



The Jungle Times

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First Aid Course

This month we had the team from Fieldskills here at the centre for 3 days to train our staff and senior students in first aid in the jungle environment!

The whole team were trained thoroughly in all areas of first aid, including the use of a defibrillator (PTY Joe enjoyed being the model patient!). On the last day the team took part in a jungle search and rescue activity in two teams.



Doyo – one of our research assistants – was the ‘victim’ and the two teams were responsible for finding and treating him as quickly and safely as possible and to transport him from the forest. We are pleased to say that all participants passed the course!

UWCSEA Field Course

Between the 8th and the 13th of February we had the pleasure of welcoming 16 students from United World College of South East Asia to DGFC for a 5 day field course in all things jungle! The group was split into 4 teams, with each team having an assigned PTY as their leader for the week. They enjoyed a very busy week of activities and each group produced a presentation at the end of the week regarding what they had learnt in their time here.

Katey and Abbie took the groups out to teach them the technique of nocturnal primate tracking and finding sleeping sites. They then used these skills to find two monitor lizard collars the following morning!



Butterfly trapping and identification was led by Katey and Joe and was one of the students' favourite activities of the week! The groups were successful in trapping all 4 of the butterfly families surrounding DG.

UWCSEA Field Course

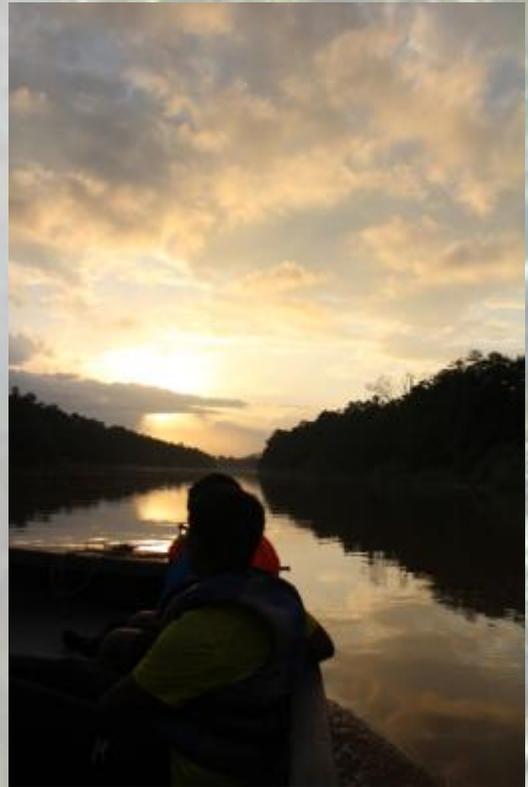
Each group also went out onto the river and collected as much waste as possible, sorted them into plastics, metal, glass and miscellaneous. Once sorted the rubbish was then weighed. Collectively, the four groups managed to clear a total of 337kg of waste from the river!



UWCSEA Field Course

At sunrise and sunset each day, one group went out on river cruises to record the approximate abundance and diversity of bird and primate species from the boat.

At the end of the week each group gave a presentation about the importance of wildlife conservation and what they had learned during the week.





