



The Jungle Times

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Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Established 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2 – Camera traps galore

3 – Merry Christmas from DGFC

4 – Visitors of the month

5 – BBSRC Event at Cardiff University

6 – Field trip scholarships

7 – Who's eyes are these...?

8 – Photo album



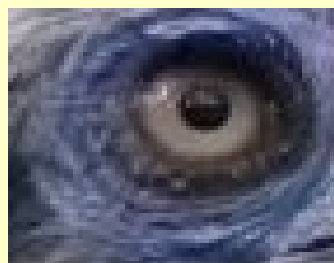
Camera trapping on page 2



Christmas at DGFC on page 3



BBSRC event on page 5



Guess the eyes on page 7

Camera traps galore!

In December, we said goodbye to Andrew Hearn, and his two assistants Jasz and Gilmore. They have been working on the Kinabatangan Clouded Leopard Project at DGFC for the last 6 months. During this time, they have collected many excellent camera images from curious comedic macaques to the majestic clouded leopard. Here at DGFC, we wish them safe travels and good luck on the future of the camera trapping project and looking forward to the results! However, we have not seen the last of camera traps, as the two PTYs have started a new project with the help of Andrew Hearn's guidance and expertise.



Courtesy of A. Hearn/WildCRU



The new camera trapping project, The Kinabatangan Carnivore Program, which is being funded by Houston, Columbus, Phoenix, and Cincinnati Zoos and friends of DGFC in New York, is already well on the way, with a variety of pictures coming in. The Project currently has cameras in the corridor which makes the south west portion of Lot 5, and will soon be moving the cameras to Lot 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, comparing the composition and occupancy of the carnivores between a lone forest lot and a connecting corridor. This is a very important and exciting project, as the results can help in the conservation of vital forest areas, such as these corridor passage ways.

Merry Christmas Everyone



This Christmas, DGFC welcomed Nicola Abram from the University of Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, to join them for the celebration. Currently Nicola

is doing a PhD on 'The Kinabatangan corridor research project', based at Sukau. Nicola, along with the members of DGFC celebrated this special day with a quiet relaxing boat tour along some of the Kinabatangan's secluded tributaries and lakes, followed by a delicious homemade meal of vegetarian lasagne made with hand picked ferns - not quite as traditional as the Italians method, but it won the originality award! But the fun didn't stop there, all members of staff joined in on New Year's Eve for a movie marathon until 1am, but of course, not without catching a quick glimpse of the countdown happening at Kuala Lumpur.



Visitors this month

Samantha, Eric and Sinead, from America, came to DG to 'see something different' after hearing so much about the variety of wildlife and plants there is to offer. Samantha and Sinead have been working for the last 5 months in Rota Island, just off of Guam, studying the critically endangered mariana crow. They are looking into reasons for its decline and are setting up radio tracking of feral cats, as they believe that to be one of the main problems that have been leading to many bird species extinction.

Eric, is also working on a project on the Islands around and including Guam, studying the difference in ecology between the islands and how this could be affecting the bird decline. A classic example, of this sort of rapid bird decline, was the introduction of the brown tree snake. Their populations soon exploded, leading many birds on Guam to extinction. This is an on going problem in these islands that is causing serious concern to the future of the birds, and many methods are now in process to rekindle their populations.



Overall, during their short stay at DG they were delighted with the amount of bird species they viewed on their boat tour; in particular they felt most lucky to see a mighty flock of hornbills, including the wrinkled hornbill and the colourful rhinoceros hornbill.

'Amazing wildlife concentrated in such an (unfortunately) small swath of forest. Thank you for everything'-Sinead Borchert, CA, USA

BBSRC Excellence with Impact Award event at Cardiff School of Biosciences



Mr Richard Rossington (1st left) and Professor John Harries (2nd left) are shown by Dr Benoit Goossens (centre) and 2009-2010 DGFC PTYs Jennifer Shepperson (1st right) and Alice Evans (2nd right) the involvement of BIOSI at DGFC

On 23 November 2010, Cardiff School of Biosciences welcomed the Wales' first Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Harries, and Mr Richard Rossington, Head of Science Policy in the Office of the CSA for the Welsh Assembly Government, as well as guests from within and outside Cardiff University to view its delivery of economic and social impact that arises from its world-leading research and teaching. Professor Harries attended a showcase event on the theme of "Excellence with Impact" during which he met with staff and students as part of "living case studies" where members of the School discussed on a one-to-one basis how they had made an impact with their research activities. Benoit Goossens, who was on his annual short visit to the University, together with ex-Professional Training Year students Alice Evans and Jennifer Shepperson, introduced DGFC to Professor Harries and other guests. Professor Harries was extremely impressed by Cardiff University's initiative to establish a field centre in the tropics. The event also formed part of the visit to judge the School's entry into the BBSRC Excellence with Impact Award.

