



The Jungle Times

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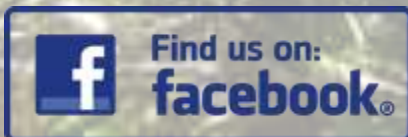
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Arrivals

Tim Garvey

Tim is a MRes student from Cardiff University. He conducted his undergraduate degree in Zoology in the University College Dublin with a final year dissertation on niche partitioning in Peruvian caiman. He will be spending six months studying the basking behaviour of the estuarine crocodile (*C. porosus*) along the Kinabatangan river under the supervision of Dr Benoit Goossens and PhD student Luke Evans.



Fitkri (a.k.a Koko)

We are excited to have a new clouded leopard research assistant who joined us this month for the foreseeable future. As the son of the head of Mescot, Rosli Jukrana, Koko brings with him a wealth of skills to DGFC including climbing experience, which has seen him aid Rudi Delvaux in his epiphytic frog work.

Koko has fit in well with the family and we all look forward to working with him.

Arrivals

Helen Pople

Helen is an MRes student from the University of Portsmouth, UK. She studied animal behaviour during her Psychology degree at Portsmouth and wants to transfer into Primatology. She is spending five months at DGFC studying the effects of tourism on proboscis monkey behaviour under the supervision of Danica Stark. She will spend her time here collecting behavioural data along the Kinabatangan River.



Sarah Bunel

Sarah is a French student from the University of Liège (Belgium), and graduated last year in “Organisms Biology and Ecology”. She is now studying for her MRes in “Animals and Plants Management in Tropical Environments”. During her stay Sarah will be an active volunteer in the orangutan project. Her study will focus on orangutan home-range and habitat use. This data, however, will also be included in a larger project to understand how orangutans react and adapt their behavior in the highly fragmented habitat of the Kinabatangan.



Visitors

Natasha and Martin

This month geneticist Natasha Arora visited DGFC for three nights with her partner Martin. Natasha had previously spent five years carrying out her PhD on orangutan population genetics at the Institute of Anthropology in Zurich, but had never seen a wild orangutan! Therefore one of our current Masters students, Lisa, was delighted to take them into the forest to find and locate orangutans. During their stay they were lucky to see these amazing animals on more than one occasion!!

Thank you both for being such wonderful company during your stay with us!



US Ambassador Visit

This month DGFC was proud to welcome the US Ambassador to Malaysia, Mr Joseph Yun along with two other members of the US Embassy. The Ambassador stayed at DG over night in order to experience jungle life to the fullest! During their stay presentations of the field centre's current on-going projects were provided by PhD and PTY students. The Ambassador and his associates also ventured into the forest during both day and night to see the vast display of wildlife the area has to offer, as well as taking a river cruise during which they were lucky to see long-tailed macaques, proboscis monkeys and even orangutans! Thank you for staying with us and we hope to see you again soon!



US Ambassador Visit



DGFC General Meeting

The second organised annual meeting was held this month on the 7th of February. The meeting was a big success and lots of progress was made. 36 staff and students who work at the centre and on projects around Sabah attended, which included everyone except three members of the Monkeybar project who could sadly not halt their work. It was great to meet the whole family and new faces as well as learn what interesting projects Danau Girang are involved in. It looks like 2015 is going to be bigger and better than ever and we look forward to seeing everyone again!



UWCSEA Field Course

Between the 14th and 20th February a field course comprised of 16 students from UWCSEA visited DGFC. The students undertook a wide range of activities during their stay, allowing them to develop both their understanding of the rainforest and animal ecology, but also the need for conservation in the wildlife sanctuary.

Students took part in a river cleaning activity during which they collected as much rubbish as possible from the Kinabatangan River. A total of 79.1kg of rubbish collected!



They also took part in both spider and primate surveys, as well as learning how to set-up camera traps. Students learnt all about radio-tracking and were able to experience for themselves the method involved in locating animal collars. In addition, students took part in a scavenger hunt, during which they were tested on all they had learnt at the field centre, and ended their stay with presentations and songs reflecting on their time here!



Field Course Photos



Lizard Collaring!

On the 5th of February the Monitor Lizard team successfully collared a new lizard. The lizard which weighed in at 13.5kg has been named 'Jabba' and has since been seen with the collar, which is great news!

The lizard was captured and collared deep within plantation and therefore its movements will be extremely crucial for the PhD work of Sergio, who wishes to understand more about how these animals move within forest and plantation.



Slow Loris Re-collared!

We are pleased to announce that on the 28th February, Boss, a known slow loris around DG was re-collared for the 4th time since her initial collaring in 2012! Boss appeared to be in healthy condition and has also been spotted with a young baby nearby!

The home range of Boss is already well known, but following the re-collaring she will be followed during the evenings by Kirsty Franklin, who is studying the movements of lorises for her Professional Training Year Project. The data collected will also be used by PhD Danica Stark as part of a larger on-going study on nocturnal primates.



DGFC Retreat

Between the 23rd and 27th of February, DGFC's senior staff and PhD students headed out to Beringgis Beach Resort and Spa for an annual retreat. The retreat consisted of a range of meetings in which all scientific aspects of DG's current and future work was discussed, including long term funding applications for research.



Conservation Corner:

Common name:
Wallace's Hawk-eagle

Scientific name:
Nisaetus nanus

IUCN status:
Vulnerable



Description and Ecology:

With a height of 45cm, it is the smallest of the two Hawk Eagle species found in Borneo, and is an uncommon resident of primary lowland forest. It feeds on birds, lizards and bats. Its plumage is closely mimicked by both the much smaller Jerdon's Baza and the similar sized resident race of Honey Buzzard.

Relatively little is known about this species due to its scarcity, but it was recently sighted at DGFC.

Threats:

The key threats to this species are habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation as a result of large-scale commercial logging. Such logging is utilised for widespread forest clearance for plantation agriculture (primarily rubber and oil palm), and has also been known to occur within protected areas.

Conservation Actions Underway

Listed under CITES Appendix II. It occurs in numerous protected areas, including at least two national parks and one wildlife reserve in Malaysia.

Protected in Sarawak under the Wild Life Protection ordinance 1990

Match the Scale!

1

2

3



A)
Pangolin

B)
Monitor
Lizard

C)
Crocodile

Jungle Fact of the Month

Pangolin's tongues are attached near their pelvis and lower ribs, and when extended fully reaches longer than the animal's total head and body length!

Photos of the Month!



Photos taken by Aimee Holborow, Timmy Garvey 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

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