



The Jungle Times

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Sime Darby Foundation funding...

As part of their "Big 9 Programme", Sime Darby Foundation has allocated two grants to projects under DGFC and the Sabah Wildlife Department. Each will last for a period of 3 years and 3 months. The first grant being for 1.00 Million RM for the "Conservation and management of the endangered wild cattle, *Bos javanicus lowi* in Sabah" and the second, of 1.46 Million RM for the "Conservation of Sunda clouded leopards in a fragmented landscape in Sabah".



Both awarded grants were featured in the local press, on Thursday 6th and Sunday 16th December. The Sunda clouded leopard grant was published in 5 newspapers and Bornean banteng grant in 6 papers in Sabah.

We're very excited about both these projects and would like to thank the Sime Darby Foundation for the grants!

PhD updates

Danau Girang's resident PhD students Luke Evans and Danica Stark recently passed their first year viva's, to officially become PhD students. Well done to both of them!



During the first year, 3 adult males have been satellite tagged and their movement monitored. In addition, genetic sampling of the Kinabatangan River has shown presence of a healthy juvenile population. Finally, nesting surveying have been carried out on foot.

The project will now progress to using a drone for nesting surveys and carry out further taggings and genetic sampling in other rivers throughout Sabah.

In the first year of her project, Danica has satellite collared 4 adult male proboscis monkeys along the Kinabatangan River. Of these 2 were around Sukau and 2 near to DG. In addition, phenology has been carried out on plots of forest at different times of year.

The next stage will involve faecal collection at different times of year to assess parasite load and continuation of the collaring programme.

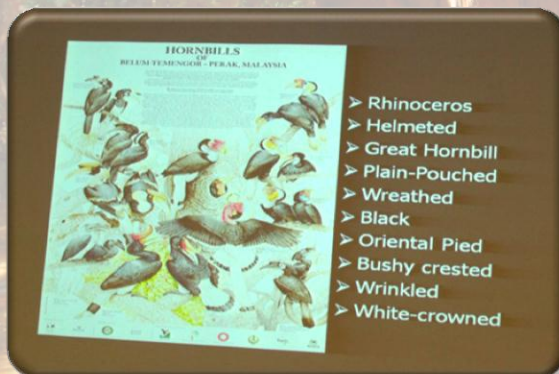


Conservation of Sabah's hornbills

In March 2012 during a visit by Dr Poonswad, a hornbill expert from Thailand the population decline of hornbills around the Kinabatangan was highlighted. As a result on the 4th of December a group assembled at the Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sandakan representing organisations such as HUTAN, Malua Biobank and DGFC to discuss hornbill conservation in Sabah.



The primary aim of this meeting was to set up a Sabah Hornbill Conservation organisation and a plan for hornbill conservation in Sabah.



GIS workshop

Organised by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of Sarawak (BCCS) this workshop took place between the 3rd and 6th of December. Mr Mike Meredith and Mr. Abbas Abdul Wahab led the workshop, providing an introduction to GIS using the free software package Quantum GIS (QGIS).

The workshop was attended by DGFC's Nurzhafarina Othman and Lucy Liew.



The workshop included basic mapping concepts applicable to paper maps as well as GIS layers, discussion on the use of GPS receivers (in QGIS), basic Home Range analysis using R as well as the opportunity to work on the participant's own GIS projects.



Elephant action plan



Recently, Nurzhafarina Othman represented Sabah Wildlife Department and DGFC at the National Elephant Conservation Action Plan. This was held at the Institute of Biodiversity, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia from 29 November to 1 December 2012. She brought her experience on our recent Sabah Elephant Action Plan launched in January 2012.

Nurzhafarina has also recently contributed to a paper published in the highly regarded Journal PLOS ONE. In this paper they were able to identify genetic markers for the Bornean elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*). This will directly aid elephant conservation in Borneo and can also be applied to genetic studies of other endangered species.



Goodbye...

Roshan Guharajan, MS Wildlife Ecology:

Roshan was at DGFC for 3 months. He came to begin his project on the home range, habitat use, and food habits of the Bornean sun bear. Most of his time was spent pre-baiting forest areas and trapping. He will be back in June 2013 to continue with the sun bear trapping programme.

As part of his project, he and Grace (also carrying out a project on sun bears) used camera traps to monitor the traps. To date, we have had 3 sun bear visits to the traps, a mother and cub visited one trap twice while a large male visited another. Visit our Facebook page to view some of these amazing sun bear videos.



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:

- ❖ Harlequin tree frog (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Pig-tailed macaque
(Camera Trapping Project)
- ❖ Oriental pied hornbill
(Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Sunset over the Kinabatangan
(Grace Dibden)

- ❖ Black and red broadbill
(Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Skink (Meg Harris)
- ❖ Scarlet rumped trogon
(Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Elephant (Camila Goossens)
- ❖ Bearded pig (Rudi Delvaux)

Conservation Corner: Binturong.

Scientific name: *Arctictis binturong*

ICUN status: Vulnerable (ICUN red list)

Wild Population trend: Decreasing



This secretive carnivore is primarily arboreal but there is a growing body of camera trap evidence showing that they also use the ground. Mostly nocturnal, binturong are most active around dawn and dusk. Their habitat preference is primary and secondary forest more commonly below 400m about sea level. They have been shown to avoid plantations, highlighting the unsuitability of this habitat. Fruit, insects, birds, rodents and fish are primary sources of food. They are found in 15 countries across Asia including Malaysia and Indonesia.

Threats:

- **Habitat loss and degradation**
- **Pet trade**
- **Hunting** -for consumption and fur trade

Conservation:

- Listed on the CITES appendix III
- Protected species in Malaysia
- Stricter enforcement of legislation for hunting, poaching and habitat degradation is needed in all 15 countries in which this species is present.

Photos of the Month!



Photos left to right:
 Orangutan swings through the trees (Mike Reynolds); Mike out frogging;
 Japanese night heron (Helen Cadwallader-HC); Igo playing some tunes;
 Crested Serpent Eagle (HC); Its Christmas!... at DGFC; Elephant face up
 (Rudi Delvaux- RD); harlequin tree frog (RD); Crested Serpent Eagle (RD);
 Orangutan close up (Harriet Reeves).

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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