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Tracking Ivory

In Africa some militias fund operations by trading elephant ivory. Can a fake tusk help thwart them?

By Bryan Christy
Photographs by Brent Stirton

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True Colors

Scientists explore the chameleon's expressive color changes, trick tongue—and vanishing habitat.

By Patricia Edmonds
Photographs by Christian Ziegler

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Rescuing Mes Aynak

In Afghanistan a fortune in copper ore lies buried beneath a trove of ancient Buddhist artifacts.

By Hannah Bloch
Photographs by Simon Norfolk

130 Proof | Art From an American Backyard

Armed with a cell phone, a photographer catalogs the local flora and fauna.

By James Estrin Photographs by Joshua White

On the Cover An artificial tusk like this one was outfitted with a transmitter and planted in the ivory market so that its travels—and traders' illegal activities—could be tracked. Photograph by Rebecca Hale, NGM Staff

Corrections and Clarifications Go to ngm.com/more.

60 Point of No Return

Is Hkakabo Razi in fact the tallest mountain in Myanmar? Attempting to take its measure, a team of climbers risked everything. By Mark Jenkins Photographs by Cory Richards

Above a sea of clouds, Renan Ozturk pauses on a slope of Hkakabo Razi. He was one of three climbers making a summit attempt on the mountain, believed to be Myanmar's highest.