



The Jungle Times

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Visitors...



Reignien Rampangajouw- Mark's nephew visited DG for the second time. During his stay activities included frogging with Jenny and crocodile surveying with Luke.

Manuel Rivas Gonzalez- A Mexican stream ecologist visited DG to assist Mike and Isaac with their fish projects. Find out more about his time at DG and some of his current projects on pages 4 and 5.

Tun-min Poh- Works in fisheries and visited DG to offer assistance to Mike and Isaac with their fish projects. Particularly helping with fish ID of similar species.

Lim Wee Siong- Visited DG to assist Luke with the drone training. The drone will be used to scan for crocodile nests as well as a range of other uses. See page 6.

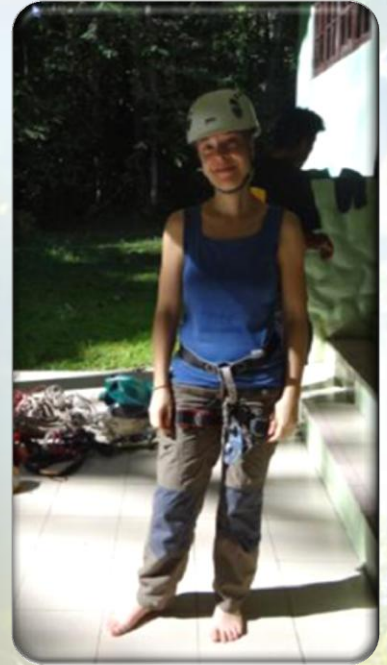
Harriet Reeves- Luke's friend, who came to volunteer at DG for a month in August 2008, stopped off at DG on route from a holiday in the Maldives.

Goodbyes...

Jennifer Brunke:

Over the last 6 months Jenny has been working on small mammals throughout lots 5 and 6 for her PhD. Focusing on the effects of fragmentation on small mammal diversity. Highlights include the 2 pantails and several moonrats caught throughout this time.

She will return to DG next year to continue this work. See you next year!



Arrivals...

Sergio Guerrero Sanchez:

Sergio is a vet who has come to Danau Girang until 15th February and is here to mainly help out with the trapping project on sun bear happening at the moment. He will also help out with the other carnivore project starting up in January.



Interview section:



Recently we sat down with stream ecologist Manuel Rivas Gonzalez to find out more about his work.

Can you tell us a bit about your background and current projects...

“I began by doing a Bsc in Biology and later a Msc in watershed management at the University of Morelos, Mexico. Later going on to do a PhD in stream ecology.

Past projects have included; studies into global freshwater by catch, studies into endemic minnow, monitoring focal species in central Mexican freshwater streams. I’m currently monitoring protected areas to look at the health and size of fish populations and the effect of invasive species. In addition, I have started looking at ecology and species decomposition in disturbed areas.”

What was the aim of your trip to DG?

“I’ve known Benoit for a long time and was keen to visit Danau Girang. I hope to set up a project involving local communities protecting their local freshwater ecosystems. In addition, we are looking at the possibility of running a fish field course at DG.”



What was your favourite activity at DG?

“Borneo is a dream trip for me! The chance to see many different fish species especially those endemic to Borneo is once in a lifetime. Its has also been great to see all the different projects going on at DG and meet all amazing staff and students.”

Training at DGFC:

DGFC members, Benoit Goossens, Milena Salgado-Lynn, Baharudin bin Resake and Samsir bin Lamuin are following PREDICT's Safety Training Module on surveillance and prevention of emerging infectious diseases from wildlife, at Lok Kawi Wildlife Park, organised by EcoHealth Alliance.



