

科学家们报告说，这是迄今为止观测到的持续时间最长的沉积物崩塌。崩塌发生在非洲西侧刚果河河口切入海底的一条深邃峡谷中。

We've all seen pictures of an **avalanche** falling down a mountain. Now, imagine this mighty force **tumbling** down a slope for two whole days. This gives you a sense of the volume of sand and mud that collapsed down the Congo Canyon – a **sinuous channel** that leads away from the West African coastline.

我们都见过雪崩时积雪滑下山坡的画面。现在，想象这股强大的力量在斜坡上翻滚了整整两天。由此可见塌向刚果海底峡谷的泥沙量之大，这条蜿蜒的通道从非洲西部海岸线切入海洋。

An international team of scientists were in the fortunate position to catch the action because they'd lined the channel with **instruments**. Each **sensor** popped to the surface to email home, as the so-called **turbidity current** roared past. The observations provide critical new **insights** on how these huge **sediment flows** are triggered. And this gives telecoms companies fresh ideas on how to protect **submarine** cables.

一个国际科研团队有幸捕捉到了事件的发生，因为他们此前已在通道沿线布下了观测仪器。当所谓的浊流呼啸而过时，每个传感器都会弹出水面发邮件通知团队。观测结果为泥沙量巨大的沉积物流的触发形式提供了至关重要的新见解。这给电信公司提供了如何保护海底电缆的新思路。

Cables can be repaired in weeks by pulling them up and patching – much like you might fix a power cable sliced through by a lawnmower. But delays are **costly** – **money transfers** going over these underwater connections have a daily value of trillions of dollars.

破损的电缆可以通过将之拖出水面来修补，该过程耗时数周，这和修理被割草机切断的电线是同一个原理。但修复造成的时间延误是代价高昂的，经由水下电缆连接完成的资金转移每天价值数万亿美元。

1. 词汇表

avalanche	(积雪、沙石等的) 崩塌
tumbling	滚落, 坍塌
sinuous channel	蜿蜒曲折的通道
instruments	仪器
sensor	传感器
turbidity current	浊流
insights	深刻见解
sediment flows	沉积物流
submarine	水下的, 海底的
costly	昂贵的, 高代价的
money transfers	资金转移

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. How long has this underwater avalanche been happening for?

2. How did the sensors tell scientists what had happened?

3. Why might the scientists' observations help telecoms companies?

4. What flows through these underwater cables that have a daily value of trillions of dollars?

3. 答案

1. How long has this underwater avalanche been happening for?

The sand and mud avalanche has been tumbling down a slope for two whole days.

2. How did the sensors tell scientists what had happened?

As the avalanche moved past, sensors popped to the surface to email a message home to the scientists.

3. Why might the scientists' observations help telecoms companies?

The observations give telecoms companies fresh ideas on how to protect submarine cables.

4. What flows through these underwater cables that have a daily value of trillions of dollars?

Money transfers going over these underwater connections have a daily value of trillions of dollars.