



The Jungle Times

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Visitors

David and Laura

French anthropologist post-doc researcher David, and his Canadian research assistant Laura visited DG to further their understanding in animal trafficking and illegal animal part trade in Borneo. David is interested in the routes taken to enable this black market to happen. He wanted to understand the animals and also get first hand knowledge from workers and researchers in the area, to understand a human perspective on the wildlife trade.



Rebecca Rose

Becky, from Columbus Zoo in America, joined us for a few days this month. The zoo has been a lead funder for our elephant, sun bear and nocturnal primate projects. Becky came to meet with **Roshan Guharajan** to talk about his work on the sun bears and to show her his traps along the ridgeline of Batangan. She also followed Boss, our collared slow loris, with PTY student **Hannah Wilson** to understand the animals movements and see how the zoo's money is being spent. We hope she enjoyed her brief stay here during her 2-week trip to Sabah!



Goodbye

Clémence Alloin

Clémence was here for 3 months as one of our two internships from Agroparistech engineering school of agronomy and environment, France. Clémence helped out on many projects, but mainly worked in the study of the orang-utans around DG, carrying out research into their diet and foraging. We hope Clémence enjoys her future travels and education. You will be missed!



Interview with Becky Rose

Could you tell us about your career working as a field conservation manager at Columbus Zoo?

I have worked at the Columbus Zoo for 27 years. I was a teacher first; I taught at an early environmental education programme in my local town. Wildlife had always been my passion so I went back to school and finished a degree in Wildlife Biology. During 1986 my advisor recommended that I apply at the zoo, as a lot of conservation work was being made. So I first started to volunteer there, which led to me getting hired as a keeper in the reptile division. An opening came up in the education department which seemed perfectly suited. I then worked in the education department for 12 years, where I developed programmes for school groups, teacher training and lots of different experiences. Then on my own I travelled and so went to Borneo, Peru etc and got more interested in conservation. The zoo then asked me to serve on the conservation committee as the education representative. At first I would develop education materials for some of the projects that we support, but then became in charge of running the grants programme. We give 70 grants a year to projects in 30 countries, where we give away about \$1 million a year. I accept applications and review the proposals every month with our committee, where proposals are ranked and scored and voted for funding. Some of the philosophy of our programme is that we understand and appreciate that conservation takes a long time and if you really want to have an impact you need to be in it for the long run. You don't necessarily need to give huge amounts of money every year but the consistency is more important. So I try to really listen to the people in the field and learn a lot from them. One of the most important things about my job is that I listen to what they say and read their reports, proposals and articles, and interpret that for other people at the zoo.

Interview with Becky Rose

Do you mainly fund people working with animals at the zoo already?

We do. Along with the privilege of having the species in the zoo, we feel an important responsibility to support the species in the wild as the majority of the zoo animals are endangered or threatened. We also have other priorities which include animals with a high conservation need and also ones that are less charismatic. Local projects are also very important and we give funding to our local rescue and rehabilitation centre. We therefore prioritise species at our zoo, ones that are in need of conservation work and also local projects.

How did you come to know about DGFC and the research being conducted here?

I met Dr. Benoit Goossens in Africa at one of the meetings at the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance in Uganda. He was working with rhinos and was about to come to Borneo. We then started to support some of his projects, beginning with the work on elephants as we have Asian elephants at the zoo. We then began funding for the nocturnal primate project and now more recently the sun bear project.

How do you feel about the projects being run at DGFC?

I feel that they're outstanding! The proposals that we get are excellent, as well as the follow ups and the reports. Its top notch!

What have you enjoyed most about your stay here?

Definitely realising how many researchers are based here, how many countries are represented and the level of enthusiasm. Everybody is sharing information and working together to make a real community supporting each other. I'm very impressed and wish I could stay longer.

Encroachment oil palm cutting in Batu Puti

Action has recently been taken to confront the practice of riparian encroachment by the oil palm industry on the Kinabatangan River. Twenty acres of oil palm (1.3 km long and 20-50m in width) that had illegally encroached the riparian reserve was removed using an excavator. The idea is recover and restore riparian reserves all along the river to enhance connectivity between the different fragments which will ultimately promote wildlife across the entire river.

Datuk Pang Yuk Ming, the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment (MTCE), personally took action by removing one of the oil palm trees and planting a young native tree. This initiative was facilitated by sustainable tourism and conservation initiative KOPEL and research and conservation organisation Danau Girang Field Centre.

This was not a one day public media display and the programme aims to restore all the forest that has been invaded by Ladang Kinabatangan. There are to be many more of these corridor recovery events, where hopefully the State Government make law violators pay for the cost of putting back natural trees.



DGFC
director,
Benoit
Goossens,
tree
planting.

Encroachment oil palm cutting in Batu Puti: The photos



Left: The entire team which helped restore the wildlife corridor

Right: Datuk Pang Yuk Ming planting a native tree back where it belongs



Left: Newly planted native trees which will grow to enhance wildlife connectivity

Right: Datuk Pang Yuk Ming removing an illegally placed oil palm tree!



More Proboscis monkey collaring!

