



# The Jungle Times

Independent newsletter of:



Est. 2008

Issue: 87

## Inside this issue:

Page 2: Arrivals

Page 3: Arrivals cont.

Page 4: Goodbye Valou!

Page 5: Goodbye Joe!

Page 7: Happy birthday  
Charlie!

Page 8: Chester Zoo Visit

Page 9: Chester Zoo Interview

Page 11: Miami field course  
photos

Page 13: New lizard collars

Page 14: Conservation corner

Page 15: Guess the snake!

Page 16: Photos of the month

## Page 6: University of Kent field course



## Page 10: Miami field course



## Page 12: Meg's collaring frenzy!



# Arrivals

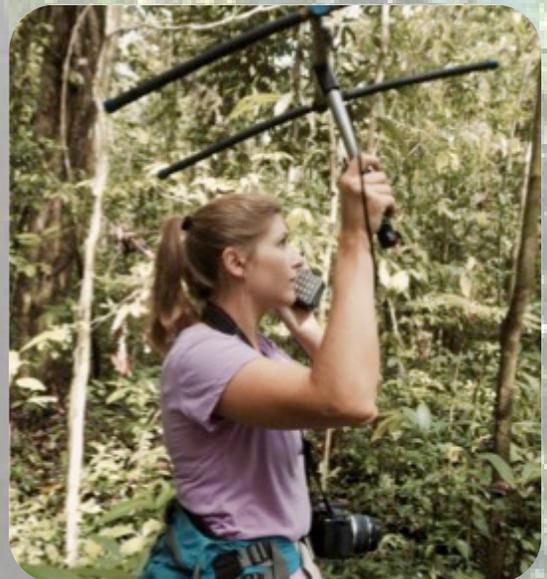
## Rudi Delvaux

Welcome back to Rudi Delvaux who has returned to DGFC to begin photography work on the estuarine crocodiles on the Kinabatangan river for an upcoming publication. We are excited to have him back and look forward to seeing more of his fantastic photos!



## Anya Tober

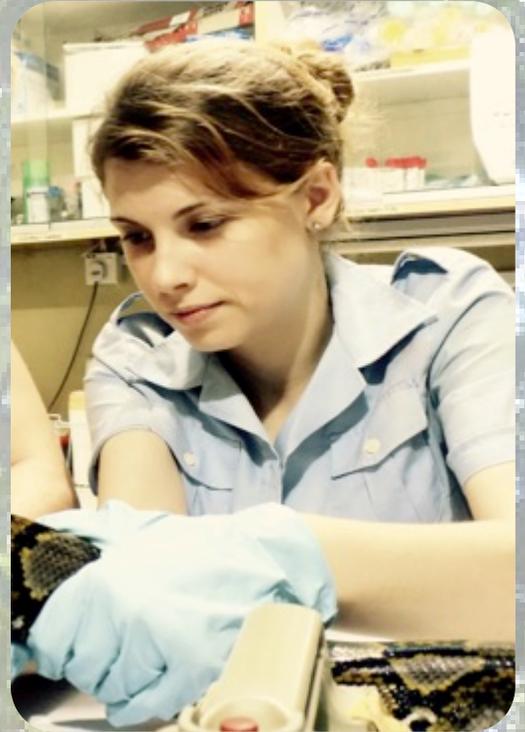
We also welcome back previous PTY Anya Tober! Anya was one of our PTYs in 2013/14 working with Sergio on a project on the ectoparasites of monitor lizards. She has returned to DG to volunteer on our ongoing projects after spending five months in Thailand working for an NGO on sea turtle conservation. We are delighted to have her back for the next two months!



# Arrivals cont.

## Alexandra Lobko

Alexandra is a veterinary student from Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort in Paris, and has joined us for two months to volunteer on all of our projects, but hopes to follow Sergio to gain more experience in wildlife veterinary practice as she aims to work with primates in the future.



## Marie Deneubourg and Antoine Limpens

Marie and Antoine are studying bioengineering at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech University of Liège (Belgium) and have come to DG to complete an internship for three months. They hope to gain insight into the field work undertaken by working conservationists within a tropical rainforest setting.



# Goodbye Valou

This month we said goodbye to Valentine Thiry again, as she returns to Brussels to conduct more lab work on her PhD. She spent three months at DGFC collecting feeding ecology data on the proboscis monkeys of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as completing botanical plots across the sanctuary.

She also trained two members of the Batu Puteh community in how to undertake phenology surveys of the surrounding forest during her time here, a massive help to her PhD. We look forward to her return for her next data collection trip in November!



# Goodbye Joe!

And so we say goodbye to one of our PTYs Joe Hampson! Joe arrived to DGFC in July last year with the Cardiff University Field Course completing a project on butterfly diversity, and then started his project on the behaviour of the common arboreal Brunei tarantula.

Using camera traps on time lapse, he managed to get photos over night while the spiders are active, catching the spiders hunting at night and even the arrival of juveniles from both of the spiders. He was hard working and became a very confident speaker in Malay very quickly! He will be greatly missed, we wish you all the luck for the future Joe.



# University of Kent field course

The University of Kent students arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup> June for their annual field course, lead by Zoe Davies, Matt Struebig and Simon Mitchell from Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology.

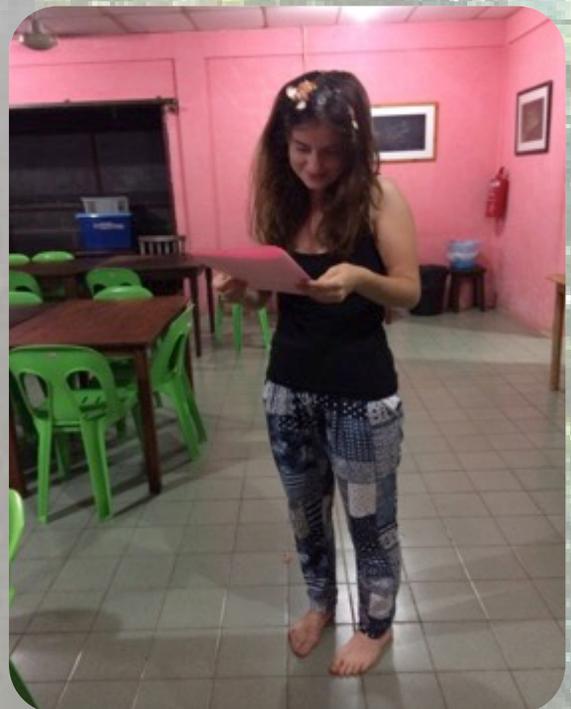
The field course enjoyed projects run on decomposition comparisons between forest and palm oil plantation, dung beetle ecology with sun bear dung collected at BSBC, and bat diversity within the vicinity of DG.

Despite having elephants roaming in the forest during their week the students managed to make the most of the forest, using the time to run their own mini projects. Projects ranged from fungi diversity on transects to primate activity patterns, with great presentations at the end. We look forward to seeing them again next year!



# Happy birthday Charlie!

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June PTY Charlie Cooper turned 23! She had a wonderful day, with an amazing double layer chocolate cake made by other PTY Joe and a beautiful card by ex-PTY Anya! This was followed promptly by the traditional egg on the head by Koko, and a relaxed movie night enjoyed by everyone. Happy birthday Charlie, we hope you enjoyed your day!



# Chester Zoo visit & interview

This month Cat and Jen from Chester Zoo visited DGFC to talk to Dr Luke Evans about the work that Chester Zoo funded on his PhD and to see what the facilities were like. They were taken out for a night walk by PTY Charlie, and were even lucky enough to see one of our collared slow lorises, Baldu. We also managed to catch them for a brief interview! Although short, we hope they enjoyed their stay at DGFC and the rest of their trip in Sabah!

## So tell us a bit about yourselves and your roles at Chester Zoo!

**Cat:** I'm the field conservation manager at Chester Zoo and I work within the field programmes team. We've got six regional field programmes across the world, one of them being South East Asia and I work specifically on Borneo and Sumatra projects and the issue of sustainable palm oil.

**Jenny:** I'm the marketing manager at Chester Zoo so I've been working on supporting Cat's work with sustainable palm oil to create behavior change programmes in the U.K promoting sustainability but also I'm here to support Borneo Futures and Hutan with marketing strategies.



### **What brought you to DG?**

**Cat:** We visited DG around five years ago when we were looking at some of the orangutan projects with Hutan. We were chatting to Benoit at the time and he told us about Luke's PhD and it was something that fit with our zoo's strategy at the time. So we supported Luke through some of his PhD with his field costs, we just used the opportunity to come and meet Luke and to see the rest of the work of DGFC. And we also sponsored the drone surveys that DGFC do.

**Jenny:** And I was just looking to collect some information from Luke about the results and the work that he's doing next.

### **And what did you think of those results?**

**Cat:** It was really really interesting and we get reports and things all the time, but you actually get a lot more information being able to meet someone face to face and chat about the work.

**Jenny:** And it was really interesting to talk about all the satellite work and the drone work, because actually we can now understand the benefits of that and understand how it can be applied for practical uses.

### **What other projects are you working with?**

**Cat:** We've worked with SSCP on some of their education work in Sumatra and there is also a fairly new project in Borneo. We've been working with the painted terrapin so our curator of lower invertebrates has given some technical support to our field partner out there. Our support started last year and he has had really good success with the head starting. Last year was not as successful as he was bringing the eggs out of the beach and rearing them in a more captive environment, but this year he's protecting them on the beach and it's going a lot better. And we're doing some work with the Sumatran rhino too.

### **And what are the future plans for Chester Zoo?**

**Cat:** Around Borneo at the moment, we have just changed our strategy at the zoo. So we used to support lots of smaller projects, but now we are looking to bring all the work together so it's a bit more collaborative and our partners are looking to work together. But that's what part of these trips are about, it's exploring new partnerships so we'll continue to look working in this area.

