



Tropical Ecology Assessment & Monitoring Network Newsletter

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4th TEAM Network Meeting in Dar es Salaam



Meeting with fellow site managers and scientists from around the world.

It was great to meet and interact with everyone during the Fourth TEAM Network meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from April 2-9, 2011. We definitely had some memorable times! This is the perfect opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to all the organizers, especially Jorge, Morgan, Eric, Jimmy, Melissa and Cynthia with special thanks

to Emanuel and Francesco for being available and making our visit to Udzungwa and Dar es Salaam enjoyable.

Here are some opinions of the meeting from participants:

"The meeting in Udzungwa brought a lot of exchange of knowledge, information, and interaction among site managers and scientists around the world"

"This meeting allowed interaction among people within the TEAM sites and the authorities, to discuss about the field problems and how to solve them and proceed to the data management systems".

"Interesting activities, in partnership with Udzungwa also included the field trip to Udzungwa National Park. It allowed the team to learn about the research station, their field conditions, their flora and fauna, and about the management"



Hiking in Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania

Return of the TEAM Newsletter

After a brief reprieve the TEAM Newsletter is back! We plan to release a bi-annual newsletter filled with contributions from the people who make up the TEAM Network all over the world.

This edition is devoted to TEAM in Africa. Although not all our African sites are show-

cased we hope that this gives a good idea of what it is like for the scientists and technicians working in the field in Africa.

We appreciate all the contributions that made this issue possible! Remember if you want to see something in the next newsletter you have to let us know! Please send your ideas

for the next TEAM Network newsletter to Morgan Cottle at m.cottle@conservation.org.

Many thanks go to Johanna Hurtado at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica for putting in so much work to make this newsletter happen!

The Bwindi Experience: How TEAM penetrates an impenetrable forest



Badru Mugerwa (above), “the impenetrable forest guy” as we affectionately call him, is a forestry graduate, who has been with ITFC and TEAM for 1 year

TEAM sites in Uganda and Tanzania

Emanuel Martin (below) studied in Austria where he earned a Masters Degree in Management of Protected Areas. In 2009, he returned back to Tanzania and began working for the Trento Science Museum of Italy as a TEAM Site Manager.



Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site located in south-western Uganda on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The terrain is steep, rugged and has a dense woody understory including stinging nettles, and deep boggy

swamps making for challenging site selection and field work! For most plots we need to camp in the forest – often far from a good water source and several hours to the nearest village or road.

Curious things in Bwindi

We have had some

problems with the marker pipes being removed by people from neighbouring villages (using them as “walking sticks”). We think this may not be a major problem in the future because local leaders have agreed to help stop this.

Best camera trap images from Bwindi



A mountain gorilla with her baby (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) (below).

The angry chimpanzee who chewed our camera! We hope the next picture is of Badru making peace and hugging a chimp!!!



African Golden Cat (*Profelis aurata*): Recognised as one of the World's least known cat species.

TEAM in Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania

Udzungwa Mountains National Park is part of the Eastern Arc Mountain Ranges, famous for their high level of endemic species and biodiversity hotspots, being described as an outstanding, pristine, paradise and unique, exciting forested wilderness mountains.

Udzungwa is managed by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA). The TEAM site

is managed through a partnership between Conservation International, The Trento Science Museum (Italy) and TANAPA.

Curious things in Udzungwa

One of the most curious stories is an incident where two technicians and assistants in the field were

charged by an angry elephant that had a young calf. The elephant charged straight to where the technicians were, the technicians had to run for their lives! However, thanks to the brave ranger, who fired several rounds in the air, the angry elephant was scared away.

Best camera trap images from Udzungwa



The Udzungwa Mountains have been called the ‘Galapagos Islands of Africa’

TEAM in Madagascar

The TEAM site in Ranomafana National Park was created through a partnership between Centre ValBio Ranomafana/ICTE (Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments), Stony Brook and Conservation International.

