



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 59

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# New Arrivals!

## **Peggy Kohler**

Peggy is a French volunteer and will be staying with us for 6 months to follow all the different projects and gain some field experience. Peggy is making a career change from advertising to follow her dream in conservation. We look forward to helping Peggy make her dream come true!

## **Morgane Allanic**

French master student Morgane is joining us to undertake a 6-month internship to collect data on the orang-utans around DGFC. She is specifically interested in recording mother and juvenile interactions and behaviours. Following the orang-utans is hard a business, with 5.30am- 6pm days, and we have several females with different aged infants so we are sure Morgane will be kept busy!



New arrivals Morgane (left) and Peggy (right).

# Visitors

## Jean-Marie returns!

After his successful last visit, wildlife cameraman Jean-Marie Cornuel, along with his new assistant Kenneth A. Tizon, is returning to us for a week to film the flooding Kinabatangan. With the raised waters due to the rainy season there is much to see along the banks of the river. He is also here to film Luke Evans collaring another crocodile for his documentary.



## Diana Ramirez

Wildlife Rescue Unit vet Diana will be joining us for two weeks whilst Sergio is working to catch and collar macaques in Kudat. Now our civet, clouded leopard and Sun bear projects are getting back under way after the Christmas break, Diana's expertise will be invaluable to keep these projects running. We thank her for sparing the time from Sepilok and the rest of Sabah's wildlife to help us out!

# Meeting

The first organised annual meeting was held this month on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January. The successful two day meeting was participated in by 35 staff and students who work at the centre and on projects around Sabah. It was great to meet new faces and learn what interesting projects Danau Girang are involved in. We're ready for another amazing year and look forward to seeing everyone again soon!



# Goodbye Mark

It is with great sadness that we announce that Mark Rampangajouw (right) has resigned from his position of DGFC Field Manager as of 31 December 2013. We will dearly miss you, Mark. Baharudin Bin Resake (aka Budin, left) became the new DGFC field manager on 1 January 2014. This is a new challenge for Budin who has now been with DGFC since September 2009. Congratulations, Budin, and good luck!



# Kinabatangan Frogs

Lane Jackson from the University of La Verne, USA, is here for two months studying the species of frogs within the Kinabatangan. He is studying the frog's preference in habitats between sections of forest where tree fall was recent and light has penetrated the canopy and sections of forest where light does not penetrate. He believes that the frogs will be more numerous in the light gap sections due to the typically higher invertebrate density, providing the frogs with more food.

Over the two months he is here, he will be going out every night to survey two sites a night and identify as many frogs as possible in a set time. So far, he has found 14 different species at his eight sites.



Jade tree frog  
*'Rhacophorus dilutensis'*



Lesser narrow-mouthed frog  
*'Microhyla perpava'*

# New Crocodile Collars

The Kinabatangan River is teeming with crocodiles and Luke Evans PhD is based on these prehistoric creatures. He is in his third year of field work and has just received four new collars. These collars work differently to the ones he has previously used. In fact they are based on the same design as the civet collars which use UHF instead of VHF so we are all interested to see how they work. Hopefully they will give many months worth of home range data. Luke is looking to collar the first few in the next couple of weeks, and the moment will hopefully be caught by Jean-Marie's excellent camera skills!



# Crocodile Hatchlings

Another important part of Luke's project involves flying a conservation drone that takes photos of the Kinabatangan landscape with its attached digital camera. These photos are used to find crocodile nests, which would otherwise go undetected since they occur in swampy areas which are difficult to reach.

The first missions were a huge success and potential nests were found and investigated in both the forest and a near-by plantation. During our latest visits we were lucky enough to see newly emerged hatchlings which had hatched only a few days before! This amazing experience allowed Luke to take more samples of the local crocodiles for future genetic analyses.



Picture taken by Diana Ramirez



# MonkeyBar Project

Danau Girang Field Centre has many associations, including the MonkeyBar project, based in Kudat in the north of Sabah. MonkeyBar is run by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is headed by Milena Salgado-Lynn and involves several different teams working to investigate malaria in the area. Kudat is an area which is largely covered by palm oil and rubber plantations, and very little forest remains.

