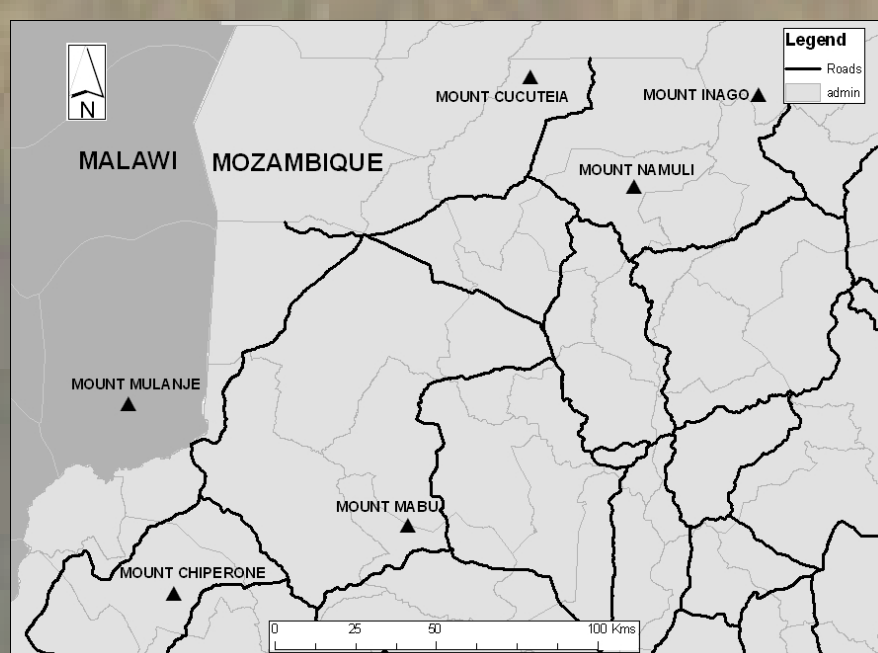
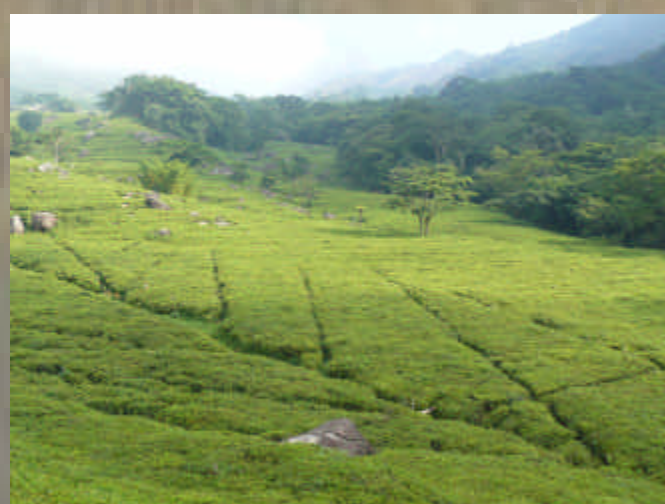




CONSERVATION FINDINGS FROM MOZAMBIQUE MOUNTAINS



1. There is much nationally and internationally significant and exciting biodiversity still to be found in Mozambique, especially in the northern Provinces. The levels of diversity are higher than previously thought, and there is still much to be discovered.
2. Important and spectacular biodiversity can include plants, small vertebrates and insects, as well as the more obvious larger animals.
3. There is a significant number of species – plants, birds, reptiles and insects – that are found only on one or more of these mountains and nowhere else in the world. The Mozambique Government has particular responsibility for the conservation of these species under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. The isolated mountains of northern Mozambique are globally important areas for conservation, forming part of a series of biodiversity "stepping stones" between the mountains of eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi and the highlands of southern Tanzania for birds and plants. At present none of these mountains in Mozambique are formally protected and their often unique biodiversity is often unrecognised. Several have a good potential for ecotourism.
5. Conservation of these scattered montane areas could also be addressed through trans-border initiatives, in particular with Malawi. Such initiatives would build on regional expertise, experience and partnerships, and would allow for greater international recognition and support.
6. Conservation areas do not have to be very large or formal, such as designation as a National or Transfrontier Park, in order to conserve important biodiversity. For example, Important Plant Areas – specific areas with particularly rich or special biodiversity or habitats – can be a very useful way to expand a network of national conservation areas, without necessarily altering people's ways-of-life.
7. Biologists, foresters, herbaria and natural history museums have historically had an important role to play in conservation, and should be fully involved in all conservation projects and initiatives. Such institutions and professionals have a wealth of knowledge that needs to be better utilised.

