



THE JUNGLE TIMES

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Earth Expeditions totally digs DG!

The second field course of the year arrived on the 25th of this month all the way from the USA! The Global Field Master's Program (GFP) is one of the Earth Expeditions courses run jointly by Miami University's *Project Dragonfly* and Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.

The course offers students the opportunity to experience science first hand in the field whether it's around the world or on Zoo grounds, whatever stage in their career, with an aim to involving their local community in more conservation projects.



Samsir guides the explorers down the Kinabatangan to spot the local wildlife



PTY Jen gives a presentation to the group on the small mammal project

Whilst the field course were here, they received lectures from Dr. Benoit Goossens about Bornean conservation as well as talks from PTY students Alice and Jen about the small mammal project and the frog project.

Their field trip to DG couldn't have been much luckier, as in the five days of their stay they saw nearly all of the most popular wildlife at DG that some people spend months trying to catch a glimpse of!

Apart from seeing gibbons (!!!), numerous orang-utans, proboscis monkeys, leaf monkeys, crocodiles, hornbills, frogs and many many more, they also had a front row experience on the river bank with the ever fantastic



Baby elephant on the river bank



Orang-utan

One of the course leaders, Chris, snapped some amazing wildlife shots! (above)

elephants: a sight that not many visitors are lucky enough to see. Here at DG, we look forward to possible future visits run by Earth Expeditions in the future, and by how “totally sweet!” they said it was here, they are sure to be back again some day.



All of the Global Field Master's students out in the sunshine at Danau Girang

Elephants Galore!

We have been treated this month by several visits from our old friends, the elephants. Many hours have been spent watching them playing by the river, splashing around, and looking after babies. We even had an exciting (although slightly scary!) moment where we arrived on foot at the jetty to be greeted by the trumpets of several ellies in the bushes surrounding us!



Walking with orang-utans

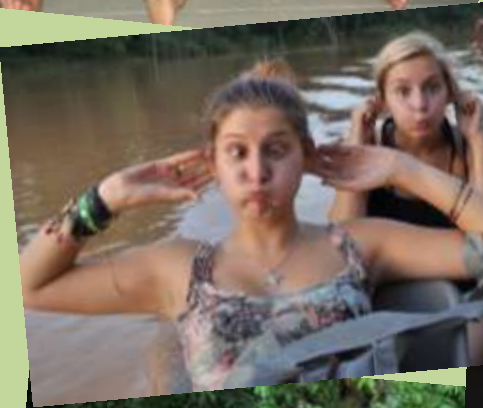
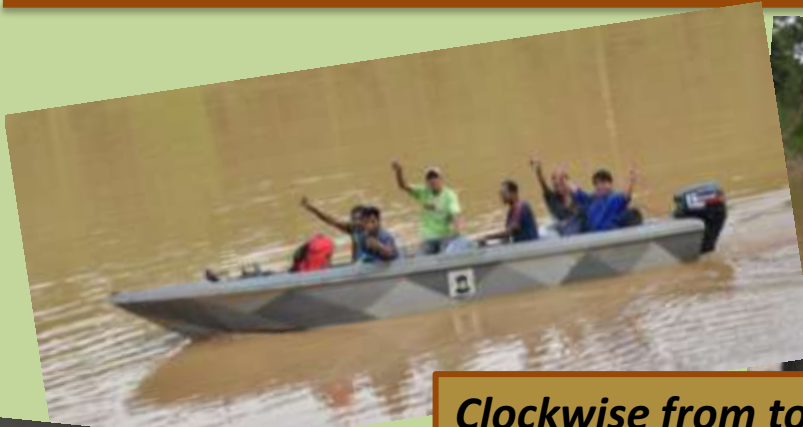
This month we saw (not for the first time at Danau Girang): orang-utans *walking* on the ground. Usually orangs travel by swinging and climbing from tree to tree, rarely coming down to ground level, but the resident apes at DG appear to find it no problem to fist walk down here with

us. This is an unusual and rarely documented behaviour in wild born orang-utans, so we were very surprised when a female and her baby (below) were seen wandering along the main path.



The first time we have been lucky enough to get a decent picture of this interesting behaviour – thanks to Ann from the Miami field course.

Clockwise from top left: The tree troop bid a fond farewell; DG crew on the river; Jen decides to be a tree, Tibo happily playing badminton; Ripog and Markiss serenade little Ridzwan; The DG crew in Sukau; The elephants on the river, right next to DG!; a dragon lizard; Alice clearly happy with her shot; Helen and Alice monkeying around on the river, Angun and Ridzwan.



