

2021

Chimpanzee Conservation Center Annual Report



Chimpanzee Conservation Center

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SUMMARY

2021 marked the second year of the pandemic, having multiple repercussions in Guinea (economic crisis, difficulties with travel, etc.). A resurgence of Ebola also hit the country, fortunately without serious consequences. In addition, a complex political situation brought the country to a virtual standstill and led to a political change on September 5th that led to the reorganization of the administration in the months that followed.

At the same time, the CCC experienced tragic events: a massive escape of Dan's group at the end of January, leading to the accidental death of Oga and the disappearance of Lobai, finally located after weeks of searching about 15 km south of the sanctuary; a serious incident at the release site between the released chimpanzees and a villager at the beginning of February; and then in April, the deaths of Kirikou and Coco, one after the other, as well as the disappearance of Mike following his reintegration into his group. The whole team was very disheartened by all these difficulties but the local team continued their work and care of the remaining chimpanzees while actively searching for those missing. A new dormitory was built for Dan's group, a new orphan was confiscated by authorities and welcomed by the CCC, the training of the local team continued, and the first woman staff member joined the education team. Conservation efforts expanded with increased activities involving local communities in and around the Upper Niger National Park (UNNP).

In the midst of this turmoil, a miracle occurred: Ali, who had disappeared at the end of March 2020, reappeared exactly 14 months later, cachectic, but so happy to see everyone again! His hugs on arrival soothed all the tears.

All this work wouldn't be possible without:

- The CCC support organizations in the USA (Project Primate, Inc.) and in France (Projet Primates France)
- The donors, individual and institutional
- The Guinean authorities and specifically the Conservator of the Upper Niger National Park, Adj/C A. Samoura, who has been a great help to the team and an unfailing support during the year.

The CCC will continue to work hard to conserve chimpanzees in Guinea and to offer its resident the best living conditions possible.

ADMINISTRATION

The CCC office in Faranah expanded in 2021. Home to the education team, the office is also the administrative base of the CCC and houses the offices of the Executive Director and the Director of Conservation Programs. It is now a meeting place open to the public.

ACCOUNTING

The CCC acquired Quickbooks® accounting software in 2021. An accounting assistant, Joseph Bala Yaradouno, was hired early this year. Joseph and the Executive Director benefited from distance training thanks to the support of the administrative team of JGI Congo, which worked alongside the team throughout the year. This new accounting and financial system are part of the ongoing professionalization of the CCC that started several years ago.



THE SANCTUARY TEAM

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Hélène RASE, Director of Operations (DO)

Hélène first came to the CCC in 2014 as a volunteer. She returned in 2015 and became manager in 2016 and then Director of Operations in 2019. After 8 years in the bush, Hélène decided to move on at the end of 2021. The CCC owes her a lot and we are grateful for her work. We wish her well in her new endeavor.

Hélène carried out the majority of search missions for Lobai with Faya Tolno, head keeper, between February and June, while coordinating the construction of the new dormitory of Dan's group, intervening, when necessary, at the release site, and supporting Stuart, the chimpanzee manager, with local team training.



Stuart BEAMAN, Chimpanzee Manager

Stuart has also been hard at work during this year. He has continued his training of the team of caretakers, focusing in 2021 on the training of Alémou Barry, the new head keeper, after Benoit Kamano became the release site manager. All of the caregivers have received extensive training in chimpanzee behavior, which is a very useful tool in their daily work.

Stuart has also worked extensively with the team on chimpanzee integrations, as the sanctuary is severely lacking in space. Unfortunately, several attempts to reintroduce males into groups have not worked out, but some have been very successful. Stuart has worked closely with Faya Tolno, the head caretaker, to teach the often-complex integration process.

Dr Lucie PARIS, Veterinarian

Dr Paris has not been idle this year either. She has taken great care of all the chimpanzees, engaging in medical training with some chimpanzees that need to be monitored or treated everyday such as Panza and Rocky.



Dr. Paris has implemented and enforced sanitary rules to continue to protect the team and chimpanzees from the Coronavirus.

She has also participated in various missions throughout the year.

Dr Paris will be replaced in the first quarter of 2022 by Dr Cédric Kambere. A big thank you to Lucie.

Lucie BOIRIVEAU, Assistant Manager

Lucie completed her contract as assistant manager at the end of March 2021. We sincerely thank her for her help and involvement with the sanctuary team in managing logistics, administrative assistance and communications, as well as her daily involvement with the chimpanzees.