The field research team is split into two groups; one managed by Lauren Gilhooly in Lutong, near Kudat; the other by Angeline McIntyre on the island of Bangi. They each have two local Malaysians working as field assistants. Up until now their task has been to set up two areas, each with four, 1000m transects. These transects are then walked once a month to complete a census on macaque populations in the area. Phenology plots are also set up here and visited on a monthly basis to determine the number of fruiting and flowering trees and to see how the trees change seasonally. This helps explain the presence or absence of monkeys in the area.

Two of our PTYs, Sarah and Kieran, visited Kudat for 10 days at the beginning of the month to help out with the census and phenology as well as working to cut and maintain the transects. It was hard, long days, but interesting to see a different area of Sabah and work with a different team! This was Kieran's second visit to the area so he was already an expert in the work!

# MonkeyBar Project

Along with the field team are; doctors working with patients who have contracted malaria; case study workers investigating these patients and interviewing those in contact with the patient; social scientists working with local villages to decipher the current understanding of malaria and to increase awareness of the disease; and a drone team, who are flying a small plane over the area to take pictures and document the landscape and habitats. All information gathered will lead to a better understanding of malaria in the area of Kudat.

There are several types of malaria, but the one the MonkeyBar project is primarily interested in is the *Plasmodium knowlesi* which is commonly found in long and pig-tailed macaques. Although this does not have any serious effects on macaques and their health, it can be life threatening for humans who become exposed to the disease. MonkeyBar's aim is therefore to understand why this malaria is on the increase in Sabah and generate action plans to prevent its spread by the insect vector, mosquitos.



# MonkeyBar Project

The Monkeybar project this month is now working to capture and collar macaques in the Kudat area. Four collars have been delivered in the hope to collar four males, two on Bangi and two in Lotong. Traps have been especially designed and need to be manually closed once a macaque enters.

DCFC's own vet Sergio along with primatologist and PhD student Danica Stark, two Wildlife Rescue Unit rangers and one staff from MESCOT have been recruited to help in the collaring process. Once the macaques have been collared the field teams will then follow the groups daily, reaching them at 5.30am before they leave their sleeping site, until they nest for the night. This could prove tricky as macaques like to play hide and seek but with the help of the collars the groups will be easily tracked and followed.



# New Clouded Leopard Collars!

The Clouded Leopard Programme has just received three brand new collars this month! We have 2 for the larger males and 1 for a female. The GSM collars come from the Canadian company called 'Lotek' and tell us the location of the animal using the mobile phone network. So far our Clouded Leopard team's camera traps have detected ten individuals since 2010, and six individuals just last year! Of these they have successfully captured three individuals and collared two males. We're feeling very confident that we'll have the same success in the future and look forward to collaring more of these amazing animals!



# Best Camera Trap Photos

There are several on-going projects using camera traps to detect the secret lives of our most illusive animals. These photos reveal animals and behaviours that would otherwise go unnoticed. Here is a sample of some of this month's best camera trap photos!

## Storm Stork

## Elephant



## Otters

## Bearded Pig



# Congratulations!

This month our PhD students from Cardiff University had their vivas in order to progress onto their next year of study. This involves a presentation and then a gruelling question time on their previous year of work and chapters they had completed of their PhD. Benoit Goossens is their supervisor. This year we had four successful candidates which we would like to congratulate:

## 1. **Danica Stark**

Danica is a part time student and is progressing into her third year of research. She is studying the spatial ecology of proboscis monkeys along the fragmented forests of the Kinabatangan.

## 2. **Penny Gardner**

Full time student Penny is progressing onto her fourth and final year of her PhD into the banteng. This is the write up year for Penny and so she is now back in Cardiff to complete her work.

## 3. **Luke Evans**

Successfully passing his second year viva, Luke is now on his third year of study and will hopefully be wrapping up his field research into the home ranges and genetics of crocodiles in the Kinabatangan river.

## 4. **Nurzhafarina Othman**

Part time student Farina is passing onto her fourth year and will continue studying elephant ecology and home ranging along the Kinabatangan river.

# Clouded Leopard Outreach Programme

During January and February new Kinabatangan schools are going to be visited by our Sunda Clouded Leopard Outreach Programme! Here children get to learn about the importance of Borneo's amazing wildlife and why it must be protected. The programme, which is funded by Sime Darby Foundation, involves a visit to Danau Girang itself, allowing the children to experience the joys of research and the wonderful animals that live on their doorstep.

Pictured below is Clarice Kelly Samih (left), DGFC Education Officer, and Xenia (right), education officer from Sabah Wildlife Department, with one of our recent participants of Sekolah Ladang Bode Kretam who had recently become a 'clouded leopard'. Keep up the good work guys!



