



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 88

## Inside this issue:

- Page 2: Welcome!
- Page 3: Departures
- Page 6: Field course
- Page 9: PhD update
- Page 10: Conservation Corner
- Page 11: Animalagrams
- Page 12: Birthdays
- Page 13: Published paper:  
Small carnivores
- Page 14: Published paper:  
Banteng
- Page 15: Photos of the month

Page: 7

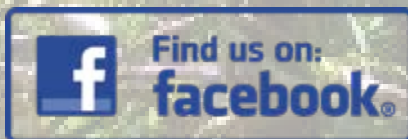
Field course PSU & OSU



Page: 9  
Pangolin  
Update!



Page: 12  
Birthdays!



# Welcome Angus!

We are happy to announce the arrival of Angus Chaplin-Rogers, the fourth and final PTY student for this year. Keen on working with reptiles, he is going to shadow Rich whilst the other PTY's get him up to speed on everything DG! This shouldn't take too long as Angus already has rainforest experience from spending 2 weeks in the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.

Selamat Datang, Angus!



# Departures

## **Anya Tober**

Previous PTY Anya is leaving us for the second time and we'd like to thank her for all her help over the last two months, as well as congratulate her for gaining a place on the One Health Program at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Imperial Veterinary College for her master's degree. As part of the course she is going to be returning to DG in April! We can't wait to have her back!

## **Alexandra Lobko**

We give a fond farewell to Alex, who has now finished two months of voluntary work. During this time, she was able to follow Sergio in order to gain valuable veterinary experience, and was essential in the nocturnal primate project and training the new PTY's. We wish her luck in completing her degree at Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort in Paris.



## **Antoine Limpens and Marie Deneubourg**

Marie and Limpy have completed their 3-month internship here at DG and are returning to continue studying bioengineering at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech University of Liège. The pair were great to have around the center assisting in every project and always putting a smile on everyone's faces. We hope to see you again soon!

## **Isis Victoriano - Llopis**

Having spent six months as a volunteer for the Monkeybar project, Isis is leaving to travel South-East Asia and then return to Spain to continue her veterinary work. She was an essential and creative part of the team. Best of luck Isis, we hope to see you soon!



## Rudi Delvaux

Rudi has completed his two-month stay at DG and as always managed to capture some fantastic images of the jungle whilst here, particularly some of the estuarine crocodiles which will be used for an upcoming publication. He will be dearly missed, as will his photographs!



*All pictures accredited to Rudi Delvaux*

# Primatology Field course

We kicked off the start of this month with the Primatology Field course led by our very own assistant manager here at DG – Danica Stark. The group consisted of individuals from all walks of life including a school teacher from Washington state, an orangutan conservation worker from Indonesia, and a prospective masters student who will be returning to DG in December for 3 months to study proboscis monkeys! Yet despite their mixed backgrounds the group had a strong team spirit amongst themselves and with the DG Researchers – particularly the PTY's who enjoyed learning lots of fun new games to play from them! Their projects involved monitoring the feeding activities of orangutans, observing harmonious and grooming behaviours within macaque troops, and assessing primate occurrence along the river.



# Field course: PSU & OSU

Toward the end of August we welcomed two separate American field course groups, each on their first ever visit to DG!

First to arrive on the 20<sup>th</sup> were 8 students from Portland State University and their supervisor Luis Ruedas, who came for one week to lend their services by assisting the staff and researchers at DGFC carry out their projects. They also conducted a small study of their own comparing tree biomass between riparian and seasonally flooded forest, which they presented on their last day. All the students got stuck in to the activities and lifestyle at DGFC, and their enthusiasm sure paid off when a clouded leopard was spotted on a night walk!



# Field course: PSU & OSU

The second field course consisted of 9 students from Oregon State University and their supervisor John Bliss. They arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August to stay with us for 5 nights, finishing off their 2 week trip around the island of Borneo during which they also visited Sepilok's Rainforest Discovery Centre and Deramakot Forest Reserve, where they learnt all about the economical and ecological trade offs concerning deforestation due to the palm oil industry. While they were here, the group enjoyed a trip to Batangan to see the bat caves, alongside climbing to the top of the hill for a stunning view overlooking the surrounding forest and plantations. On their last day, the group showcased everything they had learnt from their time in Borneo through a suite of impressively thorough and entertaining presentations, with some students even performing a rap song about their experiences!





