



The Jungle Times

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Willkommen Hannover University

12 German undergrad students make their way to the jungle to study the glorious fauna here at the field centre. They covered many topics including primate group number and their behaviour, proboscis vocals, and trapping and radio tracking tree shrews. In their (limited) free time and for those that lacked the fear of heights, they were able to climb up to the canopy platform and see the forest from a different perspective. When the group arrived they were also privileged to have Japanese researcher Ikki Matsuda tell them about his project on proboscis monkeys, which he has been studying in Sukau for 5 years!

Professors Ute Radespiel and Elke Zimmermann, came in March 2009 for a recce visit to assess the field centre as a potential site for a field course. Being impressed by the field centre, they decided to organise a field course and bring 12 students to study tropical ecology and animal behaviour. *'This is an exceptional site... It is like luxury here, with its well developed facilities for research, internet and most importantly clean water!'*- Ute and Elke. Overall it was a very enjoyable stay for everyone, the Hannover students and staff as well as the DG volunteers and students.



Ikki Matsuda tells us about proboscis monkeys

Dr Ikki Matsuda is a primatologist based at the Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan. He did his PhD on proboscis ecology in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary and he is a close collaborator to DG.



There are 10 species of primates here, why did you decide to study the proboscis?

Many people study orang-utans and silver langurs, but no one had studied proboscis monkeys in the forest especially as mangroves

are hard to move through. But here in the Kinabatangan, it's easier to follow them than other places. I had studied the spider monkeys in Colombia following through the forest for my masters, but it was a very dangerous country, Sabah is much safer.

How did you go about studying them?

Simple- follow the monkey for the whole day from the morning until the evening when they come back to the river. We recorded the behaviour by seconds, whether resting, feeding, moving, social interaction etc.



How long until habituation?

About 1 month.

What are your key findings?

They are definitely leaf eating monkeys but fruit eating is the most important factor in determining behaviour.

What are the most important aspects of a proboscis lifestyle when considering conservation of the species?

Corridors are good for them but its hard to get people to care about conservation of the proboscis monkey as they always come back to the river, they are always visible, unlike orang-utans, which are mostly elusive. There are only 6000 individuals of proboscis monkeys, but 10-12000 orang-utans here in Sabah, meaning

that proboscis monkeys are more endangered than the great ape.

And finally, what is your opinion of DGFC?

Quite nice compared to my house in Sukau, we use rain water for cooking, river water for shower and toilet, so here is very nice! Everything here is taken care of, you don't have to buy food etc yourselves, it's all provided. It's very nice and very comfortable here.

New friends this month



Diane, from Reunion Island came for 4 days to visit the field centre and was taken on lots of boat tours where she not only experienced a variety of animals but a variety of weather too!



Recent Cardiff graduate, **Lorna Pullin** has been travelling Indonesia and Malaysia before starting physiotherapy work in a hospital in India. She visited DGFC for 4 days and while here, got the full experience, seeing orangutans, climbing the canopy platform, helping with the Clouded Leopard project and having a friendly leech!

Jennifer Brunke, PhD student, came along to Danau Girang with the Hannover field course. After studying tree shrews in captivity back in Germany, she decided to stay an extra 3 months to continue her project on the tree shrews of Borneo. Jenny, and volunteer Josie Jackson, has been using GPS-based radio telemetry to estimate home range size, sleeping sites and activity patterns.



Photographer Rudi Delvaux— Rudi does photography as a hobby and so after his visit last year he decided to return to take some more amazing pictures of the wonderful wildlife here at Danau Girang. Just to prove his enthusiasm for his photography, he also got up at 5:30am to spend 3 hours up the canopy platform to see the sunrise and to get some good pictures of the early rising animals of which included a variety of birds, squirrels and many lizards.

