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*Photo of the Month Credit:
Ariff Azlan Alymann*

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Regrow Borneo Update!

We have now finished planting in Kaboi Lake 2.0 and Laab Swamp 1.0. Additionally, we have finished tagging and measuring 458 saplings in our 50x50 botanic plot in Kaboi Stumping 1.0. We are currently tagging the saplings in Laab Swamp 1.0. Recently our plots in Kaboi Stumping and Kaboi Lake were flooded, and we had to retrieve all our camera traps. However, some we could not collect because water was so high it was up to hip height! Oh, and we captured sunbears on our camera traps! Just the once but it was a mother with her cub!



(Left) The rear end of a female sun bear.



(Right) The rear end of a cub sunbear following their mother.

Our Volunteer's Experience – Hui Yi Wong

We recently received 1 intern from UNIMAS as well as 3 volunteers from Malaysia through the Roots and Shoots Malaysia Award. Hui Yi Wong, one of the 3 volunteers gave us an insight as to what she had been up to at DGFC.:

"I still remember the day I arrived in DGFC, carrying my heavy baggage into the forest after a long journey from Kota Kinabalu, thinking how am I going to survive the next few weeks here without my comfy bed and the Internet. It turned out that this is the place where I spent my best time of the year, a beautiful place surrounded with nature.

There is never a dull moment here in DGFC. Every day, I get to experience and learn new things by participating in various projects. I learnt to track pangolins using a radio telemetry device which allows us to observe their movement patterns within their habitat range. Besides, I also assisted in hornbill research involving passive acoustic monitoring, as well as pangolin and flat-headed cat sleeping site studies. I gained hands-on experience in setting camera traps and cage traps too. Furthermore, I helped in making tree tags, measuring the growth of saplings, and tagging saplings for the Regrow Borneo Project. I also enjoyed looking for bats in tree holes and learning to identify frog and bird species.

Nowadays, unsustainable development leading to deforestation and habitat fragmentation is pushing wildlife to the brink of extinction. It is time for us to realize that we should never take nature for granted. I personally feel that Regrow Borneo is a very meaningful project. Other than restoring the forest of Borneo, it also provides job opportunities to the local communities. I am also truly inspired by the passion and determination that the researchers in DGFC have for wildlife conservation despite that it is a long and challenging journey. It almost feels like we could never see the light at the end of the tunnel. However, we should always keep in mind that every little effort matters. Together, we can make a change for a better world.

This 26-day volunteering journey has been awesome. To all the amazing people that I've met over the past few weeks in DGFC: Shannon, Taty, Tini, Tim, Tracia, Acap, Maz, Dr. Benoit, Elisa, Maca, Kak Kila and kiddos, Alut, Koko, Pak Cik Samsir, Uncle Lee, Peter, thank you for making my volunteering journey full of joy and laughter. I will definitely cherish the wonderful moments we had together.

With love,
Hui"



HUGE congratulations!!!

The entire DGFC team congratulates Dr Milena Salgado Lynn, our Scientific Advisor, Health and Safety Officer, and Coordinator of the Genetic Research and Forensic Units at the Wildlife Health Genetic and Forensic Laboratory for being recognised as a "Distinguished Mexican" by the Embajada de México en Malasia - Embassy of Mexico in Malaysia and the Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior SRE.

This recognition is granted to those Mexicans who "have lived at least 5 consecutive years abroad and have demonstrated to have an outstanding career in any field of human endeavour".

Mexican ambassador to Malaysia, Edmundo Font said that "It is an honour and a privilege to grant this recognition and medal to a Mexican woman who has developed her passion in the sciences and who demonstrates that the talent from our country transcends borders", and we are all very proud.



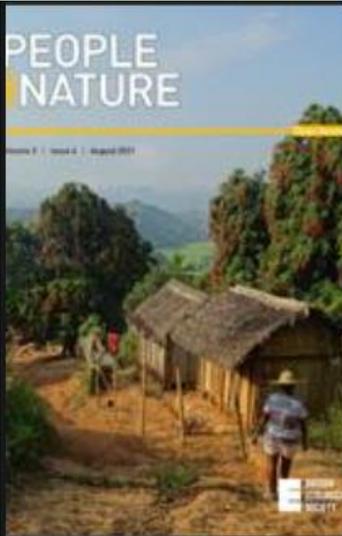
Milena Salgado Lynn at a workshop on illegal wildlife trade in Sabah. (Milena Salgado Lynn pic)

Recent Publications

Our ex-PhD student Dr Dave Kurz just published one of his chapters in People and Nature journal: Kurz DJ, Saikim FH, Justine VT, Bloem J, Libassi M, Luskin MS, Withey LS, Goossens B, Brashares JS, Potts MD, 2021. Transformation and endurance of Indigenous hunting: Kadazandusun-Murut bearded pig hunting practices amidst oil palm expansion and urbanization in Sabah, Malaysia.

The research shows that bearded pigs still play important cultural and dietary roles in Indigenous Kadazandusun-Murut communities in Sabah.

The paper is Open Access and can be downloaded at the following link: <http://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10250>



PEOPLE AND NATURE

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Transformation and endurance of Indigenous hunting: Kadazandusun-Mur...

A free Plain Language Summary can be found within the Supporting Information of this article.



Photo of the Month

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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 Departments 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.

Contact Us:

Danau Girang Field Centre

Lot 6

The Jungle

Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary

Sabah

Email: contact@dgfc.life

Web Page Address: www.dgfc.life

Editor: Tyler Cuddy

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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