This month a further two female proboscis monkeys were collared along the river near the field centre. This is for Danica Stark's PhD in which she is looking at their movement and use of the fragmented forest here along the Kinabatangan river.

These collars are from the company E-obs in Germany, which both the civet and crocodile collars have also come from. GPS points are recorded every 60 minutes and Danica is able to go and track them from 4.30-7pm daily. At this time they are mainly coming back down to the trees along the river to sleep and so this allows Danica to assess them and their behaviour within the group. It also makes finding them very easy! All animals have had their points successfully downloaded up until now, and we hope to be able to follow them for many more months to come!

To assist in the collaring, 4 members of the Wildlife Rescue Unit came to DG, including wildlife veterinarian Dr Diana Ramirez. We thank them for their time and hard work with the collaring of these animals!



Earlham Field Course

Earlham College, from America, arrived on the 18th of May for a 12 day field course. The 8 students were led and supervised by José, Wendy and Bill.

The students spent their first few days enjoying all the centre has to offer in terms of projects, including following monitor lizards, Boss the slow loris, civet tracking and bird and primate surveys along the river at dawn and dusk.

The second part of their course required them to develop their own project which they could collect data for, analyse and come to conclusions in within a week. Students chose to study macaques, butterflies and herbivory levels. They presented their findings back to the rest of the group and this will go towards part of their module mark.

The students have also experienced more of Sabah. They went to the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Sepilok Orang-utan Sanctuary before they arrived at DG and will also visit Sukau after their stay here.



Photos of field course



Photos of field course



Nocturnal primate update

On the night walks many creatures can be seen, including one of the nocturnal primates that can be found in the area, the tarsier. On one such walk, DG students stumbled upon two tarsiers, a male and female. They were caught and brought back to the DG lab to have samples and morphometric measurements taken from them. Unfortunately we had no functioning collars to put on them, but it is still very important to continue to collect samples from these creatures.

We have a slow loris collar, which was bought with money from Columbus Zoo, and we hope to catch one to collar and continue this project. Boss, our slow loris which is currently collared, is due to have her collar removed in a few weeks. She has been collared three times now, so we feel it is only fair to not re-collar her. We also want to be able to compare Boss' movements with another loris, and so we hope by collaring another individual we will be able to do this.



DGFC talks and presentations

Danau Girang Field Centre has been very active this month in talks and presentations to the public to increase their knowledge on wildlife, the projects on going here and the conservation efforts we are making.

On the 22nd of May a Wildlife conservation awareness programme, by Sabah Wildlife Department and Felda Global Venture, in collaboration with HUTAN, BSBCC, DGFC and Borneo Conservation Trust at Ladang Felda Global Ventures, Kinabatangan, was organised. DGFC's staff (education officer Clarice Kelly Samih, research assistant Petriadi (Doyo) Ambo Tola, and River Keeper Unit members Mohd Syafendy Yajit and Sudirman Bin Sawang) and MSc student Roshan Guharajan took part in the event.

Master student Gilmoore G. Bolongon, on the 15th of May, presented in Sepilok, Sandakan. All plantations, to receive their green badge, must run camera trap programmes to view wildlife using the plantation. Therefore this presentation was to inform and teach plantation owners in the ways of camera trapping and its benefits to conservation.



Other news...

PhD and senior staff retreat

DG PhD students had a few days in Manis Manis Nature Resort, Crocker Range near KK for meetings with our director Benoit Goossens. This was to decide the future and the running of the field centre to continue in its success for many years to come.



Civet update

At the beginning of the month another female civet was trapped and had samples taken from. Meaghan Harris and a team of helpers have now located new sites to continue trapping and she hopes to place the remaining two collars she has at this new site. Tenang's collar, the first civet she trapped, has now stopped working so Meg is able to focus on trapping and collaring new individuals!



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Binturong

Scientific name: *Arctictis binturong*

IUCN status: Vulnerable



Description and Ecology:

They are mainly solitary and nocturnal mammals that are excellent climbers. They have strong feet, agile bodies, semi-retractable claws and a prehensile tail. The binturong is also known to both swim and dive. Their large sizes mean that they cannot jump between trees and so they must walk across the forest floor to other trees. Between 1 and 3 cubs are born, which are weaned after 2 months where they reach adult sizes after a year. They live between 10 and 15 years in the wild, but have been known to reach 26 years in captivity. Binturongs are mainly frugivores but are also well adapted to catching insects, birds, rodents and fish. They also smell of popcorn and can rotate their hind legs backwards to climb down trees. The vulnerable young can even spray a foul smelling liquid when startled!

Conservation:

Numbers have declined drastically and along with their capture still in many parts, has led to a 30% decline in binturong population numbers in the last 30 years.

Threats:

- Pet trade
- Human consumption
- Habitat loss
- Chinese medicine market
- Fragmentation

Match the Tail

1



A

2



B

3



C

Otter

Tarsier

Proboscis
Monkey

Jungle Fact of the Month

Sun bear tongues can reach up 30 cm long! They use these to feed on invertebrates that can be in deep crevices and hard to reach places.

Photos of the Month!



Photos were taken by François Ciavatti and Sarah Joscelyne

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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