Hari Raya at Danau Girang

When everyone here at the centre heard there was a secret surprise set out for them all and were told to wear jungle clothes, the last thing they were expecting was to be presented with a traditional Hari Raya celebration! Beautiful Hari Raya outfits were given out to wear (for both girls and boys) and it followed with a lovely celebration of yummy food, music and lots of photos! (Quote) (picture) *'It was such a surprise to be invited to the festival of Hari Raya with all guest and staff of DG, we had a really great time and was nice to be a part of traditional Malaysian celebration and it was a privilege to share their culture.'* – Volunteers at DG



Guests from the USA

Near the end of the month, Danau Girang hosted a small group of visitors from New York, brought here by Cardiff University's John Robertson. John was instrumental in setting up the field centre, as at the time he worked within the School of Biosciences. Now he is Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Cardiff University. He met these lovely Americans while fund-raising for DGFC and brought them along to see the centre first hand. To their excitement, the elephants were also travelling near DG and so this led to many boat trips and amazing sights! Many members of the group had a great interest in photography and so to show the animals of DG in their best light, Rudi gave a presentation of the pictures he had taken so far. The camera trapping team also showed the highlights of their recent pictures of their captures, including clouded leopards, storm stork, leopard cat, sun bear, binturong and many naughty macaques. All in all the group had a wonderful time here and were very glad to make the visit.

