



## FROM THE EDITOR...

The Antelope Specialist Group is pleased to present GNUSLETTER Volume 30 #2. This edition includes some incredibly positive news for antelopes and conservation in Africa including John Newby's letter announcing the Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature and Cultural Reserve in Niger, and the inauguration of the Boma National Park headquarters in South Sudan from the Wildlife Conservation Society press release. Conversely the report of the sacking of Epulu and the destruction of the headquarters of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve by elephant poachers in the DR Congo poignantly illustrates the dangerous war for control of wildlife and natural resources in Africa.

Also included in this volume are some reports from Sierre Leone on Jentink's duiker and gazelles in Iraq. Two very nice historic reviews (Paul Evangelista in Ethiopia and Abel and Kille in Somalia) were submitted concerning antelopes in the Horn of Africa.

Finally, GNUSLETTER is now registered with an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) with the International ISSN Center in France formally recognizing the electronic distribution of this publication.

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Thanks to all the GNUSLETTER contributors and godspeed to all the ASG members, antelope researchers, and wildlife managers working to conserve antelope and support protected areas in Africa and Asia.

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## In this Issue...

### From the ASG Chairs . . .

### From the Gnusletter editor . . .

This issue: Mai Mai Rebels Overrun Okapi Wildlife Reserve Headquarters, S. Shurter

### Recent Reports

- Tin Toumma National Nature and Cultural Reserve, J. Newby, Sahara Conservation Fund
- Boma National Park Headquarters inauguration, WCS press release
- Antelopes in S. Somalia, 1975-1975, ASG report Summary (N.A.O. Abel & M.E. Kille)
- The Natural and Unnatural History of the Mountain Nyala, P. Evangelista
- Jentink's Duiker Camera Trap Photos in Sierra Leone, R. Garriga, A. McKenna
- Notes on the antelopes of Iraq, Omar Fadhil Al-Sheikhly
- Antelopes in Stamps, D. Mallon

### Publications

- Priority antelope conservation areas in Rep. of Guinea, *Oryx*
- Modeling mountain nyala habitat quality, *Current Zoology*
- Comparative phylogeography of African savannah ungulates, *Molecular Ecology*
- FMD serosurveillance in Mongolian gazelles, *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*

### Antelope in the News

- Sable Shenanigans – Zambia (Africa Geographic)
- Angola's Giant Sable (SWARA – John Frederick Walker)



Gertrude Sanford and Sidney LeGendre, who's expedition was published in two issues of *Natural History* in 1930 (Vol. XXX, Numbers 1 and 2). Not only will the careful reader find detailed information on the local flora, fauna and customs of the people, but can also examine dozens of photographs that show how the people and landscape looked more than eighty years ago. Other accounts that are as entertaining as informative include James Baum's *Savage Abyssinia*, Wilfred Tesiger's *The Life of My Choice* and *Prince Henry's Game Shooting of Africa*.

Through 1960, mountain nyala were known by Westerners to inhabit only the Arussi Mountains and East of Lake Ziway (presumed to be the present-day Munessa-Shashamane Forest). By this time, several more hunting expeditions for mountain nyala had taken place, and reports of poachers, habitat destruction and declining wildlife numbers began to surface. In 1961, Donald Carter recommended that the species be listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (now the IUCN). This sparked the curiosity of Leslie Brown, who is probably better known for his study of African birds than the mountain nyala. Although Brown was once a trophy hunter in his earlier years, he traded his rifle for a pencil and notebook becoming one of the most renowned African naturalists of his time. He made two trips to the southern highlands of Ethiopia in 1963 and again in 1965/1966 studying the mountain nyala and documenting new populations in the Chercher and Bale Mountains. His reports included behavioral observations, demographics and population estimates, which resulted in the removal of the mountain nyala from the IUCN's list of endangered species from 1969 to 1975. To this day, his observations remain some of the best information ever collected on the mountain nyala. More on Leslie Brown's expeditions and discoveries will be presented in the next issue.



*Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester (first row, center) and his delegation in Addis Ababa for the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1930. Wilfred Tesiger is also pictured on the fourth row, third from the left.*

*Paul Evangelista, PhD is a research ecologist at the Natural*

*Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University. He has been exploring Ethiopia since 1999 focusing much of this time studying the mountain nyala, its habitat, and ways to support management and conservation efforts.*



## Survey Captures First-Ever Photos of Endangered Jentink's Duiker in Sierra Leone's Western Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIERRA LEONE (20 March 2012) – More than a dozen recent camera-trap photographs have confirmed that a small population of Jentink's Duiker, a deer-like animal that is threatened with global extinction, is living within Sierra Leone's Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve.

The photographs, which were obtained between October 2011 and March 2012 as part of a camera-trap survey run by Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, are the first irrefutable evidence of the animal's live presence in the Western Area. Previous researchers had found only bones of the animals or heard reports of sightings from hunters.



"It is really exciting to see these great images of such rare and special animals," said Dr. John Oates, an emeritus professor at the City University of New York.



“They show how significant the Western Area forests still are for biodiversity in Sierra Leone, despite being so close to the large city of Freetown. We should not neglect the conservation value of any remaining areas of rain forest in that part of West Africa, even when they are relatively small and isolated.”

“Jentink’s duiker is among the world’s least known, unusual-looking, and rare antelopes, so this solid evidence from camera trapping of their continued presence in the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve is very good news indeed,” said Dr. Tim Wacher, a wildlife biologist with the Zoological Society of London. “It provides another strong reason to protect this fascinating and important habitat.”

The Jentink’s Duiker (*Cephalophus jentinki*) is a forest-dwelling mammal that stands 80 centimetres tall at the shoulder and weighs roughly 70 kilograms. Scientists have estimated that there are between 2,000 and 3,500 Jentink’s Duikers left in the wild, with scattered groups living in the forests of Liberia and Cote d’Ivoire, in addition to Sierra Leone. The global population is on the decline, due largely to habitat destruction and poaching.

Tacugama’s year-long camera-trap survey, run by Rosa Garriga, has also confirmed the presence of two other threatened species inside the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve (WAPFR): the Western chimpanzee, which is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, and the white-necked picathartes, an endemic bird that is classified as vulnerable. Many other mammals have also been captured by the cameras including black and bay duiker, bushbuck, genet, civet, mongoose and several monkey species.

The WAPFR is a 17,000-hectare forest reserve that borders Freetown, Sierra Leone’s sprawling capital city. The forest is a biodiversity hotspot and a vital watershed, but it is critically threatened by its proximity to Freetown and faces many threats from land clearing, bushmeat hunting and urban expansion.

To increase protection of this important habitat, the government just announced that it is planning to designate the area as Sierra Leone’s third national park. Efforts are also underway to have the forest listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Background

Sierra Leone, a small West African nation that falls in the bottom ten percent of the UN’s Human Development Index, suffered through a brutal 11-year civil war that ended in 2002. The conflict

killed 200,000 people and devastated the country’s wildlife, as bushmeat hunting soared with the proliferation of small arms. But Sierra Leone has been at peace for more than a decade and its Environmental Protection Agency was created in 2008. The country is preparing for a presidential election later this year.

The camera-trap survey has been made possible by generous support from Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, Lush Cosmetics, Barcelona Zoo, and GIS expert Berndt Eckhardt. For more information about Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, visit: [www.tacugama.com](http://www.tacugama.com).



Details on the Jentink’s Duiker can be found on the IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/4140/0> Several license-free photographs of the Jentink’s Duiker in the Western Area are available on request. To access these, please email [info@tacugama.com](mailto:info@tacugama.com).

