



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals and Visitors



Lane Jackson

Lane is a student from the University of La Verne and will be staying with us for two months to collect data for his senior project on frogs. The project is a diversity survey, comparing the frog species between the forest and the canopy gap.

Sebastian Kennerknecht has been working with PhD student Andy Hearn using SLR cameras as camera traps to try and catch the elusive Bay Cat on camera. They have had extremely promising results and have managed to capture a few of these incredible creatures in their natural habitat.



More Visitors

Wildlife Rescue Unit vet Diana brought her mum to DGFC for a few days to experience the jungle. They were lucky enough to be taken out with the River Keeper Unit to see the elephants.



Susan Baker and Richard Bloor from Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences visited us whilst on their trip around Sabah. Richard is a PhD student who is looking into the socio-economic implications of re-forestation.

Even More Visitors!

This month we were lucky enough to welcome **Kay Farmer** to DGFC. Kay was in Sabah to attend the Wild Animal Rescue Network (WARN) conference in Kota Kinabalu. The WARN conference's main aims were to share experiences and knowledge of wildlife rescue and conservation as well as animal welfare and enforcement issues.



Kay currently works for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and is a consultant for Arcus Foundation. As an old friend of DGFC director Benoit, she came for a visit to the jungle to experience it for herself. Whilst here she helped with the ongoing projects and got to experience life at the centre. We hoped you enjoyed your stay with us as much as we enjoyed having you!

Families visit for Christmas!

PTY student Sarah Joscelyne's family came to visit DG for 4 days over the Christmas period. Sarah's parents and her sister came for a taste of life at DG and experienced a few of the ongoing projects here such as the nocturnal primate tracking, civet tracking, night walks and primate surveys. They saw many animals, including a female orangutan and her baby, two malay civets and a white bellied sea eagle catching a snake!



DANAU GIRANG FIELD CENTRE
KINABATANGAN



We hoped you all had an enjoyable experience at DG and learned a bit more about the projects and everyday life here.

Farewells



Marion Davezies and **Ariane Mirabel** are forestry students from AgroParisTech in France. They worked on our botanical plots across the Kinabatangan to assess growth of the rainforest. Their stay in Sabah lasted four months in which they also travelled to Kudat (northern tip of Borneo) to survey botanical plots for our MonkeyBar project.

We wish you both the best of luck with the rest of your studies.

More Farewells

Iago Bonnici is a master student from France currently undertaking an elective internship year. He has been volunteering at DG for 4 months and was always keen to provide a helping hand on all the projects. We will miss your entertaining circus tricks Iago, good luck with the rest of your internship!



Lisa Raeburn from Canada stayed with us for 1 month as a volunteer. She is currently traveling around the world having just finished her Master.

Adios Barbara!

Barbara Marti volunteered with us at DG for 5 months. She helped out on all the projects and was particularly involved with the Clouded Leopard project run by PhD student Andy Hearn and the Bornean Wildcat Vet Project with one of our previous vets, Fernando.



Barbara is looking to continue to work in small carnivore conservation when she returns to Spain. You have been an asset to the projects and will be sorely missed!

Illegal Wildlife Trade in Sabah

Director of DGFC, Benoit Goossens, recently informed the press about illegal hunting and wildlife trade happening in national parks and protected forests in Sabah, with evidence shown by camera traps. Following tip from the public a successful sting operation carried out by Sabah Wildlife Department on a local market where illegal bushmeat was being sold. The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun, issued a statement addressing the need for poaching and trading of protected animals in Sabah to be investigated to the fullest extent of the law.



These were some of the animals found at the illegal bushmeat market:



Binturong



Blood Python



Banded Palm Civet



Malay Civet



Sambar Deer



Porcupine

A statement issued by Benoit Goossens explained the risks associated with the bushmeat trade:

“People who hunt, handle, buy and eat bushmeat do not understand that they not only act against the law, but also risk their lives by handling and/or consuming wildlife. Take the example of ebola, a zoonotic and deadly disease transmitted by bushmeat handling and consumption in central Africa, especially of chimpanzees and gorillas. Ebola has killed thousands of people! More closely to us, the nipah virus carried by flying foxes (fruit bats) and transmitted to pork then people when handling and or consuming bats and/or pork, killed thousands of people in Peninsular Malaysia.”



