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T 17CN/ F P C N

2-3 N
Saving deadwood, rebuilding Liberia's forest sector plus news in brief

4 N
Can protected areas meet conservation and human needs?



5 M
The CBD COP8 and the new ITTA

6-7 P

8-10 F

11 P

12 P

13 A



14 17CN
Can logging save biodiversity?

15 F
Belief in protected areas

16 R
...and feedback on the readership survey



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Forests and biodiversity conservation

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Bush cricket in Brazil's Atlantic rainforest

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Duncan Pollard, WWF and Stewart Maginnis, IUCN

news in brief

Elephant deaths: Forest clearing in central Riau, Indonesia is leading to increased conflicts between elephants and local communities. In March, six elephants were found dead on an oil palm plantation, apparently poisoned after raiding crops. Some weeks later, another ten elephants were found chained to trees after being captured by local authorities wishing to relocate their herd. In mid-May, seven weeks after they were found, the surviving eight elephants were successfully released into Tesso Nilo



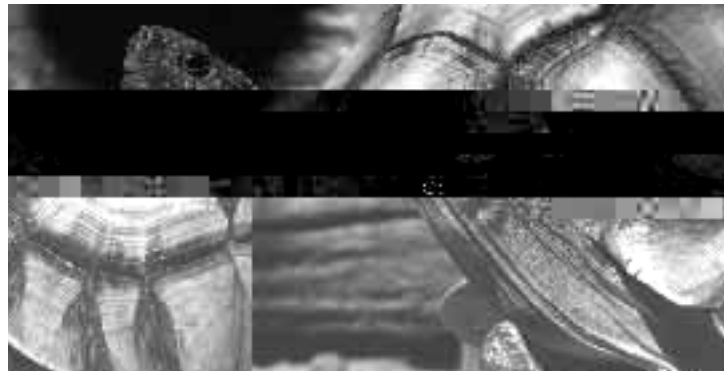
protected areas news in brief

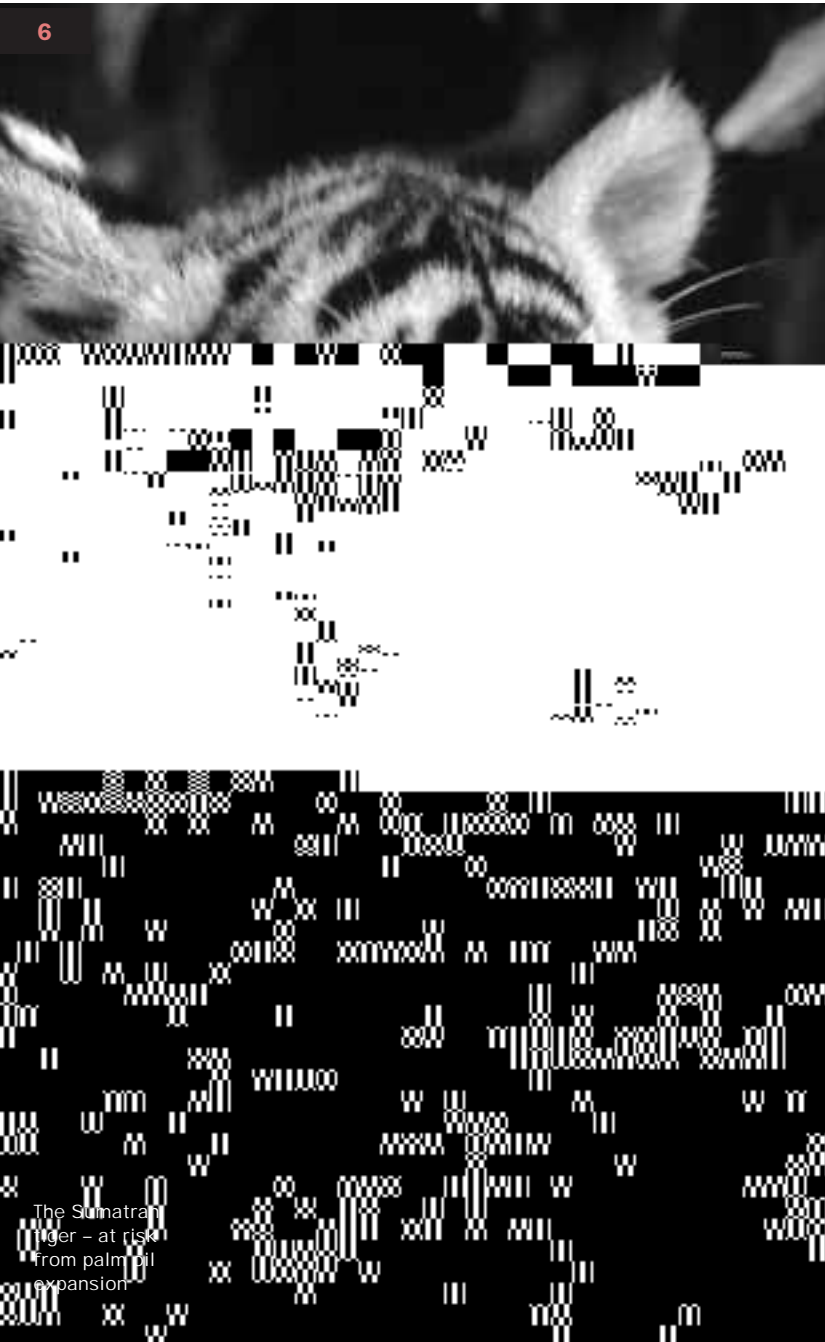
Mexico : A leading expert on Monarch butterflies has warned that illegal logging in Mexico's national parks is threatening their survival. 'If the illegal logging doesn't stop, I give the Monarchs less than 20 years' says US professor Lincoln Brower. A 17-member team of park rangers with assault rifles has been set up to counter the armed gangs of illegal loggers in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Despite this, the illegal logging continues and, according to Brower, has actually accelerated in the last 4 to 5 years.
\$: www.news.bbc.co.uk, March 6, 2006

