



# The Jungle Times

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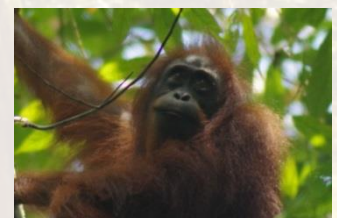
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# Visitors

**Doug and Monica Harris** were with us for 6 days, where they took part in many of the on-going projects. Their comments were “This was the trip of a lifetime and we feel so proud to have our daughter working here. We look forward to years of wonder watching DGFC”.



**Bhavik Shah** was with us for 5 days and is currently undertaking an English Literature degree at Cambridge University. He will be spending a month travelling around Sabah visiting conservation institutions and ecotourism outfits learning about different projects in order to write a conservation article.

We were visited by 4 members of the Banteng project for a night. **Penny Gardner** and **Jocelyn Beatrix** arrived with the new PTYs, **Steph Ridge** and **Naomi Prosser**, in tow to meet the rest of the DGFC family.





# More Visitors

**Elena Rozella Jarid** has just graduated from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia with a Biology degree. She spent 3 days with us to meet the Banteng project before she begins volunteering with them.



**John Warren, Natasha de Vere, Josh Sideway and Sharia McClymont** visited us this month. They are members of Aberystwyth University and are fascinated by the variety of DG's botanical plots. They are interested in planning a field course here next year.

French director, **Jean-Marie Cornuel**, and assistant **Chris Tan**, visited DGFC this month for two weeks. They are recording a wildlife documentary called "Survival in Wetland" which is produced by One Planet for the French and German ARTE TV channel.





# New Arrivals!

New arrival **Katie Grassle** has joined DG where she will follow and study the local orang-utans. Her aims are to habituate individuals for 6 months, as well as to collect behavioural data for potential further study.



This month we have been joined by four new French students, all who will be here for 5 months. **Fabien Verniest** is here on his engineering internship. **Iago Bonnici** is volunteering here on his master's gap year. **Ariane Mirabel** and **Marion Davezies** are both forestry students on their internship, and will be studying our botanical plots.

New arrival **Sunil Guharajan** has come to DGFC for 30 days, where he will participate in various projects. Sunil is the younger brother of our sun bear project leader Roshan. He is here to experience jungle life before embarking on further studies.





# Goodbye Jordan

On the 16<sup>th</sup> September DGFC said goodbye to Cardiff student, **Jordan Goodwin**. Jordan has been at the centre for the last three months. She arrived with the Cardiff University field course and has since been collecting leeches from different locations in the Lower Kinabatangan area for her final year project in genetics. She will use blood samples to identify animal population distributions. We will really miss you Jordan and we hope to see you back in DGFC in the future!

## Jordan's thoughts:

"I've learnt so much here over the last 3 months and made some amazing memories and friends. I'm going to miss all the people, animals and weather! I will miss it all and hopefully will see you all again!"





# Proboscis Monkey Project

We had the **Sabah Wildlife Department's Wildlife Rescue Unit** visit in order to help PHD student **Danica Stark** with her on-going proboscis monkey project. They came and succeeded in capturing and collaring a large male and took samples for Danica's project. They hope to collar a further four more monkeys in the surrounding area in the near future.

Proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*) are members of the Colobinae sub-family. They selectively feed on leaves and possess large stomachs for dealing with plant toxins. Interestingly, the hind feet are webbed to allow more efficient movement in water and on muddy banks!



When capturing these primates, protective suits must be worn to avoid exchanging diseases.

Pictured above: Three team members taking samples.

Pictured left: The male proboscis being safely released.



# Sunda Clouded Leopard Project

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September a wild male Sunda clouded leopard was successfully trapped and collared! This was the first ever to be deliberately trapped for a research purpose. The project is a collaborative scheme between the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD), WildCRU and the Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC).



The satellite collar will record the animal's position every 20 minutes for 3½ months! The collar then drops off by itself after 32 weeks, allowing further data to be recorded using VHF. Using this information we can learn the animal's home range and how it moves through the fragmented landscape. Data will be received shortly and everyone's very excited!

