bird of the Bornean rainforest and no wonder; with the range of colours and amazing patterns the Hornbill is the bird everyone is talking about. There are eight different species of Hornbill found in the Kinabatangan, four of which inspired these looks.

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: Jenny Shepperson and Alice
Evans*

*(sheppersonjl@cf.ac.uk,
evansa27@cf.ac.uk)*

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

The opinions expressed in this
newsletter do not necessarily reflect the
views or policies of Cardiff University.



**Danau
Girang Field
Centre**