Canada : The provincial government of British Columbia announced in March an agreement to protect the Great Bear Rainforest, sometimes dubbed the 'Amazon of the North', which runs along Canada's Pacific coastline. The agreement protects over 2 million hectares of the forest from logging and requires sustainable logging practices for another 4 million hectares. The agreement also gives First Nations groups more control over forest management on their territories.
\$: www.environmenttimes.co.uk, March 7, 2006

Rwanda : Conservationists have rediscovered the okapi in Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, despite fears that the animal had been driven to

Leonardo Lacerda of WWF-International looks back at what was achieved at the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on

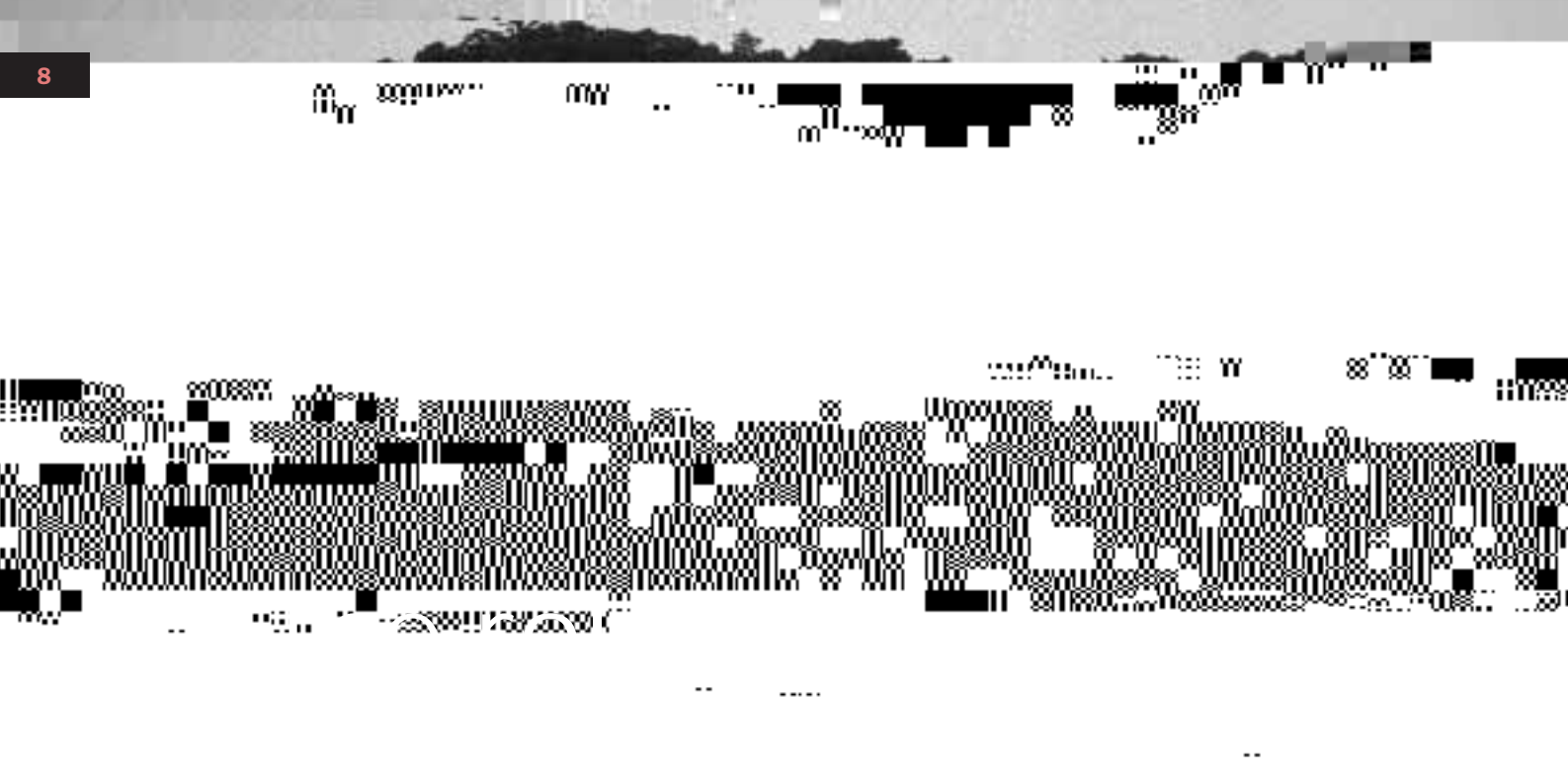




The Sumatran tiger – at risk from palm oil expansion

Palm oil plantations are on the rise. So how can they be made less damaging to biodiversity?
Kathrin Dellantonio and **Bella Roscher** of WWF's Forest Conversion Initiative report on recent work with the palm oil industry.

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Biodiversity conservation challenges for the 21st century

Jeffrey McNeely, IUCN's Chief Scientist, looks at the emerging trends and challenges in forest management for biodiversity conservation.

Rainforest in the Solomon Islands

At the end of the 1980s, the Solomon Islands were a biodiversity hotspot. In 1993, the country was divided into 10 provinces, and the government began to manage the forest resources. In 2002, the government passed a law that allowed for the establishment