



The Jungle Times

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Visitors



Chris Gwilliams: A PhD student from Cardiff University visited DG for 2 weeks this month to test software for camera traps.

Dr Wendy Tori and Dr Jose Pareja: Visited DG during Miami 2 to see how the centre runs with the view of setting up a field course from Earlham College, USA.

David Garshelis, Lorraine Scotson and Wong Siew Te:

Roshan's MSc advisor, David Garshelis (co-chair, IUCN Bear Specialist Group, University of Minnesota), one of his PhD students, Lorraine and Wong (founder and CEO of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, BSBCC) came to DG for 5 days to explore the sun bear project being carried out in the Kinabatangan.

Majalah 3 (TV3, Malaysian TV) film crew: The film crew came to interview a few of the students including Danica Stark for a programme on Sabah Wildlife Department and Wildlife Rescue Unit activities. DGFC is working hand-in-hand with Wildlife Rescue Unit on several projects (elephant, proboscis monkey, crocodile, etc). It will be on air in July 2013.

Another 10 years!

On Monday 10th June 2013, Sabah Wildlife Department (represented by Hussien Muin, Kinabatangan District Officer) and Cardiff University (represented by Benoit Goossens, Director of DGFC) signed an extension of the current MoU for the management of Danau Girang Field Centre for another 10 years.



The signing ceremony was witnessed by Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Datuk Pang Yuk Ming. A press release was published on the 12th of June in all local and national newspapers in several languages.

Sabah Wildlife Department extends collaboration with Cardiff University

KINABATANGAN: The Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) is continuing its collaboration with Cardiff University for another ten years with the signing of an extension of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the management of Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC), located in Lot 6 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

The MoU was signed by Director of DGFC, Dr Benoit Goossens on behalf of Cardiff University while the Sabah Wildlife Department was represented by its Senior Officer for Kinabatangan District Hussien Muin at the DGFC on Monday.

"The signing of this extension for another ten years acknowledges an extremely successful relationship between the Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University," said Datuk Pang Yuk Ming, Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, who witnessed the signing.

"I was told by Dr Goossens that the field centre is now welcoming an average of ten field courses per year from different universities in the World (USA, UK, Germany, Hong Kong)," he said.

"This is testament to all the hard

work that the staff at the centre have put in. The field centre also welcomes numerous students from masters to PhDs, including several from Malaysia whom I had the opportunity to meet," he added.

"Moreover, it employs 16 staff, including 13 locals and it has set up its own River Keeper Unit to assist the Sabah Wildlife Department in its wildlife enforcement work," Pang said.

Meanwhile, Goossens said: "We value our collaboration with the Sabah State Government extremely highly and this day marks another major event

in that collaboration.

"It hardly seems possible that the centre has been open for five years already; progress has been excellent during that time thanks to the hard work of my team, our centre manager Mark Rampaogajouw and my dedicated staff and students," he added.

Goossens also said a number of university field courses, school visits, expeditions and research activities had been carried out at the centre during the past five years and funds had also been raised from international and national bodies such as the Sime Darby Foundation and the Malaysian Palm Oil

Council.

"The centre is financially self-sustaining and I am confident that DGFC will become an important base for biodiversity monitoring and assessment, training and capacity building in the region for years to come," he added.

"During those last 12 months we have had an increase in Malaysian students requesting to work or study at DGFC and this is something I hope will continue in the future. Sabah's biodiversity is one of its greatest assets and we feel privileged to be involved in studying the dynamics of animal and plant populations in Kinabatangan," Goossens said.

Meanwhile, Director of Sabah Wildlife Department Datuk Dr Lanretnus Ambu said: "During the coming ten years, we expect to see the centre expand its research and maintain its teaching activities to the excellent current standard. It is our major goal to increase the management relevance of our research and to instigate a comprehensive education program for students and professionals from Malaysia and elsewhere in South-East Asia."