Sacrebleu! C'est Bene!

French forestry student Benedicte Schenck is coming to stay at DG for one month as part of her degree. She will be helping out with all the research projects going on and giving a much needed hand to the DG staff to run the summer field courses packed into July and August.



Tibo's Troop Tags Trees

French student Thibaut Foch was back at DG to the pleasure of all this month to continue his work plotting the trees around the Kinabatangan. He has now established 16! – there were only 4 previously, so well done Thibaut! With the help of the staff from NGO - HUTAN (Sukau based conservation project) he has been very busy identifying and tagging *thousands* of trees along the Lower Kinabatangan.

ECU find the elephants!

The elephants first came to DG this month at the very beginning of June, so as word got back to the Elephant Conservation Unit in Sukau, they whizzed over to DG to find them. PhD student Megan English and head of the ECU Sulaiman are studying the movements and behaviour of the Kinabatangan elephants, important information for elephant conservation.



Happy Birthday Ben!

Benoit celebrated his birthday this month, (we won't tell you how old he is – although of course he still looks dashing!) . The staff prepared a lovely birthday meal for everyone at DG, and Ben also celebrated with his lovely fiancé Milena at the Rasa Ria! – Happy Birthday Ben!



Sister – Sister!

Jen's sister Helen came to visit her at DG this month on her way around the world, Jen showed her what life at DG is like as well as all the beautiful nature of the rainforest on forest walks and boat cruises. Helen had a lovely time and Jen loved having a piece of home to visit.

Sukau Adventure

The PTY girls had a little trip to Sukau to check out the projects there. They helped Tibo with some of his tree plot work, and had with a lovely river cruise checking out the local wildlife.



Fun in Cambodia!

The PTY girls and MA student Andy set off for a trip to Cambodia this month, exploring the temple ruins of Angkor and relaxing on the beach with a beer for Alice's birthday.

DGFC In The News

DGFC has certainly be in the public eye this month, between helping re-establish forest corridors where oil palm plantations have caused forest fragmentation; to collaring the latest satellite traceable elephant – Sunda. Danau Girang and the important conservation message we send is definitely being heard.



Plantations urged to create forest corridors

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Plantations urged to create forest corridors

By creating such corridors of forest, we hope orangutans and elephants will be able to move from one jungle to another, reducing the risk of in-breeding which can lead to a population decline," he said.

Plantations also have other reserves which can be created as suitable habitats such as creating a suitable buffer zone at river banks as instructed by the Sabah Government more than five years ago, as this will help in reducing pollution from run-off and of course help wildlife to move about.

"The government expects the oil palm industry to be more mature and responsible, and for those who have not done what is necessary to do so right now, start to do so right now," he said.

He said that while some countries are willing to contribute to conservation, he said that the oil palm industry has started to do so right now, and that is a good sign.

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A young orang-utan in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary need forest corridors to ensure their healthy survival. - Photo courtesy of HUTAN.

Workshop to...

TUARAN: A two-day workshop on the future of Sabah's orang-utans, Bornean Pygmy Elephants and Bornean Rhinos was held in Tuaran, Sabah, on Friday.

The workshop was organized by the Sabah Wildlife Department, in collaboration with the Borneo Rhino Alliance, Danau Girang Field Centre, Fresh Field Centre, and WWF-Malaysia.

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Collaring elephants vital for conservation

KINABATANANGAN

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Set timeframe for urgently needed forest corridors

By JAMES LAJUN

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Committee agreed not to pursue translocation of Orang Utans to KL

By JAMES LAJUN

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On the left, Sabah Wildlife Department Director Dr. Lawrence is seen collaring an elephant. On the right, a team of experts are seen collaring an elephant. Photo by James Lajun.

International Symposium on Health and Reproduction of Asian Elephants



Benoît travelled to Chiang Mai, in Thailand, from 31 May to 2 June 2010 to attend the International Symposium on Health and Reproduction of Asian Elephants organized by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Chiang Mai with support from the EU-Asia Link Elephant Project. The symposium was composed of seven main sessions, namely management of

captive and wild elephants, elephant health care, reproduction, endocrinology, behavior, genetics and conservation. Benoît was one of the invited speakers and gave a presentation on the conservation genetics of the Bornean elephant and an update on the recent research that DGFC and partners have been carrying out on the species in Sabah.



