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The Wilds

Curt Coleman visited DG and gave a talk about the work being done in Ohio.

Mosquito team

NUS students visit the field centre to collect data for their Mosquito research.

Spot the Species

Try and find the hidden species.

Wyoming

John L. Koprowski and other respective Wyoming representatives visited the centre, with a focus on squirrel research.

The Python

Whilst out doing a frog survey in one of the Botanic plots, we stumbled across a very impressive python.

Introduction to the PTY's

Brief intros to the six new PTY's.

'Name the prey'

Try to work out what the prey is in the mouth of a clouded leopard, caught on one of our WNC CT's.

Photo/event highlights

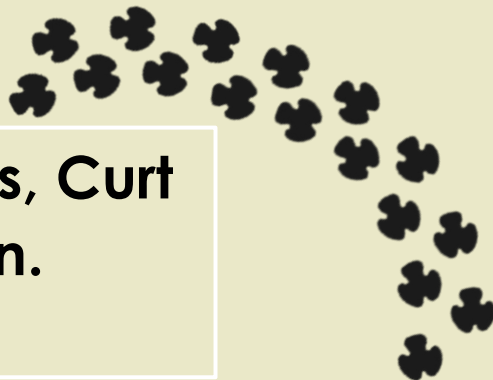
People who visited the centre and animal sightings.



Fig 1- A resident female orangutan, photographed just behind the main building. Taken by Amy Little.

The Wilds, Curt Coleman.

By Katie Mizuro



In September, the field centre received a visit from Curt Coleman: keeper at The Wilds in Columbus, Ohio. The Wilds is a partner of Columbus Zoo, working to produce 'insurance populations' of endangered animal species. They use reproductive science, such as artificial insemination to aid reproduction. The ranch provides a safe environment which encourages natural reproduction. Curt told me that one of the major benefits of raising animals in herds is that they can have the social interactions that they would in the wild, which are key to their development. It is important to him that The Wilds is working to make their conservation efforts as non-invasive as possible so that the animals can experience the most natural development possible. Tourists are also able to visit, educating local people about endangered species from around the world.

There are less than 500 Bornean banteng left in the wild in Sabah, and Columbus Zoo has a long-term relationship with the field centre, helping to conserve this population. Curt joined our team in Sabah, who were collecting samples to understand the transmission of disease from domestic cattle to the banteng. We are working with the Sabah Wildlife Department to reduce the contact of banteng with domestic cattle and reduce disease transmission and interbreeding to protect the banteng gene pool. There have also been enforcement efforts to combat the hunting of banteng and preserve the remaining population.

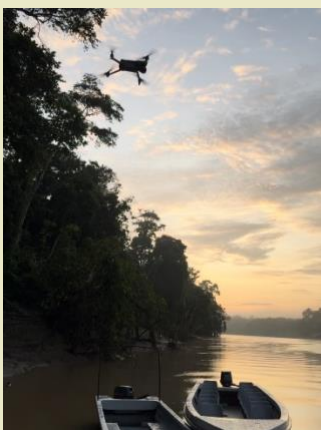
DGFC is working with The Wilds as they take care of a herd of Javan banteng. I found it interesting to speak to Curt, due to our combined efforts to use different methods to achieve the common goal of saving the Bornean banteng from extinction. Work at DGFC protects the wild population, whereas The Wilds work to increase populations in captivity. They have achieved reintroductions of other species into the wild, and their work makes this a possibility for the Bornean banteng.



(The Wilds, 2024)

The Mosquito team

By Jemma Barrett



(Amy Little, 2024)

On the first of October, four researchers from the SENSOR project arrived at the field centre to collect some specimens of anopheles mosquitoes at a few Regrow Borneo sites, as well as sites around DG. The Regrow sites offer a chance for the team to collect data in forests of varying ages. The reason for the collection of the *Anopheles*' mosquitoes is because they are vectors of a *Plasmodium* parasite, which is known to cause malaria. The team aims to take their specimens to the laboratory for analysis. The SENSOR project is a collaboration between the National University of Singapore and Universiti Malaysia Sabah. The project has a multifaceted approach that focuses on the impact that environmental change is having on public health. In addition to trapping mosquitoes, one of the researchers was testing a prototype GPS system in relation to the project. The team also tested various methods to survey macaques, including the use of a drone equipped with thermal imaging. The reason for the macaque surveys is because the team is particularly focused on the *Plasmodium knowlesi* parasite, known colloquially as monkey malaria and carried by macaques in Southeast Asia. Having the researchers from the SENSOR project visit DG allows the staff the unique opportunity to learn distinctive skills like mosquito trapping and identification, as well as the opportunity to form a lasting relationship with the SENSOR team.

Spot the Species



Can you spot the camouflaged species?

Find out the answer in the next newsletter.

