



# The Jungle Times

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## Welcome

Yet another busy month here in the forest! Manja was de-collared, we caught a croc and ze Germans are back! We hope you enjoy this issue packed with all our activities throughout May and lots of photos!

*Josie Alice Becky*



# New Arrivals

We are 'The Germs' and we are back!!!

Maybe you will remember us from our last stay at DG (if not have a look at JT 21, 23, 31)! Kathrin and Jenny; two biology PhD students from Hanover, Germany visited DG during the last few years to survey proboscis monkeys and small mammals along the Kinabatangan. We have come back for a six month stay, doing our PhD, but this time we are not alone! Like every proper Germ we did multiply and there are now three. Annette, a vet PhD student from Hanover, also wants to get in touch with the Bornean wildlife. Together with Kathrin, Annette will work on Proboscis monkeys and sexual selection. Together they will collect faecal samples for genetics, hormones and parasites and video and audio record vocalization behaviour.

In contrast, Jenny will focus on small mammals. She will trap small mammals in different forest fragments along the Kinabatangan to investigate the diversity of small mammal communities and the effects of habitat fragmentation on their diversity.



Kathrin



Jenny



Annette



# Crocodile Sampling

On 25th May 2012, we captured a 2.72 m male crocodile near DGFC. The animal was too small to be satellite-tagged, but we took the opportunity to collect measurements, tissue samples for DNA analysis and semen for fertility analysis, which was done by veterinarian; Dr Stephanie Hing.

The whole operation was carried out by DGFC staff, led by Mark Rampangajouw and Baharudin Resake. Great team work!



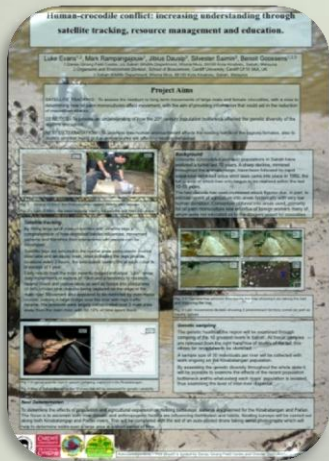
Photos: Pulling the crocodile in the cage out of the water, discussing the sampling, placing a wet cloth on the eyes to calm it down.

Photos cont.: securing the mouth, taking semen samples, releasing the croc, the team!

# IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group 21st Working Meeting

The 21st working meeting of the crocodile specialist group was recently held in Manila, attended by Luke Evans, one of our PhD students from Cardiff University. The meeting drew 175 participants from 27 countries and looked to discuss the state and fate of the world's crocodylian populations.

The conference's guest of honour was Michel Lacoste (Chairman and CEO of the Lacoste group) who has been proactive in his support of the 'Save Your Logo' campaign. He was pleased to announce that since their involvement in the scheme which began in 2009, they have invested €1.5 million in crocodile projects worldwide.



Far left: The poster Luke presented, centre: Luke with juvenile crocodile during sampling on the Kinabatangan, right: Luke with a fellow participant at the event

A poster was presented by Luke, detailing the work being carried out during his PhD, focussing on satellite tracking of salt water crocodiles in Sabah. A great number of influential contacts were made, with invaluable insight and advice into the project being given. There was widespread support for the work being carried out in an area described by Prof. Webb as "the place with the monster crocs". Potential collaborations were also discussed that could herald great things for the project.

The conference was heralded a success by the organisers with management plans and reviews of IUCN statuses for some of the world's most endangered species being updated.



# A De-collaring...?

On 20th May 2012, our nocturnal primate team retrieved Manja's radio collar which had stopped working. Manja was collared on 2nd February 2012. It took three attempts to catch her, but when she finally was, the whole retrieval operation took only 15 minutes and was carried out by PTY student Alice Miles and DGFC field research assistant Saroto bin Payar (Anto). Manja is doing really well and has gained 6 grams since we first caught her!



Anto after capturing Manja



Alice holding the collar after it was taken off.



Alice weighing Manja



Releasing Manja!



Taking the dead collar off





# Proboscis monkey sampling in Sukau

May has been a very busy month for our favourite Canadian! At the beginning of the month, Danica and Budin, along with the Wildlife Rescue Unit went on an expedition to Sukau to sample proboscis monkeys as part of the Sabah-wide proboscis monkey Conservation Project.



It was a great success, the team sampled a total of four monkeys; three adult males and one sub-adult female. Two of the adult males were collared and named Gambu and Monso, after Sabahan warriors. The data from this will be used towards Danica's PhD on the effect fragmentation has on proboscis monkey ranging and parasite load. This project is funded by Sime Darby Foundation and Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation. See the next page for more photos!





