



The Jungle Times

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Penny Downes and Helen Ramsbottom

Penny and Helen, who have been friends since college, arrived at the end of August to volunteer at DGFC. Penny studies Natural Sciences at Durham University, focusing on animal biology and anthropology. She has experience studying orangutan behaviour at Chester Zoo. Helen studies Biological Sciences at Imperial Collage London, concentrating on ecology and conservation and has experience working in a cattle genetics lab. They are both excited to see wild orangutans, to learn how field conservational research works in the rainforest (especially tracking animals like Wira the pangolin), and to experience south-east Asian culture.

Ben Pridmore

Ben is our newest PTY student from Cardiff University's Biosciences department. He arrived at the beginning of August. From Lil and Jamie's rival county, Cornwall, Ben is looking forward to living in a place full of life with fascinating animals as well as being outside working in a new part of the world for a year. He is considering using camera traps for his project.



Arrivals

Masrin Bibit

Masrin is our new Bearded Pig research assistant at DGFC. He has experience working in Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and for Sabah Wildlife Department. Like all research assistants here at DG he knows the forest like the back of his hand, and is happy to share his understanding of animals and edible plants. Masrin is also an experienced tree climber which comes in handy when looking for signs of certain animals.



Rachel

Another new member of the DGFC team is Rachel. She joins us as the Field Manager's assistant and for housekeeping.

Visitors



Ruben Portas and Miha Krofel

Ruben and Miha visited for two weeks to lend expert knowledge for the Clouded Leopard and Leopard cat Projects here at DGFC. Ruben works with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and is working on a National Cheetah survey and Leopard camera trap surveys in Namibia. Miha is a PhD wildlife researcher and assistant professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has lots of experience carrying out research on Carnivores, including Bears and Wolves in Slovenia, Cheetahs and Leopards in Namibia and Snow Leopards in Asia. Their expert knowledge seemed to do the trick as within six days of setting the Clouded Leopard trap, a female leopard was trapped and collared. Thank you Ruben and Miha!

Visitors



Oregon Zoo

Sharon Glaeser, a research associate doing a PhD in animal welfare science, Shervin Hess, a media specialist and Michael Durham, photographer from Oregon Zoo stayed for three nights at DGFC. The visit was part of a wider visit of Sabah as part of a collaboration with the Wildlife Rescue Unit that deals with management and care of elephants. They participated in World Elephant Day and visited Sukau to learn more about the conservation work of HUTAN and what they are doing for reforestation, elephants and orangutans. They visited DGFC to enjoy the wildlife, learn about the current research projects and to capture the amazing wildlife using Michael's unique camera trap!

Departures

Martina Haufe

Martina was here for 3 weeks helping with many of the projects here, including camera trapping for the sun bear and flat-headed cat projects. Martina now returns to Spain to see her family. Thank you Martina!



Dominee Cagle

After volunteering here for 6 weeks Dominee returns to Oregon to complete the final year of her degree. Good luck Dominee! Her favourite parts were when the elephants came right up to the centre and generally working and learning from the Malaysian research assistants.



Nicholas Lim

Nicholas has been volunteering at DGFC for 6 weeks. His favourite part of being at DG were experiencing the tagging of a Crocodile and the collaring of a Clouded Leopard! He now returns to the UK to start his second year at Cardiff University. Good luck Nicholas!



Departures

Amy Hilger

Amy has been here for 6 weeks helping out with all the projects. Amy's favourite part of being at DG was also when the elephants came right up to the centre and having the opportunity to learn and help with all the different research projects going on at DG. Another highlight for Amy was the tagging of a Crocodile! She now returns to Oregon to search for her dream job!



Tom Smart

Tom left earlier this month after having been volunteering at DGFC for 8 weeks. In that time Tom became an integral part of the team and will be greatly missed! He's now left to visit Indonesia and Australia, before he returns to Leeds University to complete his Masters degree. Good Luck Tom!

