



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals



This is Chang Hin Cheung Timothy, but you can just call him Tim. He has recently graduated from the University of South Wales, UK, in BSc (Hons) Internal Wildlife Biology, which gave him the opportunity to travel to and learn about the ecology of South Africa, and much more. As a Sabahan himself, he is glad to be back in the country and states he loves, volunteering at DGFC to practice the skills he acquired as a student while learning more about the wondrous ecology that Sabah has, which might result in a master's research topic. Hopefully, he will be a long term participant in the conservation of Sabah's unique ecology and deepen his passion for its wildlife. We wish him a happy stay here at DG.



Hailing from Australia, Annalie is participating as a volunteer at DGFC for three months as part of the nocturnal primates research program. After completing a Bachelor and Honours degree in Zoology, she decided to expand her field experience and learn more about different species and their environments. So far this decision has led to her completion of work as a research assistant at her alma mater and participation in an internship at the Conservation Ecology Centre in Victoria, Australia. With these experiences in hand, Annalie decided to again further her experiences and work with primates in one of the world's most highly biodiverse regions. We look forward to having her here at DG.

Goodbyes



This month we said goodbye to Ato, one of our research assistants here at Danau Girang. After 4 and a half months at DG, Ato is transferring to Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre to work with Lauren Gilhooly, of the University of Ontario, Canada. Ato's role will be to assist Lauren with a new project, which will mainly focus on macaque parasite ecology. The project will last for a year. We wish Ato all of the best and we are sad to see him leave.

Aberystwyth Field-course



On the 7th September a field course from the university of Aberystwyth arrived at DG. The group was led by Dr Natasha de Vere for the duration of their stay.

The time spent at DG was to make up the practical component of the postgraduates field work module , which had them taking part in the ongoing projects here, but also conducting their own surveys of the native flora and fauna. During the day the group would travel to either replanted areas of forest or palm oil plantations to take extensive leaf samples. These samples are to be used for genetic analysis back at Aberystwyth, as part of on going research into the rainforest regeneration.

During the evenings the team would go on night walks or conduct insect surveys with use of a light trap for moths and U.V. lights to search for scorpions along the main pathway. The group was kept hard at work with most of their spare time devoted to writing journals recording everything they had done. The group was also lucky enough to find a mother and infant orangutan hanging out right outside the hostel!

Quotes from the Students:

“ Thanks for an amazing time, only happy I’m leaving so I can use a washing machine!”

-Hannah Lane



“Thank so much for everything guys! Amazing place, amazing people! Good luck to all of you!”

–Max Bichooses

“Thanks for an amazing stay, do I have to leave?”

– Lucy Bigood



Meg and Luke's wedding



We would like to wish Dr. Luke Evans and Meg Evans (formerly Harris) many congratulations on tying the knot on the 24th of September, after over three and a half years of engagement. The ceremony was held at the beautiful Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are now enjoying a well deserved honeymoon before travelling to Cardiff and DGFC to continue their work.



Spatial Ecology of Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) Nesting in a Fragmented Landscape

Recently published in *Sensors* (Vol. 16, Issue 9), this study employs the use of drones (or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)) and features our very own Dr. Luke Evans as the lead author. Flights of the drones were targeted using nests located primarily in areas indicated as suitable habitat. This method was shown to be more cost-effective and enabled a larger survey area to be completed, when compared to traditional nest survey methods. Habitat characteristics of nests were found to share a number of similarities, allowing for a refining of survey location modelling to be implemented. The repeatability of low-cost flights is well suited for targeted nest surveying. The use of drones has potential applications for a wide range of study designs for a variety of species.



Photos by Rudi Delvaux

PHD Update: Frogs

We would like to congratulate Juan Manuel Aguilar Leon for receiving the very competitive Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation. This grant is vital for Juan's PhD, and will allow for further genetic analysis of all frog species found within the surrounding area of Danau Girang.



Juan (background) with one of our research assistants, Daniel (foreground).



One of the thirty-one frog species found in the forests around DG, the frilled tree frog (*Rhacophorus appendiculatus*)

September has also seen the opening of new transects within Lot 5 of the sanctuary, with Juan expecting to find more frilled tree frogs (*Rhacophorus appendiculatus*) and other species essential to his work.

Conservation Corner:

Common name: Large Flying Fox
Scientific name: *Pteropus vampyrus*
IUCN status: Near Threatened



Description and Ecology: : One of the largest species of bat capable of weighing between 0.65-1.1 kg and with wingspans as large as 1.5 m. As its name suggests the bat has a long fox like face but lacks a long tail and pointed ears. Classed as a species of megabat, the flying fox is incapable of using echolocation, and therefore relies on its superb eyesight to fly at night. Flying up to 50 km in a night to find feeding sights it flies in scattered streams but can roost in large numbers of up to a thousand, the largest on record being 20,000!

Threats:

- Deforestation leading to the over harvesting of remaining fruit trees.
- In some areas, farmers consider them pests,
- Habitat disturbance by humans.

Conservation:

Hunting controls are in place but local government finds them difficult to enforce.
Any preservation of primary rain forest.

Word-search!

We have hidden six of the most recognisable mammals found in the forests around Danau Girang Field Centre. All you have to do is find them!

Danau Girang Mammal Wordsearch

N	O	J	O	N	K	V	B	T	V	D	K	X	I	X
Y	M	S	C	V	U	U	B	Y	C	O	H	F	X	U
W	K	E	V	H	E	Y	W	R	E	N	O	R	X	X
Q	F	Y	B	F	V	L	X	A	E	H	R	Y	Y	M
R	F	U	L	U	O	K	E	P	S	X	D	M	E	I
M	M	H	G	Q	F	L	Q	P	X	A	K	U	Y	O
H	T	Z	G	I	M	V	J	J	H	V	Q	O	M	Y
M	T	G	N	H	Z	P	N	Z	H	A	A	Z	S	M
F	T	T	L	O	R	I	S	N	C	U	N	H	B	T
A	O	W	N	J	L	T	V	A	L	Z	X	T	A	D
E	N	K	J	O	A	K	M	X	B	M	U	T	E	O
W	Z	A	G	K	A	L	I	V	N	T	C	Y	D	H
S	P	N	Q	C	I	V	E	T	A	R	S	I	E	R
M	A	K	D	E	A	J	M	S	H	C	C	Q	C	U
P	M	E	N	J	Q	F	W	P	F	I	R	F	Y	C

ELEPHANT
PANGOLIN
TARSIER
MACAQUE
LORIS
CIVET



Photos of the Month!



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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