



The Jungle Times

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Arrival

Elizabeth Marshal (Betsy)

Betsy joined us at the centre this month. She recently graduated from Davidson College, USA, with major in History and a minor in Environmental Science. Betsy has made DG one of her last trips before her time in Malaysia comes to an end.

She has spent the last year teaching English in a school in Kota Marudu, Sabah, as part of the Fulbright teaching programme. She has appointed herself social leader and often arranges activities for the whole centre. Betsy also participates in all the ongoing projects, bringing her enthusiasm and willingness to learn to the field.



Goodbyes

This month we sadly said goodbye to Rebecca. She has finished her 3 months here at DG doing field work for her PhD and is now off to the University of Malaysia, Sabah, where she will be completing her lab work. We wish you the best of luck with the rest of your PhD and everything else to come!

We also said goodbye to Theo this month. Theo stayed as a volunteer for three months. During his time, he helped with all the projects that were running. He had a passion for photography and birds, reaching his goal of seeing 100 different species! Theo is now going back to the UK to work as a landscape gardener for a year, and will also be traveling in America with his girlfriend. We wish him all the best for the future.



Visitors

Louise Gillman-Wells

Louise visited DG for 3 weeks this month to gain valuable conservation experience. Louise has been travelling around Borneo since June and at DG she had the chance to track the slow lorises, go on snake boats and witness a civet sampling procedure. Louise has now left DG to continue her Borneo adventures by diving in Kalimantan! We wish you all the best of luck Louise!



Borneo Jungle Diary winner Jamie

At the start of this month, Borneo Jungle Diary winner Jamie and his wife Iffah came to DG to be immersed in the jungle experience. They work on Gaya Island so are no strangers to jungle life, but at DG they were able to get stuck in with the projects that are on going here. As well as tracking the slow lorises and going on boat surveys, Jamie and Iffah went up the canopy platform where they were able to see wildlife such as sunbirds.



Interview with Jamie

What was your favourite episode of Borneo Jungle Diaries and why?

We don't have a favourite episode because we love all the episodes because they show the wildlife and the work here.

What was your favourite animal you saw here?

The banded linsang that we saw tonight!

What made you interested in conservation?

Our job is involved in conservation but 7 years ago I didn't have any conservation awareness. However, my friend is a conservationist and he's the one who's been inspiring us, and showed us that if we didn't support conservation what will happen to the future wildlife? If the wildlife disappears then we are gone.

Where did you hear of DG?

I have heard of DG through a friend because this friend was doing freelance work in Sukau, I visited my friend and at that time if I am not mistaken, Dr Benoit was around because there was a herd of elephants. He noticed that most of the boats were too close and I said "Who's that person who's been calling off the boats not too close?" and it was Dr Ben. It's through that friend I learnt of DGFC.

What do you think of the Kinabatangan?

The Kinabatangan is a basically a haven for wildlife. For birders, it's one of the 'must go' places but as we have learnt also through times, the area is shrinking bit by bit because of the plantations around.

What are you doing when you leave?

Continue back with conservation works in our work place and also spread awareness through the locals and tourists.

Published Papers

***Pongo tapanuliensis*: New Orangutan Species**

Published in Current Biology

A new great ape species was discovered earlier this month!

Tapanuli orangutan was recognised as a different species to the Sumatran orangutan found on the same island of Sumatra.

The population consists of fewer than 800 individuals and is distributed across the Tapanuli regions of Sumatra.

Benoit was involved in the collaboration of the project due to his Bornean orangutan expertise, providing behavioural, ecological and genetic data in the process.

Mapped Aboveground Carbon Stocks

Published in Biological Conservation

DG members Benoit, Danica and Luke were involved in important research that mapped the aboveground carbon stocks across Sabah.

This was achieved using LiDAR and satellite imaging to analyse different forest conditions; deforestation, regrowth and current forest protections. This research is vital in determining forests which should be placed under high conservation value and logged forests that are ideal for recovery.

The research conducted found that 40% of the highest carbon stocks were found outside of maximum protected areas.



Guess the civet!

Pictured below are three species of civet that are commonly seen around DG, can you guess their names?

1



2



3



A) Banded palm civet

B) Common palm civet

C) Malay civet

Conservation Corner:

Common name: Otter Civet
Scientific name: *Cynogale bennettii*
IUCN status: Endangered



Description and Ecology:

The otter civet is a semi-aquatic, nocturnal member of the Viverridae family and is native to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Though having adaptations such as webbed feet, allow it to exploit aquatic food species such as fish and molluscs, the otter civet is also known to climb trees to feed on both fruit and birds. The species has been recorded in many types of forest and peat swamps but seems to prefer lowland primary forest.



Threats:

Though the species is susceptible to poaching techniques such as snares, the conversion of forest and peat swamp conversion to palm oil plantations are the main threats that this species faces.

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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