“This is what prompted us to set up the Wildlife Health Genetic and Forensic Laboratory together with EcoHealth Alliance. We need to inform the public that handling and/or consuming wild meat is not only against the law, but it is also dangerous for their life”.

Opening of new laboratory

On Monday 9 December, the Sabah Wildlife Health Genetic and Forensic Laboratory was opened in Kota Kinabalu by the Sabah Wildlife Department, Danau Girang Field Centre and EcoHealth Alliance. This laboratory is a bio-safety level 2 laboratory which will be used to identify emerging diseases, new viruses that can be transmitted by wildlife to people, but also to analyse confiscated illegal bushmeat to determine species and origin, using genetic tools. Replace the last sentence by "The meat that was confiscated during the sting operation by Sabah Wildlife Department was brought to the lab and stored for further analyses," said Benoit Goossens.



The laboratory was officially launched by the US Ambassador in Malaysia His Excellency Joseph Yun, Dr Melanie Billings-Yun and our Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun. It happens that HE Ambassador Yun is an alumni of Cardiff University!



Our own Samsir Bin Laimun DGFC research assistant and a member of the Sabah's Wildlife Health Unit was also present at the laboratory opening ceremony. We are all very proud of him!

Clouded Leopard Update

Jack, one of our recently collared clouded leopards has appeared in front of our camera traps and looks very healthy. The collar should drop off in about 27 weeks as it is set with a mini drop-off system. The collar fixes the location of the animal every 20 minutes. This data will help immensely in understanding the movements of clouded leopards in a fragmented habitat such as the Kinabatangan.



Camera Trap Photos from the Banteng Survey



Other news...

Dr Benoit Goossens, Jaswinder Kler and Dr Marc Ancrenaz have published a new book called 'Itin: A Bornean Elephant'. The book will be available in late January 2014 and will be officially launched on the 11th of February 2014 by Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun.



DGFC's first paper on nocturnal primates has been published in *Endangered Species Research*. This paper focuses on habitat use of the slow loris and the tarsier.

Other news continued...



The elephants have returned to DG and were spotted playing around near the jetty. Always a fun site to see!



Christmas cheer was spread by Iago, Lane, Andy, Ariane and Fabien, who remained at DG over Christmas by decorating the 'Christmas' tree outside the main building. Great effort guys and the wellie boots as stockings are an excellent finishing touch!

Merry Christmas to everyone from all of us at DGFC!



Match the Malay

Can you match these animals to their Malay names?

Bay cat

Hornbill

Crocodile



Gajah

Buaya

Monyet

Kucing teluk

Burung kenyalang

Jungle Fact of the Month

An adult Asian elephant can eat up to 150kg of vegetation a day!

Conservation Corner: Bornean peacock pheasant

Common name: Bornean peacock pheasant

Scientific name: *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*

ICUN status: Endangered



Ecology:

Its ecological needs are poorly understood but analyses using geographical information systems (GIS) indicate that it inhabits lowland plain and lowland dipterocarp forest on moderately fertile soils, avoiding wetter substrates in swamp-forest or near water-bodies.

Conservation:

- Listed on CITES Appendix II
- Assist forest managers in habitat identification and zoning of concession areas.
- Promote prohibition of hunting by logging company employees and others.
- Determine major population centres, optimal habitat and response to habitat alteration.

Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Hunting for meat



Photos of the Month!



Photos left to right: Blue-winged pitta; Kinabatangan; Glowing mushrooms (photos by Budin); DG staff Lolo and Ning; Students at DG; Baby Orang-utan (photo by Katie Grassle).

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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