



The Jungle Times

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Visitors

Christine Townsend

Christine joined us for a few days to get to know the center and what we do, whilst also dropping off her son, Ethan, who will be with us for six weeks as a volunteer.

Sandy Ling Choo

Sandy has just completed her veterinary training at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Sandy is looking at becoming a wildlife vet within the wildlife rescue unit and so joined us for a week to learn more about the area and species.

Elise's parents

Our orang-utan girl, Elise, had her parents visiting for a few days so they could see her hard at work, before whisking her off for a few well earned days of rest, diving off of Semporna.

Sharon and Michael Williams

Visiting from the 13-16th of July, this Australian couple works with the Little Fire Face slow loris programme in Indonesia. They came to learn more about our slow lorises and do a few follows with Hannah and Kenneth, our nocturnal primate team.

Josh Tober

Anya's brother, Josh, visited for a few days at the end of her PTY to see what she has been experiencing for the past year. They will continue to have a few days around Sabah before returning to the UK.

Arrivals

Kenneth Keuk

Kenneth is a veterinary student from France studying at the Maisons Alfort veterinary school in Paris. He has just completed his fourth year there. He will be with us for three months, and will mainly be focusing on parasites of primates, specifically looking at our slow lorises Boss and Bulu, collecting their faeces and following McMaster and floatation techniques in the lab to identify species of parasites in the species.

Ethan Townsend

Ethan has joined us as a volunteer for six weeks to experience jungle life. He lived in Sabah with his family five years ago and is now returning during his school holidays and has a keen interest in all things wildlife and conservation related. He is looking to apply to study Zoology at university in September and so wanted to broaden his experience.



Arrival of new PTYs

DGFC has welcomed, for six years now, Professional Training Year students from Cardiff University. This year is no exception, with 4 of the 6 students having already arrived throughout June and July.

Aimee Holborow and **Molly Ellis** arrived with the Cardiff University field course in June. Aimee will be based at DG and is currently being trained up by previous PTY students in all things jungle! Molly has now joined the banteng team, where she will be involved in camera trap studies of this elusive species.

Rhys White and **Katie Journeaux** arrived with the Cardiff University Marine field course which ran for two weeks on the islands off of Kota Kinabalu. Katie also joins the Banteng team, and has already had her 1st expedition in the field. Rhys has spent the first month of his placement in Kudat and Banggi Island, tracking the collared macaques and completing census' of the populations there for a malaria study, run by the MonkeyBar project. Rhys will be joining the DG team to start his own project soon.



Goodbyes

Bye HANYA!!!

Unfortunately this month we had to say goodbye to Hannah Wilson and Anya Tober who have been PTYs at DGFC for over a year. Hannah became highly skilled using radio-telemetry and followed our collared lorises to understand their movement patterns and ecology. Anya was a part of the monitor lizard team and soon became known as DGFC's own Lizard Queen! Both were hard working, enthusiastic and gave the place a great atmosphere! You both will be highly missed by everyone here!!



“I have had the best year ever here and I am so sad to leave! I have met the best people and made friends for life!” - Hannah

“Look after my babies....I AM THE LIZARD QUEEN!” - Anya

Goodbyes

Julia Henke

Julia is a veterinary student from Germany, currently finishing her last year of university in Austria. She was highly active with all our running projects, particularly those with the orang-utans and monitor lizards! We hope to welcome more arrivals just like her with her good attitude and chocolate treats!



Elise Brilloux

Elise has been studying orang-utan foraging and nesting behaviour for the last five months! She would spend hours in the forest following oranges from dawn till dusk! She will now go back to France to finish her Masters degree at Agroparistech engineering school of agronomy and environment. We'll miss her crazy personality and insane guitar solos!



Crocodile Collaring

On the 17th July, DGFC collared a new female crocodile. This makes it the third one collared by our team which is led by PhD student Luke Evans. The female has been named Malas which means lazy since she was so well behaved during the collaring. She measured 3.16 m long and was in a very good condition.

Pictured right is the sexing procedure used by Luke and the team to learn that Malas is female.



Above is a photo of Malas taken by François Ciavatti.

We hope to follow all our collared crocs to understand their movements along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries. Luke will also focus on their nesting behaviour to learn what environmental factors are important to their ecology and well being. Our crocodile project is funded by Chester Zoo and DGFC.

Cardiff Field Course!

On 28th June, 22 students just finishing their second year at Cardiff University arrived for a 14-day field course supervised by Dr Benoit Goossens and Professors Michael Bruford and William Symondson. The students, who are all Biological Science students, spent their first week at the centre enjoying all that the rainforest and centre has to offer, as well as learning new skills. Students had the opportunity to undertake primate surveys, explore the different trails around the centre, and gain skills in entomology and butterfly catching. They were also able to experience mist netting as well as spending time in the botanical plots surrounding the centre, studying how quickly trees can grow and fill available areas.



Cardiff Student Projects

In their second week, students devised and carried out their own research projects in groups of 2 or 3. During this week students gathered and analysed data on their chosen projects, as well as drawing some preliminary conclusions from their results which they then presented to the rest of the group and researchers here at Danau Girang.

Students undertook a diverse range of projects, with some choosing to study birds, butterflies, earthworms, frogs and even mosquitos!



Cardiff Photos!



