



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 43

## Inside this issue:

2. Arrivals
3. Visitors
4. The elephants visit DG
5. Orang-utan releases
6. Primate Field Course
8. Selamat jalan Tuah!
9. Jungle Sudoku
10. Conservation Corner:  
Bornean River Turtle

## Page 5.

Orang-utan releases at DG



## Page 6.

Primate Course



## Page 8.

Selamat jalan Tuah!



# Arrivals...

This month saw the arrival of the two other PTYs from Cardiff University. Mike Reynolds and Isaac Fields will be carrying out projects looking at fish parasites and diversity in the Kinabatangan River. Here's what they had to say on spending a year at DG:

## **Mike Reynolds, BSc Zoology:**

“Being in the rainforest will give me some great opportunities in assisting with exciting projects, meeting new people and gain invaluable experience in field work! I'm especially looking forward to the next few months as I'll be taking part in establishing a new freshwater project, something that hasn't been focused on in particular at DGFC before. Alongside being able to study such amazing wildlife, I cannot wait to immerse myself in local cultures and explore other regions of South East Asia!”



## **Isaac Fields, BSc Zoology:**

“I am really excited to be at the field centre and can't wait to explore the area whilst assisting in the many projects being undertaken here. Working with Mike on a relatively unexplored freshwater fish project will hopefully benefit the centre as well as the local community. With such an abundance of wildlife, being able to see so many animals in their natural habitat will be extremely rewarding.”



# Visitors...



**Shaun Astbury:** Shaun volunteered at DG for 2 weeks, primarily helping with the nocturnal primate study carried out during the primate field course.

**Dr Andrew Smart and his family:** After bringing a group from Cornwall college to the centre, Andy's family came to DG to join him for 4 days to carry out more field surveys.

**Paul Williams and John Rees** from the BBC came to DG for 1 night to learn more about the animals surrounding DG.

**Eva Augstein:** Eva, a friend of one of our PhD students, Annette, visited DG for 7 days this month. She experienced a range of activities from climbing the canopy platform to primate surveys from the river.

# The elephants visit DGFC

The elephants returned to lot 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary this month, even spending a few nights in and around DG itself. Here are some of our best pictures from the last month:



# Orang-utan translocations and releases at DGFC

Two Orang-utans were released near Danau Girang, the first being a female released on 1<sup>st</sup> August and the second, a male released on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012. Both animals were translocated from a small forest on a private land about to be cleared to make way for oil palm plantation.



The NGO HUTAN and Sabah Wildlife Department were contacted by the land owner. Then the Wildlife Rescue Unit went and captured the two orang-utans and translocated them to Lot 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

# Primate Field Course

DGFC became home to 10 participants in the "Methods in Primate Behaviour Field Course" for two weeks. DG's Danica Stark was running the course with participants from Canada, UK, Australia, Germany and America.



Over the first week the participants learnt methods for studying primates in the wild, including transect surveys, boat surveys, botanical plots, parasitology and radio-telemetry.



# Primate Field Course

In the second half of their stay the participants worked on their own projects, including looking at the ranging patterns of the slow loris, primate surveys in degraded habitats, parasite diversity, and orang-utan and macaque behaviour.



# Selamat jalan Tuah!

After 1 year of tracking, the collar has dropped off the first satellite-collared proboscis monkey. On the evening of the 364<sup>th</sup> day Tuah was seen feeding with his group. Knowing that the collar was pre-programmed to drop off after 365 days Danica went to meet his group before sunrise the following morning. The collar was found in about 15 minutes, using the radio-telemetry device, laying under a thick bush of vines.



