



The Jungle Times

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Visitors and arrivals

Visitors:

- **Sharon and Pete Dibden:** Parents to one of our PTY students, Grace, Sharon and Pete came to visit the centre for two nights. Whilst here, Grace took them out on the trails, sun bear trapping and on a night walk.
- **Peter Riger:** Vice President of Conservation at Houston Zoo, came to DGFC for a few days to see the progress of the projects that the zoo funds.
- **Sam Yue-** Master student from University of British Columbia involved in our Sime Darby Foundation's grant on clouded leopard. He works on multispecies connectivity in response to oil palm development near Danum Valley.

Arrivals:

- **Katharina Neumaier-** Veterinary student from Germany at DG for 2 months
- **Francois Ciavatti and Alexandre Schaal-** trapping monitor lizards for their masters projects will be at DG for 6 months and 2 months respectively.
- **Priscillia Miard-** returns to DG for 6 months to continue working on nocturnal primates.
- **Joe England-** A volunteer from the UK, Joe will be at DG for 6 weeks.

Crocodile captured at Pin Suput Forest Reserve

On the 7th of April 2013, a 3.32 metre male crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) was captured at Danau Tungog near Pin Suput Eco camp. Capturing crocodiles on the Kinabatangan River is an on-going project being led by Luke Evans, PhD student with Cardiff University.

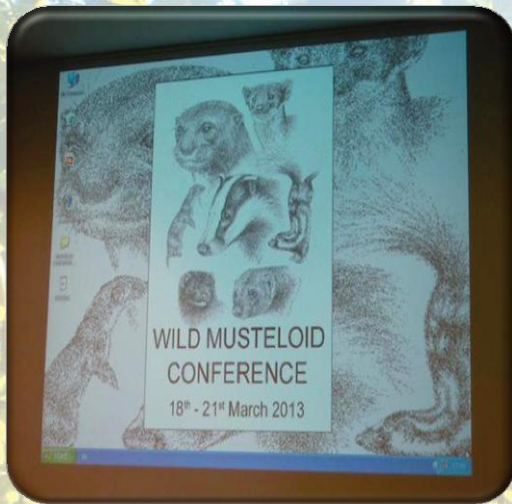


We were joined by a group of journalists for RTM during the examination of the animal. A series of measurements were taken including body length and head length. In addition, a tissue sample was taken for genetic analysis at a later date. We would like to thank our collaborators Sabah Wildlife Department and MESCOT for their assistance with this project.



Wild Musteloid Conference

From March 18th-21st, 2013, DG's Meg Harris travelled to Oxford University to attend an academic conference hosted by WildCRU, IUCN/SSC Otter and Small Carnivore Specialist Groups.



Her attendance at this conference was crucial in the development of her own small carnivore project set to commence in the fall of 2013, most specifically in learning skills to work with notoriously clever otter species. In addition, Meg was able to survey some of the newest GPS technologies available for small and semi-aquatic mammals, and is now in the process of deciding which options will be the best for DGFC.

“I am so inexpressibly pleased I attended this conference. I have been inspired by the calibre of such impressive work occurring in the small carnivore field, and am thrilled to begin my own project with new viewpoints and collaborative relationships. A heartfelt thanks goes to Danau Girang Field Centre for funding my trip.”

Slow loris rescue

Recently, a slow loris female was rescued by DGFC staff Fendy. It was reported to him by his neighbour in Kampung PPMS Sukau. The slow loris was found in the garden of the villager, away from any forest.



The following afternoon, the slow loris was brought to DGFC, where her body condition and health were assessed by DGFC's wildlife veterinarian Dr Sergio Guerrero Sanchez and primatologist Danica Stark.



She weighed in at 590 grams and was in good health. A VHF collar was then fitted, to allow her to be monitored post-release, to ensure she is coping with her new environment, and to monitor the establishment of her new home range.

ATBC Asia Pacific Meeting



DGFC sent Teoh Shu Woan to the 2013 ATBC Asia Pacific Meeting in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, from 18th-22nd March.

Shu Woan did a master at UMS on the ecology of the Irrawaddy dolphin in Tawau Bay and she is our new field research assistant hired on the clouded leopard project funded by Sime Darby Foundation.