DGFC Annual General Meeting

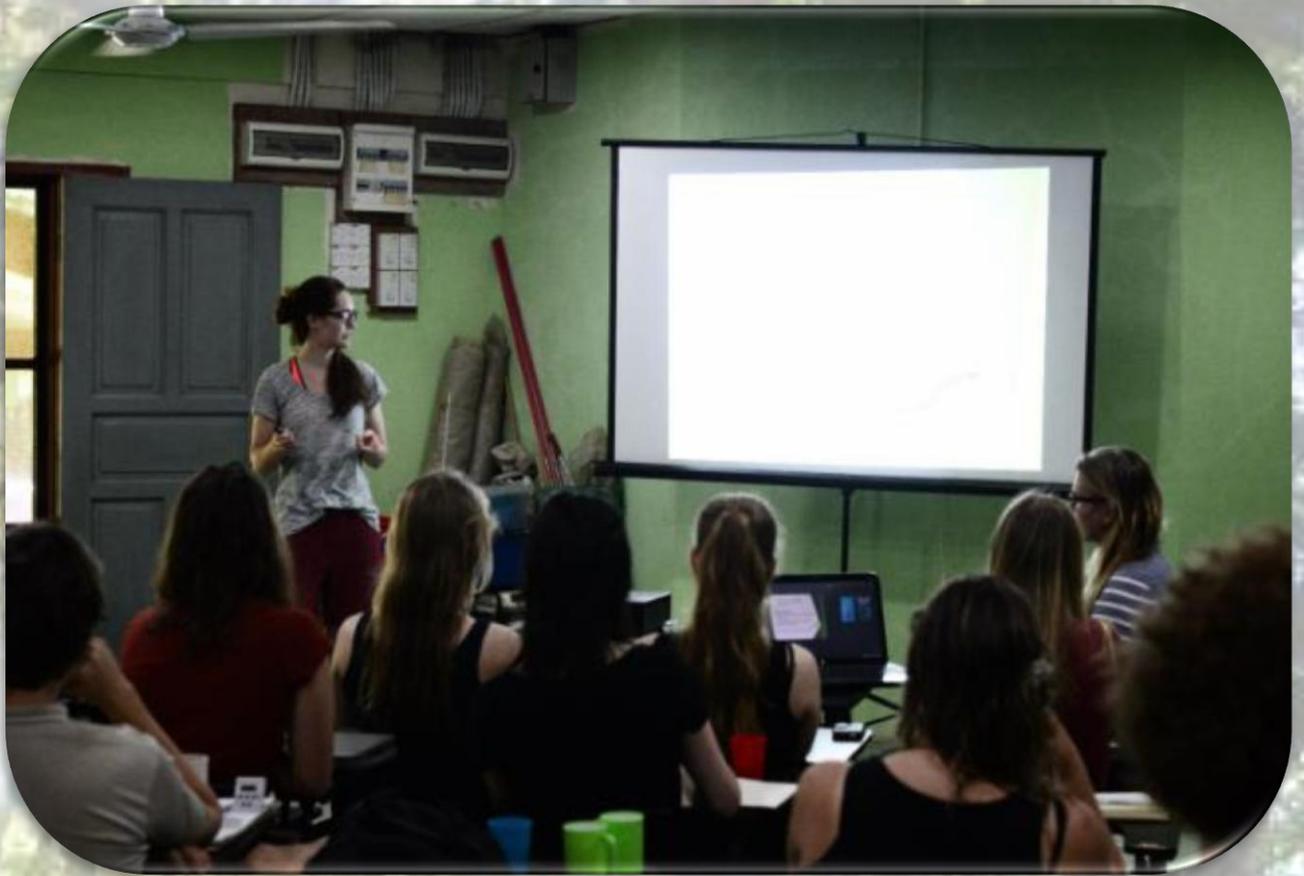
Between the 19-21st February DGFC held its annual general meeting to discuss the achievements of the last year and outline an action plan for the year to come. It was a really good opportunity for the whole team to spend some time together and get up to date with the progress of all of our exciting projects. At the end of the week we celebrated in true DG fashion with great food followed by a thrilling Bollywood movie!



Leiden Field Course

Between the 22nd of February and the 7th of March we had the pleasure of welcoming Leiden University for a second time. During the first week workshops were run on fungal diversity, arthropod surveys and biodiversity within cave ecosystems, to name but a few. The students of Leiden University weren't the only ones to learn some new and interesting science during the two weeks. After a fascinating lecture series presented by lecturers and researchers of Leiden, the students and staff at DG also learnt a lot throughout their time here.





After a week of workshops the students created their own novel projects based on the flora and fauna in the Lower Kinabatangan and gave presentations recounting their findings at the end of the week. Projects for the week included a mark recapture study of our resident house geckos and an interesting study assessing the nest sites distribution of the red and black broadbills. This field course also marked the first of many presentations to be given by our PTYs detailing the progress of their projects so far.

Small Carnivore Project update

Ecol Res
DOI 10.1007/s11284-016-1338-y



TECHNICAL REPORT

Meaghan N. Evans · Sergio Guerrero-Sanchez
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First known satellite collaring of a viverrid species: preliminary performance and implications of GPS tracking Malay civets (*Viverra zibellina*)

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Abstract The application of advanced technologies to the study of little-known species is a necessary step in generating effective conservation strategies. Despite the biological importance of the small carnivore guild, a paucity of data exists in terms of the spatial ecology of these species, largely due to logistical constraints of large and bulky collar units. This study reports the first known satellite collaring of a viverrid, the Malay civet

conduct detailed and well-designed ecological studies of Viverridae species.

Keywords GPS collar · Satellite · Viverridae · *Viverra zibellina* · Spatial ecology

Introduction

This month we would like to congratulate Meg Harris - our resident small carnivore PhD student, on publishing her first paper on viverrids. The paper outlines the performance and implications of GPS tracking Malay civets and is the first instance such tracking has been used on viverrids making Meg's research very exciting to the scientific community. DGFC looks forward to many more pioneering papers on the hugely understudied viverrids and continues to wish Meg luck with her PhD; where she is currently collaring again in the hope to track more of these beautiful and underappreciated animals!

Elephant genetics publication

We are very excited to announce that our population genetic study of the Bornean elephant throughout Sabah has been published in *Biological Conservation*. The paper's title is "Habitat fragmentation and genetic diversity in natural populations of the Bornean elephant: Implications for conservation".

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Habitat fragmentation and genetic diversity in natural populations of the Bornean elephant: Implications for conservation



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Thank you to our sponsors for supporting this fantastic research: Houston Zoo, The Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Elephant Family, Columbus Zoo and the Portuguese Science Foundation.

Visit from MonkeyBar

This month we've had the MonkeyBar primatology team here helping us out with the many projects currently going on! They have been testing their thermal drone equipment around the centre. In addition to the droning, the team undertook further training as preparation for their next round of collaring long tailed macaques.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Muller's
Bornean gibbon
Scientific name: *Hylobates
muelleri*
IUCN status: Endangered



Description and Ecology:

The Bornean gibbon is an arboreal primate native to areas of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia and is now mainly found throughout areas of Sabah and Sarawak in Borneo. They are most commonly found in areas of dense primary and secondary forest, due to their diet primarily consisting of fruit, leaves and insects. They are arboreal so spend most of their time higher in the canopy. In the morning they can often be heard duetting which can be heard for up to 1km away!

Threats: Deforestation and illegal pet trade remain the main threats to the species, with expansion of palm oil plantation and logging decreasing the area of forest available for habitat use.

Conservation: Population numbers are currently estimated to be between 250,000-375,000 however the population trend is known to be decreasing. From studies into areas with logging taking place the majority of sites recorded a decline in population, indicating that this is an anthropogenic threat that needs to be controlled by management schemes and community education.

Guess the Lizard

1



2



3



Monitor lizard

Red-throated skink

Gliding lizard

Fact of the month!

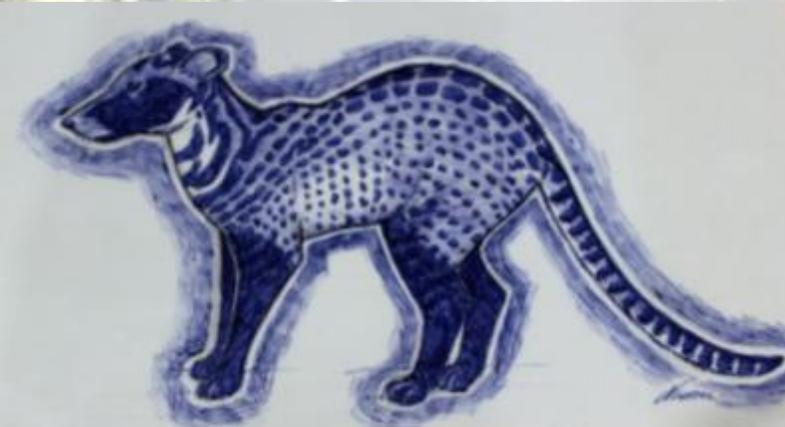
Due to the lack of a reflective tapetum in the eye of a tarantula, their eyes cannot be seen using a head torch, making them a difficult animal to spot at night.

Photos of the Month!



Continued....

Noemi, one of our volunteers currently at the centre has become our resident DG artist! Here are some of the beautiful pictures she has hand-drawn recently.



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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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cardiff University.

