



The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 102

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Arrivals

Irene Artuso

This month we welcomed new volunteer Irene to DG. Irene is from Rome and studied bioinformatics at university. She now wishes to move into conservation and is doing a project currently consisting of three months field work at DG. This will be followed by three months in Rome studying modelling and data analysis for conservation of mammals. She is already getting stuck in with the field work and we are very pleased to have her!



Visitors

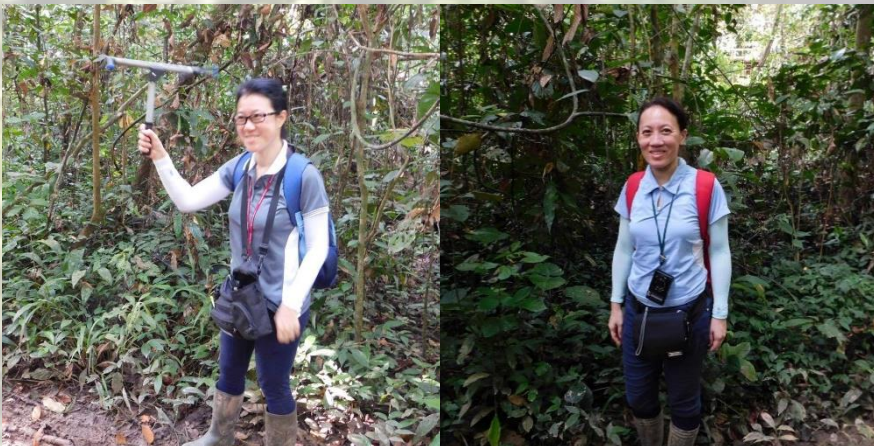
Freelance ecologists **Tom and Emma** joined us for a few days this month. Tom had previously visited DG on a field course when he was at Cardiff University and was eager to show Emma! The pair got stuck in to all things at DG by helping tracking the civets and slow lorises, with lucky sightings of a flanged orangutan, tarsiers, slow lorises and much more! They have both now gone back to New Zealand to continue their adventures!



Emma and Tom

Liew Yoke Mooi

Borneo Jungle Diaries winner Liew Yoke Mooi and her sister Liew Yoke Kheng made a visit to DG to have a taster of the work that is conducted here. They had the chance to go on primate surveys, bird surveys, night boats and were lucky enough to see a python capture and sampling!



Liew Yoke Mooi
(left)
Liew Yoke Kheng
(right)

Alys Granados

After recently finishing her PhD on bearded pigs in Danum Valley, Dr Alys Granados visited this month to help DGFC member Dave with his protocols and to explore the forest. After leaving DG, Alys went to Danum Valley to say her goodbyes before heading back to Canada.



Alys with DG's Dave

Kimberly Louise Tam

Kim, from Kota Kinabalu, came to DG this month to get some work experience before applying to study veterinary medicine in the UK. Kim went on forest walks, tracked the slow lorises and performed boat surveys. We wish Kim all the best with applying to vet school and her future studies!

Shannon, Devon and Team

Shannon Galpin and her daughter Devon visited DG for two days while on one of their expeditions. They came with Rob and Marianna who work for a film company. Together they are making several educational films about Devon being a young conservationist. They had already visited Argentina and Namibia, where they learned about population genetics of cheetahs by extracting DNA from cheetah scat. While at DG, they were able to explore the river wildlife, participate in slow loris tracking and conduct interviews with researchers.



Left to Right: Marianna, Shannon, Devon, Rob and their Bornean guides

UWCSEA Ability Expeditions Field Course

The Ability Expeditions field course returned to DGFC again this year, arriving on the 14th September and staying for 5 days. The students were split into four teams, each lead by the PTY's and volunteers, taking part in many activities to gain points in order to win the competition. These activities included bird, primate and snake boats, botanical plots, river cleaning, butterfly and skink catching as well as pangolin, millipede, mushroom and frog walks through the forest.

Each group also set up a camera trap at the beginning of the trip to see who could get the best picture.

At the end of the trip, each group gave a presentation about their time here talking about what they have learned and what they will take away from their experience here at DGFC.



New Papers!

Clouded Leopard Density in Sabah

The first paper published in *Oryx*, explored the effects of anthropogenic pressures on the population densities of the Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*). The study provided the first evidence that hunting pressure and habitat fragmentation both negatively affect population density, and conversely, that time since logging events has positive affects. The paper also suggested that the severity of these effects could be mitigated by improved logging practices such as effective gating and patrols in order to minimise the threat of hunting to the animals. Using spatially explicit capture–recapture analyses of detection data from camera traps, the researchers estimate that there are about 750 Sunda clouded leopards in Sabah.

Riparian Hunting Behaviour of Crocodiles

The second paper published this month, by Dr Luke Evans in *PLOS ONE*, has highlighted the importance of riparian vegetation structure for the hunting behaviour of adult estuarine crocodiles. Using airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and GPS telemetry on the animal's movement, it was found that the crocodile resting sites shared characteristics with the sleeping sites of long-tailed macaques. The crocs were found to be actively choosing to rest under overhanging vegetation, with this protrusion from the tree line being important for site selection. The macaques choose these trees as a way of avoiding threats from terrestrial predators. This study stresses the importance of preservation of the corridor vegetation composition and quality for the ecology of not just terrestrial animals, but those also filling other niches.

Clouded Leopard Collaring!

DG have successfully collared a male clouded leopard! The male, weighing in at 25kg and named Cakar ('claw' in Malay), will provide valuable information into the lives of clouded leopards. The GPS collar records high resolution data showing the path in which the leopard takes through the forest. This enables researchers to understand which part of the forest they prefer such as heavily logged forest, plantation-forest edge or riparian forest.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Malay Weasel
Scientific name: *Mustela nupides*
IUCN status: Least Concern



Description and Ecology:

The vivid orange colour of the Malay weasel is often seen as a blur. This carnivore is very quick and flexible allowing it to hunt fast-moving prey through tough terrain such as dense undergrowth. They are typically solitary, ground dwelling and are diurnal. The Malay weasel occurs at three locations; Malay-Thai peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo, however, despite being widespread, it is thought that the species occurs at a low density. The species is currently classified as least concern due to its widespread population and its ability to survive at higher altitudes, though this is difficult to prove as Malay weasels are difficult to find even through camera trapping. They are thought to be decreasing in population size due to deforestation, but also due to their ground dwelling nature as they can be caught in many general snares and traps used by hunters.



Conservation:

- Protected in Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah

Threats:

- Deforestation
- Hunting

Word Search!

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

COLUGO

MALAY BADGER

MOONRAT

ORANGUTAN

PANGOLIN

PYGMY SQUIRREL

PYTHON

SAMBAR DEER

SLOW LORIS

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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