



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 80

Inside this issue:

Page 2: Arrivals

Page 3: Visitors

Page 4: UWCSEA Field Course

Page 7: Tarsier Collaring Update

Page 11: Banteng Team Update

Page 13: Happy Birthday Katey!

Page 14: Conservation Corner

Page 15: Guess the Primate!

UWCSEA Field Course



Tarsier Collaring



Banteng Team Update



Find us on:
facebook

Arrivals

Tim van Gorkum

Tim is visiting us as part of his Masters programme with Vrije University of Amsterdam to look at orangutan behaviour in the forest. He is staying with us for 6 months and is aiming to see how mother-offspring conflict is influencing the shorter inter-birth intervals.



Rudi Delvaux

We are welcoming PhD student Rudi back to the jungle this month to begin his PhD investigating the conservation importance of limestone outcrops in an island of biodiversity in anuran species. He will be looking at levels of biodiversity and abundance within these areas, whilst also comparing habitat degradation. He is also our resident photography expert so we wish him the best of luck in all aspects of his stay!



Visitors

Andrew MacIntosh and Liesbeth Frías

Welcome back to Andrew and Liesbeth, visitors from Kyoto University who stayed with us between the 21st-28th October. Andrew is an Associate Professor both for the Centre for International Collaboration and Advanced Studies in Primatology and for Kyoto University Wildlife Research Centre. Whilst here at DG, they spent time looking at the parasite-primate communities present within habitat communities in Sabah. They collected faecal samples during early morning river cruises for later analysis in the laboratory.



UWCSEA field course

On the 11-16th October we were joined by 16 students from UWCSEA (United World College South East Asia) for a week packed full of jungle activities! They were split into four groups, each named after a jungle animal with one PTY student leading the team for their whole stay. At the end of the week, each group did a presentation to everyone about what they had learned during their time at DG.



The four teams each took part in a river clean, removing as much waste from the river as possible. In total the four groups combined managed to pick up 162.5kg!

UWCSEA field course

Students were taught how to use radio telemetry to locate slow loris and tarsier sleeping sites, as used here as part of the Nocturnal Primates Project. They then put their skills into practice with a race to find two hidden collars!



Each group also took part in a butterfly identification survey in which they were catching species around the main building and identifying them by family with the assistance of our PTYs.

Every day, one group went out on an early morning bird cruise and an afternoon primate cruise. Their aim was to identify as many of the species and groups as possible and mark their location on the river.



UWCSEA Field Course



Tarsier collaring

The Nocturnal Primates Project team have been very busy this month with the collaring and recollaring of our tarsiers and slow lorises! On the 3rd October, a new individual named Meriah (weighing 105g) was spotted and collared in the field. She was spotted with her baby and both individuals were sampled for later analysis. She is now being tracked and followed as part of the ongoing NPP and has been frequently spotted already with her baby!

One of our tarsiers currently being followed needed a collar replacement this month so on the 21st October Kipas was caught and recollared in the field. She will continue to be tracked and her sleeping sites recorded as part of NPP.



Above: Danica Stark releasing Meriah after collaring. Below: Meriah's baby being sampled.



Continued....

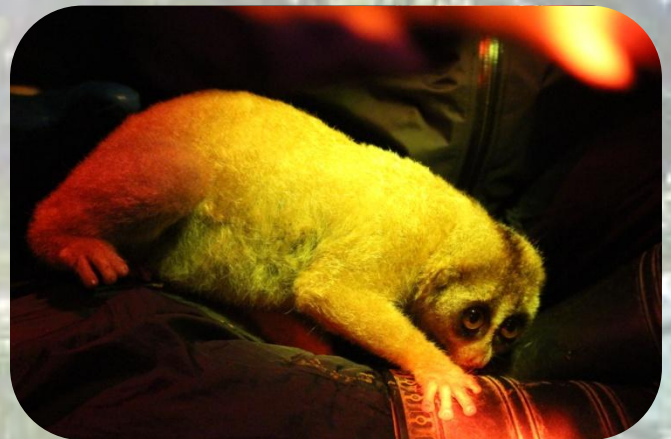
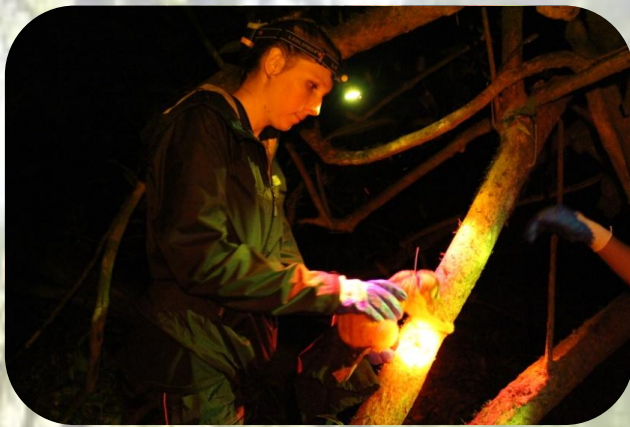
Our last tarsier capture of the month was a recapture from 2012 – a female named Como. She was caught during a nightwalk on the 15th October and weighed 130g. She was very calm during the capture and sampling procedure and will continue to be followed by the Nocturnal Primate Project team to find and record her sleeping sites.



