



The Jungle Times

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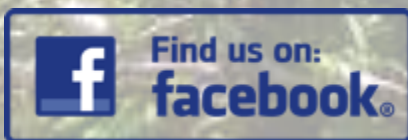
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Arrivals

Christy Harrison

Christy arrived at DG on the 15th April and will stay with us for a month as a volunteer. She has a bachelors degree in Zoology from Swansea University and is here to increase her field skills and knowledge in rainforest biology. She is getting stuck in helping out with the projects ongoing at DGFC and is making a valuable member of the team.



Cornwall College Field Course

Between the 5th–12th of April, DGFC was joined by the Cornwall College field course, consisting of both students and staff. Throughout their time here they enjoyed both the forest and river, collecting data for the long-term projects of the College.

During their stay they undertook river surveys of both primates and birds. The data collected contributed to four years of data in two different seasons, and so far clear differences in the density and distribution of birds between seasons has been noticed. Students were lucky to see many species of birds including an Argus pheasant, crested fireback and the rare Storm's stork. Replicate data was also collected for their fish project when out on the river.

During the evenings frog surveys were carried out, which contributed to a total of 40 surveys which have now been carried out here at DG by the College. In addition, moth trap data was gathered from the trails around DG using a photo ID technique.



Cornwall College Field Course



Civet Collaring!

April has seen the collaring of two more civets by the Kinabatangan Small Carnivore Project team led by PhD student Meaghan Harris.

A male common palm civet was collared on 4th April and named 'Dulu' meaning 'first' in Malay. This name was chosen as he is the very first common palm civet fitted with a GPS collar by DGFC.

A male Malay civet was also collared on the 6th April and named 'Noktah' meaning 'spot' in Malay.

Early results from the collars have been promising and are supplying good data that will go towards both Meaghan's PhD and Stephen's PTY project.



An additional three civets were also caught but were not fitted with a GPS collar due to their small sizes, these individuals were however still sampled. These samples will be taken for analysis, contributing towards Meg's PhD thesis

Banteng Team Update!

Between August 2014 and April 2015, the Yayasan Sime Darby state-wide survey for remnant populations of Bornean banteng has continued in the southeast region of Sabah. During this time the Bornean Banteng Programme team have successfully surveyed Kuamut Forest Reserve, Silabukan Forest Reserve and Madai-Baturong Forest Reserve, which are part of a long list of locations that must be surveyed in four years.

During the surveys, the BBP team were fortunate to directly observe the banteng and collect nine very fresh samples of dung which will be used for molecular analysis to identify management units. On many of the camera trap stations, not only banteng were observed but also numerous other species of interest were confirmed, including the rare Hose's langur, the Malay badger and the frequently hunted but rarely seen arboreal binturong (bear cat), the Sunda clouded leopard, orang-utan, elephant and many more species.



Banteng Team Update!

In April 2015, the BBP team welcomed a new Research Assistant, Matt, who will assist with conducting surveys for banteng using camera traps. Throughout April, the BBP team will conduct rapid assessments by revisiting the locations of historic sightings (pre-1978) of banteng and by conducting informal discussions with department officers, plantation staff and villagers. In May, the team will relocate north to Deramakot district to conduct surveys for banteng within Deramakot Forest Reserve, certified Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Tangkulap Forest Reserve and Segaliud-Lokan Forest Reserve.



The Bornean Banteng Programme field team (2014-2015). From left to right: Katie (Placement Training Year BSc student), Molly (Placement Training Year BSc student), Hugo (Field Team Leader), Ruslee (Research Assistant), Matt (Research Assistant).

Tarsier Collared!

On the 9th April a new tarsier was collared by the Nocturnal Primate Team here at DGFC. The tarsier was a juvenile female, weighing only 90g, and has been named 'Kipas' which means 'fan' due to its crazy swirling tail during the collaring procedure. Kipas was also the first tarsier ever to be micro-chipped at DGFC.

