

production in areas where *M. sargentiana* occurs, and restoration of the wild population.

The results from these surveys were incorporated in the recently published Red List of Magnoliaceae (D. Cicuzza, A. Newton & S. Oldfield, 2007, *Red List of Magnoliaceae*, FFI, Cambridge, UK). The Global Trees Campaign is now seeking to take action to prevent any of these species becoming extinct in the wild, and it is hoped the work to restore *M. sinica* in the wild can be followed by similar programmes for some of these other charismatic yet highly threatened trees.

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### Measuring the impact of livelihoods initiatives in a conservation context

The social context of biodiversity conservation is an increasingly important facet of conservation policy and practice, with ever greater emphasis placed on the role of biodiversity and the responsibility of conservation organizations in alleviating poverty. Yet the debate over the linkages between conservation and poverty reduction is hampered by a lack of empirical evidence. Many conservation organizations are engaging with livelihoods and human needs at a local level in an attempt to provide social benefits, and offset social costs, as a means to improve conservation outcomes. However, these organizations often struggle to demonstrate the impact on people of their interventions and of biodiversity conservation in general because of inadequate monitoring and evaluation, a lack of capacity to undertake social/livelihoods monitoring, and/or a lack of appreciation of the range of applicable tools and processes. Monitoring and evaluation also suffers from being under-resourced.

In light of these issues, three international conservation organizations (Fauna & Flora International, Birdlife International and the African Wildlife Foundation) organized a workshop to explore the challenges and solutions to monitoring and evaluating socio-economic/livelihoods impacts. With funding from Swedbio, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and USAID, a 2-day workshop was held on 18-19 July 2007 in Cambridge, UK, at which representatives from a range of conservation and development organizations and academia

gathered to share experiences. Focused around a series of presentations and discussion sessions, the goal of the workshop was to identify pragmatic recommendations for conservation practitioners that balance technical rigour with field realities.

Some 40 delegates spanning 20 nationalities participated in the workshop. These included conservation field practitioners from 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as those working in organizational headquarters on organization-wide processes for monitoring and evaluation. The involvement of selected representatives from the development sector, which has a longer history and experience of using and developing socio-economic/livelihoods monitoring and evaluation tools and processes, provided a valuable counterpoint to the discussion. The first day focused on comparing field level monitoring and evaluation tools and frameworks, and the second day focused on organizational processes for monitoring and evaluation and reporting, and the challenges of reconciling field level, organizational and donor information requirements in a unified monitoring and evaluation system. Both days included presentations from conservation and development practitioners and discussion groups to explore key issues.

The presentations and discussions revealed that conservation organizations are relatively new to socio-economic monitoring and evaluation and primarily use quantitative tools and economic indicators of change, yet these are often perceived as limited in scope. Qualitative methods are rarely used, or fully understood, yet it was clear that anecdotal information, story-based methods and a more participatory and evaluative approach could complement formal measurement tools. The development sector is more familiar with these approaches, and some organizations have developed an explicit organizational culture of learning what shapes and drives their monitoring and evaluation processes.

Yet development agencies continue to struggle with the same challenges to implementing and mainstreaming effective monitoring and evaluation. Practical challenges include determining why change has taken place, whether impacts can really be attributable to project interventions, differentiating project impacts on different groups of people, adequately resourcing monitoring and evaluation within projects, and maintaining effective two-way channels of communication between field projects and headquarters. Ensuring that monitoring and evaluation is understood at all levels of the organization and that the data collected are valuable for project adaptive management and organizational learning, as well as for donor reporting, is also vital.

The most important elements for improved monitoring and evaluation were considered to be the following:

(1) Having good planning systems that incorporate monitoring and evaluation at the outset. (2) Using different types of complimentary monitoring tools. (3) Ensuring appropriate skills and expertise, either in-house or external. (4) Building an institutional culture of learning, and maximising feedback between the field and headquarters. (5) Making opportunities to learn from other organizations dealing with the same issues, including development organizations.

