



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 94

Inside this issue:

Page 2: Arrivals

Pages 3-4: Goodbyes

Page 5: Visitors

Pages 6-7: Proboscis

Monkey Workshop

Pages 8-9: Epsom College

Field Course

Page 10: Pangolin Update

Pages 11-13: Meet the

PTYs

Page 14: Conservation

Corner

Page 15: Pixilationary

Page 16: Photos of the

month



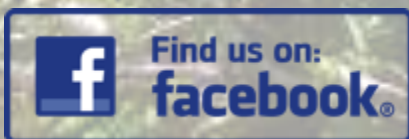
Pages 8-9



Page 10



Page 16



Arrivals

Hannah Emde

Hannah is a returning Veterinary student. She will be with us for two months as part of an internship to finish the final year of her course. Hannah's studies focus on Conservation and Wildlife medicine and she hopes to use this field experience to help her carry out a PhD in the future.



Kasia Majewski

Kasia is another returning student to DG, she is here for 6 months to conduct field research for her masters degree at Cardiff University. Her project will be in conjunction with DG's monitor lizard programme. Using pitfall traps, she will assess the prey abundance and diversity in the monitor lizards core and transient ranges.



Crystal Schalmo

After coming for the Miami field course, Crystal now returns as a volunteer, she has plenty of experience working with animals previously working as a zookeeper and volunteering at a wildlife sanctuary for bears in Laos. She has just finished her masters degree and is passionate about tropical ecology conservation and conservation education.



Goodbyes

Valentine Thiry

This month we said goodbye to Valou, as she was better known. A long standing PhD working on proboscis monkey feeding ecology, Valou spent one year in total at DG, spread out over three years from 2015 to 2017. The majority of her work included collecting faecal samples and undertaking botanical surveys.

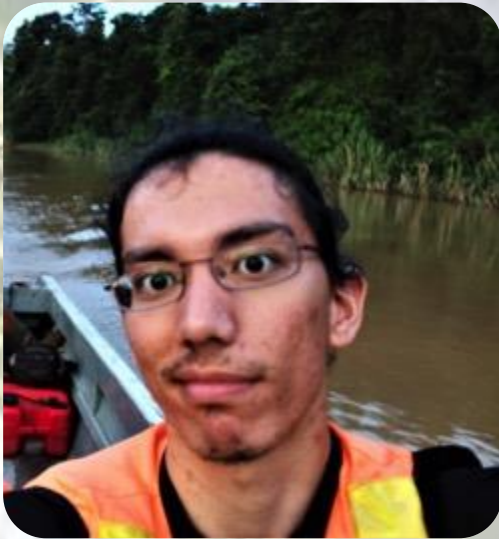


However the field part of her PhD has come to an end, and now she is returning to Belgium to carry out the necessary lab work for her project.

Her up-beat personality and lovely smile will be sorely missed by everyone at Danau Girang. Best of luck with everything in the future, Valou, we hope to see you again soon!



Goodbyes cont.



Kenneth Keuk

February also saw the departure of Kenneth, of Kyoto University. Kenneth arrived back in December and immediately began a project investigating the endoparasites found in primate faeces.

After a very productive sampling season, which included samples from silvered langurs, gibbons and even orangutan, Kenneth left Danau Girang to work on the lab side of his project, which will include identification and genetic work on the helminths he has collected.

We wish Kenneth all the best with his research, and hope to see him again in the future.



Visitor – Wiktoria Casey

This month we had the pleasure of welcoming Wiktoria Casey for a one week visit on route home from her recent travels around Australia and the Philippines. Wiktoria knew about DG through her sister Noemi who was a volunteer at DGFC in 2016. During her stay Wiktoria showed tireless enthusiasm to get involved with as many of the ongoing projects at DG as she could, and whilst only staying for a week, her humorous and chatty demeanour served to build a great rapport as she connected with all the researchers and staff members at DG.



International Workshop on Proboscis Monkey Conservation

DGFC and Sabah Wildlife Department organised an International Workshop on Proboscis Monkey Conservation, funded by Sime Darby Foundation from 20-25th February.

For the first three days, members from DGFC, along with other national and international experts were at Gaya Island Resort to take part in a population and habitat viability analysis (PHVA) on proboscis monkey. Parameters for the PHVA were discussed by all participants, drawing on published and unpublished studies on proboscis monkeys, to get the most accurate and up-to-date information.



International Workshop on Proboscis Monkey Conservation

During the second phase of the proboscis monkey conservation workshop, we presented the results of our 5-year project and of the population and habitat viability analysis to all stakeholders at Narada Hotel in Pututan. The launching of our workshop was officiated by YB Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun. The stakeholders were updated on the genetic health of proboscis monkeys in Sabah (Dr. Milena Salgado Lynn), new information on their home ranging (Danica Stark) and differences in health status in different populations (Dr. Diana Ramirez), as well as from Dr. Ikki Matsuda on the role of nose size, and updates from Dr. Henry Bernard from the Klias population, and finally on the status of proboscis monkeys in Sarawak (Mr. Oswald Braken) and Kalimantan (Dr. Stan Lhota). The group then discussed important issues facing the conservation of proboscis monkeys, such as forest and population connectivity, population management, education, awareness and tourism. Stemming from these discussions, recommendations for the management of the proboscis monkey populations in Sabah will be formulated and a State Action Plan for the proboscis monkey will then be drafted integrating all recommendations.

DGFC is grateful to Sime Darby Foundation for supporting our projects over the years.