Wyoming

By Amy Besant-Roberts



DGFC recently enjoyed the company of five visitors from the University of Wyoming, who joined us for pangolin tracking, trail walks, primate cruises, and even saw a pair of orangutans swinging over the main path! University of Wyoming has been a longstanding associate and sponsor of DGFC and have connections all over the globe. John Koprowski, dean of Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, has worked on projects ranging from dolphin conservation in Nepal to teaching international courses in Columbia, along with a myriad of other places. An expert on all things 'squirrel', John was kind enough to impart some wisdom on the nature of these small but mighty creatures, including the vital role they play within their ecosystems, dispersing fungal spores and seeds, inoculating soil, and much more. The Kinabatangan is host to several squirrel species; favourites include the giant red squirrel, the Prevost's squirrel and the pygmy squirrel. We're looking forward to welcoming Lindsey Mitchell back later in 2025 to begin her study on squirrels in the area. John left us with a crucial phrase: "squirrels are freakin' cool!"



Night cruise



Jungle arrival



Trail walk
(DGFC, 2024)

Whilst working in Nepal looking at anthropological effects on dolphins, John and the team adopted a community-based approach. Working with the locals in the nearby village and training them to collect data themselves. We often fail to realise just how significant our impact on others can be, and how much small gestures can mean to people. One day, a family from the village thanked John for his life-changing support, leaving him confused, only to discover they were talking about a purple bike they had purchased. This seemingly trivial contribution allowed the family to travel further for work and school, thus allowing the son to get an education. Now, John encourages everyone to try and find the 'purple bike' of any situation.



The Python

By Ben C



During a recent evening frog survey led by Maz and Ray, our team made a thrilling discovery. A nest of python eggs tucked away in a hollowed section of a fallen tree! While searching for the mother python, we were taken by surprise when we spotted a spectacular 5-meter reticulated python perched just a meter away from Maz on top of the very tree we were investigating!

In the following days, many team members returned to observe the python, as these remarkable creatures tend to stay nearby their nests until the eggs hatch. This encounter was particularly exhilarating for us, as reticulated pythons are not only the world's longest snakes but also among the heaviest.

Borneo is renowned for having the highest snake biodiversity globally, making snake sightings a common occurrence. However, this experience truly stood out to us!

Intro to the PTYs

Will Bryson

Cardiff University

(Bsc) Environmental Geography

Favourite animal- Crocodile
(*Crocodylus porosus*)

Optional fun fact: I canoed the length of the River Seven from source to mouth.

Ben Cunningham

Cardiff University

(Bsc) Environmental Geography

Favourite animal- Leopard cat
(*Prionailurus bengalensis*)

Katie Mizuro

University of Aberystwyth

(Bsc) Biology.

Favourite animal- I prefer fungi

Optional fun fact: I can peel a sack of potatoes (25kg) in 20mins.

Amy Besant-Roberts

Cardiff University

(Bsc) Biological Sciences.

Favourite animal- Monitor lizard
(*Varanus salvator*)

Jemma Barrett

University of Kent

(Bsc) Wildlife Conservation

Favourite animal- Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)

Optional fun fact: I have had 9 teeth removed.