"On top of these important activities, we hope the centre can play an increasing role in biodiversity assessment and monitoring at the Kinabatangan floodplain and help us manage the sanctuary. This important floodplain, now part of an internationally recognised RAMSAR site, deserves nothing less," added Ambu. - PR



Dr Benoit Goossens (left) and Hussien Muin signing the extension of the MoU.



Datuk Pang Yuk Ming (front row, 3rd right), posing in a group photograph with Moktar Yassin Ajam, Secretary for Internal Affairs and Research (front row, 2nd left), Rosli Jakrana from MESOT (front row, 3rd left), Hussien Muin (front row, 2nd right), Dr Benoit Goossens (front row, 4th right) and DGFC students and staff.

Sugud Islands Marine Research Centre

On Sunday 9 June 2013, Reef Guardian Sdn Bhd, Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of the Sugud Islands Marine Research Centre (SIMRC) in Billean Island, located in the Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area.



The signing ceremony was witnessed by Assistant Minister for Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Pang Yuk Ming. Benoit Goossens signed the MoU on behalf of Professor Colin Riordan, Vice Chancellor of Cardiff University. DGFC is proud to embark in this new venture.



Miami Field Courses

From 11th to 16th June 2013, DGFC received the first group of Miami University (Ohio) students. The Global Field Program (GFP) brings Master's degree candidates, scientists, educators, community leaders, and others together at conservation hotspots in Africa, Asia and the Americas.



The GFP combines summer field courses worldwide with web learning communities allowing this Master's degree to be completed part-time from anywhere in the US or abroad. All DGFC students (PhDs, Masters and PTYs) provided assistance during the field course. 22nd June saw the arrival of the second Miami field course, read on to see photo albums and leader interviews from both field courses.



Miami 1 photo album:



The Leaders are interviewed

Miami 1:



We sat down to speak to the two leaders of the first Miami Field Course, Corrin LaCombe and Katie Remine.

Where do you currently work and can you give us a quick description of your job?

Corrin:

I am the Conversation Education Research Co-ordinator for San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. The main aim of my job is to tackle the human dimension for the zoo conservation projects through education and research.

Katie:

My job title is School and Community Engagement Supervisor for Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. My team is involved in schools, providing conservation education as well as engaging community members in conservation.

How did you come to be a leader on the Miami Field Course?

Both of the zoos we work for are partnered with the University and we were asked to help lead one of the 5-day courses due to our backgrounds in conservation education.

What would you say is your biggest achievement to date in your current job?**Corrin:**

Bringing locally produced handicrafts from local women in Peru to the zoo gift shops to create environmentally friendly jobs. Also, to inform guests that through buying these products they can support and save animals such as the Andean bear.

Katie:

I'm really excited that I have just secured funding for a project we are starting at the zoo. It will work to engage 12 year olds in investigating carnivores in their community through methods such as camera trapping.

Can you sum up the experience you have had in DGFC?**Corrin:**

It's been a pleasure to be immersed in the cultural and biological magic that exists here! And to meet such dedicated scientists who are committed to help us better understand this place and to conserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Katie:

I've been really excited to learn about all the different research projects going on here. There are still so many unanswered questions and so much to learn! I really admire how everyone here seems to have really thought about the questions we need to know answers to, to help conserve this amazing place.

Miami 2 photo album:



The Leaders are interviewed

Miami 2:



A few days after Miami 1 left for Sukau, the second field course arrived at DG, we had a chat with the two leaders, Jenny Mears & Katie Corr, during the week about their jobs in the US and the experiences they've had at DG.

What is your current job in the US and what are your main responsibilities?

Jenny:

I work in the Education Department at Woodlands Park Zoo as a Community Engagement Co-ordinator, my main role is co-ordinating the Masters degree for educators which offers stewardship options for adults amongst other great opportunities.

Katie:

I work at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in Ohio as an Education specialist. I am in charge of running the advanced enquiry masters programme at the Zoo.

How did you come to be a leader on the Miami Field Course?

We are both graduates of the programme and were student leaders in our third year. Both zoos also have a partnership with Project Dragonfly and HUTAN.

What is your biggest achievement to date in your current job?

Jenny:

Inspiring local and global conservation through programmes and engaging the audiences into taking action.

Katie:

Launching the masters programme, the programme is full now which is great! All the students do amazing diverse projects, all aiming to aid conserving our world.

What experience will you take away from DGFC?

Jenny:

I love how the students come away having seen all the amazing wildlife that can exist here in secondary forest. It's great to get a glimpse into your lives as researchers and what it's like to actually do field research. They all come away with a great insight into your world, which they can take back to their classrooms, zoos and other workplaces in the US.

Katie:

To students and instructors researchers can sometimes seem "scary", it's great to meet you guys who are researchers but also just normal people like us. Spending time getting to know you all and spending time on your projects makes them recognise that they can be scientists right now, not in a few years time after they graduate. You can be studying crocodiles, sun bear or hornbills in the Bornean rainforest or doing a science project with third graders, it's all science.

Slow Loris Awareness week in Indonesia

In early June, Priscillia Miard a Masters student currently studying nocturnal primates at DG spent a week in Indonesia for Slow Loris Awareness week. During her time in Indonesia Priscillia worked with children in Cikananga a small village on the Island of Java. The activities were arranged as part of the “Little Fireface project” to increase awareness of Slow Loris conservation.



Priscilla reflects on her trip “ It was great to get the chance to learn from experienced researchers such as Anna Nekaris and the chance to see so many slow lorises in such a different environment was amazing! I have learnt so many things, that I will take back to DG”.



Tarsier collaring

On 17th June, a female western tarsier was caught on the trails of DGFC by MESCOT staff Ateh and Fauzy. She was taken back to the lab and the routine samples and measurements were taken by Danica Stark and Dr. Sergio Guerrero Sanchez before setting up a radio-collar.



Minah will be tracked for the next 8 months. We will be recording her home range, habitat use and behaviour to understand the requirements of tarsiers in a disturbed habitat. Here's a map for her sleeping tree sites for the first few days after being released:



Karen Folk Professional Training Year Scholarships

During this month the very first 'Karen Folk Professional Training Year Scholarship' were awarded to two of the four new PTYs for 2013-2014. The scholarship is awarded to assist the student in funding their Professional Training Year at DG.



In the picture above, John Robertson presents the cheques to the lucky recipients, Sarah Joscelyne on the left and Hannah Wilson on the right. Sarah and Hannah will arrive in Danau Girang Field Centre during August 2013 and will stay for 12 months.

10 Years of Research in Tuanan

For the celebration of 10 years of research at Tuanan Orangutan Field Centre in Kapuas, Kalimantan, Universitas Nasional (UNAS) and University of Zurich organized a one-day workshop on genetics, taxonomy and population status of orangutans in Sumatra and Borneo bringing together experts to share their latest findings in order to define conservation units for the genus *Pongo*.



The workshop focused on sharing knowledge on genetic structure and demographic reconstruction, taxonomy and conservation of *Pongo* based on (1) identification of *Pongo* conservation units, (2) identification of areas of future research, and (3) meeting with Indonesian government officials and NGO representatives to discuss conservation measures. Benoit Goossens attended the workshop to share his knowledge on orangutan genetics and conservation for Sabah as well as Professor Mike Bruford (Cardiff University) who gave a talk on designating management units.

Clarice, our education officer, is back from the US!

Clarice Kelly Samih, DGFC education officer, came back from the US on 8th June, after spending three weeks in Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma Washington.



"In the first week, I joined the education team in Outreach Programs at the schools. I also followed Karen's team in Discovery Programs at the zoo for children aged 12 years and below. The children have the opportunity to discover, see and touch animal parts such as skull, skin, and bones."



"Thanks to Karen Povey and team in Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Dr. Benoit Goossens DGFC, Sime Darby Foundation and Sabah Wildlife Department!" Clarice will lead our education program within the Clouded Leopard project.

Other news...

A New Wildlife Genetic Forensic and Health Laboratory:

Sabah Wildlife Department together with partners EcoHealth Alliance and Danau Girang Field Centre, set up their very own Wildlife Genetic Forensic and Health Laboratory at Kg Potuki, Lok Kawi Wildlife Park.



New elephant collared!

On 19th June, Wildlife Rescue Unit and DGFC collared another elephant female in the Kinabatangan, during a shooting for Majalah 3 (or TV3). Sandi is the 9th individual (and 8th female) currently collared in the Kinabatangan.



Bornean elephant presentation:

Nurzhafarina Othman, PhD student at Cardiff University gave a presentation on the Bornean elephant at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.



Interview section: Dr Wendy Tori

What is your background?

I am from Peru and studied my undergraduate in Ecology at Universidad Nacional Agraria La Mohria. I have always been interested in animals but haven't always known which guild I wanted to study. After my undergraduate studies I worked



on different projects including one on parrots and trogons for 4 months. This was when I discovered my interest in birds. I went on to do a course with OTS Association for Tropical Studies where we were mentored by scientists and taught how to conduct viable research. I stayed on as a Teaching Assistant for the next course and continued doing so for the next 2 years.

Can you give us an overview of your PhD project?

My masters and PhD were both carried out at the University of Missouri, St Louis. I studied manakins in Ecuador with a group of other PhD students, which was great as we could all help each other out with our projects. During my PhD I spent 6 months a year in the field and 6 months doing genetic work at the University. My project was looking into the lek system of the manakins and female mate preference, measuring the ecological, behavioural and genetic characteristics.

Interview section: continued

Where do you currently work?

I currently work at a small university called Earlham College teaching undergraduates. I discovered my passion for teaching during my PhD when I needed money and so took a teaching job, which I loved! After this I started to take field courses in Peru. During my final year of my PhD I saw a job advertised in a small university, with lot of field based studies. This was my ideal job! I successfully applied and have spent a great 5 years with Earlham College. The college run a lot of research projects all the time and are looking to start a new field course here in Borneo.

What has your experience of DGFC been like?

I have had a great few days at DG, I didn't know what to expect but have been really impressed with all the primate and bird species I have seen! People are so friendly here and so willing to help and share their project with you. I have learnt so much in such a short space of time! The night walk and primates on the river surveys were highlights. I'm looking forward to taking everything I have learnt back to the US to share with my students and returning to DG with them. I can see them learning tonnes here!

What makes DG really special is the sense of family you get here, everyone helps each other and bounces ideas off each other which I think what science is all about!

Conservation Corner: otter civet

Common name: otter civet

Scientific name: *Cynogale bennettii*

ICUN status: Endangered



Found in lowland, primary peat forest across Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Otters civets are semi-aquatic and feed on fish, crabs, molluscs, small mammals and birds. Some studies such as Sebastian 2005 have suggested otter civets are nocturnal but data on these elusive carnivores is severely deficient.

Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Habitat Conversion
- Hunting

Conservation:

- Listed on CITES appendix II
- A small carnivore project using live trapping and camera trapping in Krau Wildlife Reserve in Peninsular Malaysia hopes to locate Otter Civet
- Protected in Thailand, Sumatra and Sarawak

Photos of the Month!



Photos left to right: Miami 2 field course see their first orang-utan; hooded pitta; Hose's langur; Forest nymphs; Grace, Roshan, David Garshelis and Lorraine Scotson the "Sun bear team"; Grace and Ekin; crested serpent eagle; Mike and Helen on their way to Batu Puteh; panoramic view on the Kinabatangan river.

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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