LOCAL TEAM

Training of the local team by Stuart Beaman continued throughout the year. Stuart focused on teaching the keepers about chimpanzee behavior, while continuing to develop the junior keepers.



Benoit Kamano, head keeper, was promoted to manager of the release site in April. As a result, Alémou Barry, assistant head keeper, became head keeper, alongside Faya Tolno. Antoine Koundounio, senior keeper, was trained as assistant head keeper.

Currently, there are thirteen keepers and two head keepers at the sanctuary site and four trackers and one head tracker at the release site.

	Sanctuaire Somoria	Site de relâcher Bakaria	Education	Equipe de Faranah	TOTAL
Nombre d'employés locaux fin 2020	22	6	2	2	32
Nombre d'employés locaux fin 2021	21	5	3	3	32
Nombre de départs en 2021	6	4	0	0	10
Nombres d'arrivées en 2021	5	3	1	1	10

THE CHIMPANZEES AT THE SANCTUARY

THE MASSIVE ESCAPE OF JANUARY 28, 2021

On January 28, 2021 around 7:00 pm, shortly after the last meal of the day, almost all of Dan's group escaped after having broken the bars of their cage, because of the presence of a wild female nearby (see Report 2020 on the consequences of the presence of this female on the sanctuary). This left 5 adult males and 4 females outside, as well as Dave who escaped from Zoe's enclosure. The team could do nothing that evening but to wait out in safety.



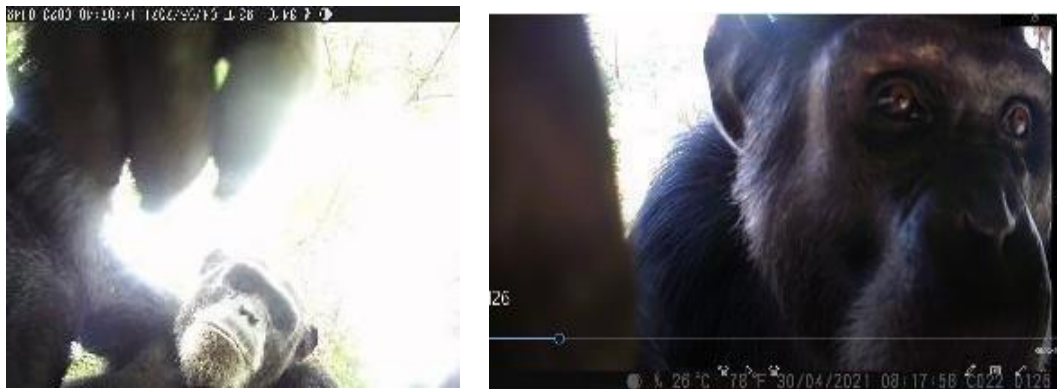
The next morning, Hélène, Lucie (veterinarian) and the senior headkeepers met at 4:00 am. They were able to get a visual on all the chimpanzees. The males stayed in the forest near the enclosures with the wild female, while the four females stayed at the camp. The four females finally returned voluntarily to their enclosure in the morning. The males stayed together all day, threatening the team if they tried to approach. Eventually the males separated, and Oga was darted from the veterinary clinic, but unfortunately Oga fell asleep while touching the electrical fence. Oga was suffering from a severe heart murmur, and his heart stopped. The team retrieved him, and despite intensive resuscitation by Dr. Paris, Oga did not wake up. The team was devastated by this terrible accident but had to continue as the other males were still outside.

Dan finally returned voluntarily and Max was darted. Dave also reappeared on the evening of the 29th and was anesthetized. Paco spent three days outside with the wild female. The report of the disappearance of Lobai was made on the evening of January 29th. On January 30th, an important bush fire threatened Somoria while the headkeepers were still trying to recover Paco. The team was able to extinguish the fire, a common occurrence during dry season. The team searched for Lobai for a week around Somoria, until villagers (including a former keeper) reported his presence 8 km south of Somoria on the river bank. It seems that he was frightened by the bushfire which made him move away towards the South. Numerous missions were organized every day for another week to search the area where he had been seen. Then villagers reported him about 15 km south of Somoria, near 3 villages (Mansori Moribaya, Nialemba and Tessedat). Numerous missions were carried out by the DO and the headkeeper, sometimes assisted by 2 former keepers, to sweep a vast area around these 2 villages. Two 3-day missions on site (Executive Director/DO/head trainer and then chimpanzee manager/veterinarian/head keeper) still did not allow us to find him even though the villagers reported him nearby and one of his nests was discovered. Below is a map showing the CCC teams' coverage of nearly 4000 hectares (40km²) on foot and by motorcycle between February and June.