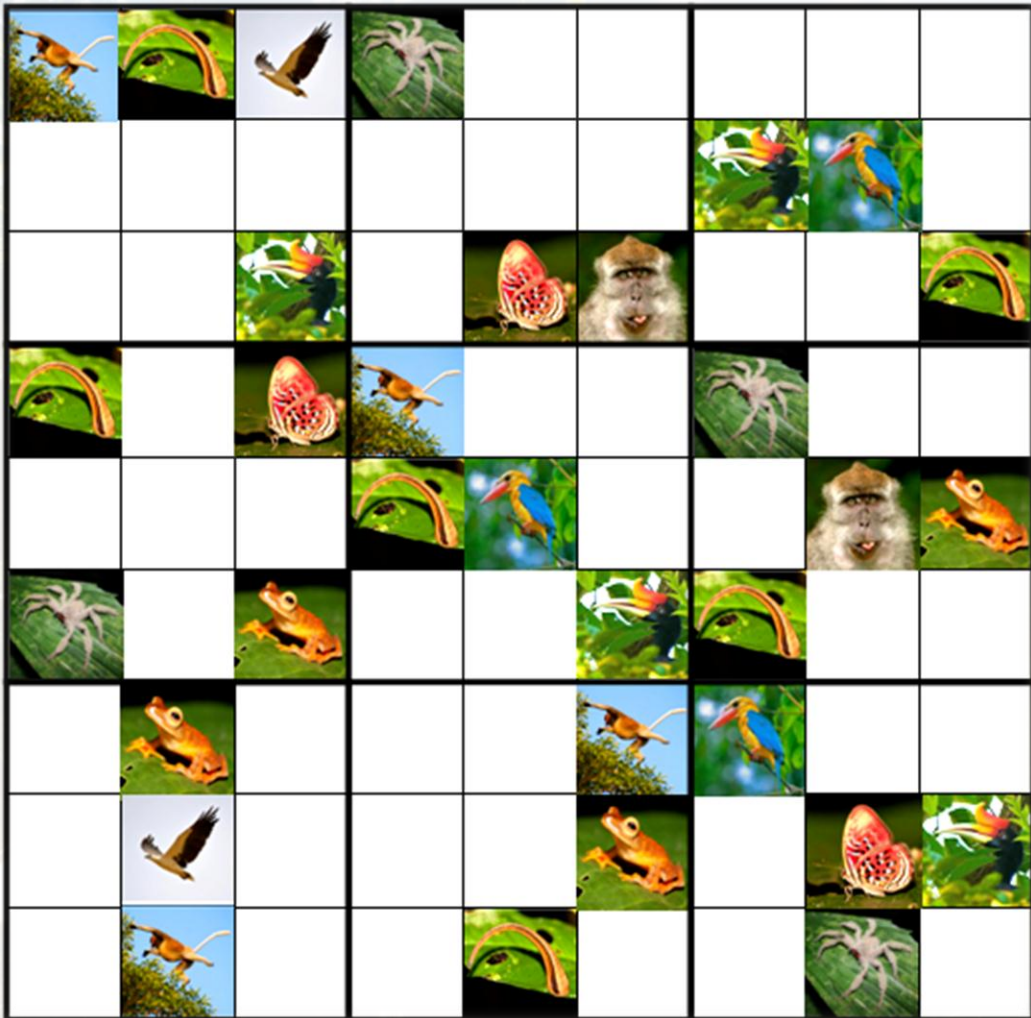
The collar has been sending GPS points of Tuah's locations every day but there was additional data to retrieve from the collar once it was collected, including activity data. The activity data was measured by recording the accumulation of "up-down" and "side-to-side" movements of the Tuah's head and neck over 5 minute periods every day for an entire year! That's a lot of data!



# Jungle Sudoku!

A jungle twist on the classic Sudoku cube. Your task: To fill in the blanks...

There's only one rule... All nine animals must appear once and only once in each row, column & box (bold lined).



Animals this month:

- ❖ Proboscis monkey (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Spider (Josie Jackson)
- ❖ White-bellied sea eagle (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Stork billed kingfisher (Budín)
- ❖ Rhinoceros hornbill (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Long-tailed macaque (Adam Seward)
- ❖ White-spotted harlequin (Adam Seward)
- ❖ Harlequin Tree Frog (Josie Jackson)
- ❖ Tiger leech (Adam Seward)

# Conservation Corner: Bornean River Turtle

**Scientific name:** *Orlitia borneensis*

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

**Wild Population trend:** Decreasing.



This semi-aquatic giant reptile is the largest freshwater turtle in South East Asia. It is only found in lakes, swamps and slow flowing rivers in Malaysia and Indonesia. Their ecology is very poorly understood however, they are known to be herbivorous and are able to dive for extended periods due to a bony lung chamber surrounded by the carapace.

## Threats:

- **Hunting:** Meat trade in S.E. Asia.
- Used in **Traditional medicines.**
- **Pet trade.**
- **Habitat degradation:** conversion of forest to palm oil plantation.

## Conservation:

- Listed on the CITES appendix 2 to limit international trade of the Bornean river turtle.
- Protected by law in some Malaysian states, for example the Fauna Conservation Ordinance of 1963 in Sarawak.
- In 2009, a turtle conservation centre was set up in Seitu, Peninsula Malaysia.

# Pics of the Month!



Photos left to right: Phil having fun collecting faecal samples on the primate field course; Green crested lizard; Red and black Broadbill, Crocodile; Reticulated python found next to the main path; DG's resident one-eyed malay civet; Amazing camera trap photo of the Clouded leopard; When the 2 Aussies from the field course decided to do a 'Pimp my Ride' on DG's bike; Spider

## 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: Grace Hannah Dibden and Helen  
Cadwallader*

*Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens*

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