Top row: They don't pack lightly; equipment for the sampling and the lab in Sukau  
Middle row: Fitting Gambu with the collar, Danica collecting faeces  
Bottom row: Releasing Monso and Gambu



# GPS training by Danica Stark

On 27th May 2012, Danica Stark, a PhD student at Danau Girang Field Centre involved in our Proboscis Monkey Programme, conducted a training session on how to use a GPS for all of the Wildlife Rescue Unit rangers at Lok Kawi Wildlife Park.



# Elephant translocation

On 28th May 2012, the Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) from Sabah Wildlife Department and staff from Danau Girang Field Centre translocated a bull elephant (we call him 255 at the moment, it's the name of his collar) from a plantation near Lahad Datu into the safety of the Ulu Kalumpang Forest Reserve. The bull was fitted with a satellite collar and during the last week, he has been investigating his new home and we all hope that he will "like" it.



Budin preparing the satellite collar



The bull captured in a palm oil estate near Lahad Datu



Dr Diana Ramirez preparing the drug to tranquilise the bull

Ulu Kalumpang Forest Reserve, with an area of 510 km<sup>2</sup>, has a very low number of elephants (about 10) and it could be a good site for translocating individuals. This is part of a long-term programme that Sabah Wildlife Department and Danau Girang Field Centre kick-started to tackle human-elephant conflicts in agricultural plantations such as palm oil. Funding is currently provided by The Asian Elephant Foundation and Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, but it will require much more support.





Left to right: Dr Diana Ramirez tranquilising the bull; Mark Rampangajouw (DGFC manager) setting up the satellite collar; The team after fitting the satellite collar (a mix of WRU, DGFC, SWD and plantation staff); The bull with his new collar; Ready for the journey to Ulu Kalumpang Forest Reserve; Ulu Kalumpang Forest Reserve, new home, the door is open, on his way to freedom!

Check out the following link, highlighting the translocation of a bull elephant from a palm oil plantation near Lahad Datu to Ulu Kalumpang Forest Reserve.

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2012/06/05/elephant-translocation-will-it-help-mitigate-human-elephant-conflicts/>



# Best Pics From The Orangutan Bridge

The bridges stretch across tributaries in hope to provide connectivity between forest fragments. Set up on either side of one bridge are two camera traps to monitor what species are using it; check out some of the best snaps below!



Left to right: Female proboscis monkey; small tooth palm civet; silver langur with baby; prevost squirrel; long tailed macaque; pig tailed macaque and plantain squirrel carrying nesting material.



# Conservation Corner:

## Bornean tarsier

**Scientific name:** *Cephalopachus bancanus borneanus*

**Conservation status:** Vulnerable (IUCN)

**Wild population trend:** Decreasing

The Bornean tarsier is a sub-species of the Western Tarsier found in; Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan and Brunei. These small, nocturnal primates are found in primary and secondary forests and are specially adapted for vertical climbing and leaping and feed on insects and small vertebrates found on the forest floor.

Very little is known about the Bornean tarsier and the last in depth study of the species in the wild was conducted 20 years ago.

### Threats

**Deforestation** – an estimated 30% of their suitable habitat has been lost in the last 20 years due to the expansion of palm oil plantations and the clearing of large forest areas

**Wrongly considered as pests** to crops and can suffer directly or indirectly from pesticides.

**Illegal pet trade** targets them and sadly, few survive long in captivity due to their specialised diet.



'Manja' (left) and 'Como' (below); two resident tarsiers collared at DGFC



### Conservation

They are protected by law in Indonesia and Malaysia, and listed in CITES Appendix II. However, more up to date studies, such as the nocturnal project funded by are needed if we are to properly conserve this species.

Projects such as the sanctuary set up in the Philippines for the Philippine tarsier will also help to raise awareness and protection for the species.

# Wildside Photography

As mentioned in last month's Jungle Times, we had two photographers at DG; Kay and Donna. Here are a selection of photographs from their stay. Please visit [www.wildsidephotography.ca](http://www.wildsidephotography.ca) to see more of their photos!





# Spot the Difference!

We have neglected Spot The Difference for the last few months, but it's back! The star of this month is Carole! Can you find the **5** differences between this tree lover's photos??



1. Book closed
2. Watch missing
3. Tag from tree gone
4. Tape measure around tree missing
5. Lid off insect repellent



# Pics of the Month!



1<sup>st</sup> column: Dark headed cat snake, orangutan, lantern bug. 2<sup>nd</sup> column: Malay civet, emerging cicada, 'Como' and her baby 'Sabtu' (western tarsiers), proboscis monkeys. 3<sup>rd</sup> column: striped kukri snake, centipede eating a gecko, gecko on Samsir's boot, harlequin tree frog. 4<sup>th</sup> column: dead leaf mantis, baby orangtun, quiz night, forest nymph



## 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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