



The Jungle Times

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Visitors

Andrew MacIntosh and Liesbeth Frías

Andrew is an Associate Professor, both for the Centre for International Collaboration and Advanced Studies in Primatology, and for Kyoto University Wildlife Research Centre. Liesbeth is a PhD student for the Centre for Human Evolution Modelling Research and they're both researching for Kyoto University Primate Research Centre in Japan.

While here they initiated a study of primate-parasite communities across different habitats in Sabah. In this first step, they collected faecal samples from different groups of six primate species to determine their gastrointestinal parasite biodiversity and the extent to which parasites are shared across primate hosts.



Scubazoo

Over the past few weeks, two cameramen, Sam and Simon, have visited to film everyone for the Borneo Jungle Diaries. They were able to record the civet and monitor lizard captures, and with Chris arriving next, they are following our daily jungle activities for six weeks!



Visitors

EcoHealth Alliance

For the past two years DGFC and Sabah Wildlife Department have been collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance (US-based NGO specialised on zoonotic diseases) on an USAID's Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) Program. Our challenge is to develop a strategic framework to identify pathogens of pandemic potential that have not yet emerged. Within this EPT Program, the PREDICT project aims to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to the spillover of novel infectious pathogens from wildlife to humans. This led to the setting up of the Sabah Wildlife Health Genetic and Forensic laboratory in Kota Kinabalu. On 5 September, EHA board of directors visited DGFC and were introduced to our work.



Volunteers

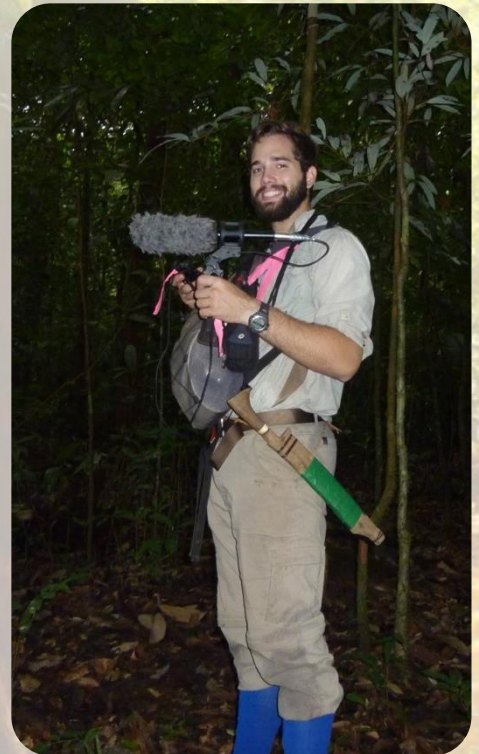
Estelle Lyan



Estelle is a French university student studying Agronomy at Agrocampus Ouest in Rennes. She will be with us in DG until January, during this time she will help with all the ongoing projects here as well as carrying out her own. Estelle will be working with our vet, Sergio Guerrero Sanchez, for his PhD work on monitor lizards. She will be studying the habitat preference of the lizards by measuring the soil pH, height of the litter, density of vegetation and many other variables and to see where is the best place to trap monitor lizards.

David Bernasconi

This year, David finished his undergraduate degree at Louisiana State University where he was studying Wildlife Ecology. For the past month and a half, he has spent his time at Gunung Mulu National Park where he was assisting a friend with his PhD project with LSU Natural History Museum studying bird diversity in relation to elevation on mount Mulu. To finish his travels, David is at DG for 12 days before he goes back to the States to look for grad schools to do research into Bornean elephants .



Goodbyes

Kenneth Keuk

Kenneth has been with us since July, and in this time he has assisted with many collaring procedures such as the Malay civet and clouded leopard collaring using his veterinary skills. He has also been collecting data on our slow lorises, Boss and Bulu, looking at endoparasites, their home ranges and offspring dispersal. Kenneth will use this data to write his thesis for his final year of veterinary medicine.

Mona Zimmerman

Mona joined us with the Hannover field course and in her time has been assisting with the ongoing projects here at DG such as the monitor lizard's. She will now be going back to Germany to begin her veterinary medicine degree, good luck!

Clare Harwood

After spending one month here in DGFC, Clare left us on the 9th September to go back to the UK to begin her degree in Pharmacology at Bristol University. While here she took an interest and assisted in the baiting and trapping of the monitor lizards and in the slow loris project. We wish you the best of luck with your degree!



Malay Civet Trapping



Before leaving for the UK to start the ecotoxicology part of her PhD, Meaghan Harris started trapping again. Her first task was to recapture Malu, a male whose collar had broken, in an effort to retrieve lost data.

During the process, she captured a healthy pregnant female and samples and measurements were taken. Malu was successfully caught a few days later, and Meg has now taken the collar back to the UK to try and retrieve the lost data.

With success running high, the traps were moved in order to recapture her other two males, Bandit and Nakal. Their collars were also recovered.



Along with those mentioned, another female and a juvenile were also caught, but released due to Bandit being the priority.

Good luck in the UK Meg, see you soon!!



Clouded Leopard Re-collaring



YAYASAN

On the 4th September, the third male collared in this area was re-collared. His collar was due to fall off in the next few days and so he was caught just in time! He was a very healthy male weighing 24.6kg.



