



The Jungle Times

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Welcome

It's our final issue of Jungle Times ☹️. We are all very sad to leave the jungle, but we have had an amazing year and hope to be back one day! Enjoy this issue and welcome to the new PTYs next month!

Josie Alice Becky



Conservation drones

During a short visit to Sabah by the "conservationdrones.org" team, Lian Pin Koh (from ETH Zurich) and Serge Wich (from Universität Zurich), conservation drones were tested at DGFC. Conservation Drones are inexpensive, autonomous and operator-friendly unmanned aerial vehicles for surveying and mapping forests and biodiversity. Non-technical operators can program each mission by defining waypoints along a flight path using an open-source software. These Conservation Drones are able to fly pre-programmed missions autonomously for a total flight time of up to ~50 minutes and over a distance of ~25 km. Depending on the camera system installed, these drones can record videos of up to 1080 pixel resolution, and acquire aerial photographs of <10 cm pixel resolution. Aerial photographs can be stitched together to produce near real-time geo-referenced land use/cover maps of surveyed areas. Therefore, these Conservation Drones have great potential for environmental and conservation applications, which include near real-time mapping of local land cover, monitoring of illegal forest activities, and surveying of large animal species (text taken from conservationdrones.org).



Commercial drone



Serge Wich's and Koh Lian Pin's conservation drone

DGFC will certainly acquire a couple of these conservation drones!
Enjoy the aerial pictures taken during a few flights in Lots 5 and 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, and especially of Tuah's home range (1st proboscis monkey satellite-collared last August 2011 by Sabah Wildlife Department and DGFC) and of our field centre!



From top left: Serge programming the drone, launching of the commercial drone, launching of the conservation drone, commercial drone landing and setting up the conservation drone



Left column: Aerial view of DGFC jetty, DGFC's administration building, hostel and studios and Danau Girang.

Right column: A few pictures of Tuah's home range (the collared proboscis monkey).

Miami University in Borneo



Miami University in Borneo

Field course season has been kick started this month by Miami University. Two groups of Masters students, studying primate conservation through 'Project Dragonfly', came to our field centre to take part in a range of activities including nocturnal primate tracking and evening river surveys.



Whilst here, the students learned about all the current projects at DG and were free to enjoy the forest trails in their free time. For three days the field courses were split up into project groups and designed and implemented their own 'Inquiry Projects'.

Some of which included:

- Natural Vs Chemical insect repellents
- Slope Selection of basking crocodiles
- Ant species richness in two different habitats

After their stay here, the field courses travelled down river to Sukau to work with HUTAN for a further week of forest experiences!



“Thanks again DGFC. Another wonderful field course, we look forward to working with you again!”

Ron and Jenny- Field Course Leaders, Borneo I

Goodbye Becky!

Becky came to the end of her year long stay as a PTY student here at DG in the middle of the month. As you know from previous Jungle Times, Becky's project was continuing camera trapping of the corridor. Over the year she captured some amazing photos on the camera traps including clouded leopards, sun bears and even us wishing her happy birthday! We have compiled some photos for you all to enjoy! We miss you Becky!



This month's volunteers

Meaghan Harris , 3rd Year Zoology, Miami University, USA

Has a keen interest in camera trapping and is here to continue our monitoring of the corridor after Becky has left. She is here for 2 months and will be checking camera traps on the orangutan bridges too! Meaghan will also join the Miami University Dragonfly Project on their trip to Sukau.



Miguel Sanchez, Estacion Biologica de Donana – CSIC -Spain

Volunteered at DG for 10 days in preparation for his PhD; mammal trapping in the vicinity of Mount Kinabalu. Miguel helped Jenny with her mammal trapping and habitat analysis, we wish him luck with his future studies!

Clare Baranowski, 1st year Zoology student, Cardiff University, UK

“My arrival in DG was followed by 24 hours of the best wildlife sightings I have ever experienced. Minutes after stepping onto the boat, I had witnessed 5 m crocodiles, a white bellied sea eagle, wild pigs and on my first few nights in DG I went out at night with 'froglady' Josie and 'Nocturnal primates' Alice. We saw civets, leopard cats, plenty of frogs and of course two beautiful tarsiers. I am here for 7 weeks and I am helping PhD student, 'Jenmeister'. My favourite part of DG is the fact it is one big family, everyone is hard working and learning constantly. The centre shares its findings both locally and globally, but also interacts with all of the Sabah wildlife centres to ensure effective safety and research for both the scientists and animals involved. It is a perfect balance of research and communication. Although this is my first taste of terrestrial conservation, I can certainly see myself coming back in the future”.



June's Visitors

Dr Robyn Wilson

Robyn studied arboreal folivores for her PhD at James Cook University, Australia and is currently working with Monash University, Malaysia. She was interested in visiting our field centre and joined Alice and Becky to track the tarsiers and check the camera traps.



http://www.jcu.edu.au/ees/staff/adjunct/JCUP_RD_052947.html

Chris Gwilliams, Computer Science, Cardiff University, UK

This was Chris' second visit to DG for his PhD. Chris is designing a way to improve the efficiency of camera trapping by sorting and sending images to base camp as they are being taken. He took part in the collection and categorizing of camera traps with Meaghan as well as testing out his circuits along some of our forest trails.



Camilla Goossens

Recognise that last name? Well this month we welcomed Ben's cousin to DG. Camilla is a second year veterinary science student in France and is here on a 2 month internship. During her stay Camilla will be helping Danica by studying the endoparasites in proboscis monkey fecal samples and comparing two different methods.



Pics of the Month!



Photos left to right: Jenny with a fat lip after a bee sting!; Green dragon lizard; Priscillia's leaving party; reticulated python at DG jetty; lantern bug; blood python; Igo; colourful butterflies; Sabtu the baby Western tarsier; Yoshi's Bow Fingered gecko; Syarlina; Orangutan; Samsir's birthday; mushrooms; common palm civet; Alice, Carole and Samsir being butterflies; Becky's leaving party.

Pics of our Year!

Unfortunately we have come to our final Jungle Times issue. We are so sad to leave DG but we have had the most incredible year, which surpassed our expectations more than we could have ever imagined. Here are some of our are favourite memories, thanks DG... We will be back!



Tarsier photo credit: Chris Bray

Spot the Difference!



For our final month, Benoit is the star of spot the difference! Can you spot the 5 differences between the photos?



- Answers:
- 1: Elephant collar gone
 - 2: shoe off
 - 3: Two DG logos on shirt
 - 4: knife handle gone
 - 5: Cap on

Conservation Corner: Frogs



Introduction

So far, 31 species of frogs have been found on surveys along the Kinabatangan River. Frogs have several characteristics such as permeable skin that makes them very sensitive. Therefore any changes to the environmental conditions around them could be detrimental to their populations.

Threats

Global decline of amphibians is due to several reasons including **habitat loss, land use change, the chytrid fungus, UV radiation, pollution, invasive species and illegal poaching**. Globally **one third of amphibians are threatened**. In South East Asia, the main threat is habitat loss.

There is a huge wealth of diversity within amphibia as a group that may never be discovered due to detrimental human influences on their habitats.

Conservation

Identification, establishment and strict protection of Important Amphibian Areas (IAAs) for Conservation is essential.

Efficient and frequent surveying throughout this region is vital to allow us to predict population changes and take actions if they are needed.

Training and involvement of local people to educate them on the importance of amphibians and why they should protect them.

Investigation into captive breeding programs depending on the threat of fungal diseases

For more information on frogs in Borneo and the global threats they are facing please visit:

www.amphibiaweb.org

www.frogsofborneo.org

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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