



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 97

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Borneo Jungle Diaries!

On the 29th of May, the trailer for Borneo Jungle Diaries was released on the Scubazoo website and DGFC's Facebook page. We at Danau Girang are all extremely excited to share with you the ground-breaking research that goes on at the centre.

The series itself will be released on June 5th, beginning with an introduction episode. This will 'set the scene', showing you around the centre and meeting the students and staff that live and work in the Kinabatangan rainforest.

There will be 10 episodes, with one released every week. Each episode will focus on a different animal or project, including elephants, civets, crocodiles and even pangolins! We hope you will all watch this series. It was tough at times, but we are all very proud of the finished project!

**BORNEO
JUNGLE
DIARIES**



Arrivals

Sai Kerisha Kntayya

Sai Kerisha is a Malaysian student who will embark in a PhD at DGFC on landscape genetics and habitat availability of the estuarine crocodile. She is also leading a 3-year crocodile survey throughout the state of Sabah.

Working with Sabah Wildlife Department, the purpose of the survey is to inform Sabah's government the crocodile population within each of its rivers in order to ensure appropriate wildlife management plans are carried out.



Anya Tober

Ex-PTY student and volunteer Anya Tober has returned to DGFC for the third time, this time as a Master student from University College London, where she studies One Health and Infectious Diseases. She aims to collect faecal samples from wild civets and domestic cats around the forests, plantations, and urban areas between DGFC and local village Batu Puteh.



Her project aims to locate the presence of oocysts containing the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* within civet and cat faeces, followed by an investigation into the presence of antibodies within samples.

Goodbye's

Timothy Chang

It is with regret we must say farewell to volunteer Timothy Chang. In the 9 months Tim stayed he became an integral part of the DG team assisting with field courses, Masters students, PhDs and PTY students alike. He had a keen interest in birds and frogs and would always jump at the chance to go out and look for them. We wish Tim all the best in his application for a place on Cardiff University's MRes course and hope it brings him back to DG someday soon.



Anglia Ruskin Field course

Two instructors and five masters students from Anglia Ruskin University came to DGFC for a 4 day visit this month. During their time here the group set up camera traps around the forest, participated in night walks, primate and bird surveys, and assisted with small mammal trapping. The visit was short but sweet, as both students and leaders built a good rapport with the researchers and staff at DG, even making an effort to learn as much Malay as they could fit in!



University of Minnesota Field Course

On the 23rd of May we welcomed students from the University of Minnesota for the first time. The students were split into groups and tasked with designing a behavioural study focusing on long-tail macaques. With limited time the groups were only able to conduct two surveys each, however they gained valuable experience dealing with and adapting to the difficult challenges field work can throw at you.

As part of their environmental education module, the students were also asked to create a lesson plan, highlighting the importance of conservation, that could be targeted to a variety of age groups. This was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and students at DGFC.



University of Minnesota Field Course Continued...

The students also joined in with some of the ongoing projects at DG including the nocturnal primate project where they are able to learn how to track using VHF. They learnt about our resident bird species during our morning bird surveys, how to sample small lizards and use camera traps effectively.



Visitors

Dr. Sandeep Kr. Tiwari

Dr. Sandeep, deputy director of the conservation NGO, Wildlife Trust of India, came to DG to encounter our heard of Bornean elephants as they passed through DGFC. Dr Sandeep has been collaborating with DG's elephant PhD student Farina and DG's director Benoit.

Dr Sandeep has previously worked on research programs with Indian elephants and worked to help resolve human elephant conflicts in India. DG is keen to learn all we can from his experience in the field, so that we may find solutions to Sabah's own elephant problems.



Vivek Manon

Vivek Manon is the Executive Director and CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India. Since establishing the first wildlife rehabilitation centres in India, Vivek has led efforts to use rehabilitated animals to restock parks where poaching has decimated wildlife.

As part of this ongoing effort, Vivek was instrumental in the development of Greater Manas, tripling the land area in this World Heritage site, which includes a tiger reserve and elephant corridor, rebuilding an area heavily impacted by civil unrest and poaching.



Visitors continued...