Departures



Danica Stark

After 8 years we say goodbye to DGFC's resident Primatologist. Danica has been doing her PhD on Proboscis Monkeys and studying the nocturnal primates here, such as the Tarsier and Slow Loris. Danica will be missed by everyone here at DGFC and the centre will not be the same without her! A massive thank you from everyone for all the time and effort put into helping make this place what it is today. We all hope you have a wonderful holiday and come back to visit soon!

Primate Field Course



This years Primate Behaviour and Ecology Field course visited DGFC this month for two weeks. The field course was led by Danica Stark, DGFC's primatologist. The group got involved in lots of primate boats and tracking the slow loris and tarsier sleeping sites. They also took part in a river clean where 15 bags of rubbish were collected! During their time here, field course students undertook their own projects with titles including: "Female Proboscis monkey sleeping site positional and vigilance behaviour", "Mother and offspring interactions in Long-tail Macaques" and "An investigation on parasitology of the Colobine Monkey along the Kinabatangan river".

Primate Field Course



Thank-you to Houston Zoo for funding four Malaysian students to follow this year's Primate Behaviour and Ecology Field course. From Left to right are Pravind Segaran, Nicholas Wei Cheng Tan, Amanda Shia (working at HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project) and Zan Hui Lee.

Borneo Jungle Diaries:

Season Two



Alexandra Alexander Chris Tan



Jill Duis



Oliver Deppert

Scubazoo filming and photography company are back with an all new series of Borneo Jungle Diaries! This time the series will be presented by Sabahan actress Alexandra Alexander. The team spent a month filming around DGFC where they focused on a variety of animals and their significance to Malaysian culture. The species covered include proboscis monkeys, clouded leopards, tarsiers and hornbills. We would like to warmly thank Sime Darby Foundation for funding the series and look forward to the premier!

Borneo Jungle Diaries:

Season Two



HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project are doing great work to protect hornbills in the Kinabatangan. To continue and expand their work, DGFC now have a hornbill nest box set up close to the centre. Only a few days after set up, we had our first visitor to the box, a pied hornbill! We look forward to watching the exclusive hornbill episode in our new season of Jungle Diaries.



Science Papers

Horton, A. J., Lazarus, E. D., Hales, T. C., Constantine, J. A., Bruford, M. W & Goossens, B. (2018). Can riparian forest buffers increase yields from oil palm plantations? *Earth's Future*, 6.
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2018EF000874>

New research published by members of Cardiff School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, School of Biosciences and DGFC in *Earth's Future* and carried out in the Kinabatangan floodplain shows that preserving tropical forest buffers along the margins of large meandering rivers can enhance the profitability of floodplain plantations while maintaining conservation benefits by reducing the area of land lost to the river through bank erosion. Hopefully, it will convince oil palm plantations to set aside forest buffers along main rivers in Sabah.



Conservation Corner: Western Tarsier



Wonderful picture of our collared tarsier, Kusai. Taken by Ollie.

Cephalopachus bancanus, or the western tarsier occurs in the forests of Borneo and Sumatra. Tarsiers are the only existing descendants of the family Tarsiidae. They are nocturnal and the only completely carnivorous primates; eating insects, small vertebrates, and birds. They have very long fingers and tails which aid their leaping from tree to tree.

The Western Tarsier is listed as vulnerable by IUCN. They're threatened by loss of habitat due to forest conversion for oil palm, logging, the pet trade, and by agricultural pesticides.



Does it eat that?!

A: Orangutan



- Fruit
- Leaves
- Clay
- Tagliatelle
- Small mammals

B: Crocodile



- Birds
- Fish
- Lemon Drizzle Cake
- Stones
- Small mammals

C: Moths



- My darn curtains
- Rotting fruit
- Sweat & Tears
- Nectar
- Themselves

D: Pitcher plant



- Insects
- Leaves
- Pepsi
- Bat poop
- Small mammals

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

Email: danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com

*Editors: Ben Pridmore, Elizabeth Witcombe
and Jamie Owen*

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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