



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Ivan Bialy arrived towards the end of this month to volunteer with DGFC for six weeks. He decided to join us after Simon, a volunteer from last December, recommended us to him. Ivan is a 3rd year undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh where he is currently studying Biological Sciences. He recently finished a year long student exchange at Singapore University and has been traveling South East Asia since then. He is looking forward to “working with animals I’ve never seen outside a textbook” and living in an isolated location.





New long-term volunteer Erin Johnston joined the team this month and will remain at the centre for just shy of three months. She is currently studying veterinary Bioscience at Glasgow University. She is now between her third and final year in her study and has joined us to get further field experience. Having previously worked with mammals and avifauna, she wants to work with the Bornean herpetofauna to expand her skillset and try something new. Her previous experiences have been in South Africa working with a variety of animals from lions to wild dogs. Erin remarks: "I want to become the next great epidemiologist!", we hope to help her in some way to achieve her dream.

Visitors

Carol Keys and Joseph Spair, two of Dr Benoit Goossens' friends, visited DGFC this month. Joseph is a teacher and Carol was involved in the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance as a board of directors and she is the owner and creative director of Keys Creative Group, a marketing and advertising company based in California. The duo enjoyed helping with the PTY projects, birdwatching and primate spotting. Both told us that it was incredible to see one of the four great apes (the orangutan), in its natural habitat.



Visitors



Kieran Love, a previous PTY from 2013, and his partner Charlotte Yeung visited us at the end of this month. He came to see what's changed since his year at DG and to check up on his study species, the bearded pig. Since his PTY, Kieran has worked as an intern for the RSPB in mid Wales. More recently he worked for the British Antarctic Surveys where he (over the course of two years) maintained a monitoring programme of top predators like gentoo penguins and Antarctic fur seals. His work involved monitoring population size, growth rates, reproductive success rates and faecal analysis of these species in order to monitor the stock of krill and fish to provide fishing quotas. Kieran told us that working in the Antarctic had always been a long-term goal of his and that his experience at DGFC helped get him this job. Charlotte Yeung has also been working in the Antarctic as well as South Georgia, as a polar historian on expedition ships. Her job includes teaching people about famous explorers, the effects of whaling, and the Antarctic fauna. After their stay at DG they will visit Sipadan to go diving. In July they will head to the Arctic. Happy travels!

Anglia Ruskin Field Course

Students from Anglia Ruskin University, joined us for a few days this month, lead by lecturers Fabrizio, Sophie, and Alvin. They helped with Jamie and Lil's projects on butterflies and hollow logs, completed primate transects, night walks and early morning bird transects. We wish them all luck in their animal behaviour, and ecology Masters programmes!



Science Corner

Lim, H., Gardner, P., Abram, N., Yusah, K., Goossens, B. (2019). Identifying habitat and understanding movement resistance for the endangered Bornean banteng *Bos javanicus lowi* in Sabah, Malaysia. *Oryx*

The endangered Bornean banteng *Bos javanicus lowi*, a wild bovid endemic to Borneo, occurs in habitat that is highly fragmented as a result of extensive agricultural expansion. During 2011–2016, camera trap surveys were carried out in 14 forest reserves. The surveys comprised a total of 44,251 trap-nights, recording the presence of banteng in 11 of the 14 reserves. The key spatial predictors deemed to be important in predicting suitable habitat included soil associations (52.6%), distance to intact and logged forests (11.8%), precipitation in the driest quarter (10.8%), distance to agro-forest and regenerating forest (5.7%), and distance to oil palm plantations (5.1%).



Science Corner

Kaszta, Z., Cushman, S., Hearn, A., Burnham, D., Macdonald, E., Goossens, B., Nathan, S., Macdoald, D. (2019). Integrating Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*) conservation into development and restoration planning in Sabah (Borneo). *Biological Conservation* 235: 63-76

In this study, several methods were integrated from landscape ecology and landscape genetics into a GIS-based analytical framework, and evaluated the impacts of development and forest restoration scenarios on landscape connectivity, population dynamics and genetic diversity of Sunda clouded leopard in the Malaysian state of Sabah. The study suggests that the current clouded leopard population size is larger (+26%) than the current carrying capacity of the landscape. Proposed developments in Sabah may decrease landscape connectivity by 23% and, when including the increased mortality risk associated with these developments, result in a 40–63% decrease in population size and substantial reduction in genetic diversity. These negative impacts could be mitigated only to a very limited degree through extensive and targeted forest restoration.



Conservation Corner

The pen-tailed treeshrew (*Ptilocercus lowii*) is a small mammal native to Borneo, southern Thailand and the Malay Peninsula. These treeshrews are in the genus *Ptilocercus*, separate to other treeshrews. They are nocturnal, usually arboreal and feed on insects and other arthropods. They are recognisable by their distinctive feather like tail tip and relatively large eyes and ears.

According to a study of treeshrews in Malaysia, they spend several hours per night consuming the equivalent of 10 to 12 glasses of wine with an alcohol content up to 3.8% drinking naturally fermented nectar of the bertam palm!



The camera trap image (left) was captured as part of PTY Elizabeth's project looking into the use of hollows in the forest surrounding DGFC.

Match the Print!

1



2



3



4



A



B



C



D



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.*

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