Shu Woan co-presented a talk entitled "Shifting baselines on a forest frontier: Biodiversity loss drives decline in indigenous knowledge" with Kai Zhang from Kunming Institute of Zoology.

After the meeting, Shu Woan followed a statistical modelling workshop conducted by Sean Sloan of James Cook University and Alice Hughes of CSIRO. In the workshop Shu Woan was introduced to various modelling software and found it a very useful tool to demonstrate science to decision makers.

Leopard cat kitten recovered at Batu Puteh

On the 9th April 2013, a leopard cat kitten was recovered from Batu Puteh. It was discovered after pictures appeared on Facebook and it was later discovered that the kitten had been rescued from plantation after its mother had being killed in a plantation by dogs.



It was then recovered by DGFC wildlife veterinarian Dr Fernando Najera who performed an overall health check before placing the kitten in the care of Lok Kawi Wildlife Park.



Sumatran rhino crisis summit

Between the 31st of March and the 4th of April Benoit attended the Sumatran rhino crisis summit at Singapore Zoo. The meeting was attended by over 100 delegates, including Dr Teri Roth who led the team responsible for the only 3 captive bred Sumatran rhino in the last 100 years.

The meeting aimed to decide where most efforts should be placed to prevent extinction of the Sumatran rhino.

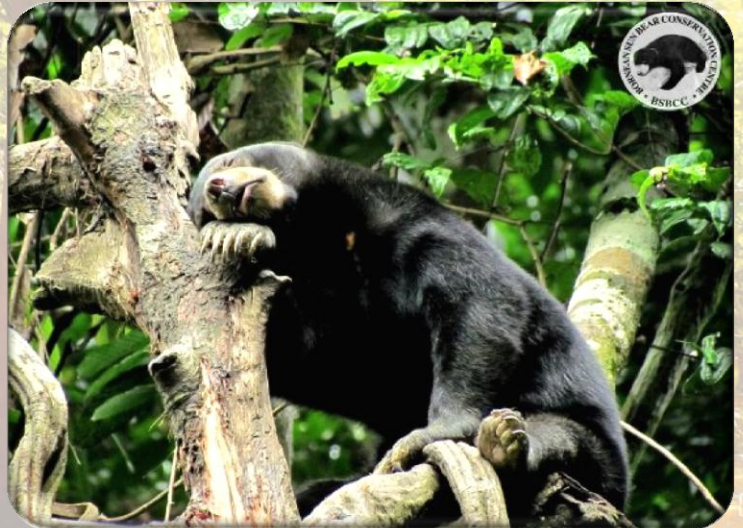


Grants and funding for DG's projects!

Sun Bears within a fragmented landscape:

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) has awarded DGFC with a US\$10,000 grant for our project entitled "Sun Bears within a fragmented landscape: How exactly does this tropical ursid survive in such a habitat?"

The work will be carried out by Roshan Guharajan, a MSc Candidate in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Minnesota under the supervision of David Garshelis, Wong Siew Te and Benoit Goossens. The project aims to collar six Malayan sun bears to assess their movement and activity patterns in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.



Thank you to the IBA for this generous grant!

Satellite tracking of elephants in the Kinabatangan:

DGFC would like to thank Columbus Zoo and Elephant Family for providing us with new grants of US\$15,000 and £34,484, respectively. This allows for the continuation of our long-term satellite tracking of the movements of several elephants in the Kinabatangan, and contributes to the long-term conservation management of the species in Sabah. Houston Zoo is also supporting a PhD scholarship for Nurzhafarina Othman, who is now in the middle of her third year at Cardiff University.



DG's Amazon wish list:

Danau Girang would like to thank Houston Zoo (and especially Pete Riger who travelled all the way from the US with his luggage full of wonderful presents) and all our anonymous supporters for using the DGFC Amazon wish list and buying field equipment to support our research and conservation work in the Kinabatangan. A warm thank you from the DGFC team!

Working with Sime Darby Plantation on elephant conflict

A meeting between Sabah Wildlife Department, DGFC, HUTAN-KOCP and Sime Darby was held on the 4th of April 2013 at DGFC.



Sime Darby were briefed on many areas such as current scientific information of elephant populations in Sabah, in terms of population size, genetic diversity, the latest Action Plan published recently, the movement of our collared elephants.