In late May, DG welcomed Chang Chiew Bong and Dora Ngui Howe Siong, the parents of our long-term volunteer, Tim. Chiew Bong is a well respected architect in Kota Kinabalu and Dora runs a successful catering business. She also has a degree in Biology!

Both parents were keen to join in with the field course activities, which include early morning bird surveys and late evening primate surveys. They also enjoyed seeing the forest at night on one of our night-walks.

We at DG are looking forward to seeing you both again in the near future, especially if there is more of the delicious beef rendang involved!



Luke's Collaboration with the Carnegie Airborne Observatory

Luke Evans recently returned from a trip to the UK and US. Luke attended a South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership (SEARRP) meeting, at Cambridge University. During the meeting he presented his ongoing work with Carnegie Airborne Observatory (CAO) and DGFC. The meeting was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders in Sabah, including the Sabah Forestry Department. Following this meeting Luke spent three weeks at Carnegie Institute, Stanford University, outlining future directions for the CAO and DGFC collaboration, as well as working on a number of ongoing and future studies.



PhD Update: Reticulated Pythons

May saw our resident python expert, Richard Burger, fit another reticulated python with a GPS tag.

At 3.3m long and weighing in at 12kg, this male was rescued by the Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) from just outside of Sandakan. The snake was transferred to temporary holding at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. The tag was fitted soon after, with the procedure carried out by Dr. Pakeeyaraj Nagalingam and the WRU team. The whole process was smooth and without issue. DG staff are now carefully monitoring the snake for a few days to ensure the animal is in top health before it is released into the forest of the sanctuary.

Richard would like to extend kind thanks to both the WRU and Dr Pakee for their help in his research on the ecology of these fantastic creatures.



Annual Scientific Retreat

This month DGFC's annual scientific retreat was held at the Beringgis Beach Resort. The retreat was attended by all of DGFC's permanent PhD students, as well as the KK team and Dr Benoit Goossens, Dr Milena Salgado Lynn and special guest Naollin. During the retreat the team discussed their research plans for the future as well as plans for improving the centre. Overall the retreat was a great success and an excellent opportunity for some team bonding.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Sunda Flying Lemur

**Scientific name: Galeopterus
variegatus**

IUCN status: Least Concern



Description and Ecology: Contrary to its name, the Sunda flying lemur cannot fly nor is it a lemur. It is a species of colugo, which is found in primary and secondary forests and farmland areas throughout Southeast Asia. This species is strictly arboreal and is able to glide as it leaps between trees. The Sunda Flying Lemur feeds on shoots, young leaves and fruits. Due to the broad nature of its diet the flying lemur can be found in plantations but not in as high numbers.

Threats:

- Subsistence hunting
- Deforestation
- Competition with plantain squirrel

Conservation:

- Educating locals on the damage of subsistence hunting.
- Increase conservation awareness
- Expanding protected areas

What's that animal?

We've taken three of the forests' enigmatic species and cropped them to hide their identity. Can you identify them, based on just a small section of their bodies?

Good luck!

1.



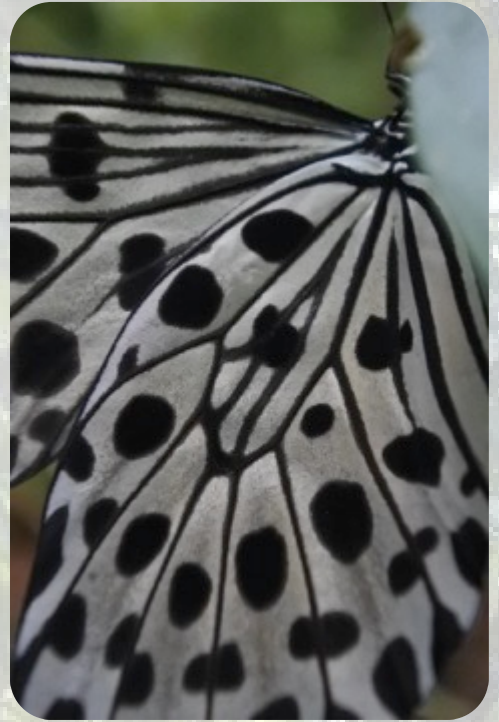
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Photos of the Month



Photos by Kasia Majewski

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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