



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Our first arrival of the month was **Daan Kinsbergen** from the Netherlands. He arrived on the 2nd of March and is here for two months. Daan will be assessing Orangutan nesting behaviour. He has 10 transects dotted around lot 6. He will walk each transect and count how many Orangutan nests he sees. Be it old or new. This can be used to establish whether the Orangutans frequently use that particular area.

He will then use botanical plots to find out whether there is a difference in habitat per transect and whether this corresponds to higher usage by the Orangutans.



Our latest arrival is **Dean Haltmayer**. Dean is a German student who arrived on the 31st of March. He will be here with us for 4 months after spending 6 months in Kota Kinabalu, volunteering as part of his internship with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) studying International Tropical Forestry, so will get to experience all the work that goes on at DG. His fascination with forestry was sparked after his 2 years studying Geography in Germany. Welcome, Dean!

Arrivals

We've also had two veterinary students arrive on the 30th of this month, **Tanja Elsbacher** and **Cynthia Marr**, who will be staying at DG for 10 weeks. They both study at the Veterinary University of Vienna in Austria and will be finishing their 6 year degree in August. The volunteering that they will do here is part of their last internship they need to do in their Conservation Medicine module.

In their time here they will help and follow Sergio, our vet, with any procedures he may carry out. This will include the monitor lizard project, Meg's civet trapping and any Clouded leopard's we may trap in the next few months. As well as experiencing the other projects which are currently going on at DG. Welcome, girls!



Visitors

Two members of Roxy's family visited DG for a week - her mother, Anna, and brother, Connor. Not only did they come to see her but also to see what being a PTY and research scientist involves.



They got to see many animals; otters, orangutans, crocodiles, kingfishers, scorpions, a tarsier, civets. Connor was particularly fascinated by the spiders and Anna took a liking to Macaques.



As Portland, OR, is Sabah's sister city DG is working with Portland State and Oregon State University to try and establish a field course. So James Hook, Joyce and Zac Hamilla were here between the 5th - 7th to look at the facilities and see the amazing diversity of life we have on the Kinabatangan.

Visitors



From the 16th to the 22nd we hosted **Menno Schilthuizen**, from Leiden Natural History museum (Naturalis Biodiversity Centre) and his team; **Kasper Hendriks**, **Alex Pigot** and **Iva Njunjić**. They spent time here crawling through limestone caves down river with the help of Doyo, one of our research assistants.

Kasper and Iva are PhD students, Kasper with Groningen University and Iva with the University of Novi Sad. Alex is a Post Doc with Oxford.

They were here to collect samples of different types of snails; microscopic snails and cave snails.

Kasper collected samples of soil comprised mainly of leaf litter which he will then sieve to locate the snails. Each sample was estimated to contain 100s to 1000s of snails. His study genera is *Plectostoma* which are microscopic snails under 5mm. On each limestone hill that they were studying he estimated a community of 20-40 species of *Plectostoma*.



Iva is working on a PhD also and hers concerns species of invertebrates that live inside caves such as beetles and snails. These microclimates in effect are islands so they can be used to study phylogeny. During her time here she collected cave snails.

Alex is a computational biologist so he is working with Menno and the others to develop a computer population model that can help explain how such snail communities arose on the limestone hill and also how the community interacts.

Budin's Wedding

DG is happy to announce that Budin, our Field Centre Manager, is now a happily married man. Almost all of the students based at DG attended the wedding. Benoit, Milena and Noalin drove down from Kota Kinabalu to be there as well. At first we saw the couple arrive in white but as the day went on they changed a further two times, into yellow and then pink.



We were honoured to be called up to the bride and groom to give them an offering of merenjjs. We sprinkled rice into the palm of Budin and then Hasimah.

Congratulations Budin!! We wish you all the happiness in the world.

Hong Kong Field Course

On the 8th March, DG had a visit from the University of Hong Kong. Dr Leszek Karczmarski brought along 16 students and 3 post graduates to come and explore the centre and all we have to offer.

They were here for 8 days and during there time here they took part in many projects such as camera trapping, radio telemetry, monitor lizard trapping, primate surveying, surveying for the DG spider (*Crassinatha danaugirangensis*) and going for night walks. They were all also very interested in the Orangutans , which they were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of.



Hong Kong Field Course

The latter part of their stay was made up of personal projects. There were two projects and within each project there were different angles that each student looked at. One project was based on activity of different species of animals using camera traps and the other was about primate surveying.



Hong Kong Field Course

Many of the students were also avid photographers and managed to capture a wide range of the wildlife we have at DG. Here are some of their best shots!



University of South Wales Field Course

The second field course of March arrived on the 24th after spending a week diving in Sabah for the marine part of their module. 19 students and 5 instructors came all the way from Cardiff, from the University of South Wales.

The students spent the majority of their time carrying out their own work. This included mist netting for birds in the morning and bats in the evening, primate surveys, taking freshwater samples and habitat analysis in the botanical plots. They also focused on the abundance of water mites found on the different species of birds they caught and in their freshwater samples.



University of South Wales Field Course

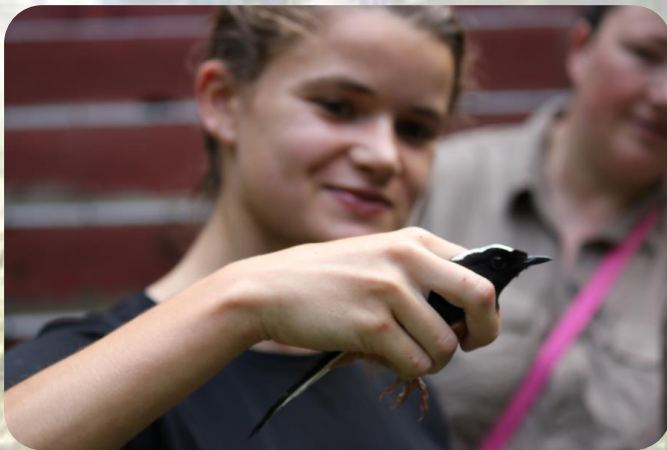
The students also joined the researchers here at DG on their current research projects. They participated in monitor lizard trapping and radio telemetry for nocturnal primate sleeping sites. They were even lucky enough to see one of our male slow lorises sleeping in the vines, as well as watching our resident Orangutans swinging through the trees. They also got to experience life high up in the trees as the sun rose, by climbing our canopy platform.



Quotes from the Students:

“Thank you for an amazing time, learnt so much in such a small space of time. Really inspired by everyone’s work and the staff were incredible!”

- **Alana Skilbeck**



“Fantastic stay. I will never forget the first time I saw a wild Orangutan! Thank you! 😊”

- **Allie Wilkinson**

“I had an absolutely brilliant time. I saw so many amazing things and learnt so much. I want to stay forever! Thank you to all!”

– **Alana Giuliani**



Monitor Lizard Collaring



The 3rd of March brought about another addition to the ever growing monitor lizard project sample base. A 16kg lizard was caught at a riverside transect site and was fitted with a collar. His name is Terbalik.

Then on the 13th March a common customer of the lizard traps reappeared. Lumpur was recaptured after losing his collar that was set in August. He was originally caught in a plantation site but this time it was a forest site, over 2km away! So Lumpur has shown to have the largest home range of all the collared lizards so far. This will now be his 3rd collar, and gives Sergio the lovely task of trying to find the collar he dropped.



Malay Badger

The clouded leopard traps were opened early March with the hopes that a new leopard would be captured. However, on the 4th we caught a Malay Badger. It seemed a waste to miss out on gaining knowledge about this animal so it was sampled.

Morphometric data, so body measurements, and a hair sample were taken from the animal. It recovered from the anaesthesia in about 30 minutes and the team (Meg, Sergio, Timmy, Stephen, Koko and Yusri) could let the animal go.

These animals are also known as stink badgers and on this day they earned that name. The badger smelled really strongly so protective suits had to be worn.



Crocodile Collaring

Timmy, the new crocodile masters student, wanted to jump straight into his project so as soon as DG stocked up on chicken guts, our choice of bait, the crocodile traps were put out and set.

It was on the second day of having the traps out, the 11th, that the team (Luke, Timmy, Benoit and Stephen) were greeted by a new crocodile caught in the trap. He was a male and measured in at 3.77m. He was fitted with a GPS collar, one of two that Timmy is hoping to place in the first period of his project.

Luke was on hand with his experience in collaring crocodiles and Benoit was on hand to control the animals head, brave job! The whole process took about an hour.



Crocodile Collaring

On the 31st March, another crocodile was caught! After only having the trap out for one day, we already had a success. This male crocodile was measured to be a massive, 4.22m long and has been named Menarik, meaning 'magnificent'.

The same procedure as before was carried out by a team comprising of staff and students of DGFC and two of the Sabah Wildlife Rescue unit. The crocodile was fitted with a GPS collar, and this data will be used by both Luke and Timmy for their PhD and Masters projects.



