



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est.  
2008

Issue: 39

## Inside this issue:

2. April's visitors



3. Chris Bray photography

4. Visitors continued

5. New Arrivals

7. Doughnut Time!



8. DG Crocodile

Team visits Brunei

9. Elephant Forum



10. Eco Health Alliance

11. Proboscis monkey sampling

12. Conservation Corner –  
Proboscis monkeys

13. Emma's Illustrations



14. Photos of the Month

## Welcome

It's been another busy month here at DG! We have had proboscis monkey sampling, many visitors and new arrivals. We even took a trip to meet with the Prince of Brunei and to discuss developing a crocodile conservation project!

Josie Alice Becky



# April's visitors

## **Liz Hamilton – Birmingham University**

Liz visited DG for 6 days to finish fieldwork for her PhD on bio-geochemical cycling of nutrients in the soil. During her stay she collected soil cores to compare the differences in nitrogen cycling between secondary forest fragments and oil palm plantations.



## **Kay Fletcher and Donna Bayliss**

As professional photographers, these two travel around South East Asia in search of adventure and photo/video opportunities. They are at DG for 1 month and so far they have set up their own DSLR camera trap, been on numerous jungle walks and accompanied all of us on our field work. Check out their website at:

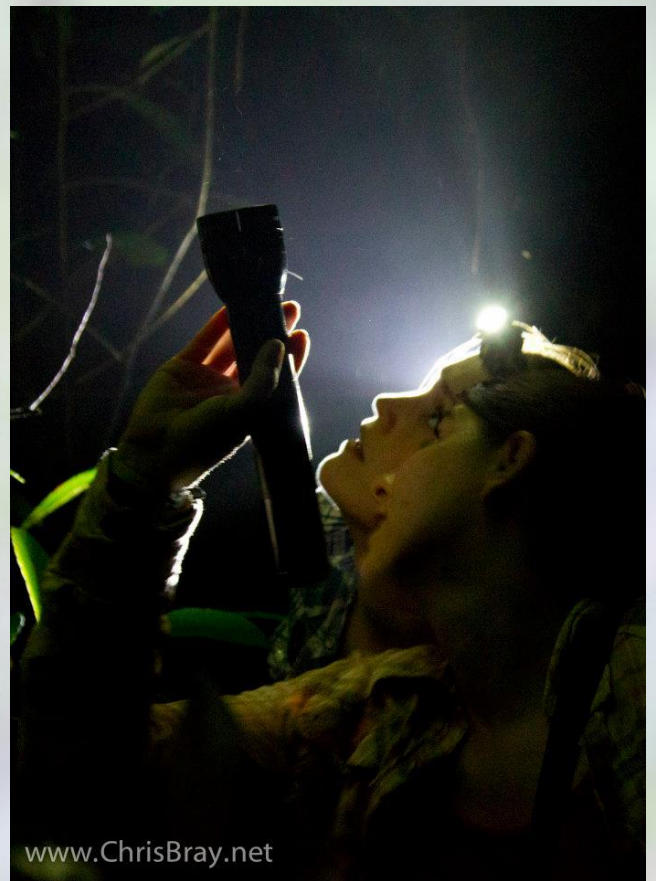
[www.wildsidephotography.ca](http://www.wildsidephotography.ca)

## **Chris Bray, Raymond Alfred and Richard Sanggul**

Chris, a professional photographer, came with two guides from Borneo Conservation Trust for two days on an assignment to photograph endangered species in South-East Asia for 'Australian Geographic Outdoor'! He took some incredible photos of the collared tarsiers. Have a look on the next page!



# A Selection of Chris' Photos



Chris conducts wildlife photography courses and you can check out his web site [www.chrisbray.net](http://www.chrisbray.net) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/chrisbrayphotography](http://www.facebook.com/chrisbrayphotography)

# Visitors continued...



## ***Naollin Goossens Salgado***

Ben's 6 month old son made his first (of many) visits to the forest with Milena whilst the proboscis monkey sampling was going on.