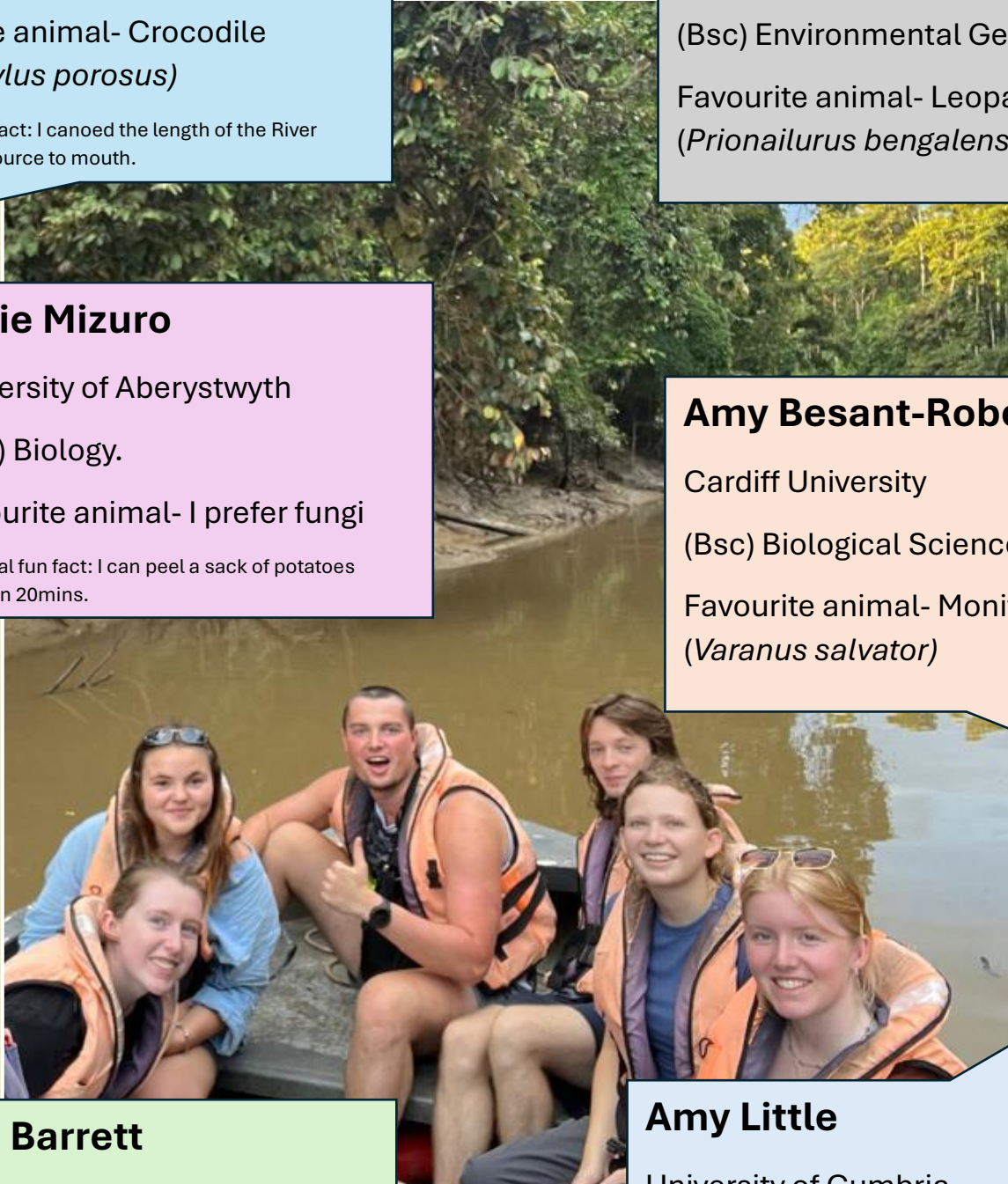
Amy Little

University of Cumbria

(Bsc) Animal Conservation Science.

Favourite animal- Asian elephant
(*Elephas maximus*)

Optional fun fact: My feet click when I walk, like a camel.



Guess the prey

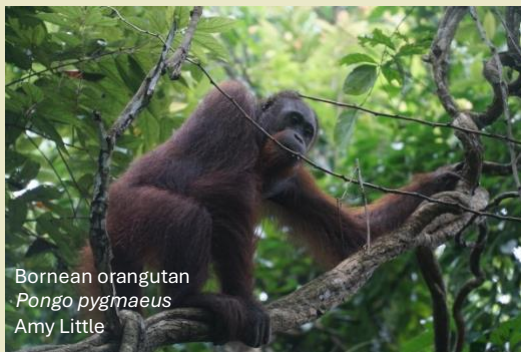


What is in this clouded leopard's mouth?

Find out the answer in the next newsletter.



Amy Little
Pongo pygmaeus
Bornean orangutan



Bornean orangutan
Pongo pygmaeus
Amy Little



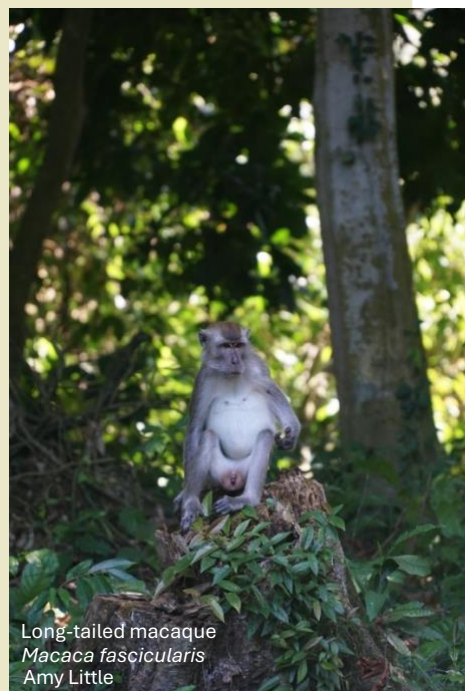
Proboscis monkey
Nasalis larvatus
Amy Little



Estuarine crocodile
Crocodylus porosus
Amy Little



White-crowned hornbill
Berenicornis comatus
Amy Little



Long-tailed macaque
Macaca fascicularis
Amy Little

Photo highlights



Microporous zanxanthopus
Katie Mizuro



Katie Mizuro
Coriolus versicolor



Marasmius candidus
Katie Mizuro



Fluted 'birds nest' fungi
Cyathus striatus
Katie Mizuro

Event highlights



The new PTYs



Visitors from Wyoming



Volunteers Sam and Filippo



Volunteer Camille



SETARA gave a culture and gender workshop



'The Wilds' presentation from Curt Coleman



First aid course with Joe Wan

✉ enquiry@danaugirang.com.my

🖱 www.danaugirang.com.my

Director of publication:

Benoit Goossens

Editor:

Amy Little

Assistant Editors:

Katie Mizuro

John Robertson

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