# Clouded Leopard Predation

PhD student, Andrew Hearn, who runs our current Clouded Leopard Programme also has an on-going camera trap survey in the Tawau Hills Park. The project is partially funded by Sime Darby Foundation, and is a great way to reveal rare behaviour of these illusive animals. We were lucky enough to catch extraordinary photos of an attempted predation of a clouded leopard on a sambar deer. In these following photographs a clouded leopard can be seen hunting a resting sambar deer, which may be the first predation attempt by this felid recorded on camera trap!





# Orang-utan Update

This month, two new orang-utans have been found ranging in the vicinity of DGFC, which makes eleven individuals total! The new individuals are a mother and juvenile pair, which have not been named yet. This is good news for the new masters student, Morgane Allanic, who is focusing on mother infant relationships. This month, the two orang-utan researchers have seen some interesting behaviours, including an hour-long aggressive interaction between two adult females while their offspring watched.



Photos taken by Kieran Love

# Monitor Lizard Collaring

Our Monitor Lizard team has recently captured and collared a 17kg lizard in a near-by plantation. The lizard has been named 'Lumpur', which stands for mud in Malay as the area was particularly muddy following the receding river waters. We'll be following Lumpur for hopefully five months using radio-telemetry. The collar will give us useful data on the lizard's position, which will be used to further understand movement patterns in a fragmented landscape. We also successfully recorded measurements of Lumpur and took samples that can be used for examining blood and ectoparasites for a current project being undertaken by the team.



# Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre

Friend of DGFC, Siew Te Wong has been working for many years on sun bears (or otherwise known as the honey bear). These are the smallest of the bear family and only found in South East Asia. One of DGFC's master students Roshan Guharajan is working closely with Wong, as he has successfully trapped sun bears in previous research.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 Wong held the grand opening of the Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Sandakan, next to the well renowned Sepilok Orang-utan Sanctuary. The centre takes in injured animals as well as those confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade. Sun bear gall bladders, and teeth and claws are delicacies and this illegal trade is unfortunately still continuing.

The centre is now home to 27 bears, who are able to roam freely within a 2ha area. They are able to forage for themselves, as well as being fed by the centre. There is a visitor viewing area and Wong gives daily talks about the bears. Well worth a visit for any visitors to Sabah!



# Sun Bear Photos!

Photos of some of the bears at the centre taken by PTYs Sarah Joscelyne and Kieran Love



# Other news...

## Sumatran Elephant

The Sumatran elephant has recently been upgraded to a critically endangered status. The species has lost half its population and 69% of its habitat through deforestation in the past 25 years, including half of its population in a single generation. The wild population has fallen to no more than 2,800 individuals mainly due to deforestation and conflicts with humans.

## RIP Gelugob!

Unfortunately the Sumatran rhinoceros, named 'Gelugob', has recently passed away. These remarkable animals are critically endangered, with only ten individuals left wild in Sabah. They are on the edge of extinction by being severely threatened by habitat loss, genetic loss and illegal poaching. We must make a difference now!



## Secret Santa

As everyone at DGFC were scattered over the world for Christmas, we decided to do a 'Secret Santa' in January when everybody returned. It was lovely way to see everyone again and it was great to see so many fantastic presents!



# Conservation Corner: Bornean Bay Cat

**Common name:** Bornean bay Cat

**Scientific name:** *Pardofelis badia*

**IUCN status:** Threatened



## Ecology:

- Nothing is known about their feeding ecology and reproductive behaviour.
- They are secretive, nocturnal and forest-dependent.
- They are widely distributed on Borneo but show a very low population density.

## Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Illegal wildlife trade

## Conservation:

- The mysterious animal has only an estimated 2,500 individuals left with a declining population!
- There are no Bay cats in captivity.
- They are listed on CITES Appendix II as *Catopuma badia*.
- They are fully protected by national legislation across most of its range.
- Hunting and trade are prohibited in Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak.

# Match the Malay

Can you match these animals to their Malay names?

Sun bear

Otter

Bearded pig



Musang

Harimau dahan

Beruang

Babi hutan

Memerang

## Jungle Fact of the Month

The Slow Loris is the only venomous primate in the world!

# Photos of the Month!



Photos were taken by Baharudin B. Resake and Kieran Love



## 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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