



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

SEPTEMBER 2015 • VOL. 228 • NO. 3

30

## 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

92

## True Colors

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

By Patricia Edmonds  
Photographs by Christian Ziegler

110

## 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](http://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


INTI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TSAM LIBRARY

Supplier / Publisher:

Direct

11/15/2015



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.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY