



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 56

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# Adios Fernando!

The 26<sup>th</sup> October we said goodbye to one of DGFCs vets Fernando from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He has been part of the DGFC family since 2012 and has been a major asset to a number of projects running here at DG. He has focused his time here working on the clouded leopard project along with Andy Hearn. Their efforts were recently paid off when they trapped and collared 2 leopards.

Fernando has also been working on the Bornean Wildcat vet project as part of his PhD which aims to identify disease threats for felids such as the Sunda clouded leopard, flat-headed cat and the leopard cat.



Fernando will be returning to family in America to finish his Phd. His enthusiasm and energy will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best and hope that one day he may return to DGFC!

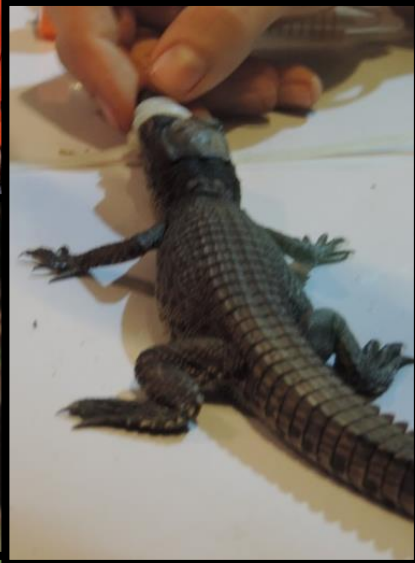
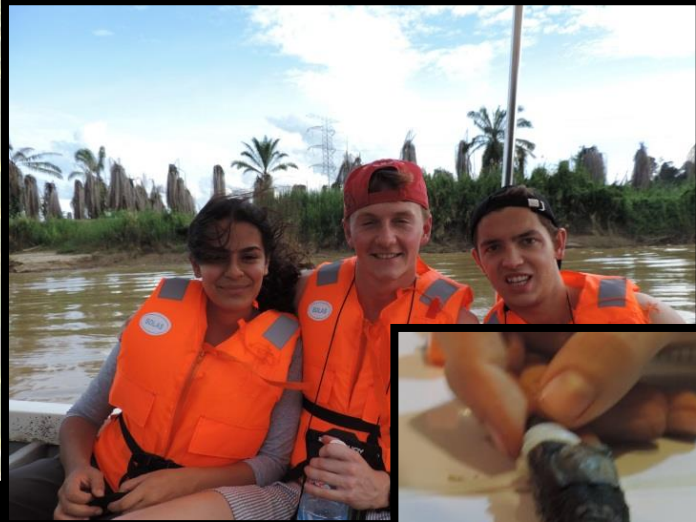
# University of South Wales

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October we were joined by students and lecturers from the University of South Wales. The field course was split into two groups and whilst one group of students spent a week here at DGFC the other group spent a week carrying out marine research in Pulau Gaya. After one week they switched around and we welcomed the second group of students into DGFC.



During their week here at DGFC the students participated in a number of research projects such as monitor lizard trapping and nocturnal primate tracking. They gained a number of new research techniques such as bird ringing, habitat analysis and frog surveying. Both groups were also lucky enough to see the elephants as they passed through the wildlife sanctuary.

# Group 1 photo album:



# Group 2 photo album:



## Quotes from the students:



**Liam Williams** - "Thank you DGFC for an amazing experience. It was great to see the Bornean elephants and the monitor lizards and to learn from all the researchers here."

**Andrew Smith** - "Coming to the rainforest is a dream come true, getting to see nature in its prime before its all gone. I never thought I would get so close to so many animals. I don't want to return to reality."



**Natalie Lamb** - "I have had an awesome time here. I especially enjoyed tracking the monitor lizards through the tributary - it was incredible and we saw so many!"



# Second Sunda Clouded leopard Collared!



On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October DGFC was filled with excitement as a second Sunda clouded leopard, Male 4, was collared by PhD student Andrew Hearn and DG vet Fernando. He weighed 25.0kg and was thought to be around 3 years old. The satellite collar will be used to track the leopard's movements in order to understand its landscape use in the mosaic habitat of oil palm plantations and secondary forest.

# First Malay Civet Collared!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> October PhD student Meg Harris trapped and collared her first Malay civet after just 10 days of trapping. The civet was anaesthetised by DGFC vet Sergio and then a number of samples and morphometric measurements were taken which will be used by Meg as part of her PhD. The process went smoothly and the civet was extremely calm.



The satellite collar will be used to track the movements of the civet to determine its home range and assess its land use patterns. A number of civets have been spotted on the camera traps showing interest in the bait so hopefully more collarings will follow!





