



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 37

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Welcome!

It's the middle of the rainy season but life is never quiet at DG. The highlight of the month was collaring another Western Tarsier, 'Manja'. We also welcome back Luke who has returned to start his PhD and there is a new addition to the DGFC family! We hope you enjoy this issue!

Josie Alice Becky



This month's guests



Rhys Bowley

*Engineering undergraduate,
Cardiff University.*

Rhys visited for a few days to see the field centre. During his stay he helped Becky with camera trapping studies, as well as taking part in night walks and primate surveys. "I was impressed by the work being carried out at DG and the attitude of the staff and students was really welcoming."

Nurzhafarina Othman

Phd Student, Cardiff university

Farina visited Danau Girang whilst the elephants were close by to collect observational data for her PhD which she is studying for through Cardiff University. Megan (another PhD student) and Farina took trips out with Samsir, one of our research assistants, in search of the elephants with the help of GPS points from the satellite collared individuals. Farina's PhD is funded by Houston Zoo, Elephant Family, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Columbus Zoo and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Keep checking our Facebook page for updates on where the elephants are.



Elephants crossing the Kinabatangan



New arrivals



Luke Evans

PhD student, Cardiff University.

“I’m returning to Danau Girang to commence work on a PhD looking at the estuarine crocodiles of Sabah. I successfully completed an MRes at DG last year and with the support of Dr. Goossens and DGFC, have been able to return to carry out work on a much grander scale.”

My PhD has several key aims:

The first involves the satellite tracking of both male and female crocodiles to assess their medium to long term movements, paying particular attention to their relationships with oil palm plantations. It is hoped that with a better understanding of these movements, advice may be issued to plantations as to when their workers are at the greatest risk of attack. This element of the project will, at first, focus on the Kinabatangan and Paitan rivers, although there is scope for extending to include additional rivers. Towards the conclusion of the project the information gained will be used to identify areas of high risk and use a combination of signs and posters to increase awareness of this heightened danger.



New arrivals continued...



The second aim is to assess the genetic diversity of the crocodiles found within Sabah. This will involve samples collected from the 10 largest rivers found in the state. This could not only determine the effects on genetic diversity of a population bottleneck experienced in the 1950s/60s but the extent to which the individual populations isolated and whether gene flow is occurring between them.

In addition to this, nesting surveys of the two major study sites (Kinabatangan and Paitan) will be carried out, with a view to assess the anthropogenic and climatic impact on nesting in the region."

Mohd Dziel Ikram



Two members of DG staff, Azlina and Doyo, welcomed their second child, Ikram in the early hours of 5th February. He weighed 2.3 Kg. We hope Ikram enjoys life in the jungle!

Tarsier collaring



On 2 February 2012, Saroto, Alice and Danica caught a female tarsier on one of our trails around DGFC and set her up with a radio collar. We used the red torches, and realised that she was so calm. So red light is definitely the way to go to reduce the animal's stress. We called her "Manja" because of her attitude - really calm, and relaxed and when we stroked her on her forehead she would almost fall asleep (see below)! This is part of a long-term project funded by Columbus Zoo, Cleveland Zoological Society (for the last 2 years) and recently by Phoenix Zoo. We are mainly looking at the affects of seasonal influences on the home range and behavioral ecology of the Bornean tarsier and slow loris in degraded forest.



Luke to the rescue !

'Gary' the Malaysian box turtle was rescued when Luke and Mark found him in the middle of the busy main road on their way back from Sandakan. We housed him at DG over night to take measurements and make sure he was in good health. The next morning he was released again ... far away from any traffic !



Above: Gary after being released ... we're gonna miss you :'(

Conservation Corner: Sunda Clouded Leopard

Scientific name: *Neofelis diardi*

Conservation status: Vulnerable
(IUCN)

Wild population trend: Decreasing



Threats

Palm oil plantations and logging are a serious threat as Sunda clouded leopards are forest specialists and are particularly sensitive to forest fragmentation and habitat loss. They need large areas of connected habitat in which to hunt and breed and being arboreal they are strongly dependent on native forest for survival. Fragmentation often restricts them to small patches of forest with insufficient resources to sustain viable populations.

Conservation

More research is needed in order to better understand the distribution and conservation status and the factors affecting their presence and abundance. The Bornean Clouded Leopard Programme, a collaborative effort between Sabah Wildlife Department, WildCRU and Oxford University, is trying to find such information on the status of wild cats in Sabah through the use of camera trapping surveys. In particular, they highlight the importance of maintaining and enhancing dispersal opportunities, such as forest corridors. To find out more, visit : <http://borneanwildcat.blogspot.com>

Spot the Difference!



Becky is about to go camera trapping, can you spot the **5** differences between the first and second photo?



ANSWERS!
Drill bit missing
Batteries missing
Hook missing
Memory cards knocked over
Camera trap grid missing

Pics of the month!



Spiral from top left: Cheeky otter sticking it's tongue out, tiny snake, crested serpent eagle catching it's prey, two elephants getting friendly, flycatcher bird, Tango the orangutan, Manja the Western Tarsier, a strange looking caterpillar, colugo, sticky frog, Gary the turtle and Hitam the crocodile.

Camera Trap Snaps: The best so far ...



Clockwise from top left : Orangutan pair, Malay civet, Leopard cat, Serpent eagle, Sambar deer, Otter sp.



Clockwise from top left : Some impressive tusks, Flanged male orangutan, Banded palm civet, Oriental pied hornbill, Sunbear, Common palm civet carrying infant, Orangutan close-up, ghostly elephant, Juvenile sambar deer, Silver langur.
Centre: Arboreal small toothed palm civet, rarely caught on camera.

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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