Participants concluded with a call to continue the collaborative dialogue established at the meeting, to explore specific tools in more detail and help to develop local networks of conservation and development organizations that can learn from each other and collaborate. A more detailed summary of the meeting will be posted on the website of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (<http://www.povertyandconservation.info>).

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### **Tanzania's second Nature Reserve: improving the conservation status of the Udzungwa Mountains?**

Tanzania's new Nature Reserve reserve status has been employed for the second time in the Eastern Arc Mountains. Nature Reserve is the highest level of protection under Tanzanian Forestry and Beekeeping Division legislation, equivalent to the National Park status of the Tanzania National Parks Authority. Kilombero Nature Reserve was declared on 17 August 2007 through Government Notice no. 182 JB no. 2525 and combines three former Forest Reserves in the Udzungwa Mountains of south-central Tanzania (Matundu, Iyondo and West Kilombero Scarp). Assistance to the Forestry and Beekeeping Division to declare this reserve has been received primarily from UNDP-GEF but also from the WWF network and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

The new Nature Reserve has an altitude range of 300 – 2,600 m and habitats that include lowland forest, sub-montane, montane and upper montane forests, and large areas of montane grasslands and wetlands at higher altitudes. The Reserve is recognized as a critically important conservation site by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (<http://www.zeroextinction.org>) and by those working in the Eastern Arc Mountains (see <http://www.easternarc.or.tz> and <http://www.cepf.net> for reports). It contains populations of two endemic or near endemic diurnal primates, the Iringa red colobus *Procolobus gordonorum* and the newly described kipunji *Rungwecebus kipunji*, the Eastern Arc endemic nocturnal

primate *Galagoides orinus*, two endemic shrews (*Myosorex kahaulei* and *Congosorex phillipsorum*), two endemic birds (rufous winged sunbird *Nectarinia rufipennis* and the newly split population of Udzungwa Partridge *Xenoperdix udzungwensis*), and some near endemic amphibians and reptiles. Additional new species of birds and small mammals are reported by researchers but have not yet been described. Large numbers of plants in the forests and grasslands of the Reserve are also either endemic to the Udzungwas or to the Eastern Arc Mountains. There are also significant and increasing populations of elephant within the Reserve, and antelopes such as Sable that form prey for populations of lion and leopard. Overall the species assemblage makes this new Nature Reserve the most important single site for conservation in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

In addition, two other Nature Reserves are in the final stages of gazettement within the Eastern Arc Mountains, one of which will link and upgrade the Uluguru North and Uluguru South Forest reserves across the Bunduki Gap to form the Uluguru Nature Reserve. The other work in progress is to upgrade the Nilo Forest Reserve in the East Usambara Mountains to Nature Reserve status.

The proposal for gazettement of Kilombero Nature Reserve was announced by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division during a workshop on conservation management in the Udzungwa Mountains, held in Morogoro, Tanzania, on 23 March 2007. This workshop aimed to discuss progress and reach consensus on action needed following conservation priorities identified at the first stakeholders' workshop held in December 2004 (see *Oryx*, 39, 123-124). It also represented an opportunity to discuss recent research on local socio-economic conditions, protection of the most disturbed forests, and improvement of connectivity between four key forest areas: the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, the Udzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve, Mikumi National Park and the Selous Game Reserve. Funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund through Italy's Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali, and convened by the WWF Tanzania Programme Office, the workshop was attended by 60 people including village leaders, researchers, private sector and NGO representatives, protected area managers, and officials from local, regional and national government.

The Udzungwa Mountains form part of the Eastern Arc in the East Afromontane Hotspot, a globally important area for the conservation of biodiversity. Preliminary economic analysis of ecosystem services suggests that the Eastern Arc contributes a minimum of \$620 million per annum to the Tanzanian economy, even without full consideration of the value for water, tourism and environmental services. The majority of the