

Aders` Duikers

On February 12th, two new monitoring cameras, donated by Zoo Munich-Hellabrunn in Germany, were mounted in the Forest Reserve, to provide new information on the status of the Aders` Duiker population in Chumbe.

The cameras were left in the forest for two weeks, at two locations where feces or scent marks from duikers had been found in the past. After the two weeks, the cameras were collected for download of photos.

The photos produced by the new cameras were of good quality, but no animals with ear tags were seen. The original first generation of the Chumbe Duikers had been ear-tagged during their translocation from Unguja in 1999, to allow for photo identification of individuals based on their tags. As seen in the new photos, at least one animal has now lost its tag, and we also have photos of several untagged juveniles that provide evidence that the translocated duikers are reproducing. Identifying individual animals will require a different approach in the future, and we will continue to explore ways of monitoring Chumbe`s population of this extremely endangered animal.