Currently the sleeping sites of the newly collared tarsier are being located and recorded each day by the two nocturnal PTY students, Kirsty Franklin and Roxanne Everitt.



Camera Trap Update

Recently the PTYs at DGFC have been setting up new camera traps along the Kinabatangan River, nearly tripling the number of camera trap stations, with the aim being to amplify the degree to which the forest corridor is monitored. The new camera trap stations are so far proving to be a success and some of our recently obtained photos can be seen below:



Environmental Workshop

Over the 17th and 18th April many members of DGFC: Benoit Goossens, Nurzhafarina Othman, Elisa Panjang, Clarice Kelly Samih, Lucy Peter Liaw, Jocelyn Lori Stokes and Dr Diana Angeles Ramirez Saldivar, attended a workshop on environment "Environmental Protection in Sabah and Sarawak - The Way Forward". This workshop was organised by The Judiciary – Initiated Sabah Working Group Environment, and was held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah. This workshop was extremely important in securing the increased conservation effort and status of many endangered species in Sabah and Sarawak, such as the pangolin.

The workshop generated a large degree of press attention with newspapers of four different languages (English, Chinese, Bahasa Malaysia and Kadazan Dusun), publishing articles featuring the workshop. News of the Workshop on Environment was also featured in the Daily Express.



Other News

SEEN (Sabah Environmental Education Network)



Due to the hard work of DGFC Education Officer, Clarice Kelly, together with the support from both the Sime Darby Foundation and Sunda clouded leopard outreach programme, DGFC is now a proud member of the Sabah Environmental Education Network, otherwise known as 'SEEN'. This is great for increasing conservation awareness through education!

Wild Sumatran rhino extinct in Sabah

It is with great sadness that this month, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Masidi Manjun, described that the Sumatran rhino is most definitely extinct in the wild within Sabah.

The estimated population for the Bornean rhino has been declining rapidly over the years and it is now feared that the only Bornean rhinos to remain are the three individuals situated in the Borneo Rhinoceros Sanctuary (BRS), Sabah. This is extremely sad news for the species and we hope that more can be done to prevent this happening to other organisms.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Otter civet

Scientific name: *Cynogale bennettii*

IUCN status: Endangered



Description and Ecology:

Otter civets are a strange member of the civet family, resembling a strange cross between a civet and an otter. With its broad mouth, webbed feet, naked soles, long claws and a long muzzle with numerous long whiskers; the otter civet is well adapted to a semi-aquatic lifestyle. The otter civet is a nocturnal species that obtains most of its food from the water, feeding on fish, crabs and freshwater molluscs. It can also climb to feed on birds and fruit.

The otter civet is highly rare and secretive leading to a lack of knowledge of this species. The species has also seen a serious ongoing population decline, estimated to be more than 50% over the past three generations (around 15 years).

Threats:

- Conversion of peat swamp forests to oil palm
- Selective logging leading to degradation in forest quality

Conservation:

- *Cynogale bennettii* is listed in CITES Appendix II



Match the Hornbill!

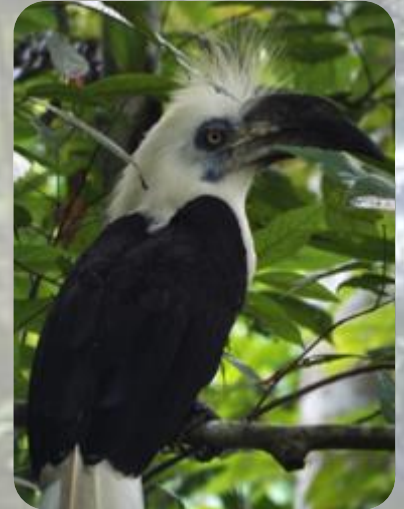
1



2



3



A)

White
Crowned

B)

Rhinoceros

C)

Oriental Pied

Jungle Fact of the Month

Saltwater crocodiles can travel up to 30km in a single day and occasionally utilise oceanic currents to save energy

Photos of the Month!



Photos taken by Aimee Holborow 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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