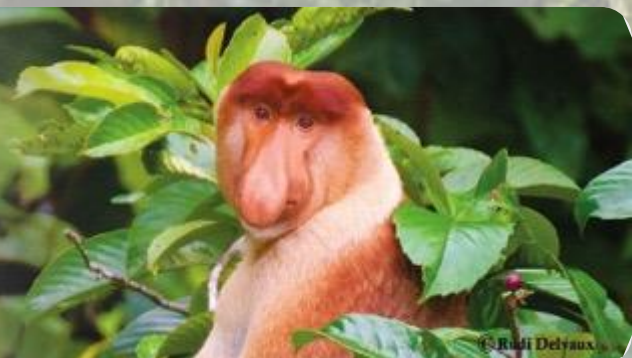


**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROBOSCIS MONKEY
CONSERVATION IN SABAH**

**23rd - 25th February, 2017
Narada Hotel, Kota Kinabalu**

Officiated by

**Y.B. Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Sabah**



Epsom College Malaysia Field course

From 11th-16th of February, Epsom College sent a group of 14 students to DGFC. For five days they participated in all of the on-going projects at the centre to get a taste for what real fieldwork is like. The students were split into four groups and for each activity were lead by a team of PTYs and masters students. The students were kept busy throughout their stay assisting with proboscis monkey surveys, measuring botanic plots, catching butterflies and lizards ,setting camera traps, and even helping PTY Jack with the identification of invertebrates for his project.

For the duration of their stay spirits remained high, with students never failing to show a keen interest in the research at the centre. At the end of the week the groups were given an opportunity to present all they had learnt in the form of conservation documentaries.



Epsom College Malaysia Field course continued...

Coming away from their trip we hope that not only have the students from Epsom College had a wonderful experience here at DG but have also learnt fundamental skills needed for field research, and helped foster a continued interest in the natural world.



Pangolin Update!

Our resident PhD student and pangolin expert, Elisa Panjang, has had the pleasure of releasing two pangolins this month! With the help of the Wildlife Rescue Unit, a juvenile male and female pangolin were delivered to DGFC from Kota Kinabalu. The entire process was filmed by two film crews, Scubazoo and Explosive Magic, but despite the pressure Elisa performed spectacularly well under the spotlight! Whilst the pangolins were too small to be GPS tagged, it is hoped that introducing more Sunda pangolin into the forests around DG will contribute to building up a stable population in the area. The pangolins were surrendered to the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park shortly after World Pangolin Day, which is encouraging news for conservationists

to know that their efforts to raise awareness are making a difference!



Meet the PTYs

There are currently four Professional Training Year (PTY) students here at Danau Girang. Having arrived back in July/early August, they have found their feet and are assisting in various projects as well as assisting in the running of the field centre.

During their year-long stay here at DG, the students have a chance to conduct their own research projects. The projects tend to last about 6 months, and allow for students to expand on skills, such as sample collection, data analysis and scientific writing.

Introducing our four PTYs:

Angus Chaplin-Rogers

With a keen interest in reptiles Angus has settled on studying the ectoparasites found on the Kinabatangan's litter dwelling skinks. He hopes to compare the difference between interior and edge sites in the forest to see if the different microhabitats will affect the parasitic load. As well as seeing if the size of the lizard has any effect on the intensity of parasite infection. If so this could possibly indicate that larger lizards have specific adaptations such as mite pockets to reduce the damage done by ectoparasites.



Meet the PTYs

Toby Stock

Toby is working alongside Sergio to try and understand rate of growth (RoG) of the Asian water monitor lizards. In his final four months he will continue trapping and use the recapture data collected over the 4-year duration of the project.



The aim of his project is to compare the RoG's of lizards found primarily in forest with lizards found primarily in oil palm plantations, this will allow him to use lizards as an indicator to the viability of their new fragmented habitat.

Jack Devlin



With a forest teeming with arthropod life, Jack is in his element. A keen amateur entomologist, he spent his first few months swotting up with the available textbooks before coming up with his project. He aims to quantifying terrestrial and low-flying arthropod diversity and family richness in the nearby forest surrounding DG. He is using a variety of methods, including malaise traps, pitfall traps and sweeping.



Meet the PTYs

Francis Roy

Frankie will be working with PhD student Meg alongside her on-going research on small carnivores of the Kinabatangan, by carrying out a camera trap study on the population density of Malay civets. With 44 camera traps set up across 3 grid sites, which he intends to check every fortnight for 2 months before setting up 2 new grids for a further 2 months, Francis will be very busy making sure all camera sites are working effectively! Using software to identify different individual Malay civets based on their coat patterns, he hopes to build up a reliable estimate of their population densities within separate areas of forest.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Bornean Gibbon
Scientific name: *Hylobates muelleri*
IUCN status: Endangered



Description and ecology: The Bornean gibbon or Müller's gibbon is arboreal, diurnal, and frugivorous, but will also eat immature leaves and insects.

The species is found in tropical evergreen forests of primary, selectively logged and secondary forest types. They have a distinct call that can be heard from a great distance in the early hours of the day. They are also the only gibbon species that does not show sexual dimorphism.

Threats:

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Illegal Pet Trade

Conservation:

- Protection of primary forest
- Crackdown on animal trafficking

Pixilationary

We've taken three images of animals found around Danau Girang and pixilated them. It's your job to try and decipher which animal is which!

1.



2.



3.



- A. Green Crested Lizard (*Bronchocela cristatella*)
- B. Bornean Tarsier (*Cephalopacus banacus*)
- C. Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*)

Photos of the Month!



Pictures by Toby Stock and
Angus Chaplin-Rogers

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: Toby Stock, Jack Devlin, Francis Roy
and Angus Chaplin-Rogers*

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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