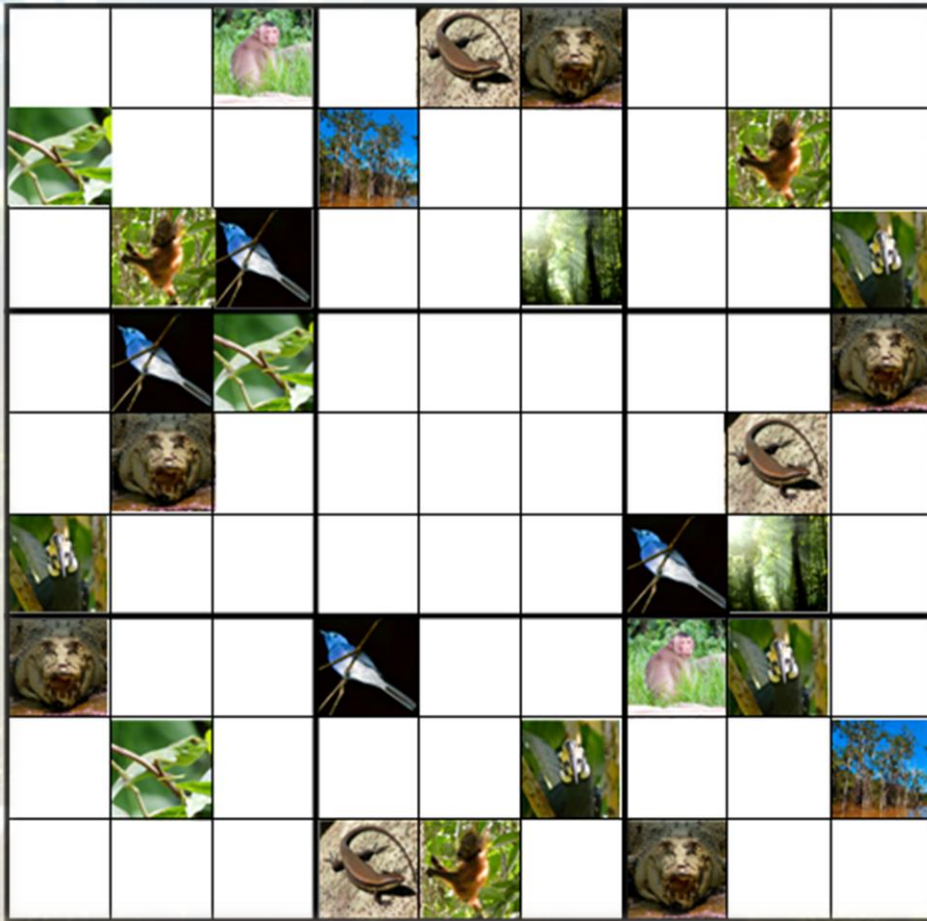
Recently, DGFC purchased a drone to assist a range of projects including mapping of the Kinabatangan River to reflect recent land use changes. Initially, the drone will be used to assist PhD student Luke Evans in his search for crocodile nests throughout the region. Lim Wee Siong visited DG for 3 nights to begin training Luke how to use the equipment. To begin, a flight simulator was used before venturing out to open areas around DG to fly the practice drone.



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 and box (bold lined).



Animals this month:

- ❖ Pale blue flycatcher (Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Danau Girang oxbow (Grace Dibden)
- ❖ Light coming through the forest (Meg Harris)
- ❖ Oriental pied hornbill (Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Pig tailed macaque (Camila Goossens)
- ❖ Skink (Meg Harris)
- ❖ Baby orang-utan (Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Estuarine crocodile (Meg Harris)
- ❖ Agamid (Camila Goossens)

Conservation Corner: Banteng

Scientific name: *Bos javanicus*

ICUN status: Endangered (IUCN red list)

Wild Population trend: Decreasing



There are three subspecies of Banteng:

1. *B. javanicus javanicus* on Java and Bali;
2. *B. javanicus lowi* on Borneo; and
3. *B. javanicus birmanicus* on the Asian mainland.

Wild Banteng currently occurs on Java and possibly Bali, in Kalimantan, Sabah, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The world population is unlikely to be more than 8,000 and is quite possibly fewer than 5,000 animals. Population numbers and even trends are difficult to quantify for Borneo but there have been declines, especially in Kalimantan and Sabah. Banteng can drink a large amount of water and feeds near permanent water supplies. The animals have been reported to eat grasses, sedges, herbs, bamboo, as well as the leaves, fruits, flowers, bark, and young branches of woody shrubs and trees including palms. When undisturbed, Banteng are mainly diurnal with alternating rest and eating periods.

Threats:

- Hunting and habitat.
- In Sabah, conversion of habitat to permanent agriculture is a serious threat.
- Banteng have been hunted so heavily in many areas that they no longer inhabit the area.
- On the Asian mainland, international trade in trophy horns has been shown to be a major threat.

Conservation:

- Legally protected in all range states.
- Banteng is mainly confined to protected areas throughout Southeast Asia. With exception of Cambodia where a significant number may still occur outside of protection.
- A large captive population exists in the northern territories of Australia.
- DGFC and SWD are running a banteng research and conservation programme in Sabah, funded by Houston Zoo, the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and Sime Darby Foundation.

Pics of the Month!



Photos left to right:

Young orang-utan (Rudi Delvaux-RD); Baby elephant hiding (RD); Clouded leopard (Camera trapping project) Mike goes fishing; Helen in a large strangling fig; Elephants playing in the water (RD); Large frogmouth (Helen Cadwallader-HC); Elephant face off (RD); Lantern bug (HC), Isaac learning to fish; Millipede (HC); Danau Girang oxbow (Grace Dibden); Wallace hawk eagle (Baharudin Resake).

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

*Editors: Helen Cadwallader and
Grace Hannah Dibden*

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens.

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