Map of Lobai's research areas

Cameratrap images were placed in the field where Lobai had been reported by villagers at the end of April, by the CCC Director of Conservation Programs, Miguel Garcia. The data collected confirmed his presence (below left) with another chimpanzee (female) as the villagers reported.



The villagers have not seen him or the wild female since June 2021. The UNNP authorities, including the conservator A. Samoura, have been a great help during all the search and missions undertaken by the CCC.

MARCO'S ARRIVAL

Little Marco was confiscated not far from Guékédou during the resurgence of the Ebola epidemic Guinea in early 2021. He was confiscated in a market by the *Brigade de Lutte contre la Criminalité Faunique* and sent to Faranah to Mr. Conservateur A. Samoura who drove him to the hospital. Mr. Samoura took him to Somoria with head tracker, Benoit Kamano. Marco was first placed in strict quarantine for 3 weeks with Lamine Diane (below right). He was thin and had a gunshot wound to the jaw. When he was captured, a bullet pierced his cheek and upper jaw, breaking many of his incisors and premolars. Veterinarian Paris had to extract 5 baby teeth and clean his mouth twice. Marco recovered well from his 2 operations, even though he still has great difficulty eating hard food. After his quarantine he was integrated with Sewa and Dali, who arrived in 2020, then the three babies were integrated in the juvenile group.



THE MIRACLE ALI

Ali had disappeared in March 2020 during a forest walk with his group (see annual report 2020), with four other young chimpanzees. While Missy and Sierra returned on their own, Ali, Adi and Hawa remained unaccounted for despite an intense search by the entire CCC team. The survival of Ali, a young male, remained very uncertain. So, it was a wonderful and happy surprise to see Ali, cachectic but alive, reappearing one morning at camp, exactly 14 months after his disappearance! Ali threw himself into the DO's arms for a moving and very intense reunion. He was placed under intensive care with adapted nutrition and close contact. After several weeks of convalescence, Ali was able to join his companions Noël, Dave and Missy, in Zoé's enclosure. His integration was easy as Labé quickly took him under her wing. Being with his peers helped him overcome the trauma of 14 months in the forest and to regain his joy of living.



MOVEMENTS, INTEGRATIONS

Douma

Douma, a true escape artist, was reintegrated into his group, Hakim's group, after the enclosure was secured at the end of 2020. Not very interested in interacting with his peers, Douma finally escaped from the enclosure after four months. Unfortunately, he had to be placed in a secured enclosure.

Bobo and Panza

Bobo and Panza had been living alone for several years. They were finally integrated together in the secure enclosure after the tragic death of Coco. Panza suffers from an intracardiac mass that severely handicaps him, with rapid shortness of breath on exertion. Bobo, the largest chimpanzee at CCC, was very happy to have a playmate again and they quickly became best buddies.

Soumba

Soumba, who arrived at CCC in late 2015, left the forest school to be successfully integrated into Hakim's home. At just 7 years old, she is the "baby" of the group, protected by Hakim the dominant.

Other integrations

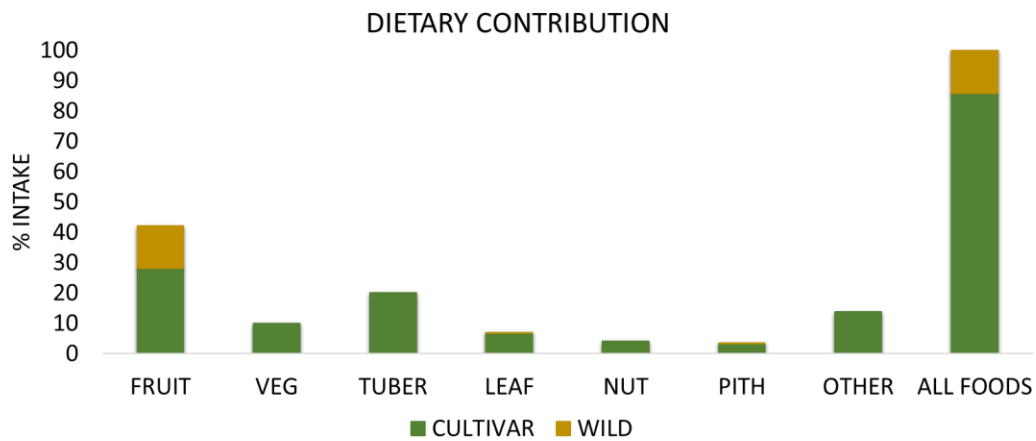
Several attempts to integrate Moka and Bamba within Ced's group failed. Max, from Dan's group, also escaped three times, despite reinforcement of the enclosure at the end of 2021.

NUTRITION

The CCC hosted Dr. Bryson Morisson in late 2018 for a nutrition study of CCC chimpanzees. The COVID pandemic delayed the analysis of samples, but Dr. Bryson Morisson was able to help the CCC team adapt the chimpanzees' diet, while using the Body score tool, although her study was done during the dry season and a particularly bad wild fruit season.

In the fall of 2021, the chimpanzees' diet was completely revamped by DO Hélène Rase and the head keepers, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The results were immediate in terms of a decrease in the amount of food wasted by the chimpanzees and thus in the quantities purchased (which require 3 trips per week). The budget for chimpanzee food purchased in the villages has been reduced by 30% over the last 3 months.





1: Bryson-Morrison Report

The Energy intake is sufficient both for females and males.

Average Intake	Dry Matter (g/day)	Fibre (g/day)	Fats (g/day)	Protein (g/day)	Carbs. (g/day)	Energy (Kcal/day)
Females	965.1	156.2	46.4	81.9	640.1	3555.2
Males	958.1	154.3	46.2	81.2	636.3	3532.7

Dr. Bryson-Morrison's recommendations were:

- Increase intake of fibre and protein
- Increase leaves and vegetables
- Decrease intake of simple sugars and energy
- Reduce cultivated fruits
- Streamline diet and resource acquisition and costs

Hence the CCC is exploring the possibility of manufacturing “biscuits” from local harvest to increase the protein intake.

DISAPPEARANCES

This year has seen the tragic loss of several iconic CCC chimpanzees:



Oga (left) died accidentally on January 29, at the age of 19. Oga was a very gentle male who held his own in Dan's group. He had arrived in September 2004 at CCC.

Lobaï, who escaped on January 28, could not be recovered until now. His disappearance, as well as that of Oga strongly disturbed the dynamics of the group. **Lobaï** arrived at the CCC in 2006, at the same time as Hakim, and was integrated into Dan's group. Lobaï is 18 years old.

Kirikou died at the age of 16 of an unknown cause on April 1st. Kirikou was the number two male in the group. The group watched over him for three days, preventing the team from recovering his body. An autopsy could not be performed. Kirikou had a heart condition. His disappearance left a great void in the group.



Mike, 23 years old, had been isolated in a cage for many years following numerous escapes. A reintegration into the adult group (Ced's group) was done in March by the team. When he was released in the enclosure with the whole group, he had good contacts with Ced the dominant and with the females. But after a while, Mike jumped into the empty enclosure next to the group and the team that was watching the enclosure did not see him come out. The team looked for him everywhere in vain.

Barely 2 weeks after the shock of the disappearances of Mike and Kirikou, **Coco**, the 42-year-old dean of the CCC, was found dead at the foot of a tree in his enclosure. The autopsy showed a cranial trauma and no other cause was found. A broken branch found next to him confirmed the accidental fall. The death of Coco, fondly called "President" by the entire team, was extremely difficult to accept. All the CCC team and followers are very grateful that Coco was able to spend his last years in his enclosure that his friend **Dave Higgs** and his family (OAT) gave him.



These tragic disappearances, which followed the terrible ordeal of the January 28 mass escape, stunned the entire team. Each chimpanzee has their own personality, and a special place in the hearts of each team member. They were mourned and their memory will forever be cherished in everyone's heart.

