



Jungle Times

Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Est. 2008



Issue No. 129:
January 2020

*Photo of the Month Credit:
Ariff Azlan Alymann*

Inside This Issue:

Page 3: What's Going On?

Page 5: Visitors!

Page 12: Arrivals

Page 14: Notable Publications



Find us on:
facebook



Follow us on
Instagram

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to DGFC Jungle Times, here are some of our favourite photos from the first month of this new decade, we hope it will be a good one for us and our wildlife.





What's Going On?



INL WORKSHOP ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Starting on the 15th January 2020 and lasting two days a workshop on illegal wildlife trade and counteracting measures in Sabah was held in Kota Kinabalu. This workshop was officiated by Dr Jamili Nais who is the new Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment, this was his first assignment. Government officers from many different departments discussed how to create more efficient communication between agencies and how their collaboration can support the existing State Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Trade Task Force. Funding for a project entitled “Boosting enforcement and forensic capacity to deter wildlife trafficking in Sabah” was awarded by the US Government last October, one of the aims of which is to create an inter-agency Working Group on Wildlife Crime Intelligence, which was discussed at the workshop. This is a step in the right direction to protect our wildlife!



What's Going On?



PANGOLIN SCULPTURE LAUNCH

“This (statue) will generate greater appreciation and understanding of not just the wildlife here, but the cultural diversity, too”. On the 23rd January 2020 a Pangolin sculpture was unveiled at Kota Kinabalu Airport. This sculpture aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to the illegal trade of pangolins for both food and traditional medicine. The recycled Pangolin statue is currently front and center at the arrival's hall, catch it while you still can before it moves onto Tawau airport! If you take a picture with the statue be sure to use the hashtags #protectourpangolin and #kamisayangtenggiling when you post the photo on social media (Quote and Picture: Datuk Christina Liew, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment. ©GilWoolley/scubazoo.com)

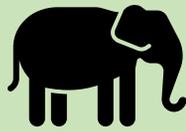


Visitor Fact File



PATRICK JAMES WILLIAMSON

Pat is from Melbourne, Australia, and he has come to visit DG for two nights as he is currently living in Malaysia. He has been based in KL for a month already, and will be there for a few more months after this trip, where he is setting up a conservation project which is an NGO called Elephants, Rhinos and People. The aims of this NGO short term are to aid antipoaching and law enforcement in Malaysia, and in the long term they wish to see rural poverty elimination through conservation based projects. He has a degree in conservation and wildlife biology, which led him to working in Africa for the past four years creating GIS maps, to aid with antipoaching and elephant management. And after that he started work as a consultant for the initiative group Elephants. He came to DG to go and look at the botanic plots managed by Kopel and see how the work they are doing involves the local community, he also has a lot of experience in tree planting which made him even more interested! The highlight of his stay was walking through the botanic plots around the centre and witnessing all the wildlife that live there.



Visitor Fact File



CATHERINE STURROCK

Cat is currently on her placement year in Jakarta as part of her undergraduate degree in Politics and International Relations with the University of Birmingham. She met one of our PTYs, Tyler, whilst climbing Mount Kilimanjaro last summer. She is currently taking some holiday time from her studies to travel around Borneo, before DG she spent a few days in Sandakan and Sepilok, and after this she will travel to KK for a few days. She is from the UK and she will return there this summer before continuing into her final year of university. Whilst Cat was here she did lots of activities such as going out on the boat to look for birds and primates, and her main priority was spotting a crocodile, which she saw many of along the river bank! She also helped us with tracking the civets we currently have collared; Scar, Eddie and Alpha.



Visitor Fact File



XAVIER LÒPEZ MEDELLIN & T. GUELLE MARTINEZ B. EÒN

Xavier and Guelle are from Mexico and have come to visit DG for two nights. They were recommended DG from Xavier's uncle, Rodrigo A. Medellin. Guelle works as a graphic designer and in the music industry. Xavier works in the field of conservation working to tackle human wildlife conflicts. He works with local farmers to research crop damage from wildlife and, by doing so, change public perception of these issues. Their best moment was joining the river cruise in search of primates. They also enjoyed joining civet tracking - despite the mud!



Visitor Fact File



JEFF BURKHART, JOYCE OWER AND THOMAS BAXTER

Whilst both Joyce and Thomas are new visitors to DG this has been Jeff's fourth trip. Jeff was a tropical biology professor at University of La Verne, he first visited in 2011 after the recommendation from a former student. He loved it so much he brought his students on a field course the following year. Joyce used to be a high school teacher before moving and starting a horse ranch. Thomas is an entrepreneur from Hawaii and loves to travel. Their best moment from this trip has been watching a mother orangutan with her baby build a nest for the night. Joyce has had a special interest in Borneo and orangutans since her studies in cultural anthropology. Jeff's favourite memory was from his visit in 2012 where they spotted a clouded leopard walking along the main path!



Visitor Fact File



ALAN GARRICK, AMY GARRICK, TOBY GARRICK, MARGARET LEE & JIMMY LEE

Alan Garrick, his wife Amy Garrick and their son Toby Garrick were accompanied by Amy's mother Margaret Lee and her husband Jimmy Lee for a couple of days here at DGFC.