# Sunda Clouded Leopard Outreach Programme



On the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> of October we were joined by two groups of young students participating on the Sunda Clouded leopard Outreach Programme. The first group of students came from SK Kuala Suan Lamba and the second group came from SK Batu Puteh. Although only here for two days the students had a jam packed schedule full of educational activities including setting up camera traps, river surveys and night walks.



# More about the programme:

**Clarice Kelly Samih is DGFC's educational officer leading the outreach programme. She told us more about their aims:**

“The main aims of the programme are to increase the children's awareness about environmental issues with emphasis on the clouded leopard and other carnivores. The children will learn skills and responsibility to protect felid species in the Kinabatangan. Prior to the trip we make 2 visits to the school during which we discuss the ecology and biology of the clouded leopards.



After the trip we make a follow up visit to the schools and the children are tested on what they have learnt during the programme. We are also developing a mentorship programme in which the children will mentor younger students at their school and pass on their knowledge and skills”

# Croc News!

Luke Evans, a PhD student who is studying crocodiles at DGFC, has been learning to fly a conservation drone (a remote controlled plane) which has a digital camera attached to take photos of the landscape below. Luke has been flying different missions in various areas of the Kinabatangan looking for evidence of crocodile nests.



Keeyen Pang and his son Ryan, who are also drone flyers, assisted Luke in flying the missions. Crocodile nests need to be out in open areas where the sun can reach them to keep the eggs at the right temperature. This means that droning is the perfect way to find them as they can be seen easily from above!



The first missions were a huge success and potential croc nests were found and investigated. This could not have been done without the help of the drone as the nests are often found in swampy areas with high vegetation, so could not be seen from ground level unless you knew where to look!



The first site that was investigated was a nest and a video camera trap was set up near it to try and catch the mother crocodile returning. There have not been any signs of her yet but we are still hopeful that she will be back soon!

Not only does the drone help us find crocodile nests, the pictures can also be stitched together and create an up to date image of the landscape below, allowing views of the areas along the Kinabatangan river which can be used for multiple conservational projects. So watch this space for more droning news to come soon!



# Happy Halloween!

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October a spooky celebration took place at DGFC. Decorations were hung up, treats were purchased and fake teeth were inserted in preparation for a Halloween party jungle style! Everyone got dressed up in their scariest attire and played games and watched Halloween films! Here are some of the pictures from the night:



# Other news...

Sabah Wildlife Department, EcoHealth Alliance and Danau Girang Field Centre have set up the first BSL 2 (Biosecurity Level 2) Wildlife Health, Genetic and Forensic Laboratory in the whole of Borneo.



One of our recently collared clouded leopards, Taring, was caught on one of our camera traps in our wildlife corridor and looks in good health!

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**8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2013 • SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, PARIS, FRANCE** [www.mpoc.org.my](http://www.mpoc.org.my)

At the beginning of October our center director Benoit Goossens spoke about wildlife conservation at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Palm Oil Conference in Paris. He spoke on the challenges that wildlife are facing in an agricultural-dominated landscape.

# Other News continued...



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October the Wildlife Rescue Unit and DGFC rescued and collared a male sub-adult elephant near Gomantong. He was named Tuah, which means lucky, and was released at Menninggul river. Tuah is the 13<sup>th</sup> elephant to be collared in the Kinabatangan by WRU/DGFC/HUTAN.

Three of our collared female elephants were photographed by Sudirman Sawang, part of the River Keeper Unit. Putut, Bell and Tess were all looking in good health.



Meet our Banteng team. From left-right, Naomi Prosser, Steph Ridge (PTY students), Jocelyn Beatrix (Research Assistant), Penny Gardner (Project leader), Ruslee and Rusdi (Field Assistants) and Siti (Field Assistant) who took the photo. They carry out banteng survey expeditions in the whole state of Sabah. The project is funded by Sime Darby Foundation.

# Match the Malay

Can you match these animals to their Malay names?

Frog



Kingfisher



Civet



Ular

Musang

Monyet

Katak

Raja udang

## Jungle Fact of the Month

The musk released by the bearcat's scent glands is reported to smell like hot popcorn.



# Conservation Corner: Bornean River Shark

**Common name: Bornean River Shark**

**Scientific name: *Glyphis fowlerae***

**ICUN status: Endangered**



The Bornean River shark is an extremely rare species that is only found in the Kinabatangan River. There have been very few sightings of this elusive shark and only 5 specimens were known before 1937.



## **Threats:**

- Limited range in over-fished waters
- Killed for meat if caught as by-catch

## **Conservation:**

- There are currently no conservation measures in place.
- Funds are being raised to determine if the shark still exists and to raise awareness within the local community about its rarity.

# Photos of the Month!



Photos left to right: Sunset on the Kinabatangan, common plam Civet, blue-eared kingfisher, Female Oragutan and her baby, Bay Owl, Spiny nosed lizard, and glowing mushrooms (Photos by Baharudin (Budin) Bin 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

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