A management plan for the area was developed with communities in April 2015 and has been submitted to the local Direction Régionale de l'Environnement et des Forêts. It is hoped this work can successfully replicate progress in the west of the country.

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Slow loris arm key-rings

In March 2015, after attending a workshop that was partly aimed at finding solutions to the ongoing illegal wildlife trade along China's southern borders, we had the opportunity to visit the Chinese border town of Daluo and its sister-town across the border in Myanmar, Mong La. Based on research conducted during 2006–2014 Nijman et al. (*Primate Conservation*, 2014, 28, 139–142) identified Mong La as a major trading centre for Bengal slow lorises *Nycticebus bengalensis*. The Bengal slow loris is categorized as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, partially because of rampant illegal trade, and is protected under both Myanmar and Chinese law. International trade in all eight species of slow loris is prohibited as the genus is listed in Appendix I of CITES, to which both Myanmar and China are signatories. In Mong La we observed two live Bengal slow lorises, two freshly killed, 15 skeletons, three skins, five slow loris arms and three bundles of 15 slow loris arms turned into key-rings, all openly for sale. Combined, these represent the remains of at least 32 Bengal slow lorises. We did not observe any Bengal slow lorises in Daluo—the market contained low numbers of wildlife, with the traders informing us of recent heightened presence of enforcement agency's staff, most likely in anticipation of the international workshop—but in July 2014 Axel Hofford, a journalist with the *Guardian* newspaper, photographed three (potentially up to five) slow loris key-ring chains in Daluo. Trade in Mong La is geared towards the Chinese market, with most wildlife observed in Daluo originating from the Mong La market across the border. The trade in slow lorises in Mong La and Daluo is in violation of Myanmar and Chinese domestic legislation and also of CITES regulations. The use of Bengal slow loris arms and other body parts in traditional Asian medicine is well known to us. We have seen a multitude of animal parts being used as key-rings, including the tails of many mammal species, and live newts, freshwater turtles and fish, each in their own little plastic container. We have not, however, previously seen slow loris arms in use as key-rings (we saw none during earlier visits to Mong La). Could our observations in Mong La and Daluo be the early signs of an emerging trend?

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Conserving the world's rarest ape: action planning for the Hainan gibbon

The Critically Endangered Hainan gibbon *Nomascus hainanus* is the rarest ape and possibly rarest mammal species, comprising a single population of c. 25 individuals in Bawangling National Nature Reserve, Hainan, China. The species occurred historically across Hainan, with an estimated population of c. 2,000 in the 1950s, but experienced a precipitous decline during the 20th century driven by hunting and extensive habitat loss. Periodic surveys since 2003 have failed to locate any individuals outside the Reserve, and there are no captive populations.

Research over the past 3 decades has clarified key aspects of Hainan gibbon biology, behaviour and ecology, and conservation legislation is in place to protect the last population: Bawangling was gazetted as a protected area in 1980 and the species was designated a State 1 Protected Species under the 1988 Chinese Wildlife Protection Law. The first Conservation Action Plan for the species was produced in 2005, focusing primarily on threat abatement. Subsequent management activities have included efforts to protect and restore gibbon habitat, and there has been some apparent growth in the gibbon population. However, the tiny size of the sole population threatens the long-term survival of the species.

To promote effective conservation of the Hainan gibbon a conservation planning workshop was held during 18–20 March 2014 in Bo'ao, Hainan. This international workshop was organized by the Zoological Society of London in cooperation with the Hainan Bawangling National Nature Reserve Management Office and the IUCN Species Survival Commission China Primate Specialist Group, with support from Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden and Fauna & Flora International, and was facilitated by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Breeding Specialist Group. Financial support was provided by the Arcus Foundation and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. Over 100 stakeholders participated, including experts in gibbon conservation and small population recovery programmes, and representatives

from government, universities, conservation NGOs, zoos, rescue centres and local communities. Following a series of presentations on gibbon status and genetics, conservation activities and viability concerns, participants identified potential threats, challenges and issues considered likely to affect Hainan gibbon population viability and conservation. Working groups discussed the main threats and developed conservation goals, along with recommendations for management and research actions to help achieve the goals. Recommended actions were evaluated for potential benefit, costs, risks and likelihood of success, and timelines, responsible parties/collaborators, resources required, and priority status were assessed where possible for each action.

The newly published bilingual *International Conservation Planning Workshop for the Hainan Gibbon: Final Report* (available from http://www.cbsg.org and http://www.zsl.org) details the 12 goals and 44 specific conservation actions. Key goals include: effective protection and enhancement of gibbon habitat and connectivity at Bawangling National Nature Reserve; expansion of gibbons into additional good-quality habitat; enhanced monitoring and improved understanding of factors affecting dispersal, group formation and colonization of new habitat; development of an emergency response plan for any future crisis; and improved communication to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders.

The report is being used as a guide to develop both a Chinese Species Conservation Action Plan and an IUCN Species Action Plan. Local and regional management teams are now working with Chinese and international collaborators to conduct activities considered beneficial for the long-term survival of the species. However, additional governmental and international support will be needed to implement all identified priority actions and thus safeguard the future of this rare, endemic Chinese primate.

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16th International Conservation Workshop for Arabia's Biodiversity

The 16th Annual International Conservation Workshop for Arabia's Biodiversity was held at the American University of Sharjah, in conjunction with the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, during 2–5 February 2015. This forum brought together over 150 participants from UAE, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen and Oman, and from the UK, South Africa, Hungary, Australia and New Zealand. The Sharjah workshops are hosted by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority of the Government of Sharjah, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah.

The 16th Workshop had four themes. The protected areas and planning theme looked at the assessment and management of human–wildlife conflict; a species assessment theme conducted a review of the conservation status, threats and management of marine turtles in the Arabian Peninsula region; a veterinary theme looked at the issue of herbivore health care; and a technical theme examined aspects of electronic data capture.

The topic of human–wildlife conflict had been raised as an important regional issue at previous workshops, in particular concerns about predation of livestock by native carnivores. In a series of sessions facilitated by Brandon Anthony of the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, working groups looked at case studies relevant to the Arabian Peninsula: livestock predation and perceived threats to people from the leopard, wolf, hyaena, caracal and jackal; commensalism by Hamadryas baboons; and issues concerning goats in and around protected areas. The working groups looked at: identification of stakeholders; environmental and social risk factors; the perceived and real costs of conflict; policy and management options; contextual challenges; monitoring and evaluation; and research needs. It was recommended that stakeholder engagement strategies and tools for social scientists need to be further developed for the region in taking this subject further.

The species assessment theme covered the status and conservation of the five species of marine turtles (four of them breeding) in the Arabian Peninsula. Topics covered included identification of key nesting and foraging sites, a threat assessment at regional and national levels, research needs, identification of stakeholders, and listing of recent and current turtle conservation projects. A vision and a goal for marine turtle conservation were developed along with a set of objectives to provide a conservation strategy framework for integration into existing initiatives, such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Indian Ocean and South-east Asia Memorandum of Understanding.

The veterinary theme's main focus was herbivore healthcare and in particular the state of emerging and re-emerging diseases in the region. Moritz van Vuuren, a veterinary virologist from the faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, gave presentations on diseases in the region. During two interactive sessions diagnoses and decision making in relation to viral diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, Peste des Petits ruminants and others were discussed. Further presentations on disease