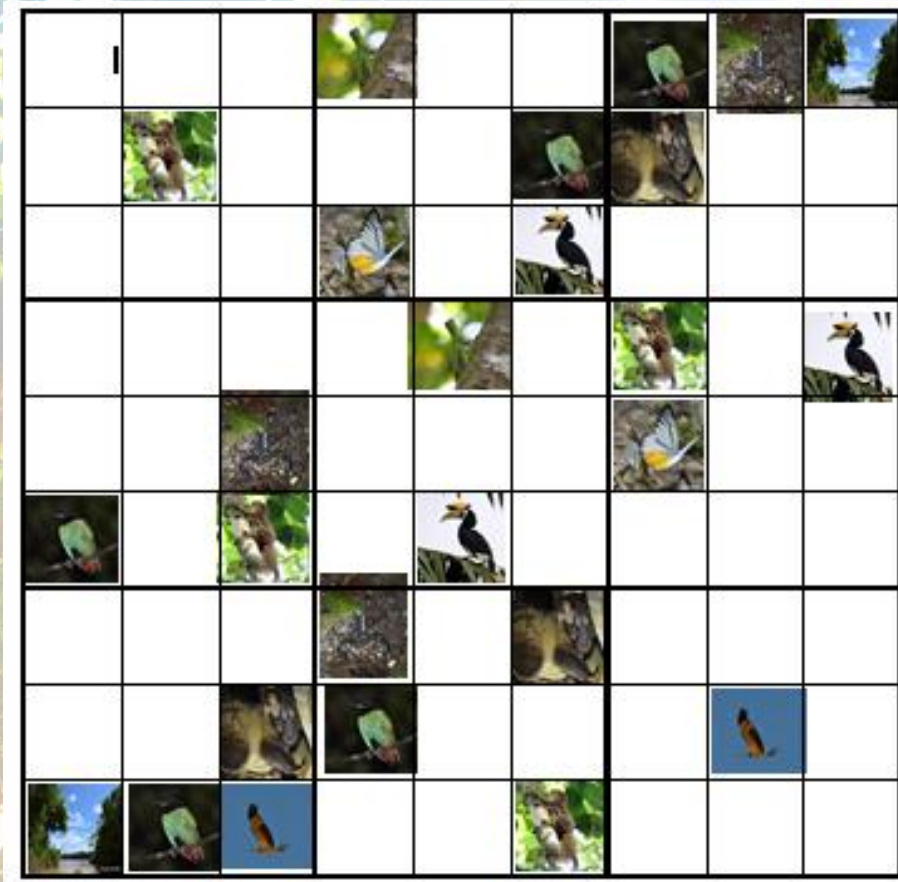
We hope more discussions and meetings like this will happen in the future with other oil palm companies as working hand in hand is the best solution to achieve win-win situation both for wildlife and humans.



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:

- ❖ Plantain squirrel
- ❖ Oriental Pied Hornbill
- ❖ Hooded pitta
- ❖ Butterfly
- ❖ Common palm civet
- ❖ Proboscis monkey
- ❖ Flying Lizard
- ❖ Scorpion
- ❖ Grey headed fish eagle

Conservation Corner: Southern Red Muntjac

Scientific name: *Muntiacus muntjak*

ICUN status: Least concern

Wild Population trend: Decreasing



Red muntjac are found throughout the Thai-Malay peninsula but are now extinct from Singapore. They are often found between 0 and 800m in logged or degraded forest and even found in plantations and agricultural land. Fruit is their main source of food but they will also feed on buds and grasses. They are diurnal, mostly solitary and are included on the IUCN red list. Isolated populations are at risk of local extinction. As muntjac occupy hilly regions they have avoided the areas worst hit by deforestation.

