



The Jungle Times

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Arrivals

Masayo Nomoto

Masayo is a vet from Tokyo who joined us on the 3rd of September to volunteer for 3 months, hoping to further her knowledge into wildlife conservation. She is particularly interested in learning how field work is carried out in rainforest environment and how this can be applied to physiological research.



Martijn Reijerkerk

Martijn joined our team on the 26th of September from the University of Amsterdam. He is staying with us until the end of January. He will be carrying out a study on the feeding behaviour of orang-utans for his thesis in his final year in Bsc Biology, looking specifically at the physical properties of food in orang-utan diets!



Visitors



Isaac Soper

Isaac visited us from Oregon State University to volunteer for three weeks, before returning to complete his final year in Natural Resources. He assisted with all on-going projects, including helping moving the heavy clouded leopard traps! Isaac was also treated to his own DG haircut from one of our staff Alut! We hope that he enjoyed his time at DG!

Yayasan Sime Darby visit

Project Manager Arifah Sharifuddin brought the new Project Executive, Erica Choong Mei Ling to visit DGFC for the first time this month. They met all of the team running projects at DG and checked in on their progress, as well as meeting with director Benoit.

They also enjoyed an early morning boat ride to see proboscis monkeys and other primates. We hope to see them again soon!



Left to right: Arifah Sharifuddin, Dr Benoit Goossens, Erica Choong Mei Ling

Aberystwyth Field Course

This year saw a whopping 22 students and 4 staff members visiting from Aberystwyth university for their 10 day botanical field course. The students were helping to collect leaf samples to send to the U.K. for the DNA barcoding project run by Dr Natasha de Vere. The field course also spent some of their time sampling for invertebrate diversity around the field centre. All the students managed to see some of our resident orangutans, while some of the students were even lucky enough to see the elephants whilst on an afternoon river cruise!



Aberystwyth quotes and photos

Alex Broom – “Such a great experience being in the jungle. Thanks to all the staff here who put on such good food and activities!”



Lucy Slatter – “Thank for a great time... I really enjoyed learning about all the research going on here!”

Ffion Jones – “What a fantastic experience! The staff and PTYs were amazing. I loved every second of being here”



New Tarsier Collaring!

On 27th September a new tarsier was found and collared by the DGFC team! The male tarsier, to be known as 'Toots' due to the high pitched squeaks he was producing, weighed in at just 115g. He will be tracked by PTYs Abbie and Katey, overseen by Danica Stark. This is great news for the Nocturnal Primate Project, increasing the number of currently collared tarsiers at Danau Girang to 2!



Civet Trapping

Before her departure for Cardiff to process bioaccumulation samples, PhD student Meaghan Harris once again opened her traps. She hoped to obtain more samples to process and to recapture Dulu, a common palm civet whose collar had finished taking data.



With the help of Sergio, a PhD student at DGFC and our in-house vet, she successfully captured and sampled many civets, including a healthy pregnant Malay civet amongst those caught. Although there were common palm civets within traps, the elusive Dulu was not caught.

Monitor Lizard Collar Retrieval

With PhD student Sergio's imminent departure to Cardiff to start his lab work, he set out to recapture three of his collared monitor lizards, with the intention of removing their collars. This was because the collars are due to finish taking data readings while Sergio is away, and it also gave Sergio the opportunity to get one last set of measurements from each lizard before he left!

With the help of research assistant Doyo and the new PTYs he was able to catch and sample all three lizards with plenty of time to spare!



Slow Loris Re-collared!

On the 27th September, Cowok, one of the collared slow loris was successfully caught and re-collared by our DG team! It was research assistant Koko's first time assisting with nocturnal primate trapping and collaring, and he successfully caught Cowok on his first attempt, well done Koko! Abbie used this opportunity to collect some samples for her project into the endoparasites of nocturnal primates.

He was in good health, weighing 640g with no signs of any injuries caused by the collar. Once the new collar had been tested and fitted, our PTYs Abbie and Katey released him back into the forest.



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Sumatran rhinoceros

Scientific name: Dicerorhinus sumatrensis

IUCN status: Critically Endangered



Description and Ecology:

The Sumatran rhinoceros is the smallest living rhino, and the world's most endangered one. The global population size of the Sumatran rhinoceros is estimated to be less than 100 individuals in the wild and nine in captivity. They can be found in primary forests primarily near water sources; they feed on fruit, twigs, leaves and shrubs and are dependent on salt licks. The species is generally solitary except for mating pairs and mothers with young; males, although solitary can have over-lapping territories with females. Male home range can be as large as 5000 ha, whereas female's tend to be between 1000-1500 ha.

Threats:

- Poaching – driven by the misconception that rhinoceros horns possess medicinal properties.
- Reduced population viability – over-hunting has led to such low populations that successful breeding is unlikely and infrequent.

Conservation:

The Sumatran rhinoceros is legally protected in all range states; Rhino Protection Units are a vital force in preventing poaching of this species, with many organisations co-ordinating anti-poaching programmes. There are on-going efforts to maintain breeding centres in Indonesia and Malaysia; captive breeding techniques include *in-vitro* fertilisation.

Guess the Civet!

1

2

3



A

B

C

Banded palm civet

Malay civet

Common palm civet

Fact of the month!

Although the slow loris is a small mammal, their home ranges can be the size of 35 football pitches!

Photos of the Month!



Photos by Charlie and Katey

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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