The group had travelled here from Kota Kinabalu where they live, and where Amy teaches in one of the local primary schools. Amy learnt about DG through having Naollin, Benoit and Milena's son, in her year one class. Amy said that "in first year we have a topic that looks at animals of the jungle, and marine animals. Some of the boys including Naollin were very knowledgeable about all the animals and it really was quite inspiring! We were also fortunate to have both Benoit and Elisa come in and talk to the children about pangolins, which they fall in love with every year". Alan stated that "we came here because it was a unique experience. Living in Borneo it's surprising how little of the jungle that you actually get to go and see, so being able to just be IN it was great".



Visitor Fact File

ALAN GARRICK, AMY GARRICK, TOBY GARRICK, MARGARET LEE &
JIMMY LEE CONTINUED

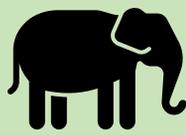
Their son Toby was especially happy to see the monkeys, snakes and crocodiles. His favourite part was the night boat “because when you looked up there was no light pollution, and we could see the stars really clearly, which was very nice”.

Amy’s mother Margaret and her husband Jimmy had joined the Garrick’s on their trip as it coincided with them visiting the family, and they saw how enthused they were about it. Margaret said that “I really didn’t know what to expect, other than that there would be a lot of wildlife, and it’s been absolutely brilliant to see things like the proboscis monkeys, macaques and the orangutans in their natural environment. My favourite part was probably the night walk, which I was dreading. I’m not so keen on spiders, but honestly they didn’t bother me one bit. The whole experience has been fantastic”.

Jimmy said “to be honest, I am a local to Sabah, but I have never really paid a lot of attention to the wildlife before I got here. It has been a privilege to be amongst like-minded people here, and I feel very honoured to be amongst the boffins of wildlife here. I really enjoyed the whole experience. It’s been incredible and a massive thank you to everyone at DG”.

Both Amy and Alan agreed that their favourite activity was the night walk as well, with Alan saying that “nowhere else could you go into the jungle at night and on your own without a guide”.

Amy closed the interview by saying that “the best thing about DG is just coming here and learning new things. And there is definitely a lot to learn about here!”



Visitor Fact File



ARIFF AZLAN ALYMANN

Ariff volunteered with us for a few months last year, and he came back this time just for a few weeks to see the wildlife before beginning field work for his masters. He will be doing an MRes in ecology with University of Nottingham and his study focuses on Asian water monitor lizards (*Varanus salvator*), specifically the genetic diversity, morphological variation, diet and ectoparasite load across different habitat types, including plantations and forest in Peninsular Malaysia. Whilst he was here he helped with setting up clouded leopard traps along the Batangan wildlife corridor, tracking civets and helping the PTY students with their projects.

“I really enjoy walking in the jungle and I had missed the peace and quiet, my highlight this time was definitely watching the sunset on the boat after coming back from afternoon activities.”



Volunteer Arrival



HANNAH SCHWARTPAUL

Hannah is a vet student from Germany studying at University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover and is currently on a placement year to gain experience. During this year she undertakes several different types of internship to give herself some variety. She will be a volunteer here for three months to learn about the job of a wildlife veterinarian. She will be spending time with Maca the vet here and will be her assistant on any collaring procedures, hopefully she will be able to get hands on as we currently have traps out for civets and clouded leopards and sun bears again soon! She is most excited to be living in the Bornean rainforest as she has never visited here before, and get involved with the other volunteer activities. She has already seen a civet on a night walk and she hopes to soon see an orangutan. We are excited to have her working alongside us!



PTY Arrivals



KATIE WEBB & EMMA REMOTTI

Emma and Katie have joined us as permanent PTYs at Danau Girang Field Centre. They are both studying Biological Science at Cardiff University. Katie is a keen hiker and is looking forward to being based in the jungle for all the walks on the trails. Emma enjoys being out on the boat and is always on the lookout for wildlife. Both of their research projects will focus on the restoration efforts of Kopel and Danau Girang. Emma's project will focus on invertebrates while Katie will study butterflies. Both of these organisms can be used as biological indicators. These projects will investigate invertebrate biodiversity in the restoration plots. Both these methods can be continued to allow for long term monitoring.



Notable Publications



Natural and anthropogenic drivers of Bornean elephant movement strategies.

Luke J. Evans, Benoit Goossens, Andrew B. Davies, Glen Reynolds, Gregory P. Asner

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989419306018>

A paper was recently published in *Global Ecology and Conservation Journal* which discusses the features influencing elephant movements. These features were explored using an airborne laboratory, which helped to uncover information about the types of habitats elephants used and where they travelled through. Bornean elephants are endangered and it is well known that they are threatened by deforestation and conversion of rainforest land to use for palm oil. The researchers main discoveries were that elephants move quickly through areas with less vegetation and they try to avoid urban areas. The aim of this research is to look at the type of space elephants need to roam, and what type of wildlife corridors need better protection in the future. They also estimated home ranges using specific models and behavioural movement traits. Something else interesting that was noticed from the movements, is that the population is likely to be existing above carrying capacity.



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 Departments 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.

Contact Us:

Danau Girang Field Centre

Lot 6

The Jungle

Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary

Sabah

Email: contact@dgfc.life

Web Page Address: www.dgfc.life

Editors: Harriet Miles, Olivia Fitzpatrick, Katie Webb, Emma Remotti, Kirsty Leach, Tyler Cuddy

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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