Above: Como during sampling.
Below: Como being released by PTY Abbie in the forest.

Slow loris recollaring

Whilst the team have been busy collaring tarsiers this month, it was also time for our slow lorises Boss and Dahi to be recollared. Their sleeping sites have been followed and recorded already as part of the NPP run by PhD student Danica Stark, and after around 8 months the collars need replacing. On the 6th October, one of our female individuals Dahi was captured in the forest at her sleeping site during the evening and recollared, weighing 625g.



Boss is our other female slow loris currently being followed by the team, and was caught most recently on the 22nd October. She proved to be a handful in the field, but the team managed to weigh and recollar her and have been finding and recording her sleeping sites in the few weeks since! We look forward to seeing how Boss' movements progress over the next few months.

Orangutan project

This month, two of our current volunteers Martijn and Tim have begun their research into mother-infant relationships and eating behaviour of orangutans in Sabah. Their aim is to follow as many mother-infant pairs as possible to record behavioural habits in the wild. Tim and Martijn often begin following a pair at 5.30am and record all behaviour seen at 2 minute intervals throughout the day until the pair make a nest usually around 6pm. Tim and Martijn are also collecting as many food samples as possible during their time in the field and conducting later laboratory analysis on them testing for toughness. Tim and Martijn aim to follow 5 mother-infant pairs during their time at DG so we wish them the best of luck!



Banteng team update!

Since our arrival on the 22nd of July, we have made good progress in the three Forest Reserves currently being surveyed by BBP. Our camera traps have captured Banteng in all three forests and we have collected numerous dung samples for the molecular analysis of the species. Recently, we have completed our three month survey of Deramakot, and will soon be taking down the camera traps in Tangkulap. Once our work in the last of the three reserves (Segaliud-Lokan) is complete the team will move on to the Beluran area in northern Sabah.

Deramakot, the least degraded forest, has provided us with the most interesting and frequent wildlife sightings. Binturong, orangutan, gibbon, reticulated python, pangolin, tortoise, storm's stork, Bornean elephant and leopard cat to name a few species we have seen in the reserves collectively.



Continued...

Proboscis monkeys have been spotted on several occasions during evening walks along the Kinabatangan River in Deramakot. A very large male elephant with conspicuous twisted tusks has been captured travelling through all three forests, occasionally in pursuit of females. We had the luck of encountering him in the flesh in Segaliud-Lokan, although he was less charmed by the occasion! As for our individual PTY projects; Adam will be collaborating with Dr Erik Meijaard to produce a paper on the ecology of the endangered Storm's Stork, whilst Glesni will be investigating possible management techniques for the Bornean banteng through the use of dietary supplements.



Happy Birthday Katey!

On the 24th October we celebrated our first PTY birthday with Katey turning 22!



In true DG style, the other PTY's baked a lemon drizzle cake and the whole team watched her favourite film, The Little Mermaid. Celebrations happened a day early before she headed off to Bali for a week!

Conservation Corner:

Common name: Sun bear
Scientific name: *Helarctos malayanus*
IUCN status: Vulnerable



Description and Ecology:

Sun bears have a wide range of distribution throughout Southeast Asia. Although reliable estimates of population numbers are lacking it is thought that threats including the wildlife trade and deforestation are contributing to a decline in numbers. They are known to inhabit tropical evergreen forest and are an omnivorous species, primarily feeding on insects, fruit and honey. They are solitary species, apart from breeding times during which time the females choose breeding sites within hollow trees.

Threats:

- Habitat loss – sun bear populations are suffering from deforestation due to palm oil plantation development.
- Commercial hunting
- Body parts trade

Conservation:

Throughout their range, the killing of sun bears is prohibited by law. Efforts to reduce deforestation and conversion of land use are particularly important in countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Reducing the commercial trade in bear parts is also an important step to take in an aim to reduce the threats of poaching on sun bear populations. The BSBCC in Sandakan are an example of an organisation involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of sun bears in Malaysia, also having an important role in the education of communities in the conservation of this species.

Guess the Primate!

1



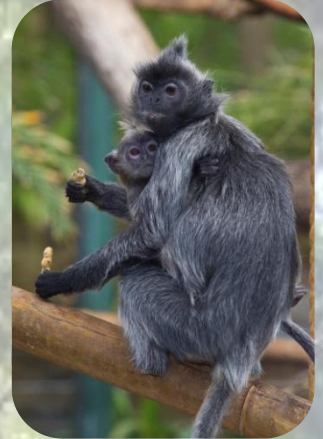
A

2



B

3



C

**Proboscis
Monkey**

**Silver
Langur**

Gibbon

Fact of the month!

Orangutans often make kissing noises called a 'kiss-squeak' when they are scared!

Photos of the Month!



Joe Hampson



Joe Hampson
Photography



Photos by Joe Hampson, Abbie
Fletcher and Katey Hedger

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

Email: danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com

Editors: Abbie Fletcher & Joe Hampson

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cardiff University.



**CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY**

**PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD**