

part to the provision of 49% matched funding by Millennium Challenge Account–Namibia and the improved financial climate for tourism.

In July 2011 three conservancies were given tourism rights over the Palmwag concession, which forms the core of Africa's largest unfenced rhino population. Wilderness Safaris, which had previously held the concession, now became sub-concessionaire for the existing Desert Rhino Camp and a new camp, and another operator took over the existing Palmwag Lodge.

A new set of concessions, awarded in October 2013, included two sites in the Skeleton Coast National Park, two additional sites in Bwabwata National Park and one in Mamili National Park. Two conservancies on the northern boundary of Etosha National Park were given private gates into the Park and exclusive traversing rights, greatly enhancing the value of tourism facilities on the Park boundary. Three of these conservancies have existing private-sector partners and the others will need to go through a competitive tender process to find investors.

The new concessions should generate c. 250 new full-time jobs for local people and up to NAD 5 million (USD 500,000) per year in additional income to communal conservancies. Approximately 75% of this typically goes to supporting operations, including community game guards, and the rest is distributed as benefits in cash or in kind to conservancy members.

These new concessions will further strengthen Namibia's communal conservancies, generally acknowledged to be the most successful example of community-based natural resource management in Africa. This is timely as the concessions in the Skeleton Coast National Park and Palmwag Concession Area will provide additional income to conservancies that have so far provided effective protection for the largest free-ranging black rhino population.

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New population of Abbott's duiker and other species' range records in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania

Vertebrate surveys in the ancient and endemic-rich Afromontane forests of Tanzania continue to reveal new species and range extensions. Here we report on a survey conducted during October–November 2013 in the Udzungwa Mountains, the southernmost and largest block within the renowned Eastern Arc Mountains. The target

forest, Iyondo, is part of the Kilombero Nature Reserve, which was gazetted in 2007 to allocate upgraded protection status to a number of forest reserves to the west and south of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (*Oryx*, 41, 429–430). Within this protected area Iyondo is the southwesternmost forest patch, with an extension of 28 km², comprising mostly pristine montane moist forest at elevations of 1,200–1,900 m. As far as we are aware only one biological survey has been conducted previously in this forest, targeted mainly at primates.

Our survey targeted medium–large mammals and forest birds. For mammals we used camera-trapping and opportunistic observations. We deployed 16 digital camera-traps each for a maximum of 40 days, resulting in a total sampling effort of 635 camera-days. To maximize captures, cameras were set opportunistically along wildlife trails. Forest birds were surveyed using a combination of mist netting and observations. Netting was carried out for 7 days, using 12 12-m-long nets. After identification the birds were released.

Camera-trapping yielded 2,320 photographs or video-clips of 12 species of mammals belonging to 11 genera. The most significant record was of Abbott's duiker *Cephalophus spadix*, which was captured on three occasions. This is a large, Endangered duiker endemic to Tanzania, restricted to a few montane forests, with Udzungwa being considered the species' stronghold (*Oryx*, 46, 14–15). In Udzungwa Abbott's duiker occurs in most of the largest forest blocks but is known to be heavily hunted in unprotected sites, and thus this additional record is of considerable conservation relevance. Among the other forest mammals detected was Lowe's servaline genet *Genetta servalina lowei*, which was captured on camera-traps on 14 separate occasions. This genet subspecies is endemic to moist forests in the Eastern Arc Mountains (*Oryx*, 40, 468–471). Besides the camera-trapped species we also sighted a galago whose identification requires confirmation but which may be a new record of the mountain galago *Galagoides orinus*. We also confirmed the presence of the Udzungwa-endemic red colobus monkey *Procolobus gordonorum*, along with the Angolan colobus *Colobus angolensis* and Sykes' monkey *Cercopithecus mitis monoides/moloneyi*.

