



The Jungle Times

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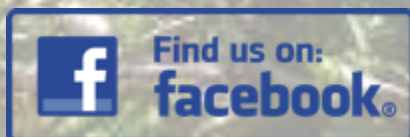


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Arrivals

Sai Narayanasamy

Sai joined DGFC this month from Imperial College London to start collecting camera trap data for her Msc on the abundance of orangutans based on their terrestrial habits. She will be running the camera trap programme during her 3 month stay here as well as helping out on other projects. Welcome Sai!



Alex Horton and Ollie Francis

Alex Horton has returned to DGFC for 6 weeks to continue fluvial geomorphology work on the erosion of river banks for his PhD with Cardiff University. He brought with him Ollie Francis who is completing his masters on forest degradation within the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. We hope you enjoy your stay again!



Visitors

David Constantino and Manrico Sebastiano

David and Manrico came to DG from University of Antwerp for 3 weeks to attach accelerometers to the current collared tarsiers and to search for new tarsiers to collar for David's post-doc research. Accelerometers were successfully attached to Como's and Meriah's collars, and despite the best efforts from many night walks no other tarsiers were found. On top of this they got to join many DG projects including python searching and monitor lizard sampling! We hope you enjoyed your time at DG!



New PhD students!

Richard Burger and Elisa Panjang

This month we welcome two new PhD students to work at DGFC, Richard Burger and Elisa Panjang! Rich is starting his PhD with Cardiff University on the ecology of reticulated pythons within Sabah, and will be GPS tagging individuals to investigate their home range amongst other things. He has started searching for pythons and has had success already, finding pythons around DGFC.

Elisa is registered with Cardiff University too, fully funded by Houston Zoo, and will be studying pangolins and intends to attach GPS tags to individuals. She has started walking transects around the field centre looking for signs of pangolins. We are looking forward to getting some very interesting data from her. Welcome to the DGFC family!



Koko and Budin become fathers

We are delighted to announce that two of our staff members have become fathers for the first time! Logistics manager Budin and his wife Ena welcomed a baby girl Ain on the 11th January, and Research Assistant Koko and his wife Ryeca are also now the proud parents of a baby girl named Kyla, born on the 4th April. Congratulations to both couples!



Ain



Kyla

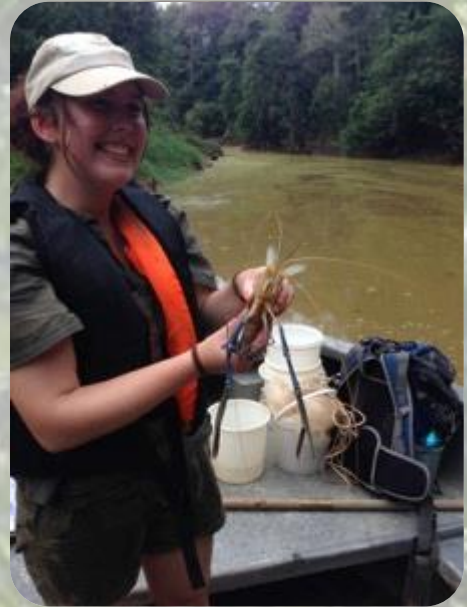
Cornwall College field course

This month saw the return of the Cornwall College field course to continue their bird and primate survey work. They tried some new methodologies to get more detailed data on the hornbills along the river, increasing their focus from just egrets and kingfishers. Although the low river provided some problems with the fish surveys at first, they managed to find their feet and found 15 species of fish including two new goby species! The field course was extremely successful and was enjoyed by all, with returning Cornwall student Logan lucky enough to see the rhinoceros hornbills he so badly wanted to see! Thanks for another great field course, we look forward to welcoming you again next year.



Cornwall pictures & quotes

“Amazing food, beautiful place, awesome staff and plenty of new friends. Possibly planning a third trip!” **Logan**



“You guys absolutely rock! You welcomed us from day one and made our trip unforgettable. Thank you for being so amazing. I hope to come back next year!”
Tori



“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see our great ginger cousins in the wild- its an experience I will never forget! I will be back next year- next goal the gibbons!” **Sabina**

Dr Andrew Davies

We are thrilled to have Dr Andrew Davies from Carnegie Institution for Science at DGFC for two weeks. Andrew is a post-doc of Dr Greg Asner, who is currently flying over Sabah with his Carnegie Airborne Observatory and providing LiDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) mapping of Sabah's forests. Andrew gave a wonderful presentation on advances in animal ecology from 3D ecosystem mapping and his work in Africa on termites mounds, lions and wild dogs.



During his time here, Andrew has been able to join with all of the projects including civet sampling, monitor lizard trapping, nocturnal primate tracking and proboscis feeding behaviour recording!