Curious things in Ranomafana

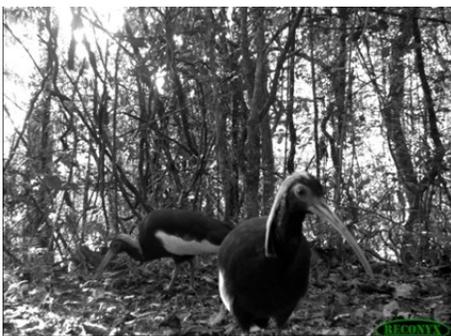
Some spirits do not allow people to walk alone: During the field expedition to different forest sites, the local people always have their own story about the forest: Andranofady (Array 1, site 3) was known from an ancestral family story that hunting and eating eels in the stream is a taboo. The reason for that was told by an ancestral parent who was disappointed by their daughter in-law who

served her mother in-law a snake for food in replacement of an eel without telling her. Within Array 2 (site 6), in the southern part of Ranomafana National Park, local people believe that walking alone in that forest will always lead to getting lost. Some people think that there are the spirits of ancestors who do not allow people to hike alone.



Jean-Claude Andrianantenaina (above) earned his doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in 2004. He has been the TEAM site manager since 2010.

Best camera trap images from Ranomafana



Left: A picture of *Lophotibis cristata* (Madagascar crested ibis) and endemic species to Madagascar’s eastern rainforest, nests in isolation, in a large nest, a near-threatened species.

Right: The big carnivore, *Cryptoprocta ferox* (vernacular name: Fossa) tried to bite the camera trap and turned it over. Native carnivorous species are rare in Madagascar.





TEAM delivers multi-scale, real-time understanding of how key elements of Earth's operating system—climate, carbon stocks, biodiversity—are changing, and what this means for people.

TEAM is a partnership among Conservation International, the Smithsonian Institution, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

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Other News

GREAT NEWS...OUR FIRST TEAM BABY!!!

Our latest network member, TEAM, is the first child of our vegetation team leader in Laos. Mr. Sengphet decided to name his child after the network. All children in Laos have a formal name but are also given a 'play' name which is what they are known by day to day. He is very cute and we hope seeing further photos as he grows.



Close call

On June 25 while collecting TEAM data one of the Yanachaga field technicians, Mr. Carlos Ricardo Mateo Coz, was dragged downhill by a landslide of rocks. The crew was very worried as he was unconscious

for several minutes. Upon regaining consciousness, Carlos had to be carried by his colleagues on the trail—a 3 day trek to the biological station from camp. He then took a boat to the nearest town where doctors stabilized him before sending him the hospital in Oxapampa. Carlos stayed in the hospital where he was given x-rays and antibiotics. Thankfully he had a quick recovery and returned to work on July 15.

Update on TEAM data processing and protocol

A minor update of the TEAM Terrestrial Vertebrate Protocol was just released. The new version 3.1 includes some updates on DeskTEAM, equipment used and processing of spatial data. The new updated version can be downloaded at:

<http://www.teamnetwork.org/en/protocols/bio/terrestrial-vertebrate>

Camera trap paper

As many of you already know, there has been quite the media frenzy over the recent publication of the camera trap mam-

mal paper in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. In fact, many of you co-authored the acclaimed paper!

As lead author, Jorge has been running all over Washington, D.C. giving interviews. In fact, the story (originally released by the Associated Press) has generated 362 clips in more than 20 countries to date!

For more information and links visit www.teamnetwork.org

News from the Coordinating Unit:

TEAM recently welcomed Parthena Kydes as the new Finance & Grants Coordinator. Parthena has a degree in business administration and a strong interest in conservation. She is based in CI's Arlington, Virginia office.

We were sad to say good-bye to our former Technical Coordinator, Jimmy MacCarthy, but excited to wish him well as he begins graduate school at the State University of New York, Syracuse.