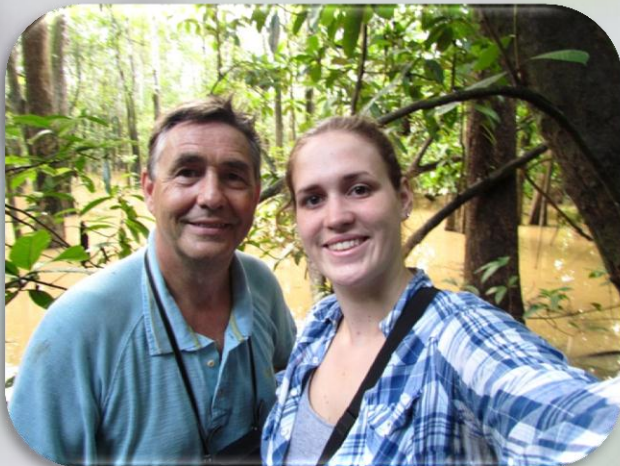
## ***Wildlife Rescue Unit and Eco Health Alliance***

Read on further for more information on their activities!



## ***Greg Miles***

Alice's dad came to visit us at DG for 5 nights this month after doing a quick tour around Sabah and climbing Mount Kinabalu. He was put straight to work and helped Alice carry out her tarsier tracking throughout the night. He was also lucky enough to see a variety of wildlife, including 3 orangutans!



# New Arrivals

## **Priscillia Miard** – Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble

Just before I arrived at DG a female slow loris, Boss, was collared. So, I am here for 3 months to study the Bornean slow loris, their habitat activity during the night. I have the chance to study such an interesting animal in its natural environment and everyday she is surprising. The tropical forest is a really different place from France, but it is really nice to see the nature. It is really nice that people can come to Danau Girang to study and see amazing things everyday, like monitor lizards, orangutans, crocodiles and proboscis monkeys.

Everybody here is very welcoming and I think my 3 months here are going to go very fast!



**Above left:** Priscillia and Alice looking for Boss. **Below left:** Boss in action at night! **Right:** Boss and her baby at their sleeping site!

# New Arrivals cont...



## **Stephanie Hing** – *Imperial College London*

I'm an Aussie vet and elephant obsessive currently undertaking my MSc in Conservation Science. Still pinching myself that I'm in Sabah pursuing my dream project!

It's very exciting to be based at DGFC for my MSc which examines the relationship between ecosystem and animal health, an approach which is known as One Health or Conservation Medicine.

To investigate the interrelationship between habitat loss and disease, two key processes threatening species survival, I will be surveying elephants for internal parasites and comparing results between Kinabatangan and Tabin which differ in the degree of deforestation and human disturbance.

Fingers crossed that we'll get an unprecedented first glimpse of organisms living inside endangered Bornean elephants and also shed light on the potential animal health implications of habitat loss and degradation.

Thanks to generous assistance from ZSL and Chester Zoo, help from the team particularly Benoit, Mark, Farina and indispensable field assistants, I'll (hopefully) be up to my elbows in elephant poop for the next few months!

# It's doughnut time!



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, Mark enrolled Hasnah, the head chef at DG, on a doughnut making course at Annie's Cooking Studio in Sandakan. Throughout the day the students learnt how to make the dough along with **16** different toppings and fillings! The doughnuts were brought back to DG, much to the delight of all the guests, staff and students! Within a couple of hours they had vanished!

Thank you Hasnah for making us such tasty treats they were delicious!



# Crocodile Collaborations

A team from Danau Girang Field Centre (Ben, Luke and Mark) and Sabah Wildlife Department embarked on a trip to establish a crocodile project collaboration with Brunei's Natural History Museum, headed by Pengiran Muda Omar Ali.



**Pictures left:** The crocodile team with Pengiran Muda Omar Ali (3rd left), and the Deputy director of the museum (1st right) at Tasek Merimbum Heritage Park. **Centre:** A working lunch with the Chief taxidermist of the museum (3rd left), his highness (4th left) and the deputy director (3rd right). **Right:** Prospective study site; Black water Lake.

The team were treated to guided tours around prospective study sites by His Highness and museum staff. Other activities included a museum tour as well as working lunches where a possible collaboration was discussed.



**Pictures Left:** Mark with the nightrider car! **Centre:** discussing future plans at His Highness' palace. **Right:** Sylvester and Luke with one of the many cars in His Highness' garage!

After a very successful few days of discussions, the team were invited to take a tour around His Highnesses palace, including the garages! This excellently rounded off a very successful trip and we all look forward to working closely together in the coming months.