This incredible accomplishment was carried out successfully by PhD students **Andrew Hearn** and **Fernando Najera**. Andrew is a PhD student at Oxford University and a member of WildCRU. Fernando is wildlife veterinarian and PhD student from University Complutense of Madrid, Spain.





# Sunda Clouded Leopard cont.

This successful collaring is an amazing achievement, since Sunda clouded leopards are so rarely seen! As these elusive animals are very difficult to capture, there is still very little known about their behaviour. Therefore, recorded data will be crucial for understanding these secretive animals.



Amazingly, on the 19<sup>th</sup> September an old female, weighing only 9 kgs was captured. However, she was too small and too old to collar. Her activity in the Kinabatangan has been documented since 2010, using camera traps.

SWD, DGFC and WildCRU wish to thank Sime Darby Foundation for their support and for providing a grant of MYR 1.46 Million towards our project on the conservation of the Sunda clouded leopard and sympatric carnivores in Sabah. Additional funding and support are provided by Atlanta Zoo, Houston Zoo, Recanati-kaplan Foundation, Robertson Foundation, Point Defiance Zoo and Rufford Foundation.



Pictured is the male Sunda clouded leopard who weighed 25Kg and was in a good physical condition.



# Beach Clean-up

On the 14-15<sup>th</sup> September a beach and underwater clean-up scheme was undertaken on Billean and Tegaipil islands. The programme was run by our partner Reef Guardian, under Project A.W.A.R.E, with "Act Toward Ocean Conservation" as the designated theme.

Staff and students from DGFC, the Sabah Wildlife Department, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Lankayan Dive Resort and Reef Guardian participated in the initiative.



Over the two days, 543 kg of waste was removed from the ocean and beach. Waste consisted mainly of glass and plastic bottles, cigarette buds, styrofoam, plastic flip-flops, fishing nets and polystyrene.





# New Traps

New crocodile traps have arrived at the centre this month. PHD student **Luke Evans** has had two new traps delivered and once his new collars are here he will resume the trapping.



As part of his project, Luke will be surveying a large area of the Kinabatangan to find the possible locations of crocodile nests. He has been training to use a special drone plane which he will control to fly over the area, taking consecutive photographs of the forest below. He will then analyse each individual photo for signs of the crocodile nests before investigating the sites.

Small mammal traps have also arrived for German PHD student **Jenny Brunke**. These will allow her to continue in her project of small mammal sampling, where she will study how their abundance and size is affected by location and habitat.





# Sun Bear Trapping

Our sun bear traps are now ready in place and the wait has begun for our first animals to be captured and collared. This is a very exciting time for the centre and we all have our fingers crossed that we will have our first bear very soon!



Master student **Roshan Guharajan** is our leader of the Sun bear project. Here's a photo of him next to one of our sun bear traps. The trap is designed to avoid claw damage and to minimise stress.

Fried fish and fish oil are being used to lure the bears into the area. This pre-baiting method is clearly working, as camera trap footage reveals bears being attracted to traps.

Pictured is a large male bear being attracted towards fish bait. It's only a matter of time!





# Andrew MacIntosh



Andrew visited DG this month to experience life at the centre and to discuss a collaboration with the centre. He stayed with us for 5 days, where he participated in several on-going projects. He had this to say...

## **Main role at Kyoto University in Japan:**

I am an assistant professor working in the centre for international collaboration and advanced studies in primatology at the primate research institute. The centre was created partly as a university government initiative to increase awareness of Japanese universities and to facilitate internationalisation and collaborative research. It forms a bridge between international students and other researchers with the Japanese faculty university and Japan in a broader sense as well.

## **Reason for visiting DG:**

I originally came to Sabah in January as I was collaborating with a Japanese scholar in Sukau. At the time I met Benoit at the Wildlife Department in Kota Kinabalu who suggested I came to Danau Girang Field Centre to maybe expand the collaboration further.



# Interview continued...

## **What are you mainly hoping to achieve from this visit and where are you hoping to go with the collaboration:**

The research programme is still in its pilot phase. The main research is in Japan where I study the relationship between the Japanese macaques and their intestinal parasites. I have generated a model to build an understanding of the mechanisms that underlie the transmission of parasites and other infectious disease as well as the outcomes of infection. In Borneo I want to expand this model system to incorporate multiple species of close primates as well as other multiple species of parasites and also getting into a community ecology perspective. Several people are interested in primates and their parasites in DG and therefore I think we have an opportunity to get a nice network of people working on this topic with a collaborative spirit. The purpose therefore of this trip was to expand the network and lay down the foundations for what will hopefully be a long term project.

## **Highlights of the trip so far:**

It has been great to go out with the teams who are doing very different types of research from what I am used to. With primates it is usually quite easy to go out and find them, follow them for a day and collect data. But with species like the clouded leopards or sun bears, for example, you are relying on camera traps to guide where you are setting up your traps. So even though I haven't seen any of them it has been really cool to see how the researchers are approaching those topics and how they intend to carry out their studies and deal with the challenges. And of course the primate biodiversity is a really big draw for me too!



# Orang-utans in DGFC

We were lucky enough to have several orang-utans recently around the centre. Several of our staff and students were able to capture photos of them. Here are a few of the best!





# Selamat Hari Raya

On September 1<sup>st</sup> all of us from the centre spent the evening in the nearby village of Batu Puteh for their celebration of the end of Hari Raya. It was a party involving three of the local villages who all came together for a feast of traditional food, dancing, singing and quizzes. We were very honoured to be invited and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.





# Sunda Clouded Leopard Outreach Programme

An outreach programme on the Sunda clouded leopard and other carnivores has recently been established in two local schools in the Kinabatangan area. The scheme is currently run by the Sabah Wildlife Department and Danau Girang Field Centre, and is fully supported by the Sime Darby Foundation.



The course is designed to raise children's awareness about Sunda clouded leopards and other carnivores and is a key component of their conservation project.

DGFC education officer Clarice Kelly Samih stated "Through this outreach programme, we hope children will gain a better understanding and support conservation efforts to preserve our beautiful clouded leopard and other carnivores, especially in the Kinabatangan region".



# Other news...

**Stephanie Hing** from Imperial College has completed her masters and recently published the first paper on parasites in the Bornean elephant. Second author was **Nurzhafarina Othman** who is a PhD student at DGFC and Cardiff University.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> September PhD student **Luke Evans** successfully managed to trap and tag a 3.90m male crocodile. The crocodile was named Jantan and is currently having his daily positions recorded!

DGFC was fortunate enough to have a presentation on elephant translocation in Sri Lanka. The talk was given by **Pruthu Fernando** and **Jenny Pastorini**.





# Conservation Corner:

## Bearded Pig

**Common name:** Bearded pig  
**Scientific name:** *Sus barbatus*

**ICUN status:** Vulnerable



### Ecology:

The Bearded pig is Borneo's only non-ruminant ungulate. They have a long snout with long hairs along the lower jaw. They can feed on fruits, seeds, roots, earthworms and even snakes! In extensive forest they may migrate in large herds in search of fruits. Females will also build nests, where 3-11 piglets are born.

### Conservation:

- Populations in Peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra (*S. barbatus oi*) have decreased, although Bornean bearded pigs (*S. b. barbatus*) still appear to be widespread.
- The Protection of Wildlife Act (1972) prohibits the hunting of bearded pigs without a licence in Peninsular Malaysia.
- Section 33 of the Sarawak Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998 prohibits the trade of wild meat.

### Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Hunting for meat





# Match the Malay

Can you match these animals to their Malay names?

Banteng



Elephant



Gibbon



Kelawat

Beruang madu

Teledu

Tembadau

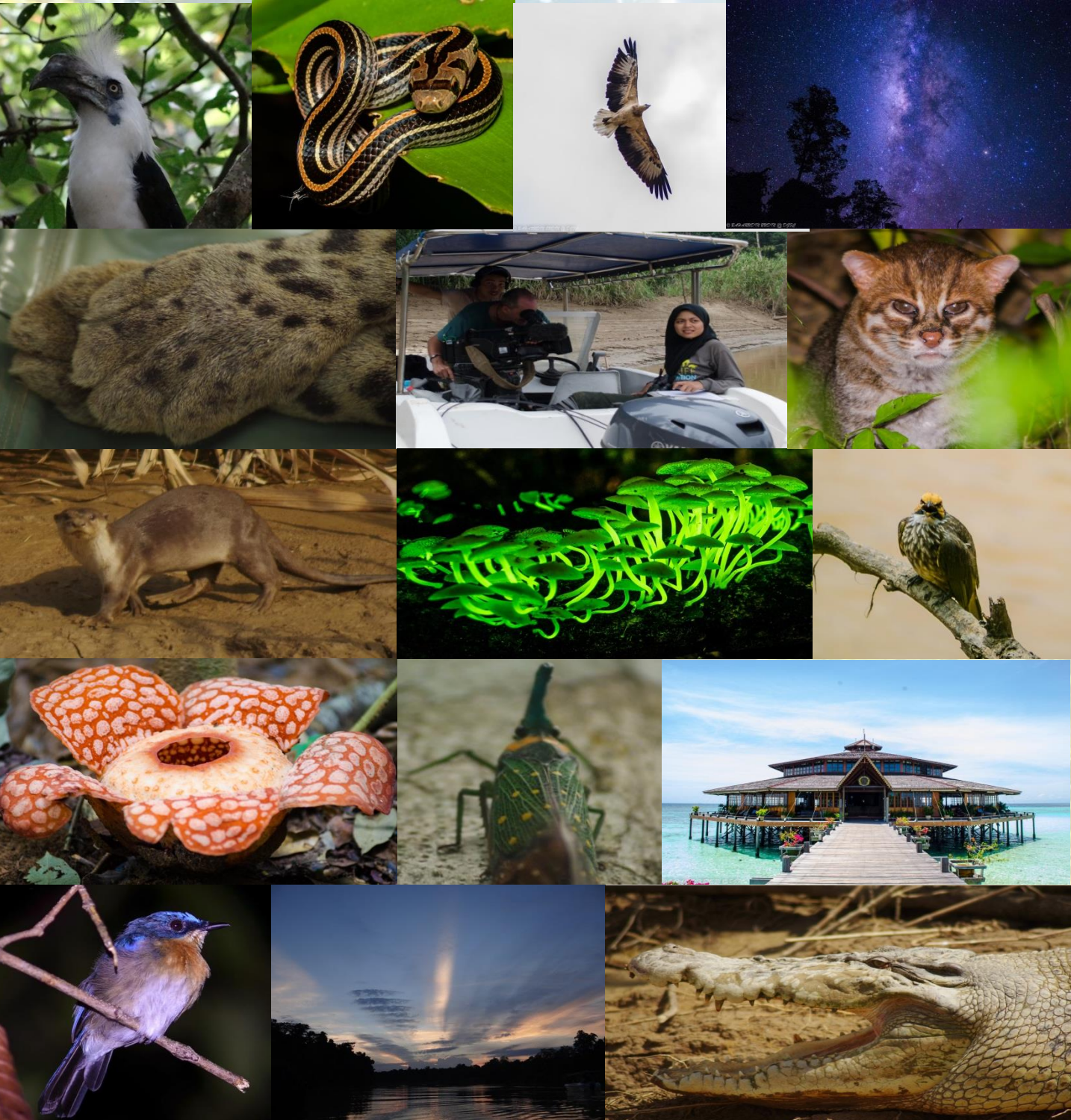
Gajah

## Jungle Fact of the Month

Western tarsiers can jump up to 40 times their body length between trees!



# Photos of the Month!



Photos were taken by Baharudin B. Resake, Sarah Joscelyne and Kieran Love.



## 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

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