All DG students look forward to work closely with Andrew and Greg after discussion for potential projects, and to collaborate with the Carnegie Institution for Science. We hope that combining our satellite tracking data on several animal models and the 3D ecosystem mapping will bring around many interesting results!

Dr Andrew Davies interview

So tell us a bit about your career?

Andrew: My name is Andrew, I'm a post doc at the Carnegie Institute of Science based at Stanford University, California. I work with remote sensing data, high resolution LiDAR and hyper spectra to map ecosystems and understand how ecosystems function, and in this context how animals interact with 3D ecosystems in terms of structure.

Before my work at Stanford I was doing a PhD at the University of Victoria in South Africa, I was looking at termite mounds and how they structure savannahs and we used LiDAR to map termite mounds so there is a bit of a link between those. Most of my work has been in African savannahs and other African ecosystems and now I'm expanding to tropical rainforests, which is challenging but exciting.

What can you tell us about the project you are currently working on?

Broadly what I'm doing right now is animal ecology using LiDAR data. We look at how animals interact with habitat in a three dimensional scope, it's really different because most previous technology works with a 2D space. We've been doing projects on lions, elephants, wild dogs and herbivore species in savannahs.

Here in the Kinabatangan, we have been trying to do the same sort of things but using different animals and looking at how they interact with the rainforest canopies, how they move through the canopy for primates for example. We are also looking at how they use the understory and how canopy cover affects their movements, their home ranges.

Using this we have all sorts of applications and questions, it's really cool because hopefully we will get some new insights from the new technology and the new mapping that we have.

What do you think is next for your project?

LiDAR has only been used for animals fairly recently for the last decade, so there is a lot of scope to expand it especially in combination with GPS tracking. I think things that have never been done, like trying to combine accelerometer data with activity along with the 3D ecosystem mapping, that could be something new that we could look at.

Basically the sky's the limit, there are many things that we can do and we are really just learning how to apply it. A lot of stuff has also been done at species specific levels so hopefully we can incorporate bigger ecosystem processes.

What have you enjoyed most about your stay at DG?

The PTYs are amazing! I've enjoyed all aspects of it especially in a new ecosystem because I've never worked in a rainforest so that's been really exciting. I've enjoyed the people, I've enjoyed the team spirit which is very different to many places I've worked. Everybody helps each other, the people are great, it has been fun.

I've enjoyed seeing different animals because I'm very familiar with the animals that I work with normally and here I'm totally unfamiliar with the plants and animals so its been great to learn different things.

It's also been challenging and difficult in some ways to see how fragmented it is and can be quite despairing I guess, but also its reality. The opportunity here which is really exciting is that the fragmented landscape that we are using here and how animals are using fragmented landscapes is really important to understand because many countries are heading this way whether we like it or not. It's important to know how they are surviving here.

Thanks for coming Andrew, we hope you enjoyed your time here!

Bushmeat in Sabah

This month we have been highlighting the issue of the bushmeat trade in Sabah, with markets at Nabawan shown to be selling high volumes of bushmeat.

Two arrests of bush meat suppliers have been made by the Sabah Wildlife Department in an investigation led by its enforcement chief, Augustine Tuuga. By targeting the suppliers, the enforcement staff can avoid the issue of potentially dangerous situations at the market itself, where department personnel as well as conservationists have been threatened when carrying out checks or taking photos.

We hope that by raising awareness that the sale of these animals, many of which are endangered species, will help to reduce the trade in illegal bushmeat.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Painted terrapin

Scientific name: *Callagur borneoensis*

IUCN status: Critically Endangered



Description and Ecology:

The painted terrapin is an aquatic estuarine turtle and one of the most endangered river turtles in South East Asia. Females are larger than males, with size ranging between 50-70cm. During the breeding season the males head turns white with a stripe between the eyes giving a painted appearance. They lay eggs on sandy beaches or the sand banks of rivers, with average clutch sizes ranging around 10 eggs.

Threats:

Painted terrapins face a major threat from exploitation for their eggs for human consumption within Asia. Terrapin eggs are reported to be worth five times more than chicken eggs. This heavily affects this species due to their low egg productivity.

Conservation:

Trade of painted terrapins is banned due to its listing on Appendix I of the CITES list and is protected by legislation in Peninsular Malaysia. Harvesting may be carried out by licensed collectors, but they are required to sell 70% of their catch to the Malaysian Fisheries Department to be incubated in order to attempt to ensure sustainable management of the species.

Guess the Frog!

Pictured below are three of the frog species that can be seen here in the Kinabatangan, try and match the species with their photo!

1



2



3



A

Frilled tree frog

B

Harlequin frog

C

White lipped frog

Fact of the month!

The Bornean falconet (*Microhierax larifrons*) is the smallest bird of prey in the world! It is found selectively in small populations within Sabah around the Lawas river in the west and Darvel Bay in the east.

Photos of the Month!



Photos by Charlie Cooper

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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