



The Jungle Times

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Visitors...



Paul Clenton: A volunteer assisting with the sun bear project at DGFC for 2 weeks.

Malaysian Palm Oil Council: Visited DG to sample a range of activities from crocodile surveying to helping with the sun bear project.

TV5 Monde team: A group of journalists from Belgium came to DG for 2 nights to film some of the current projects.

Konstans Well, Experimental Ecology: Visited DG for 3 days to carry out a recce.

Elephant Family: Four senior members of the charity visited DG for 1 night. See page 7 for an interview with the group about the work of the charity.

Goodbyes...



Rudi Delvaux: Over the past 3 months Rudi has been carrying out a project on frogs in epiphytes. He returns to Belgium to complete his masters. In addition, Rudi is a wildlife photographer and in his time here he has taken some truly fantastic photos. Here's a selection of his best shots:



Kathrin and Annette:

Over the last 6 months at DG, they have been working on proboscis monkeys. Together they have collected faecal samples to study parasites, hormones and genetics for their PhD's. They also made audio recordings to study sexual selection.



See you both next year!

Siganas becomes the third crocodile tagged at DG !

On the 7th of October 2012, a 5.18 metre estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) was caught. It took over 10 people to restrain the animal before the samples could be taken and the tag attached.



DG's Luke Evans, a PhD student from Cardiff University, is currently undertaking a project on estuarine crocodiles. As part of his study he aims to catch and tag up to 10 crocodiles throughout Sabah. Thus far two crocodiles have been tagged; Girang in June 2011 and Lais in January 2012. However, only 2 months worth of data was received before the signal died. It is hoped this tag will last longer so that more information on range and movements can be obtained.



Two Bornean elephants radio collared near DGFC!

On 19th October, two Bornean elephants were radio collared near Danau Pitas of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (LKWS). The elephant satellite collaring programme is funded by Houston Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Elephant Family, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and US Fish and Wildlife Service. This project is a collaboration between Sabah Wildlife Department, HUTAN and DGFC.



A bull named Gading was re-collared since the previous collar failed in May 2012. A new female Puteri, was also collared on the same day. On the 22nd of October 2012 the collarings were featured in the local press. This project will allow vital data on the elephants movement to be collected. Thus, it will be possible to identify areas important for connectivity along the length of the Kinabatangan River.

Elephant collaring's photo album...



THE LARGEST ENGLISH DAILY IN BORNEO

THE BORNEO POST

<p>Heartbreak for father as grad dies before convo</p>		<p>Landscape connectivity needed for elephants A7</p>		<p>Students take part in Malaysia's first Eco-School program A8</p>	
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Elephant Family visit DGFC!

Fresh from witnessing the collaring of two elephants in Danau Pitas. Four members of Elephant Family charity came to visit DGFC for two days.



We sat down with Ruth Powys (Chief Executive) and Fiona McKinstrie (Head of Communications) to talk through their time in Sabah...

What is the Elephant Family?

“We are the only UK conservation charity solely dedicated to funding projects on the Asian elephant. We campaign at an international level and most of our profits are made from large-scale art exhibitions and auctions. We have just found out that the Elephant Family will be Deutsche Bank’s Charity of the Year, this is fantastic as they have never chosen a UK conservational charity until now!”

The Elephant Family is 10 years old next year, have you got anything planned?

“Based on the story of Noah’s Ark, a huge Ark will be on display for 40 days and 40 nights in one of London’s largest parks. With a range of artists painting sculptures of endangered animals going into the Ark two-by-two. An animal themed masked ball is also set to happen in 2013, people will buy a specially designed mask instead of a ticket!”

What is the most successful auction the Elephant Family has held?

“In 2010, we put on the ‘Elephant Parade’, the biggest outdoor art exhibition in London ever. It was the turning point for Elephant Family, we were able to make the transition from being a small welfare charity into a proper conservation charity! The most successful piece was an elephant sculpture painted by the famous Scottish painter, Jack Vettriano and sold for £155,000!”

What has been your favourite thing about your visit to DGFC?

Ruth: “Meeting everyone who have massive passion for the work they do out here, it’s re-energising for us who work in London. We obviously loved it when we saw our first elephant in Borneo!”

Fiona: “We loved going with Luke to go crocodile hunting! It was also great meeting all the students, how everyone has separate ideas but work as a team is truly inspiring.”

You were at the two recent elephant collaring’s, how was that?

