



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 71

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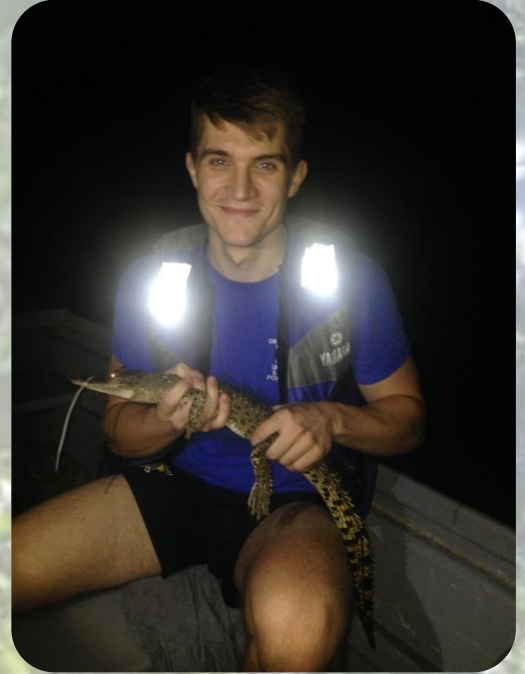


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Arrivals

Stephen Edwards

A new PTY student has arrived! Stephen landed in Borneo on the 28th January and will be staying at DGFC until the end of August 2015. Along with taking part in all the ongoing projects, Stephen will carry out his own work under the supervision of Meg Harris on the Small Carnivore Project. Welcome to the team, Stephen!



Lisa Fijn

Lisa is a Dutch student from Utrecht University. At DG, she will be carrying out her second research project as part of her Masters degree in Behavioural Ecology. Her project here will look into orang-utan home range and behaviour, which is slightly different from her first project on pig emotion and cognition! Lisa will be here for six months to completely immerse herself into jungle life!

Welcome home!

After the Christmas break, all the students are finally coming back to DG. This year all the PTY students went to Australia, Meg and Danica have both been to their home countries and to the UK and Luke and Sergio to Kota Kinabalu.

Both Meg and Danica went to many workshops held in Cardiff. Danica met with Ian Vaughan and Alex Hardisty, the director of informatics projects in Computer Science, in order to develop data management protocol for the field centre. This involves standardising data management, data sharing and data collection for all our long term projects with a goal of storing all data online for public access. So a big thank you to Alex and your team!

Meg met with Dr. Carsten Müller and Prof. Peter Kille to develop her lab protocol for detecting metals and pesticides in hair while further designing her ecotoxicology studies in the LKWS. As well as exploring scent communication in civets and helping with Cardiff University Otter Project. They also fitted in seeing lots of our old students, including some of last year's PTY students, who we miss very much!

Since Meg has been back, she has been to Lok Kawi Wildlife Park in Kota Kinabalu where she has sampled 9 new civets to add to her collection of data. And we expect much more excitement!



Goodbyes

Estelle Lyan

After being with us for five months, we've had to say a very sad goodbye to Estelle! In her time here, Estelle has been able to assist with everything going on, including the nocturnal primate projects, monitor lizard project and much more. She was also here to carry out her own project for her degree in Agronomy. For this she was catching mosquitoes in order to look at mosquito diversity around DG. Anything that reduces the number of mosquitoes here is great!! We'd like to thank Estelle for all her help and for making DG such a great atmosphere!



Lena Thébaud

Lena unfortunately left DGFC this month as well. Lena was a volunteer who helped us for two months. Her stay here marked the beginning of her travels around SE Asia. She is now off to Nepal, Sulawesi and other parts of Indonesia, have fun!



Epiphytic Frogs

After coming to DGFC in 2013 to undertake research for his Masters, Rudi decided that he had to come back for his PhD! Rudi arrived this month and will be staying at DG for 6 months.

For his masters thesis, Rudi carried out a preliminary study on frogs in epiphytes. He has now taken the next step and will focus on arboreal frogs in bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus* complex), which are common throughout Sabah.



Bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*)



Hylarana raniceps, most abundant species found in epiphytes



Rudi in his climbing apparatus

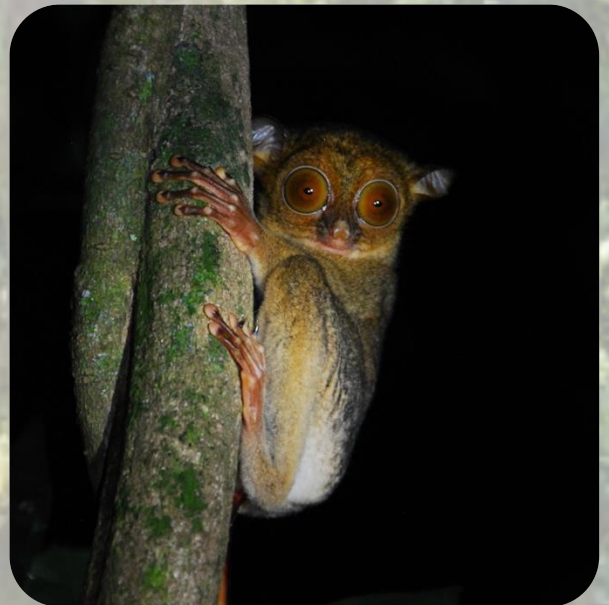
The general question for his PhD research is whether epiphytic bird's nest ferns fulfil their putative role as biodiversity reservoirs. His research will take him to primary tropical forests, fragmented secondary forests and oil palm plantations in and around protected areas in Sabah, such as the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Tabin Wildlife Reserve and Sepilok-Kabili Forest Reserve. This will involve climbing the trees and placing camera traps in the canopy! Good luck, Rudi!

Nocturnal Primate Census

As part of the nocturnal primate project this year, two censuses will be carried out – one during the wet season and another during the dry season.

Every night our two nocturnal primate PTY's, **Kirsty** and **Roxy**, have been walking along the trails around DGFC in order to work out a population estimate for our resident slow lorises and tarsiers. Their bright eye shine and movement are the only things to look out for! So far, six slow lorises and four tarsiers have been spotted and we're sure that there are more to find!

This data will also be compared to a previous census that was carried out in 2009, in order to see if there are more or less of the two species in the area. The findings from these censuses will contribute towards Kirsty and Roxy's PTY projects.



Other News

Pangolin Conservation Officer

Elisa Panjang is our new Pangolin Conservation Officer. Elisa graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology from Universiti Malaysia Sabah and is currently doing her Master's Science degree with the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, UMS. Her focus is to study the ecology and behaviour of pangolins in Sabah and seeks to increase local community involvements in local conservation. Elisa will further her studies and carry out a PhD with Danau Girang Field Centre and Cardiff University with a scholarship from Houston Zoo, continuing her study on pangolin, a species she has fallen in love with.



PhD submitted!!

Penny Gardner, whom has been studying the Bornean banteng for many years now, submitted her 4 year long PhD this month! Penny is the first PhD student from DGFC to submit her work and everyone is extremely proud of her! Well done Penny!!

Conservation Corner:

Common name:

King Cobra

Scientific name:*Ophiophagus hannah***IUCN status:**

Vulnerable

**Description and Ecology:**

The king cobra is the largest venomous snake in the world with a typical length of 3-4m and weighing about 6kg. Distributed across the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and the southern areas of East Asia it lives in dense forests, preferring areas dotted with lakes and streams.

It is distinguished by its large size and extendable hood around its head. This snake also has a distinctive low frequency growling hiss, which is much lower than most other snake species.

They are diurnal and prey mainly on other snakes and occasionally on some other vertebrates, such as lizards and rodents.

Threats:

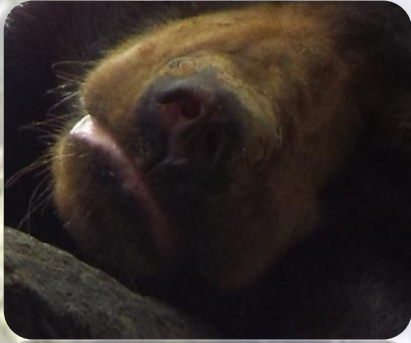
- Habitat destruction and degradation
- Harvested for skin, food, and especially medicinal purposes in China

Conservation:

- It is included on CITES Appendix II
- Only India has an extra protection on these snakes as a schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972)

Match the Nose!

1



A

Proboscis
Monkey

2



B

Sun Bear

3



C

Long-tailed
Macaque

Jungle Fact of the Month

Proboscis monkeys have evolved webbed hands and feet to aid them in swimming faster than crocodiles, which act as one of their key predators

Photos of the Month!



Photos taken by Kirsty Franklin, Aimee Holborow and Stephen Edwards

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

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