PhD student Andrew Hearn has now sent this collar to Canada to try and retrieve any data which he has not previously been able to download.

This collaring is part of an intensive satellite tracking programme to study the spatial ecology and habitat associations of the Sunda clouded leopard and other sympatric carnivores in the fragmented landscape of the Lower Kinabatangan, dominated by oil palm plantations and highly degraded forest.



Hannover Field Course

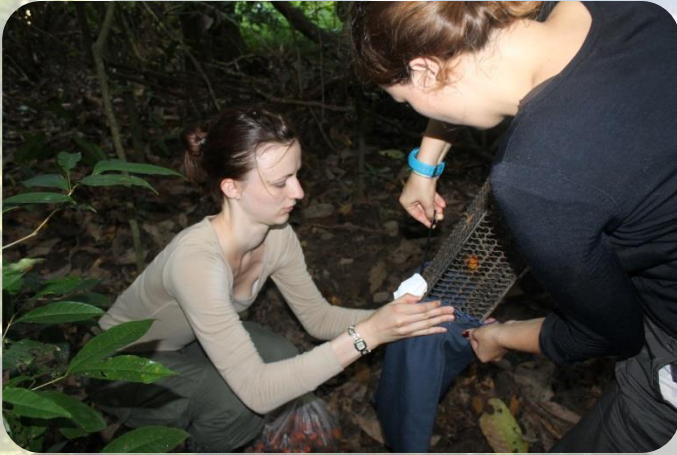
On the 24th August, 8 students from Hannover University arrived to take part in a 14 day field course. Students had the opportunity to explore the different trails around the centre and to go on many night walks as well as carrying out their own projects. The group was split up into two, half of them focused on a small mammal project and the rest on a primate survey project.

For the small mammal project the students had to analyse the ecology of three different habitat sites, by looking at canopy cover, plant density etc. along a 100m transect. They then placed 20 small mammal traps at each site to compare the different species they found. The primate surveys involved the students going out on the boats at dusk and dawn recording the different species that they saw and any interesting population dynamics.

In the last two days that they were here, they spent their time looking over their data, drawing up some preliminary conclusions which they then presented to the rest of the group and everyone here at Danau Girang. As well as getting to watch elephants fight outside the admin building!!



Hannover Photos



Aberystwyth Field Course

Our third Welsh university to visit DG arrived on the 8th September, with 24 students coming from Aberystwyth University. This was their first Tropical Plant Ecology field course where the students got to explore our four botanical plots and get knee deep in elephant dung!

The students spent the majority of their time in the botanical plots, comparing the diversity of species found in riparian and semi inundated forest. They collected many seedling samples and filled the admin building with them all! They have now taken these samples back to Wales to carry out genetics work in order to create a phylogeny.

They also collected a lot of elephant dung which they brought back to the lab to dig through, in order to see what plants the elephants were eating and to look for any seeds.

Students also had the opportunity to go on night walks with the locals and to see the forest from above by climbing the canopy platform! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Aberystwyth Photos



Other news...

New Paper Published!

A new paper has been published by the members of DGFC and Organisms and Environment Division (Cardiff University) in Journal of Natural History called: Bornean caterpillar (Lepidoptera) constructs cocoon from *Vatica rassak* (Dipterocarpaceae) resin containing multiple deterrent compounds.



Fighting Elephants

Two bulls decided to give us a show this month, with them fighting right outside the admin building. Everyone watched nervously inside, but they soon passed on by without causing any destruction!



Conservation Corner:

Common name:

Western tarsier

Scientific name:*Cephalopachus bancanus***IUCN status:**

Vulnerable

**Description and Ecology:**

The Western tarsier is found in Southern Sumatra, Borneo and nearby islands. Tarsiers are nocturnal, sleeping in tangles of vines and are found close to the ground. They are vertical clingers and leapers, jumping between saplings and small trees as their primary mode of locomotion. They are the only completely carnivorous primate; feeding mainly on insects but they will also eat small vertebrates such as bats and birds. There is a tuft of fur at the end of the tail which can be used to distinguish between species.

**Threats:**

- Deforestation
- Pet trade
- Human consumption

Conservation:

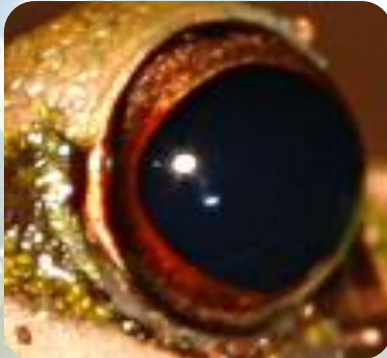
- Listed as vulnerable in the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
- Listed in CITES Appendix II
- In February 2007, the governments of Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia agreed to protect roughly 220,000 km² of tropical forest in the "Heart of Borneo" region.

Match the eye

1



2



3



A

Frog

B

Tarsier

C

Bird

Jungle Fact of the Month

Slow lorises have two tongues!

Photos of the Month!



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

Email: danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com

*Editors: Aimee Holborow, Roxanne Everitt
and Kirsty Franklin*

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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