Photos taken by David Fidler

Wimbledon Field Course

From 16th-21st July DGFC was visited by 20 students from Wimbledon High School, UK. The girls participated in several activities offered by DGFC including several night walks and primate surveys, where they learnt GPS and important observational skills. They also practiced setting up and analysing camera traps, which has become an increasing popular research technique when studying wildlife populations.



The girls spent one morning tree planting, where they helped the current project of regenerating a new forest corridor by planting 400 new saplings.

They also carried out spider surveys on the newly discovered species found in February, *Crassignatha danaugirangensis*, to help understand more about their ecology.



Wimbledon Field Course

One day was also spent river cleaning! Overall they collected 90.2kg of litter. It was then sorted by the students into plastic bottles (60.3 kg), glass (14.5 kg), polystyrene (1.4 kg), metal (5.4 kg), old fishing nets (0.5 kg) and other materials (8.1 kg).



The students then made posters and gave presentations about consequences of littering and the different ways to avoid pollution.



Helicopter Tracking

On the 23rd of July clouded leopard researcher Andrew Hearn took to the skies! He has previously collared three male individuals and the time has come to locate their collars and obtain their GPS positional data. Despite a search effort from the river and forest to get these points, Andy only has partial data, so he commissioned a helicopter ride to fly across the forest lots, including Pin Supu, the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary and Gomantong. This was a three hour flight from the base in Sandakan, in which Meaghan Harris and Baharudin Resake also took part in to help in the search. The team took antennas and tracking technology up with them and surveyed the area, flying transects across the forest below. In total their flight path covered an area of around 225km. They located one of the males, Jack, and hope they will now be able to follow his progress from the ground and collect his collar when it drops in September. This flight also allowed Andy to identify hot spots within the area, flying over possible ridges which the clouded leopards may be drawn to within their home ranges. This information could be used in the future for more camera trap studies to gain a better insight into clouded leopard numbers in the area.



Primate Field Course

This month we welcomed a group of 10 primate enthusiasts. This field course is run by DGFC PhD student Danica Stark, who leads the primate research here. Marina, from Portsmouth University, was also here to help out and direct the course. The students spent their first few days at the centre learning the different techniques associated with primate research including primate surveys from the river, behaviour analysis, census transects and recording vocalisations.

The second week of the course involved the students designing their own research projects and putting the skills they had learnt into action. We had two groups looking at long tail macaque behaviour and interactions, and a further two groups studying proboscis monkey feeding ecology and how the individuals interact together whilst they are feeding. Each group then presented their findings, analysing and drawing possible conclusions from their week's study.

This field course will help many of the students with future primate research and university studies.



Elephants are back!

Finally the elephants are back at DGFC! They haven't been here since December. Here are some of the photos captured during their passing!



Photos by Mohd Syafendy Yajit and Kieran Love

Banteng team update

In June 2014 the Banteng team headed to Maliau Basin to collect remaining camera traps and to conclude the data collection in this conservation area. After being part of the project for over a year, Field Leader Jocelyn was lucky enough to see her first Banteng sighting when it jumped in front of the vehicle in the early hours of the morning!! With less than a week before leaving the team, it could not have happened at a better time! Master Student Hugo, and PTY student Katie had been on the project for only a few weeks so it was a brilliant way to start their experience on the team!



From left to right: Naomi, Jocelyn, Hugo and Katie.



Master student Hugo with new PTY Katie, collecting samples from the forest.

Banteng team update

In July the banteng team was joined by Molly Ellis, who arrived after spending two weeks at DG. Now the team for this year was complete and we had to say farewell to the previous PTY Naomi and Field Leader Jocelyn. The new banteng team has started work in taking down the boma located in Malua Forest Reserve and is planning the first expedition into a new forest reserve in August.



Katie (left) and Molly (right) with Rusdi, Siti and Ruslee, our banteng field research assistants.

Other news...

This month two new sun bear collars arrived! Soon they will be fitted on captured bears and used for understanding movement patterns in a fragmented landscape.



A new conservation action plan came out for Pangolins. Hopefully we can keep this species protected and prevent further population declines! Currently, all 8 species are threatened with extinction.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Reticulated Python

Scientific name: *Python reticulatus*

IUCN status: Vulnerable



Photo taken by François Ciavatti

Description and Ecology:

The reticulated python gained its name from the distinctive colour pattern it possesses with its markings appearing “net-like”. They are known to be the longest snake species in the world, with the largest recorded length being 9.83m! They are found commonly in Borneo within lowland habitats, therefore resulting in them being found frequently within towns. The diet of the reticulated python is that of a carnivore, consisting of a wide range of warm-blooded vertebrates. However, pythons of very large size have been known to consume livestock within settlements. The python has strong jaws and sharp curved teeth, which enables it to gain a strong grip on its prey whilst using its muscular body to constrict and therefore suffocate its prey. Unlike other members of the Boa family, the reticulated python lays eggs (between 25-100 at one time) rather than bear live young.

Conservation:

Trading of python skins and snake meat consumption is controlled under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). However this has done little to reduce consumption and illegal trade still occurs.

Threats:

- Hunted for their skins
- Human consumption
- Pet trade

Match the bird!

1

2

3



A

B

C

Kingfisher

Trogon

Night
Heron

Jungle Fact of the Month

- **Bearded pigs** are known to eat the eggs of turtles and even crocodiles!!!

Answers: 1) = B, 2) = A, 3) = C

Photos of the Month!



Baharudin Resake 2014



Photos taken by Aimee Holborow, Kieran Love and Baharudin 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

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