HJB Charitable Trust scholars for the School Tropical Biodiversity Assessment Field Course 2011



Sophie Cowling



Hugo Creeth



Sarah Shepperd

In 2010, the HJB Charitable Trust agreed to fund two £1,500 travel scholarships over a period of three years (2011, 2012 and 2013) for students who will attend the School's Tropical Biodiversity Assessment Field Course in Sabah.

In November 2010, three students (who will take part in the 2011 field course) out of the 10 students who applied for the scholarship were awarded a travel scholarship. A grant of £1,500 was allocated to **Sophie Cowling** and two grants of £750 each were allocated to **Hugo Creeth** and **Sarah Shepperd**.

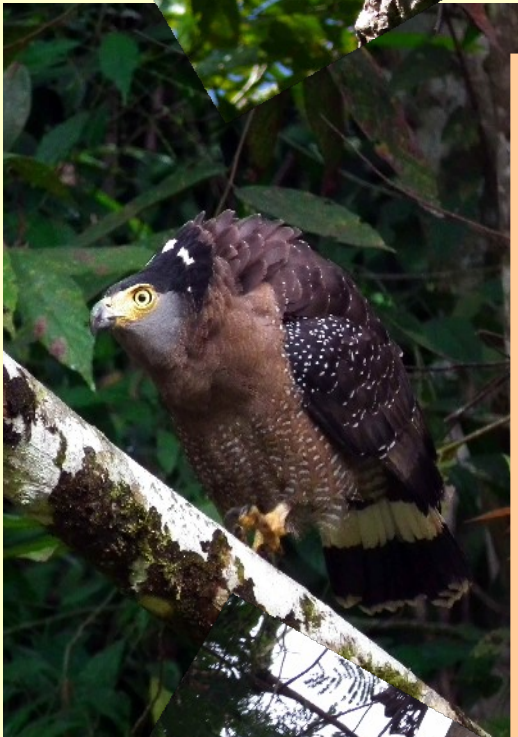
We would like to thank the HJB Charitable Trust for their support and we would like to encourage our students to apply for 2012 and 2013 field courses when the time comes. The scholarships for 2012 will be announced at the start of the new academic year.

Who's eyes are these...?

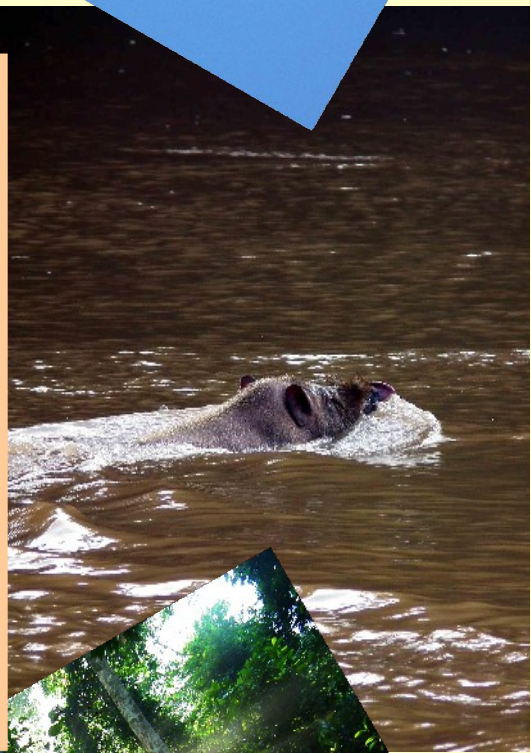
(Answers from last week's guess the pattern: *Reticulated python*, *crocodile*, *lantern bug*, *orange millipede*, *frilled tree frog*)



Photo Album



Clockwise from top left, Large Bees nest 10m high in a tree, Rhinoceros Hornbill above the Kinabatangan, Bearded Pig swimming across the river, Morning sunlight through the canopy, female Proboscis climbs away from out boat, Crested serpent eagle gets spooked by a nearby Hornbill



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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