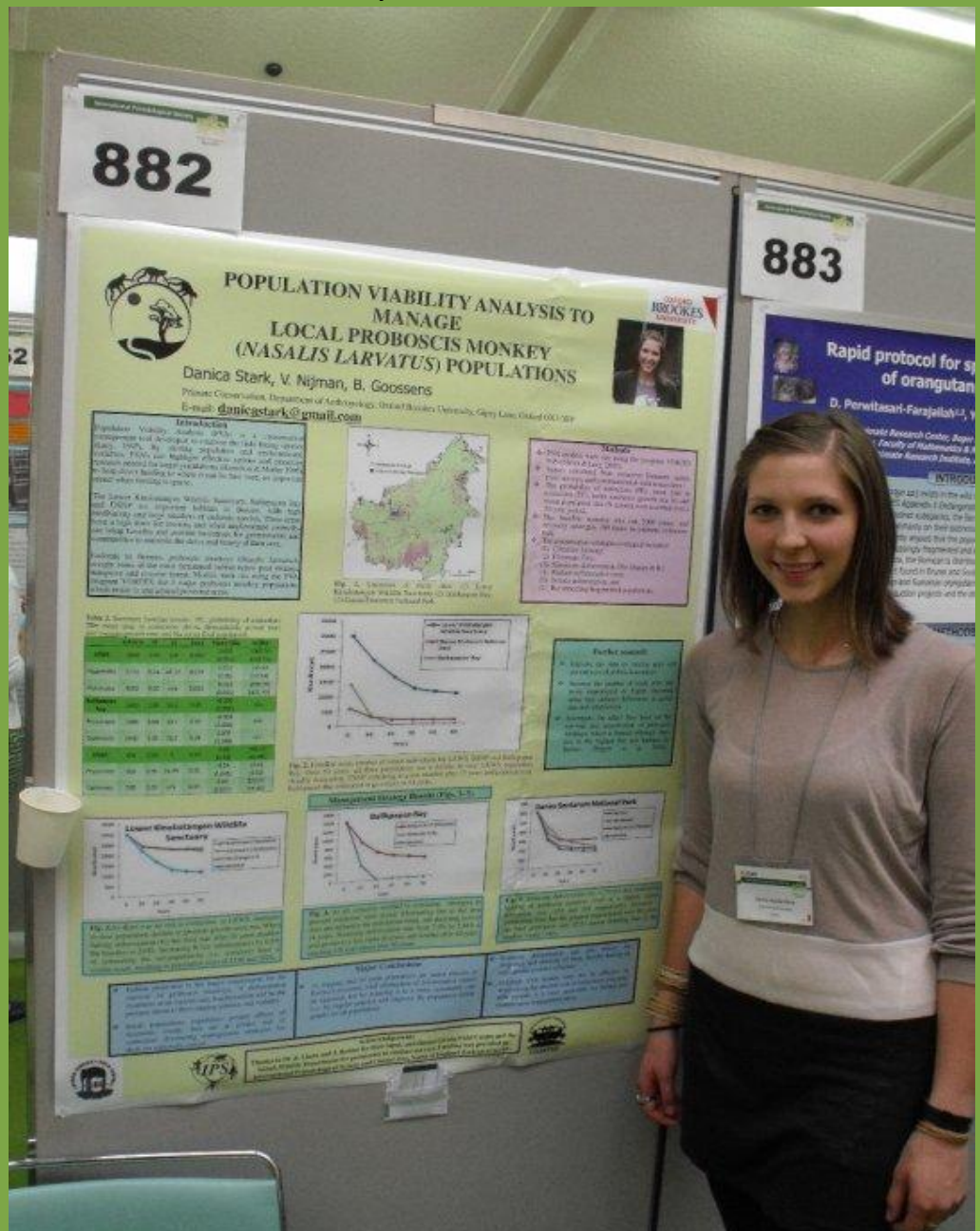


International Primatological Society Conference

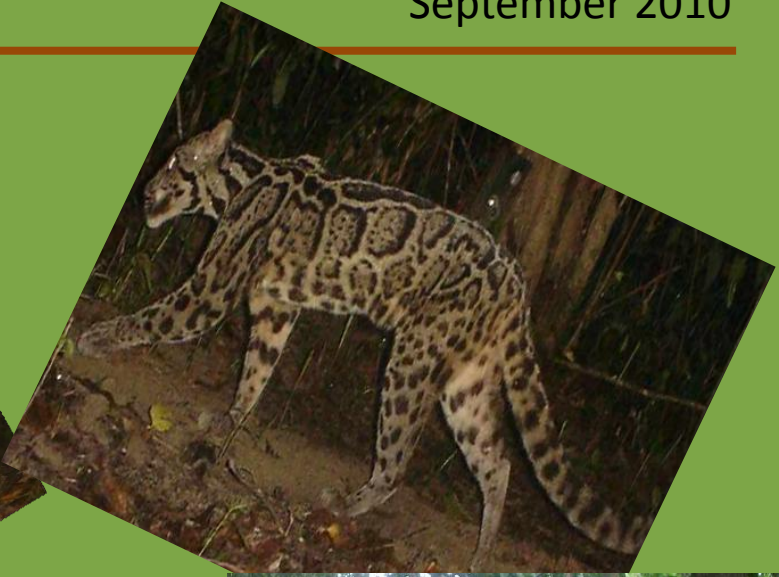
From 12 to 18 September, Kyoto University held the XXIIIrd Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS), with the theme being 'Quest for Coexistence with Nonhuman Primates'. Benoit Goossens presented a paper on 'Fragmentation in large forest mammals of Borneo: the examples of Bornean orangutans and elephants' during a symposium titled 'Habitat fragmentation in time and space: lessons to learn about and from primates'.

At the same conference, Oxford Brookes University's Primate Conservation

Master student Danica Stark presented a poster on work partially carried out at DGFC and titled 'Population viability analysis to manage local proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) populations' (see picture). Benoit also took the opportunity to make contacts with researchers potentially interested to study at DGFC or run a field course. The next IPS meeting will be held in Vera Cruz (Mexico) in August 2012.



Picture of Danica Stark at the conference with her poster



**September special;
Camera trap pictures!**
From the top left clockwise;
Elephant mother and baby
feeding; Clouded leopard
stalking; Egret smiling for
the camera; Shy, fist walking
Orangutan; Malay Sun Bear;
Long tailed macaque
mugshot (suitable for a
'wanted' poster)!
For more info on the
project, go to
<http://borneanwildcat.blogspot.com/>



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

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