



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Lena Thebaud

Lena is a French student who has just finished her undergraduate degree studying Law in Toulouse. She is now taking a gap year before returning to France to do her masters. During her year away, Lena is travelling around SE Asia both volunteering and sightseeing. Her travels have started here in Malaysia, and she will stay with us until January.

James Gardner

Luke's friend, James, is with us at DG until January before he spends two years working in New Zealand. During this time he will be assisting Luke with his PhD, helping with many activities such as capturing small crocs on night exhibitions, and catching the larger ones in the traps; along with everything else jungle going on!



Goodbye Roshan!

After being with us over 18 months, we had to say a very sad goodbye to Roshan Guharajan!

Roshan spent his time at DGFC carrying out his masters project on the Malayan sun bear. He successfully collared a male sun bear, which was part of an intensive satellite tracking programme to study it's spatial ecology along with other sympatric species in the fragmented landscape of the Lower Kinabatangan, which is dominated by palm oil plantation and highly degraded forest.

Unfortunately the collar came off shortly afterwards, but Roshan was able to collect more data on this beautiful species through camera trap photos and transect surveys.

But don't worry, we gave him a good send off... with cake, and also an egg and flour to the head!! We miss you Roshan, and best wishes for what the future holds!



Sime Darby Visit

On November 4th DGFC was pleased to welcome a visit from the Sime Darby Foundation's Council members. This included the chairman Tun Musa Hitam and others from the Foundation's staff.



They were shown a series of presentations on all the work that is carried out at DG. There were presentations from Benoit, Danica (on our proboscis monkey project), Lim Hong Ye (alias Hugo) on our Bornean banteng project, Andrew Hearn on our Sunda clouded leopard project, Clarice Kelly Samih on our Sunda clouded leopard outreach programme and Luke Evans on droning and riparian reserves.

Sime Darby Visit Photos



Carnegie Dept of Global Ecology visit

Dr Greg Asner, together with Dr Robin Martin from Carnegie Institution for Science, and who is running the Carnegie Airborne Observatory, visited DGFC on the 14th November.



Greg is in Sabah to promote the Carnegie-Sabah mapping project using advanced 3-D spectral and laser imaging technology. On the DG Facebook page there are links to his webpage and extremely informative TED talk!



Carnegie Dept of Global Ecology visit

Greg and Robin were welcomed by Luke Evans and Alexander Horton, PhD students at DGFC and Cardiff University. After a short visit of DG facilities, Luke took them to see the elephants which were one river bend from our jetty.

One of Greg's main interests is animal ecology and movements and he is running a big project in South Africa, satellite collaring lions, elephants, wild dogs, etc. We hope to set up a collaboration with Greg and the Carnegie Department of Global Ecology on wildlife dispersal and landscape use.



Erosion of the Kinabatangan

Alex Horton is a PhD student from Cardiff University, School of Earth Sciences and for the last few months he has been investigating the role of vegetation types on the erosion rates of the banks of the Kinabatangan river.

He hopes to find a relationship between the different properties provided by vegetation and the stability of the river banks. This information will go some way to explain why and when the river changes shape, and to aid in the management of riparian environments.



When Dr Greg Asner visited, he was very interested in Alex's project as the technology that Alex uses to assess the density of vegetation on a river bank is a basic example of the laser technology used by the Carnegie mapping project. As well as using laser technology Alex collects root samples from varying sites to establish whether a particular bank is more resistant to erosion.

Monkeybar Workshop

Danau Girang Field Centre is involved in the Monkeybar project led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, which focuses on interdisciplinary research into zoonotic malaria *Plasmodium knowlesi* in Palawan, The Philippines and Sabah, Malaysia.

On the 25th-28th November, a mid-project workshop for Monkeybar was held at Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu. Over the 4 days, many presentations were given to bring everyone up to date with the different components progress and future plans were made for the project.

It was a very successful workshop with a lot of very positive results coming out already, and some potential strong collaborations for DGFC with Glasgow University and other institutions.