SIALA

For nearly two years, a young wild female roaming around the sanctuary has caused numerous escapes of the resident chimpanzees (see 2020 annual report). She was captured for the first time in February 2021 and relocated 17 km away, but she came back to the sanctuary 36 hours later. On March 2022, she let herself be voluntarily locked up in one of the indoor facilities of Hakim's group. It was then that the team realized that it was most likely Siala, Lola's daughter, a female released in 2011. At the time of Lola's release, Siala was 3 years old. Siala migrated naturally from her maternal group, and it appears that she had not been able or willing to integrate into a group of wild chimpanzees present in the full protected area of the UNNP. The full protected area is relatively small in size (55,000ha) with over 500 wild chimpanzees. The east-west distance is about 25 km and the north-south distance about 20 km. These distances are quickly travelled by chimpanzees. Unfortunately, no solution could be found for Siala in 2021 but her release, with Chloe, is scheduled for 2022 in an area over 50 km from the sanctuary. If she were to come back, the CCC will have to assess the feasibility of re-releasing Siala and Chloe in the UNNP full protected area.

INFRASTRUCTURE/EQUIPMENT

New dormitory for Dan's group

Following the mass escape of Dan's group at the end of January, it became urgent to rebuild a dormitory for this group. Emergency funding was quickly made available by JGI USA, PASA and Sea World and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. Roland Mabiala, a technician from the Tchimpounga sanctuary in Congo, came to help the CCC team for two months to supervise and train the CCC team in new construction techniques. The construction site was managed by Jean Kamano, CCC technician, and the DO. The construction took place over 4 months. A big thank you to the donors for their quick support and JGI Congo for the precious help brought by Roland.



Reinforcement of Dan's enclosure

Following the numerous chimpanzee escapes observed in this group, their enclosure was reinforced on the outside with mesh. The work was completed in December, thanks to emergency support provided by the IPPL. Many thanks!



Two new secure large forested enclosures and adjacent dormitory

This major project was supposed to begin in 2021, but the political problems in Guinea, then the coup d'état, and the CoViD, have slowed the process considerably. Here is a summary of the activities.

We began in 2021 by gathering materials not available in Guinea in France. This includes fence wire, insulators, tensioners etc.

We then proceeded to transport the material to Guinea by sea container. This took much longer for the following reasons:

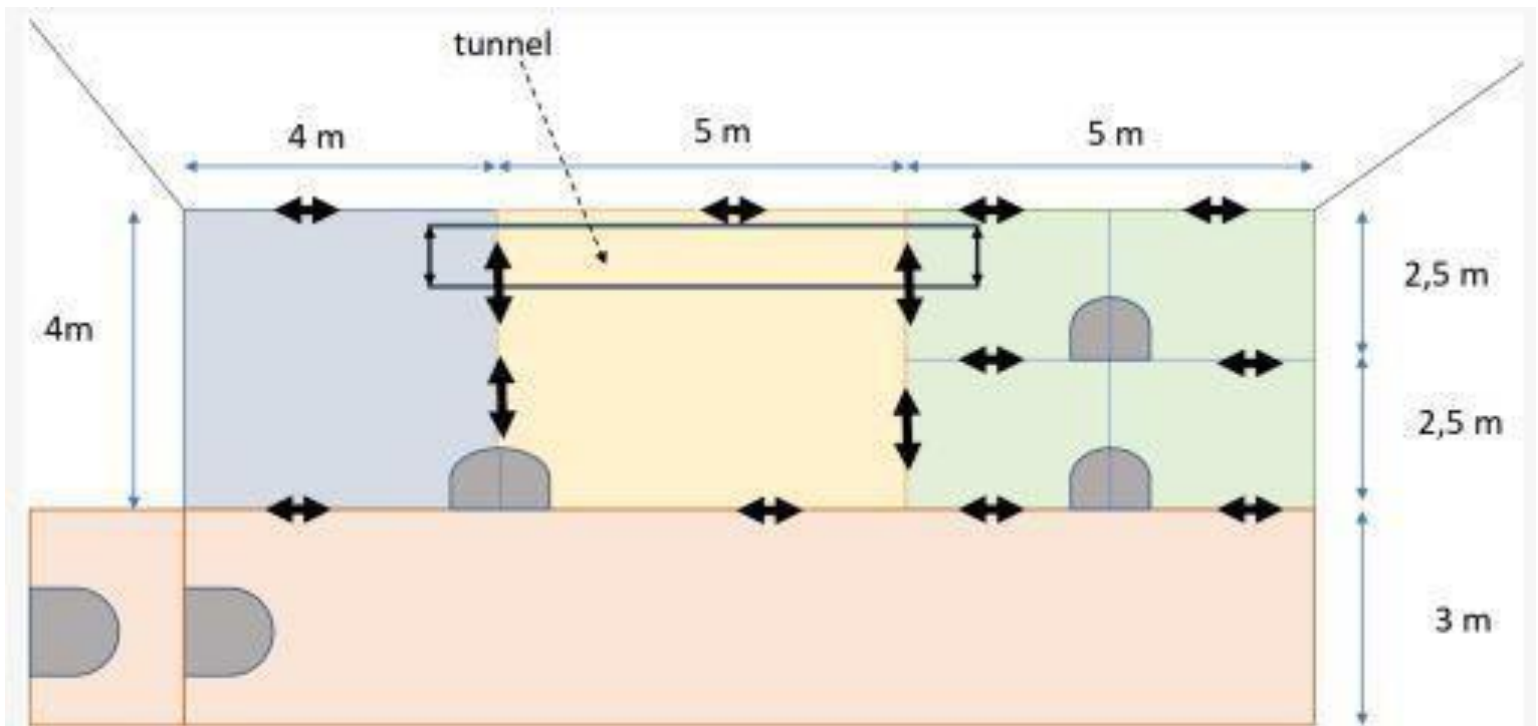
- The resumption of activities following the health crisis created a wait for a place on a ship.