Workshop on Species Action Plans for orang-utan, elephant and rhinoceros

On 10 and 11 June 2010, the Sabah State Government and the Sabah Wildlife Department, in collaboration with WWF-Malaysia, the NGOs HUTAN and BORA (Borneo Rhino Alliance) and Danau Girang Field Centre, organised a workshop to present and discuss the three state action plans for elephant, orang-utan and rhinoceros. The workshop was held at the Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort, near Kota Kinabalu. The three action plans were presented by Dr Marc Ancrenaz (HUTAN) for the orang-utan, Dr Junaidi Payne (BORA) for the rhinoceros and Drs Benoit Goossens and Sen Nathan (Sabah Wildlife Department) for the elephant. Scientific work (some carried out by Cardiff University) over many years has come up with results that show that each species is endangered due to a number of reasons, including forest fragmentation. The comments and suggestions made during the workshop and working groups will be included in the three drafts and final action plans will be presented in the format of a cabinet paper and tabled by the Sabah State Cabinet.



Left: The species action plan committee; right: the subcommittee; above, Benoit presenting the elephant action plan.

Human-Crocodile conflict international workshop

The Sabah Wildlife Department organised an international workshop on human-crocodile conflict in Kota Kinabalu, from 23 to 25 June 2010, together with the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, and with financial support from Danau Girang Field Centre and Cardiff University, Sandakan and Tawau Crocodile Farms, Borneo Crocodile Centre, and Toyo Leather Corporation and Seisa University in Japan. Danau Girang Field Centre directed part of its conservation fee collected from 2008 to 2010 towards the costs of the workshop. In a statement, Sabah Wildlife Department said it was concerned about the increasing number of human-crocodile conflict cases, taking



into consideration that there were 31 attacks reported state-wide between 2000 and 2008, resulting in 16 deaths. Through the workshop, experts were able to discuss the need for population monitoring, land use planning for human activities and the need for public awareness programs and drafted a resolution and formulated new management prescriptions for crocodiles in the region.

Benoît Goossens was given the task to chair the session on issues on *Crocodylus porosus* conservation in its entire range and to facilitate the “Necessary monitoring program of *C. porosus*” working group.



Conservation Corner: The Bornean Elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*)

The focus for this month's conservation corner is the Bornean elephant. Known as the 'friendly' species of elephant, they plod through the forest often surprisingly quietly, keeping patrol as they walk long distances munching through tons of food. There are currently believed to be about 2000 individuals living in Sabah, but their habitat is being lost and destroyed through conversion to oil palm plantation. The remaining forest is left fragmented, causing barriers to the elephants, and increasing human-elephant conflict as they enter the

plantations.

The main threats to the Bornean elephant are habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching and illegal trade, and the simple fact that many people are not aware of the elephants conservational needs. Luckily for this species, a lot is being done to help them. An action plan has been formed to help protect this majestic animal, which aims to increase awareness, reconnect areas of previously fragmented habitat, and to increase their status from 'protected' to 'totally protected'.



Elephant satellite-collaring to help designing wildlife corridors in the Kinabatangan

One Bornean elephant, that we named Sunda, was fitted with a satellite collar on 26 May 2010 in the Lot 5 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (LKWS) as part of a collaborative project between the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD), the NGO HUTAN and the Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC). This project is funded by the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Elephant Family, Houston Zoo and Columbus Zoo. The aim of this project is to collect crucial information on the movement of the elephant to contribute to the long-term conservation management

of the species in Borneo.

The elephant population living in Kinabatangan is currently trapped in the lower parts of the floodplain. Because of recent human developments and extensive oil palm plantations, the herd is completely disconnected from the elephant populations living up-river in the forest reserves of Segaliud, Tangkulap and Deramakot. Unless forest corridors are created urgently to link up these populations, the risk of human elephant conflicts will increase in the future. The satellite data from the collared individuals will provide important information on the available suitable elephant habitat in the LKWS, allowing us to prioritise crucial areas in order to rebuild landscape connectivity with the help of the industry, government and NGOs.



Left: Benoit fitting the collar to Sunda. Right top: the Wildlife Rescue Unit with Sunda. Right bottom: Sunda walking away with her latest accessory



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.



This month's JUNGLE FASHION is inspired by the magnificent Trogon birds of the Kinabatangan. Trogons have some of the most stunning colouration of all of the Kinabatangan birds, with their red hot chests and array of patterns they are enough to make any bird look plain. As usual, it's the males who have all the aesthetic attention, and use their bright colouration to attract a mate.

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

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newsletter do not necessarily reflect the
views or policies of Cardiff University.



**Danau
Girang Field
Centre**