Monkeybar Workshop



Milena Salgado-Lynn, who leads the primatology component of the project, Danica Stark (our in-house primatologist), Cyrlen Jalius (our lab technician), Amaziasizamoria Jumail (our field leader), Rhys White (current PTY working on a mosquito project at DG), Eleanor Dickinson (primatology volunteer on the Monkeybar project) and Benoit Goossens represented DGFC at the workshop.



Tarsier Project

Last month, PTY student Roxanne Everitt, collared a juvenile tarsier for her Professional Training Year project and for the on-going nocturnal primate project run by Danica Stark. Since then, she has been out every day tracking using VHF radio telemetry to find the individual's sleeping sites.



For two weeks, Roxy went out every night for a few hours in order to habituate the individual so that its movements would not be affected by human presence.

Roxy has now completed her first cycle throughout the night, going out over four three-hour sessions, 18:00–21:00, 21:00–00:00, 00:00–03:00 and 03:00–06:00. Get use to the lack of sleep Roxy!!

News



One of the very first DG volunteers, Dave Stanton, has gone on to publish a conservation/genetic paper on okapi in the *Oryx* journal. He did his PhD on the okapi at Cardiff University under the supervision of Michael Bruford.

“Non-invasive genetic identification confirms the presence of the endangered okapi *Okapia johnstoni* south-west of the Congo River”

The elephants have made their way back to DG again, a bittersweet time when work is halted but beautiful moments of elephant behaviour occur. They did not stay for too long and are now heading back towards Sukau.



This month, work has begun on modifying and fixing the buildings around DG. A new apartment is being added to the Tower for future visitors and work will soon begin on fixing the Jetty.

Conservation Corner:

Common name:

Flat-Headed Cat

Scientific name:*Prionailurus planiceps***IUCN status:**

Endangered

**Description and Ecology:**

The flat-headed cat is a small wild cat patchily distributed in the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra. It is distinguished by the extreme depression of the skull, which extends along the nose to the extremity of the muzzle hence it's name. They are nocturnal and terrestrial, probably feeding mainly on fish. This cat occurs mainly in tall and secondary forests.

**Threats:**

- Habitat destruction and degradation
- Over-fishing of prey
- Trapping, snaring and poisoning

Conservation:

- It is included on CITES Appendix I
- It is fully protected by national legislation over its range, with hunting and trade prohibited in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.
- It can be found in the Kinabatangan.

Match the hand!

1



A

2



B

3



C

Slow Loris

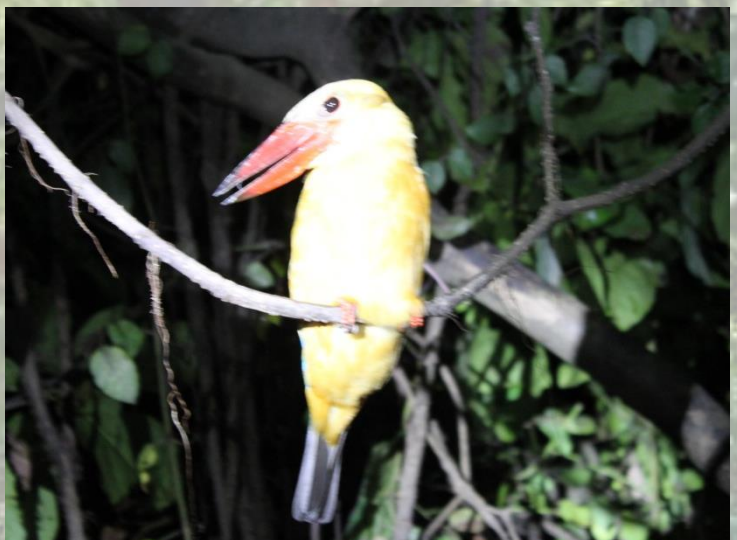
Tarsier

Frog

Jungle Fact of the Month

Monitor lizards have forked tongues (like snakes), which they use to detect scents in the air!

Photos of the Month!



Photos by Kirsty Franklin, Roxanne Everitt and Rhys White

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
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Sabah

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