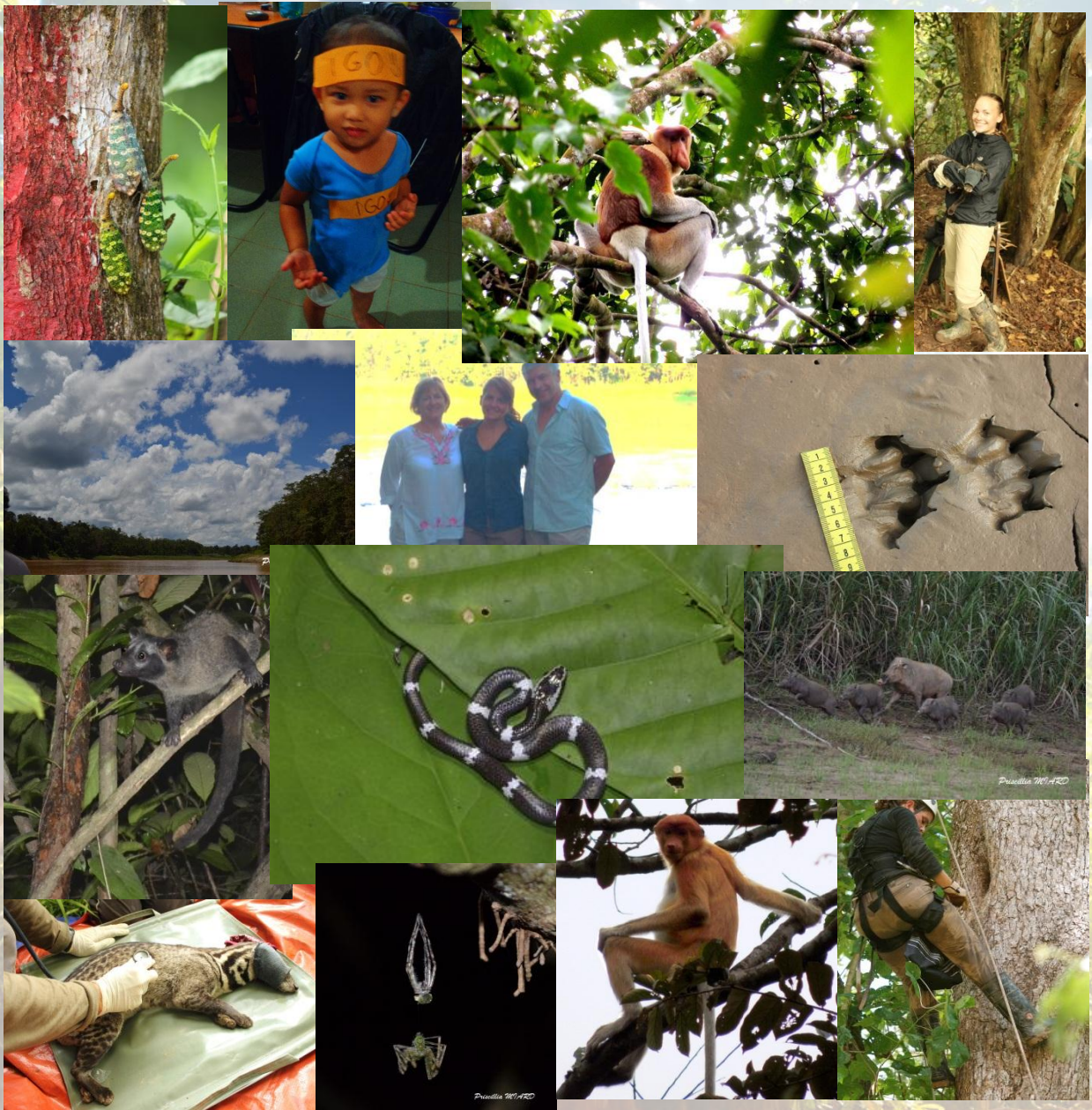
Threats:

- **Habitat encroachment**
- **Hunting** – for meat, skins and for use in traditional medicines
- **Habitat loss**

Conservation:

- **Master plan for wildlife in Sarawak-** introduced a strict ban on all wildlife trade
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972-** can only be hunted under license and outside protected areas in West Malaysia
- **Protected by Indonesian law**

Pics of the Month!



Photos left to right: lantern bugs, Igo, proboscis monkey, Meg civet trapping, sky over the Kinabatangan, Grace and her parents, otter tracks, common palm civet,, snake, Bearded pig family, Malay civet being sampled, spider sheds its skin, proboscis monkey, Helen climbing a tree to investigate hornbill cavities.

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