# PhD update - Spatial Ecology of the Sunda pangolin



Elisa Panjang has recently begun a PhD with Cardiff University, investigating the spatial ecology of the Sunda pangolin in the Kinabatangan landscape. After lengthy planning, field work has recently begun, with Elisa using a variety of trapping and sampling methods at locations within the dipterocarp forest of the Kinabatangan. The pangolin is now the most poached animal in the world, and so conservation studies are now key to the survival of the species. We wish Elisa all the best with her work!



# Conservation Corner:

**Common name: Bearded Pig**  
**Scientific name: *Sus barbatus***  
**IUCN status: Vulnerable**



**Description and Ecology:** Easily recognised by the prominent beard, this large pig inhabits a wide variety of habitats, from mountain forests to beaches. As generalist omnivores, pigs have a varied diet, ranging from roots and fungi to carrion and small vertebrates. In the Lower Kinabatangan, fruit producing dipterocarp trees heavily influence distribution of these gregarious animals. Populations have been rapidly decreasing in Peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra, with only the Bornean population seeming to be relatively healthy.

## **Threats:**

- Deforestation and palm oil plantations
- Hunting.
- Habitat disturbance by humans

**Conservation:** Listed under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Vulnerable, in Sabah, the Bearded pig is protected under Schedule 2, whereby rural hunting for sustenance is still permitted for those with a license. This is believed to have a large impact on population levels.

# Animalagrams

We have scrambled the names of three of the animals found in the forest around Danau Girang Field Centre. All you have to do is unscramble them!

- 1 A Griped Bed
- 2 Old Produced Ale
- 3 Ant moor

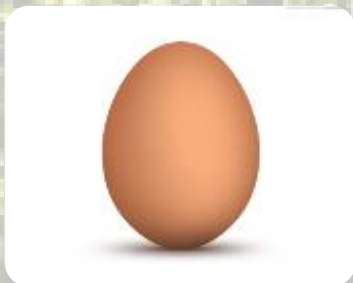
## Fact of the month!

When threatened, the water monitor lizard, *Varanus salvator*, will regurgitate its stomach contents. As a generalist species, this can include small mammals, invertebrates and even wild boar hide! The foul smell of the vomit will ward off potential attackers, and provide a great source for dietary analysis!

# Birthdays

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated our first PTY Birthday by welcoming Toby Stock into his 2<sup>nd</sup> decade as he turned 20! As the date coincided with the last day of the Oregon Field Course, Toby was lucky enough to enjoy a BBQ dinner on his birthday followed by a 3 day trip to KK with the rest of the PTY team – Happy Birthday Toby!

Also, on the 31<sup>st</sup> August we celebrated the birthday of DGFC team member Syakila Rofian, who, despite her best efforts to avoid doing so, entered her next year in traditional DGFC style... covered in eggs and flour! Happy Birthday Kila!



# Photos of the month!

All photos taken by Jack Devlin



# Body condition scoring of Bornean banteng in logged forests (Prosser, N. S. et al. 2016)

Published in August in *BMC Zoology* and featuring one of our ex-PTYs, Naomi Prosser as lead author, this paper utilises the use of body condition scores (BCS) as a general guide to the health and fitness of the animal. BCS measure the amount of soft tissue of an animal relative to its size and allocate the animal with a number, with higher scores indicating animals in better condition. Previous projects on Indian elephants (*Elephas maximus indicus*) by Ramesh et al. and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus eremicus*) by Marshal et al. developed the use of BCS for wild animals, and with adjustment, these techniques were made suitable for the ever elusive Bornean banteng. From April 2011 to June 2014, 38,009 camera trap images, containing 111 individuals from five forests were captured and assessed. Banteng in conventionally logged forests had lower body condition scores than banteng in forests with reduced-impact logging. Additionally, banteng present in conventionally logged forests with relatively long regeneration periods showed higher body condition scores. These results show that body condition scoring is appropriate for monitoring of long-term nutrition of the Bornean banteng and evaluating the effectiveness of differing methods of logging in Borneo.



## Small Carnivores of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (Evans, M. N. et al. 2016)



This month we had another paper published by Meg in the Small Carnivore Conservation journal highlighting the results of our longest ever camera trap survey at the sanctuary. The five-year effort resulted in nearly 600,000 images over 24,506 trap nights. Overall eleven small carnivore species were identified, with the Malay civet being the most abundant, whilst the Malay badger and the common palm civet were also detected frequently. The study also captured the first photographic evidence of an otter civet being present in the LKWS, an exciting discovery as it provides a new locality for a species that we know little about. The study emphasises the importance of maintaining riparian lowland forest fragments in order to sustain small carnivore density and also highlights the importance of long-term monitoring programmes.

## 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](mailto:danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com)

*Editors: Francis Roy, Jack Devlin, Toby Stock*

*Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens*

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

