



# The Jungle Times

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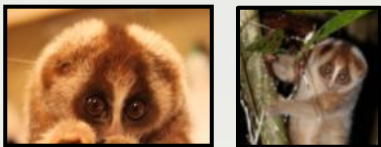
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## Welcome

to the new look Jungle Times! November has been full of new arrivals and celebrations. To start the month off; Valentine, a masters student arrived, shortly followed by Benoit's and Milena's son, Naollin! Danica left the sunshine for a break in chilly Canada and Krik the slow loris has gone missing. We hope you enjoy this issue!

*Josie Alice Becky*



# November's New Arrivals

## Valentine Thiry

*Student in Masters of Biology and Ecology at Brussels University (ULB).*

I studied biology in hope of becoming a primatologist, and now, I'm at DGFC for 3 months to do my dissertation on proboscis monkey behaviour. This is a great opportunity for me to be here and to study primates. I do boat surveys twice a day to observe them at their sleeping site and I also analyze seeds I find in their faeces. Being in the field and studying what I'm really interested in is an amazing experience! DGFC is a such a nice place and the time is going too quickly! Thanks DGFC!



## Naollin Goossens Salgado

Naollin was born on November 3, 2011 at 1.24 pm, in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. He's a beautiful little boy of 3 kg and 49 cm. His Mom and his Dad are so happy!



# Visitors to Danau Girang

## Roshan Guharajan

I was indeed very excited when I found out I had the opportunity to volunteer at Danau Girang Field Centre. For the past two months I had been working with sun bears at the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Sepilok, Sabah. During that time I had heard many great things about Danau Girang. From elephant and crocodile satellite tagging to nocturnal primate surveys, the field centre seemed to be a major hub for wildlife research. Getting an opportunity to see it all for myself was definitely something I looked forward to.

Danau Girang seemed to appear out of nowhere with only a jetty to be seen from the river. After being given a tour of the facility, I was offered the chance to accompany Danica, Valentine and Alex on a proboscis monkey survey. I leaped at the opportunity. Over the next few days, I was blessed enough to participate in slow loris radio tracking, night surveys, frog surveys, as well as habitat analysis.



As I intend to pursue a Master's degree in wildlife biology, these experiences were priceless. I also developed a real appreciation for work the different scientists and students do every day.

My time at Danau Girang Field Centre was a great experience for me both as a volunteer and as a visitor. Sabah's wildlife has indeed received a helping hand with the setting up of this research and education facility. I definitely hope to return to Danau Girang sometime in the future.

## Nicky and Douglas, University of Kent

We were paid a flying visit by PhD student Nicky and her supervisor Dr Douglas MacMillan, from the University of Kent. Nicky is currently based in Sukau and the pair took the 3 hour trip up river to join us for lunch. Once again it was lovely to have the opportunity to meet other researchers working in the area.



## Fabrice Hibert

French Tapir expert, Fabrice Hibert stayed at DG for a few days. He was kind enough to share some of his field experiences with us, including a presentation about his latest research project on the tapirs of French Guiana. We hope he enjoyed his stay and wish him the best in finding a research project on the tapirs of Malaysia!



# Celebrations!



This month we celebrated Mark's and Danica's one year at DG! It turns out 'Pizza Hut' do not deliver to Lot 6 Lower Kinabatangan River so kindly Mark brought some over! We had a great evening chatting about memories of their first year, lets hope there are many more to come.



A couple of weeks later, it was time for us to say goodbye to Danica for her Christmas break. To send her off properly we had a BBQ! Alex even provided entertainment in the form of personalised balloons. We had a wonderful evening and wish Danica safe travels, a merry Christmas and we will welcome her back to D.G. in the New Year.



# Conservation Corner: Sun Bear



**Scientific name:** *Helarctos malayanus*

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable

**Wild population:** Unknown

Sun bears are the smallest members of the Ursidae Family, so named because of the yellow semi-circular markings on their chest. They are found in tropical forests of Southeast Asia, with a distinct sub-species (*Helarctos malayanus eurypilus*) found here in Borneo.

## Conservation issues :

The biggest conservation threats facing the sun bears in Borneo are **deforestation and habitat fragmentation**. Being arboreal, they are highly dependent on their natural forest habitat. They are also omnivorous, with forest fruits (especially figs) making up a significant proportion of their diet.

Nocturnal and shy, there is little information on the population sizes of this enigmatic species. It is suspected that large scale deforestation due to logging and palm-oil industries has led to a **population decrease of more than 30% in the last 3 generations**.

Habitat loss due to **forest fires** are also thought to have had a major impact in recent years, and prolonged dry seasons have disrupted the fruiting patterns of trees, leading to **starvation** of sun bears.

## Future Directions

The IUCN suggests that the protection of remaining suitable habitats, and the **expansion of protected forest areas**, should be the main conservation priorities for sun bears in Sumatra and Borneo. In mainland Southeast Asia however, poaching is a larger threat.

There have been very few intensive studies on sun bears, and little is known about their population trends, reproduction or social structure. There needs to be **more research** on this charismatic species, in order to understand how best to help populations recover.

**Pictures:** Range of sun bears, Sow and cub caught on camera at DG, Sun bear showing distinctive yellow 'bib'.

# MISSING



Krik the slow loris is sadly no longer being followed. He has not been seen since the 6<sup>th</sup> November and after a week of strange signals and moving away from his usual home range; his collar was eventually found on 23<sup>rd</sup> November on the river bank. It is possible he was a small meal for a snake or bird, but as he was young at the time of collaring we are hoping he moved off to find a territory of his own!

*We may even see him again one day....*

# Spot the Difference!



Alex has just come back from habitat analysis, can you spot the **6** differences between before and after? (One is very hard!)



- Answers:**
- 1: Closed calipers
  - 2: Tape measure unrolled
  - 3: Valentine's face!
  - 3: Topofield changed position
  - 4: Different glasses
  - 5: Hat moved around (the hard one!)



# Pics of the Month!



From the top left, clockwise spiral: Playing badminton, Proboscis monkey mid-jump, scorpion devouring an earthworm, reticulated python crawling up Alex's window, our resident one eyed Malay civet, jade tree frog laying her eggs, leopard cat, Danica pulling a funny face, Alex giving us a taste of French cuisine, green flying lizard.

## 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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