- We are a tax-exempt project which allowed us to apply for an exemption to get our container out at a lower cost. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Environment took more than 3 months to issue us the document delaying our file which took two months to be examined by the port. The coup d'état in September also turned the administration upside down. Many members were renewed and they had to take their marks. We took out the container at the beginning of 2022.

- We have of course continued to search for the missing material and we have secured all the IPN needed for the poles, the anti-rust paint material, some of the welding supplies and the necessary material for electricity (panels, batteries, energizers...). Getting materials to Guinea is complex because of the state of the roads. The new government has begun extensive work in 2021, but for now, until this is completed, the roads remain difficult to use, congested, and dangerous, especially during the rainy season (May to October). Truck jams are numerous and sometimes block traffic for several days.

- The layout of the enclosure with GPS has been done and in parallel we have continued the search for funds. This crucial and massive project was supposed to start in 2021 but due to political problems in Guinea, followed by the coup d'état, and then COVID, this project has considerably slowed down the process. A container full of enclosure wires and various materials, sent by our sister organization Projet Primates France, was blocked at the port of Conakry due to the near paralysis of the Guinean administration in 2021. It was finally released in May 2022. Materials (metal poles, fencing, various iron bars, anti-rust paint) have been purchased by Projet Primates France and will be shipped from Conakry and Dakar as soon as possible. This project will begin in 2022.

- We were able to start the construction of the building attached to the enclosures. Under the supervision of Roland Mabiala from JGI Congo, the first phase of the double dormitory has started. It is expected to be completed by August 2022.



The new dormitory will open into the new electrical fence and its spacious quarters will allow safe introductions of the lone males currently isolated due to lack of space and facilities.

CONSERVATION

Conservation activities have been implemented and overseen since 2020 by the Director of Conservation Programs, Miguel Garcia. Miguel has been working hard in 2021 to develop all aspects of conservation components so the CCC's impact increases. It is a great satisfaction to see these vital components of chimpanzee conservation in Guinea being developed.

BAKARIA RELEASE SITE - ANTHROPIC PRESSURES

Each year, the released chimpanzees cross the river in the dry season to feed on the northern banks of the Niger River. It is a natural behavior that is also seen by wild chimpanzees. Unfortunately, this year, the presence of several rice fields along the riverbank across from the chimpanzees' territory with a high density of workers as well of machines added another pressure unseen before. These rice fields appeared on the riverbank for the first time in 2021. These practices seem to be related to the economic crisis following COVID, as an explosion of land clearing for agriculture has been observed throughout the buffer zone of the Upper Niger National Park. The consequences of climate change, with more intense heat and drought in the dry season, coupled with a decrease in rainfall, are increasingly felt in agricultural production, pushing villagers to increase the area under cultivation.

In early February, three released chimpanzees visited a cultivated field along the river and reacted aggressively towards a villager. The encounter conditions remain unclear. The tracker team quickly treated the injured man and brought him back to the Komoya village where the villager was from. The Chief Conservator of UNNP, A. Samoura, was immediately notified and took charge of the situation (right with the injured man). His support was very important. He went to the village of Komoya to appease the villagers. The injured man's medical expenses were covered by the CCC and compensation was offered to the family and the village.

