habitats. A major lacuna, however, is that the guidelines fail to adequately curb the construction boom on the fringes of reserves. The guidelines also evade other critical issues such as defining the 'zone of influence' around a reserve.

On 16 Oct 2012 the Supreme Court lifted the ban, allowing tourism to recommence in core areas in accordance with the MoEF guidelines However, whether these guidelines will be executed and implemented effectively depends on state and local authorities, and the process will be scrutinized by many in India.

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First images of the Visayan spotted deer and Visayan warty pig

The Greater Negros–Panay faunal region of the Philippines is known to harbour at least five large mammal species, two of which (the Visayan spotted deer *Rusa alfredi* and the Visayan warty pig *Sus cebifrons*) are found nowhere else. Habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation as a result of anthropogenic activities are a major problem in this region and, consequently, these endemic mammals are confined to forest fragments that cover only 7% of the original extent of this recognized biodiversity hotspot.

Fragmented populations of the Critically Endangered Visayan warty pig survive only on Negros, Panay and possibly Masbate, and are thought to number <1,000 in total. The Endangered Visayan spotted deer is believed to be restricted to west Panay and a few scattered remnants of forest on Negros, and is thought to number no more than 2,500. Despite their ecological importance and relatively small geographical ranges the distribution of these two species have only been vaguely described, and systematic field surveys and monitoring are practically non-existent. Fieldwork has been hampered, in part, by the nocturnal and elusive behaviour of these animals and their preference for rugged slopes of dipterocarp forest that are typically inaccessible to humans. The availability of camera traps now facilitates monitoring for such species but this methodology had not previously been used specifically for the large mammal fauna of this region.

To gather information on the presence of large mammals a small team entered the interior of North Negros National Park in 2012. We conducted a camera trap survey during March–April 2012 using 20 cameras, which were each left in place for 9–11 days for a total of 185 camera-trap days. The survey produced a total of 1,455 photographs. In 1,357 photographs no animals were registered and two were of small birds. The remaining 86 photographs were of Asian palm civet, Philippine long-tailed macaque, Visayan spotted deer and Visayan warty pig. These were the first images of the Visayan spotted deer and the Visayan warty pig to be obtained in the wild. The survey demonstrates that camera trapping can provide reliable wildlife data with few personnel over a relatively short period of time in protected areas in the Philippines.

Previous biodiversity assessments on the edges of North Negros National Park have highlighted the anthropogenic threats of encroaching agriculture, illegal logging and hunting, all of which threaten the integrity of the Park. During our study we repeatedly came across evidence of illegal hunting activity throughout the Park, including within the forest interior. On several occasions we observed groups of hunters and encountered evidence of temporary camp sites. Discussions with local forestry staff and field guides from a local mountaineering society indicate that hunting activity is common, with individuals making forays into the Park on at least a monthly basis, and is increasing in frequency.

The evidence collected shows that immediate, increased conservation management action is required to protect the large mammal diversity of North Negros National Park. We urge the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources and international and national nature conservation organizations to direct their attention to the this Park, which is of global importance because of its endemic, threatened large mammal fauna.

Based on the findings of this assessment we make the following recommendations: (1) enhanced management of North Negros National Park is required, with associated increased budgetary resource allocations; (2) increased monitoring and control of illegal captures of Visayan spotted deer and Visayan warty pig are required within the Park; and (3) the application of camera-trap monitoring for these species is required as this methodology addresses the logistical difficulties that have hampered previous efforts. These recommendations have been shared with the appropriate authorities, to help inform future conservation action focussed on these threatened large mammals.

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Conservation and reintroduction of a critically endangered plant *Euryodendron excelsum*

The Critically Endangered, monotypic *Euryodendron excelsum* H.T. Chang (Family Theaceae), is endemic to southern China, to the Bajia region of Guangdong Province. This rare species is ranked as the second most threatened species in China and is subject to national protection. Supported by the National Science Foundation of China, the Plant Science Institute of Yunnan University has been carrying out conservation research and reintroduction actions for *E. excelsum*. We have found that the species is now present in only one remnant, highly fragmented population, with 179 individuals. The species has no clonal growth and propagates only by seeds. The major threats to the species' survival are its small population size and the high frequency of destruction by people. As seedling survival appears to be poor, the conservation of *E. excelsum* needs to include the protection of its habitat and of the remnant individuals, and artificial propagation and ex situ seedling establishment for a future reintroduction programme.

In February 2009 seeds were collected and germinated in a greenhouse at Yunnan University. About 2,000 seedlings had successfully propagated by October, when c. 300 seedlings of c. 12 cm height were then transplanted to the species' original range. At the same time seedlings were planted in Hekou county and Xishuangbana Botanical Garden. By July 2012, nearly 3 years later, the transplanted seedlings had grown to a height of c. 150 cm, with c. 40, 80 and 70% survival in Bajia, Hekou county and Xishuangbana Botanical Garden, respectively.

These conservation studies and actions will help with the design of conservation and reintroduction strategies for *E. excelsum*. The Plant Science Institute of Yunnan University is now carrying out further studies on the conservation and reintroduction of this species. The ultimate aim is to restore *E. excelsum* to the wild.

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The 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity—progress on the road to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which took place in October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, resulted in a range of outcomes to help advance the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. This meeting comes 2 years after arguably the most important meeting of the CBD —COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan—which adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 with its ambitious 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see *Oryx*, 45, 1–2).

COP 11 served to review progress and identify actions required to support the parties, in particular developing country parties, in implementing the Strategic Plan. Implementation was reiterated during the meeting as the top priority of the new CBD Executive Secretary, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias. The COP adopted a total of 33 decisions (http://www.cbd.int/cop11) on a wide range of topics, including those the Convention has covered since it came into force in 1993 (http://www.cbd.int/programmes).

Support for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) was identified as a priority issue. A new partnership between the CBD and the UN Development and Environment Programmes called the NBSAP Forum was launched in Hyderabad, to assist countries with their NBSAPs and provide guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity into national development agendas (http://www.nbsapforum.net).

The mobilization of resources required for implementing the Convention was the most contentious issue on the COP agenda. The report of the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, commissioned by the governments of UK and India (http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/official/cop-11-14-add2-en.pdf), was presented to the COP. This estimated the costs for implementing the 20 Aichi Targets at USD 150–440 billion per year (see also *Science*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1229803).

Disagreement over baselines and the role of domestic funding versus direct flow of resources from the North to the South hampered discussions on targets for the Resource Mobilization Strategy of the Convention. After intense negotiations a decision was made very late in the final plenary that includes the target of doubling total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to