# Elephant Research Networking Forum

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Sabah Wildlife Department, the NGO HUTAN and Danau Girang Field Centre organised an "Elephant Research Networking" forum in Kota Kinabalu, SWD Headquarters. Presentations were given by :

- **Miss Nurzhafarina Othman**, Danau Girang Field Centre: *"Update on Bornean elephant research in Sabah"*
- **Mr Raymond Alfred**, Borneo Conservation Trust: *"Bornean elephant home ranging in Sabah"*
- **Mr Salman bin Hj Saaban**, Perhilitan, Peninsular Malaysia: *"Elephant translocation in West Malaysia: practices and procedures"*
- **Mr Donny Gunaryadi**, Sumatra: *"Elephant conservation in Sumatra - population status and conservation activities"*
- **Mr Neang Thy**, Cambodian Elephant Conservation Group: *"Update on Asian elephant research in Cambodia"*
- **Dr Ahimsah Campos-Arceiz**, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus: *"Update on Asian elephant research and conservation in Peninsular Malaysia"*



**Left:** Nurzhafarina Othman giving her presentation.

**Right:** Dr Benoit Goossens, DGFC and Dr Laurentius Ambu, Director of Sabah Wildlife Department

The presentations were followed by a general discussion on elephant research networking, chaired by Dr Carl Traeholt; Copenhagen Zoo and Dr Benoit Goossens; Danau Girang Field Centre.

Some participants flew the next day to Sandakan and then spent a couple of days in Sukau with Nurzhafarina Othman and the Elephant Conservation Unit.

# Training on zoonotic pathogens and primate sampling



DGFC and Sabah Wildlife Department are collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) on zoonotic diseases. On the 17<sup>th</sup> April, EHA organised a training on zoonotic pathogens and primate sampling, safety and biosecurity protocols, which took place at Lok Kawi Zoo.

The event was attended by staff from the Wildlife Rescue Unit and Sabah Wildlife Department, students from UMS, staff from WWF and members of Danau Girang Field Centre (Benoit Goossens, Milena Salgado Lynn, Danica Stark, Mark Rampangajouw and Baharudin Resake -even Naollin!) Three members of EHA (Tom, Jimmy and Mei Ho) then came to DG to help with putting the protocol into action for the proboscis monkey sampling (see next page!)



# Proboscis monkey sampling

Following the training in Kota Kinabalu with EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), the group returned to DGFC for 8 days of proboscis monkey sampling. Joining the DGFC team were 5 members of the Wildlife Rescue Unit (Dr. Sen, Christopher, Stanely, Augustine and Dearboz) and 3 from EHA (Tom, Jimmy and Mei Ho).



Using what they had learned in the training session the previous week, the team incorporated safe animal handling procedures to prevent contamination and the potential spread of viruses between proboscis monkeys and humans.

Over the following 8 days, the team successfully collected samples from 5 proboscis monkeys for genetic, parasite, virus and nutrition studies.

The team will move on to Sukau next month and plan to have covered the entire lower Kinabatangan region by the end of the summer.

# Conservation Corner: Proboscis Monkeys



**Scientific name:** *Nasalis larvatus*

**Conservation status:** Endangered (IUCN red list)

**Population trend:** Decreasing

Proboscis monkeys are endemic to Borneo; found in Brunei, Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak. However, there is a greater abundance in Kalimantan. In Sabah, the largest populations can be found along the Kinabatangan and around Dewurst Bay. They are listed as 'endangered' and numbers have declined between 50 – 80 % over the last 40 years.

## Threats

- **Habitat loss** - logging, human settlement and cultivation has been a major cause in population declines.
- **Forest fires** – fragment their habitat, impacting distribution.
- **Hunting** – opportunistic hunting for food and for an intestinal secretion used in Chinese medicine.

## Conservation

Proboscis monkeys occur in 16 protected areas and, in Malaysia, are protected by a number of laws.

Studies, such as Stark *et al.* (2012) which looked at extinction modelling and population trends, will also help to learn more about this species and how to preserve them.

*An afternoon in the study room  
of the main building*



*Again a quiet day in DGFC...*

Emma, one of the French interns at DG is also a very talented cartoonist! Here, she illustrates the activities of our resident white-crowned hornbills! Enjoy!

# Photos of the month!



**1<sup>st</sup> column, top to bottom:** Hairy caterpillar; pitta sp. sleeping; sunset; hooded pitta with a moth on top!

**2<sup>nd</sup> column:** Orangutan; Igo in his frog outfit!; Leopard cat.

**3<sup>rd</sup> column:** White bellied rat snake; Purple throated sun bird; whip tail scorpion; saltwater crocodile basking.

## 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

Email: [danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com](mailto:danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com)

*Editors: Alice Miles, Becky Lawrence and  
Josie Jackson email:  
[sbi9jd1@cf.ac.uk](mailto:sbi9jd1@cf.ac.uk)*

*Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens*

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cardiff University.

