from wind turbines may become relevant. In one session the potential impacts of this infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks to minimize collisions, were presented. Additionally, as there has been large-scale loss of intertidal flats in the Yellow Sea (Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, 2014, 12, 267–272), there was discussion of a potential transboundary offsetting scheme across the flyway, as well as on researching the feasibility of habitat restoration.

The meeting indicated that the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership is now gathering momentum and transitioning from negotiation to implementation. The event concluded with an agreed work plan for 2015–2016, which partners will report against at the next meeting in 2017, tentatively to be held in Singapore. For access to the full minutes of the meeting see http://www.eaaflyway.net

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16th Student Conference on Conservation Science

Nearly 180 students from 53 countries attended the 16th Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) on 24–26 March 2015 in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK. Delegates were given a warm welcome by Patricia Zurita, the new Chief Executive of BirdLife International, whose secretariat is based in Cambridge.

SCCS is an international conference series aimed entirely at young conservation scientists, so its key features are the sessions devoted to student presentations and posters. The conference avoids having a single theme, to encourage contributions that span the social and natural sciences and all taxonomic groups. The 32 student talks were interspersed with student poster sessions, with 97 posters and nine expert workshops on practical skills. Senior conservation scientists provided written feedback on all talks and posters and awarded prizes to the best three of each.

Stimulating plenary lectures were given by Julie Razafimanahaka (Madagasikara Voakajy) on resolving conservation issues in Madagascar, Patricia Majluf (Oceana) on reconciling commercial fishing with marine conservation, Tom McCarthy (Panthera) on novel and diverse approaches to promoting the co-existence of snow leopards and pastoralists, and Paul Ferraro (Georgia State University) on the standards of evidence in conservation science. Julie Razafimanahaka first attended SCCS as a student a decade ago and became the first SCCS alumnus to return as a plenary lecturer.

Social and networking events included a Who’s Who in Conservation? session at which 30 conservation agencies, institutes and NGOs displayed posters and provided staff to talk about their work. Conservation practitioners play a key role in SCCS, and the conference was visited by 90 staff or representatives from 37 bodies.
The next Cambridge SCCS will be on 22–24 March 2016, with plenary speakers Tom Brooks (IUCN), Taylor Ricketts (Gund Institute for Ecological Economics), Nancy Knowlton (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History) and Mike Barry (Marks & Spencer). Updates will be posted on the conference website (http://www.sccs-cam.org). There are now sister SCCS series in Australia, China, Hungary, India and the USA. Dates and application details are on the SCCS Cambridge website.

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The Whitley Awards 2015

The annual Whitley Awards Ceremony was held on 29 April 2015 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The flagship event of UK-based charity the Whitley Fund for Nature was hosted by wildlife presenter Kate Humble, and saw seven conservation leaders from six countries receive Whitley Awards worth GBP 35,000 each in project funding over 1 year in support of their work.

In addition, the prestigious Whitley Gold Award was presented to 2009 Whitley Award winner Dino Martins of Kenya for his efforts to conserve pollinators through sustainable farming practices. Over 400 people attended the event, where the charity’s patron, HRH The Princess Royal, presented the Awards.

The 2015 Whitley Award Winners are: Arnaud Desbiez, Brazil (Giant armadillos as a flagship species for the conservation of tropical scrublands in the Cerrado); Rosamira Guillen, Colombia (Proyecto Titi: expanding conservation efforts to protect the cotton-top tamarin in northern Colombia); Panut Hadisiswoyo, Indonesia (Conservation villages: building local capacity for the protection of Sumatran orangutans and their habitat); Jayson Ibáñez, Philippines (Preventing further decline of the Philippine eagle on Mindanao Island); Inaoyom Imong, Nigeria (Saving Cross River gorillas through community-based conservation in the Mbe Mountains); Ananda Kumar, India (Elephant messengers: using innovative communication systems to enable human–elephant coexistence in southern India); Pramod Patil, India (Community conservation of the great Indian bustard in the Thar Desert: a landscape-level approach).

For more information on the Whitley Fund for Nature and the Whitley Awards, and to view short films about each of the winning projects, see http://www.whitleyaward.org. See p. 564 for the call for applications for the 2016 Whitley Awards.

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