of national parks. In 2005, the government established the first national park, the Yasovri National Park. The park covers an area of 1,000 square kilometers and is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. The park is a testament to the government's commitment to biodiversity conservation. In the 21st century, the challenges of biodiversity conservation are becoming increasingly complex. The world is facing a rapid loss of biodiversity, and the 21st century will be a critical time to address this issue.

The loss of biodiversity is a global crisis. The world is losing species at an alarming rate, and the 21st century will see the loss of many more species. The loss of biodiversity is a threat to the stability of our planet. Biodiversity is essential for the functioning of ecosystems, and the loss of biodiversity can have devastating effects on the environment. The 21st century will be a time when we must take action to protect biodiversity. We must protect the natural world and the species that inhabit it. We must ensure that the 21st century is a time when biodiversity is conserved and protected.

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Some promising directions

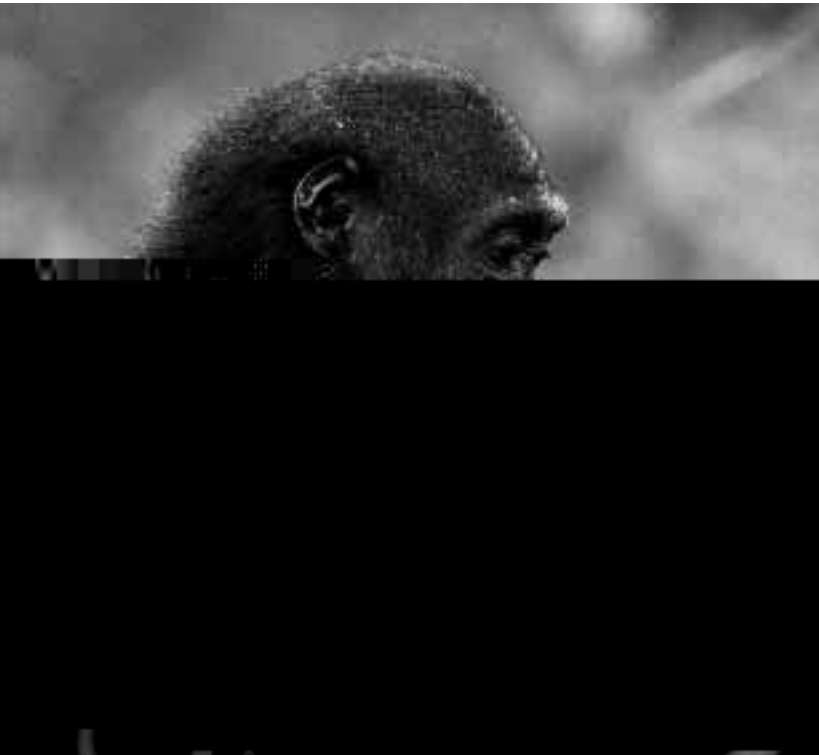
1. The first direction is to focus on the needs of the community. This involves conducting a thorough assessment of the current situation and identifying the most pressing issues. This can be done through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, such as interviews, focus groups, and surveys. The goal is to understand the community's perspective and to develop a plan that addresses their most urgent needs.

2. The second direction is to build on the strengths of the community. This involves identifying the skills, resources, and assets that the community already has and building on these to create a sustainable future. This can be done through a variety of methods, such as training, mentorship, and the development of local enterprises. The goal is to empower the community and to create a sense of ownership and pride in their own development.

3. The third direction is to foster a sense of community and social cohesion. This involves creating opportunities for people to come together and work together towards common goals. This can be done through a variety of methods, such as community meetings, social events, and the formation of community organizations. The goal is to build a strong sense of community and to create a supportive environment for all members.

4. The fourth direction is to promote economic growth and development. This involves creating opportunities for people to start and grow their own businesses. This can be done through a variety of methods, such as providing access to capital, training, and technical assistance. The goal is to create a vibrant economy and to improve the standard of living for all members of the community.

5. The fifth direction is to improve the quality of life and well-being of the community. This involves addressing issues such as health, education, and housing. This can be done through a variety of methods, such as providing access to healthcare, building schools, and improving housing conditions. The goal is to create a healthy and thriving community where all members have the opportunity to live a good life.



Forest concessions and conservation in the Congo Basin

How effectively are forest concessions contributing to biodiversity conservation?
Cleto Ndikumagenge, of the IUCN office for Central Africa, looks at the current state-of-play in the Congo Basin.

Forest concessions in the Congo Basin are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they have provided a source of revenue for governments and local communities, and have helped to fund conservation efforts. On the other hand, they have also led to the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of forest ecosystems. In 2008, the Congo Basin had 84 concessions covering an area of 8,000 km². By 2010, this number had increased to 150, and the area covered by concessions had grown to 80,000 km². This rapid expansion of concessions has raised concerns about the impact on biodiversity and the sustainability of forest management. The IUCN is working with governments and local communities to ensure that forest concessions are managed in a way that is consistent with conservation goals.



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Agriculture: a threat or promise for biodiversity conservation?

Sara J. Scherr and Seth Shames, of Ecoagriculture Partners, re-examine the role of agriculture in biodiversity conservation.

Intensive
tomato
cultivation in
a national
park complex,
Algeria



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1970, the area was a natural park complex. A

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Intensive tomato cultivation in a national park complex, Algeria

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Can logging really be better for forest biodiversity than strict protection? [Jeff Sayer](#) of WWF International and [Sandeep Sengupta](#) of IUCN look at the issues.

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IUCN news in brief

Rights and Resources Initiative: IUCN is a founding member of a new international coalition, the Rights and Resources Initiative, which aims to assist governments and communities to double the global forest area under community ownership and management by 2015, to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals on poverty and environmental protection.

What links the world's faiths with Protected Areas? **Liza Higgins-Zogib** of WWF-International summarizes the key findings of a new report on this topic.

The 'natural' and 'cultural' heritage of national parks is not separate. This is an artificial white-fella separation. The are still boxing the whole into sections; we need to integrate management into a holistic view of the landscape.

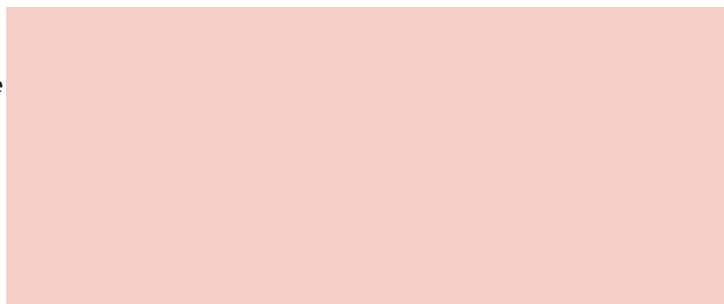


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Get it here: [Liza Higgins-Zogib: lhiggins-zogib@wwfint.org](mailto:lhiggins-zogib@wwfint.org) or download the report, *Beyond Belief: Linking faiths and protected areas to support biodiversity conservation*, by Nigel Dudley, Liza Higgins-Zogib and Stephanie Mansourian at: www.panda.org/forests/beyondbelief

A *Beyond Belief: Linking faiths and protected areas to support biodiversity conservation* is a report that has been published by WWF-International and the World Council of Religious and Spiritual Leaders.





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