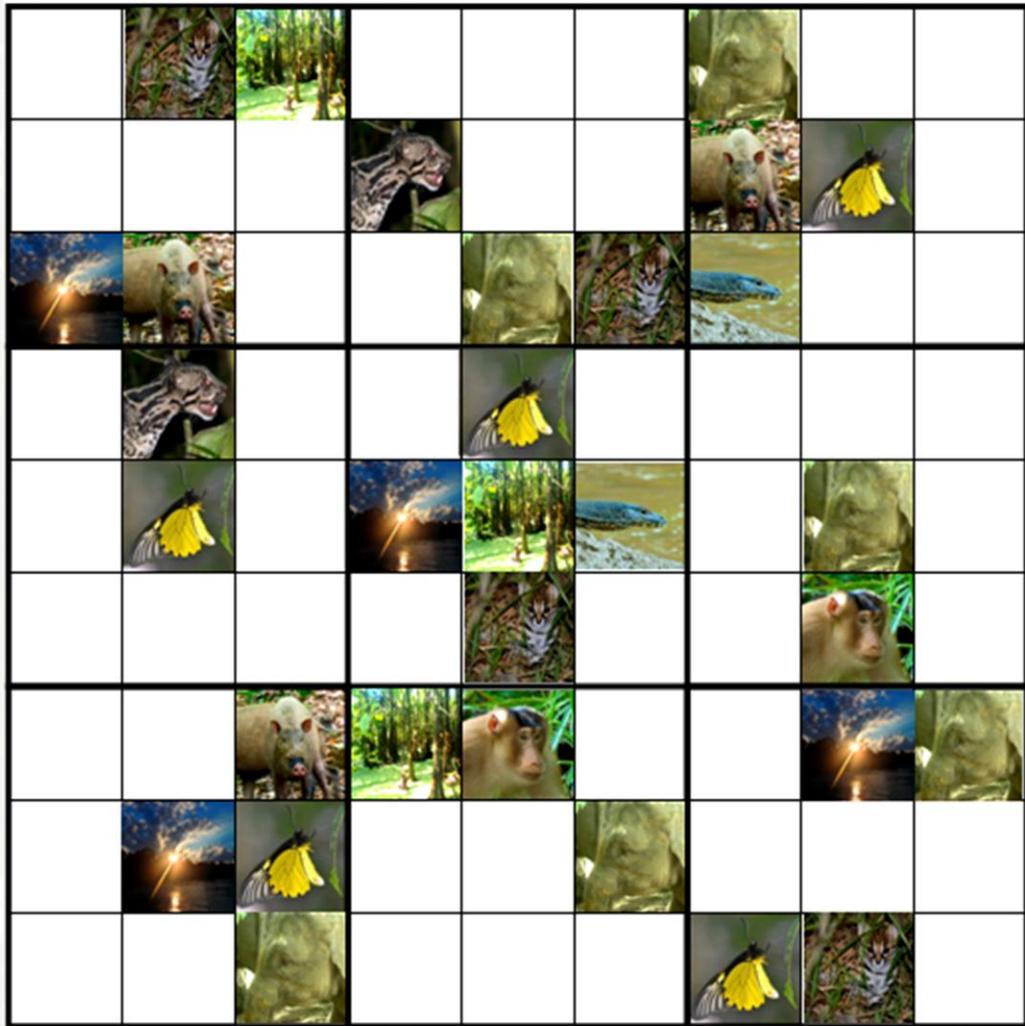
“It was full-on emersion into field word, it felt a bit like Jurassic Park, seeing the massive footprints in the mud! We literally got our hands dirty and went straight into the deep end. We’ve never been with a wild elephant for that long and hearing the range of sounds they make was amazing. Seeing how passionate Farina (Nurzaharina Othman) was and how she’s out there doing what she loves even with a daughter. We felt really honoured to be part of the team that day and got a sense of what people are talking about when they say about the spiritual significance of the elephant.”

You can read more about Elephant Family at : www.elephantfamily.org

Jungle Sudoku!

A jungle twist on the classic Sudoku cube. Your task: To fill in the blanks...

There's only one rule... All nine animals must appear once and only once in each row, column and box (bold lined).



Animals this month:

- ❖ Young elephant (Camera trapping project)
- ❖ Sunset over the Kinabatangan River (Grace Dibden)
- ❖ Leopard cat (Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Pig-tailed macaque (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Bearded pig (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Butterfly (Baharudin Resake)
- ❖ Monitor lizard (Rudi Delvaux)
- ❖ Forest swamp (Grace Dibden)
- ❖ Clouded leopard (Rudi Delvaux)

Conservation Corner:

Flat-headed cat.

Scientific name: *Prionailurus planiceps*

ICUN status: Endangered (IUCN red list)

Wild Population trend: Decreasing



Found only in the Malayan Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra, this semi-aquatic carnivore is usually found in lowland forests below 100m. They have slightly webbed feet more similar to mustelids than other felids. They primarily feed on fish and freshwater invertebrates. Human disturbance of their wetlands homes is likely to reduce the current estimated population of 2,500 individuals by 20% in the next 12 years.

Threats:

- **Habitat destruction:** 94% of wetlands in south east Asia are threatened
- **Depletion of fish stocks:** over fishing in wetland habitats
- **Hunting**
- **Conversion of land for agriculture**

Conservation:

- Fully protected by law in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
- Listed on the CITES Appendix I.
- Further research is needed in order to understand its basic ecology, so suitable habitat can be protected.

Pics of the Month!



Photos left to right: Bushy crested hornbill (Budin-B) leopard cat (B); reticulated python (Helen Cadwallader-HC); flying fox (B); orang-utan mother and baby (Mike Reynolds-MR); grey-headed fish eagle (B); western tarsier (B); estuarine crocodile (HC); Harlequin tree frog (HC); small carnivore sampling; buffy fish owls mating (B); Mike climbs the canopy platform; ants nest in a rolled up leaf (HC), monitor lizard (MR); white crowned hornbill (HC); a spider spins insect in its web (HC).

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
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