Crocodile Collaring

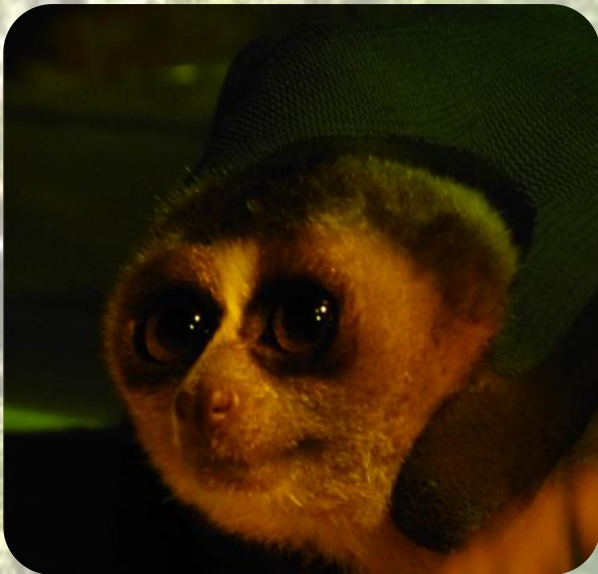


Slow Loris Crazy!

Normally it proves to be difficult to catch slow lorises due to their large height range, you have to wait for them come lower and then try and catch. However, DG has been lucky recently and within a week we caught two male slow lorises. One on the 13th and then one on the 20th March.

Male 1

He was captured at the start of our biawak trail and he weighed 710g. He was the first adult male loris captured here.



Male 2

He was captured on our ficus trail within Boss's home range so, he was an exciting prospect and we were eager to catch. He also weighed 710g.



Slow Loris Crazy!

Male 1 was caught roughly 200m away from the edge of Boss' home range (our collared female), so it will be exciting to see whether they cross paths!

Male 2 was caught right in the middle of Boss' home range! Even though both males are the same weight, Male 2 has already noticeably got a much larger home range and travels much further between sleeping sites. We can already tell that he has his way with the ladies, on the first night of tracking Boss after this male had been collared, she made her way over to the male early in the night and then they spent the rest of the 6-hour shift following each other and spending time in the same tree! He was also found to be socialising with another unknown loris during the first night he was followed.

This has been amazing news for our nocturnal primate project and we are all incredibly excited to see if there will be any overlap in home ranges between our three collared lorises.



Kirsty Franklin and Roxanne Everitt, our two PTY students working on the nocturnal primate project will spend their nights following these two males and Boss.

Other News

Thank you!

Great news! Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has allocated DGFC with a grant of \$4,974 in support of our project on crocodiles: "Assessing the impacts of habitat fragmentation and subsequent anthropogenic expansion on the behavioural, population, and nesting ecology of the estuarine crocodile". We would like to thank the zoo and Rebecca Rose for their support!



Congratulations Penny!!

Congratulations Dr Penny Gardner. We, at DGFC, are very proud of you! We can't wait to have you back in Sabah and continue your amazing work on the Bornean banteng! But first, celebrate this wonderful achievement!

Conservation Corner:

Common name:
Helmeted Hornbill

Scientific name:
Rhinoplax vigil

IUCN status:
Near threatened



Description and Ecology:

The largest hornbill in Asia, the helmeted Hornbill, is named for its bizarre 'casque', a protuberance which perches, helmet-like, on the upper half of the bill. Unlike the casques of other hornbill species, which are typically hollow and extremely light, the casque of the helmeted hornbill is a solid block of an ivory-like substance.

The helmeted hornbill occurs in Southeast Asia, from Myanmar and Thailand, south through Malaysia to the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. The helmeted hornbill also used to occur in Singapore, but is now believed to be extinct there.

Threats:

- Deforestation due to logging and land conversion to agriculture
- Hunted for its casque. It is a desirable substitute for ivory, being ideal for use in the carving of ornaments. Their long tail feathers of the helmeted hornbill are also prized as exotic souvenirs.



Conservation:

The helmeted hornbill is classified as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List and listed on Appendix I of CITES.

Match the Malay!

1



2



3



A)

Babi hutan

B)

Burung hantu

C)

Biawak

Fact of the month

The word Orangutan is derived from the Malay and Indonesian words orang meaning "person" and hutan meaning "forest", thus "person of the forest"

Photos of the Month!



Photos taken by Kirsty Franklin, Roxanne Everitt and Timmy Garvey

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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