Sixty species of montane forest birds were recorded, including the Vulnerable Udzungwa-endemic rufous-winged sunbird *Nectarinia rufipennis*. Other Red-Listed bird species recorded were the white-winged apalis *Apalis chariessa*, dapple-throat *Arcanator orostruthus* and Swynnerton's robin *Swynnertonia swynnertoni* (all Vulnerable) and the Endangered Usambara weaver *Ploceus nicolli*.

Overall our survey confirmed that Iyondo is a typical Eastern Arc montane forest, with many restricted-range species. Despite being remote and comprising predominantly steep terrain, we found signs of human encroachment in the form of hunting, tree logging and pole cutting.

We found several snares and obtained some images of poachers with the camera-traps. The forest surroundings have been cleared for subsistence agriculture by communities living in villages to the north and west of the forest. Despite the forest being fully inside a Nature Reserve, and the communities being aware of its borders and regulations, there is no active protection, mirroring the condition of other forests in the southern and western part of the Udzungwa Mountains. We recommend that appropriate measures are enacted to ensure the protection of this important forest.

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Student Conference on Conservation Science in Cambridge, UK

The latest in a 15-year series of annual Student Conferences on Conservation Science was held in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge on 25–27 March 2014. The conferences are aimed at early-stage researchers in conservation science and this one was attended by over 300 people, including 193 postgraduate students from 60 countries. At the heart of the conference were 31 talks and 109 posters on a vast range of topics, contributed by research students. The conference aims to accept presentations on as many aspects of conservation science as possible, including the social sciences. Every student contributing a talk or poster was given written feedback on their presentation by a senior conservationist.

Intermingled with the student contributions were inspiring plenary lectures given by Professor Chris Johnson (Lessons for conservation from historical and prehistorical changes), Professor Amanda Vincent (Seahorse conservation practice and science), Dr Camilla Toulmin (Incentives for sustainable wildlife use) and Julia Marton-Lefevre (The science–policy interface from an IUCN perspective). There were two workshop sessions, offering eight 90-minute workshops. Experts on writing and publishing papers, fund-raising, designing research projects,

statistics, genetics, economics and making conservation work in practice presented workshops with a how-to focus.

A special feature of the conference was the role played by conservation practitioners. Overall, the conference was visited by 79 staff or representatives from 33 conservation agencies, institutes and NGOs, who chaired sessions, ran workshops and engaged student delegates in discussions during breaks. The poster session *Who's Who in Conservation?* allowed 25 conservation agencies, institutes and NGOs to present their work and answer queries.

The conference had a real buzz as enthusiastic and able scientists worked hard, learned a lot, taught each other a lot and had a good time. The next conference in the Cambridge series will be 25–27 March 2015 (see www.sccs-cam.org). Sister conferences with similar objectives have been held in Bangalore (India; www.sccs-bng.org), New York (USA; symposia.cbc.amnh.org/sccsny), Beijing (China; www.sccs-cam.org) and Brisbane (Australia; sccs-aus.org). Further conferences in these series are also planned.

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21st annual Whitley Awards

The 21st annual Whitley Awards Ceremony was held on 8 May 2014 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The flagship event of UK-based charity the Whitley Fund for Nature was hosted by wildlife presenter Kate Humble, and saw eight conservation leaders from seven countries receive GBP 35,000 each in project funding over 1 year in support of their work. The Awards were presented by the charity's patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

A special Whitley Gold Award was presented to 2008 Whitley Award winner Jean Wiener of Haiti for his outstanding contribution to the conservation of coastal ecosystems with the help of Continuation Funding from WFN.

The 2014 Whitley Award Winners are Shivani Bhalla, Kenya; Marites Gatan-Balbas, Philippines; Monica Gonzalez, Ecuador; Melvin Gumal, Malaysia; Paula Kahumbu, Kenya; Fitryanti Pakiding, Indonesia; Stoycho Stoychev, Bulgaria; and Luis Torres, Cuba.

For more information on the Whitley Fund for Nature, the Whitley Awards and the winning projects, see <http://www.whitleyaward.org/>. See p. 467 for the call for applications for the 2015 Whitley Awards.

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