# Miami Field Course

We welcomed this years Dragonfly field course from Miami University in Ohio! The group arrived to Danau Girang after spending five days in Sukau, keen to get started on their own mini projects in conjunction with their Global Field Program masters.

The projects included topics such as butterfly diversity, primate activity patterns and fungi distribution along transects. The field course had a fantastic trip, with some of the students lucky enough to see a crocodile eating a proboscis monkey on the river bank! We thoroughly enjoyed having them here and look forward to the second Dragonfly group in July!



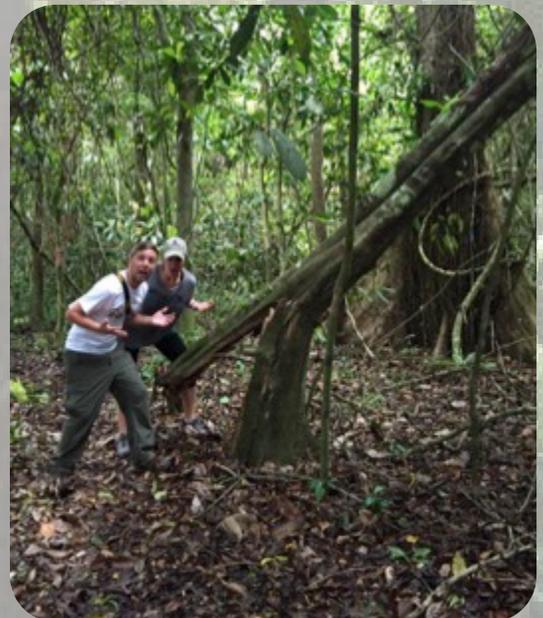
# Miami Field Course photos & quotes

“You guys have been so amazing and hospitable . I really appreciate you all sharing your projects with us. Terima kasih!” **Sarah Sparks**



“It has been so amazing to get to share space with all of you, thank you for making our time here so memorable and awesome.” **Crystal Schalmo**

“Thank you very much for sharing all of your research, experiences and knowledge with us over the last few days. This has given me such a great new perspective on field work. Keep up the good work protecting Sabah’s wildlife!” **Sarah Walker**



# Meg's collaring frenzy!

The past months we have seen PhD student Meg Harris go on a collaring spree! Meg has caught and collared 3 civets since May. Two male Malay civets named Haliau and Rimis, and one male common palm civet named Benjol have all been fitted with GPS collars, all of which were fitted with the help of vet Sergio. Already the data Meg has managed to download is proving very interesting!



**Binjol**



**Rimis**



**Haliau**

# New lizard collars!

Sergio also managed to catch two monitor lizards on his latest transect, which were both lucky enough to receive a brand new GPS units. The first lizard, named Lapar for his feisty attitude, weighed in at 15kg and 2m long and is already providing Sergio with important data on the monitor lizard ecology within plantations.

The second lizard was caught while Sergio was trying to catch a previously collared lizard, Malas, who is still at large! This new lizard, named Chanya, a mix of PTY Charlie and ex PTY Anya's names as they both helped with the collaring, weighed in at a whopping 22kg and had the longest length of any lizards Sergio has ever caught. The data from these collars will be used to create comparison home ranges between forest and plantation.



# Conservation Corner:

**Common name: White-Shouldered Ibis**

**Scientific name: *Pseudibis davisoni***

**IUCN status: Critically Endangered**



## **Description and Ecology:**

The white-shouldered ibis is a large waterbird located only along riverside forest. They are often found to nest in colonies with other waterbird species. Only one extremely small population currently exists, located on the Mahakam river in East Kalimantan and consisting of around 50 individuals. When in flight they are distinguishable by the white panels on the wings alongside the bright red legs.

## **Threats:**

- Deforestation and draining of wetlands for agricultural lands
- Hunting
- Habitat disturbance by humans

## **Conservation:**

The white-shouldered ibis is legally protected within East Malaysia, but there is little conservation efforts specifically into this species currently. There are currently high conservation efforts with this species within Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam where they are also legally protected in several areas.

# Guess the Snake!

Pictured below are three of the snake species that can be seen here in the Kinabatangan, try and match the species with their pattern!

1



2



3



A

Reticulated  
Python

B

White Bellied Rat  
Snake

C

Mangrove Snake

## Fact of the month!

The Malay badger is also known as the Sunda stink-badger, due to its ability to eject the fetid secretion from the anal glands as a deterrent to predators. The smell is said to permanently stain clothes, forcing some unlucky researchers to burn their field clothes!

Answers: 1) = B, 2) = C, 3) = A

# Photos of the Month!



Photos by Charlie Cooper and Rudi Delvaux

## 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**

Lot 6  
The Jungle  
Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sabah

Email: [danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com](mailto:danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com)

*Editor: Charlie Cooper*

*Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens*

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