Following this, the CCC engaged in a major mediation effort with the support of PASA and Impact by Design, in order to create a link with the community. The first step was the organization of a soccer tournament with the youth on December 30 and 31 with the participation of a team of guards from the Upper



Niger National Park. Other activities with Komoya are scheduled and the CCC is planning to open an education office to increase its impact on the northern side of the UNNP, where the anthropic pressure on the UNNP is increasing.



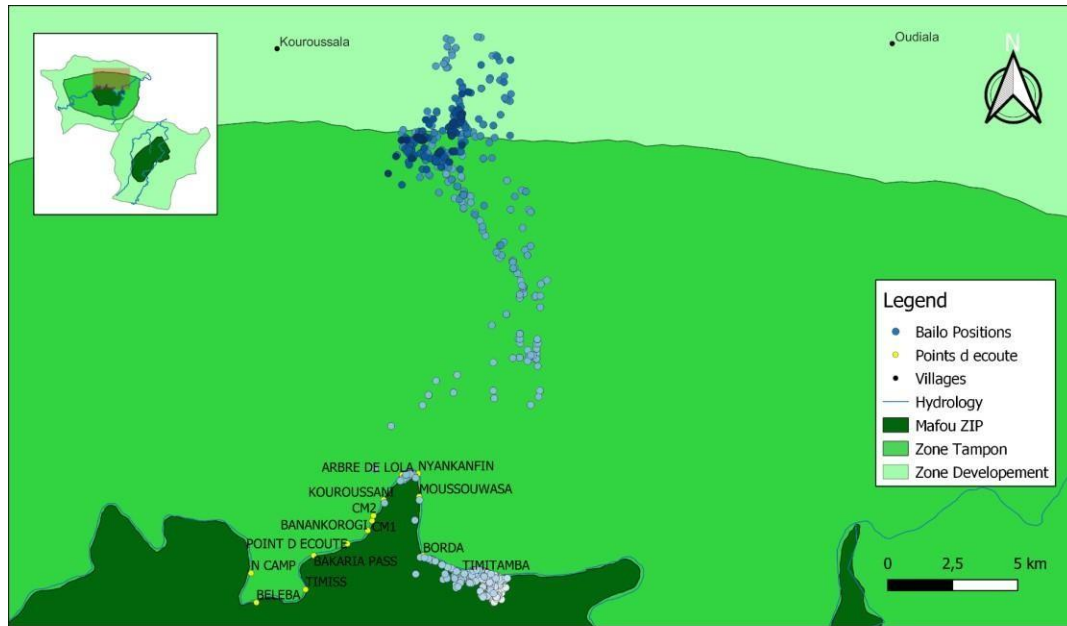
Following the encounter between the released chimpanzees and the villagers, four trackers of the team including the team leader left their post. The trackers mission is to follow the released chimps at a distance using telemetry, every hour of every day of the year. It is a crucial mission, even more so during the dry season when the released chimpanzees are roaming even more and can potentially cross the river. The old team were obviously not tracking the chimps closely as they were not aware that some chimps had crossed the river and a team with higher motivation was recruited. The new trackers were recruited in March and April and trained by the DPC. At the same time, in the same desire to professionalize the CCC, one of the head keepers of the sanctuary, Benoit Kamano, was appointed as head tracker of the release site in April.

THE CHIMPANZEES

In 2021, Robert, the oldest of the released group, was equipped with an Iridium GPS collar. The GPS data obtained every day (or almost) are very interesting for the remote monitoring of the group's movements especially as Robert has spent many weeks with Lottie separated from Albert, Nanou and Lola in 2021. In 2022, Lottie was seen with an infant. That new birth could explain Robert's unusual movements this year.

Bailo was released in July 2020 fitted with an Iridium collar after a few months of integration with the group (see annual report 2020). As soon as he was released with the group, Bailo separated from the group and traveled east from the release group territory. Several missions were organized to try to bring him back to the group but he refused to follow. Despite all this, he found himself near the group three times but he never actually rejoined them, maybe due to the presence of baboon groups. In March 2021, Bailo crossed the river and traveled north, away from the Niger River. Several missions were carried out again to look for him, but he avoided contact. He continued north as close as a few kilometers from Komoya, leaving the UNNP buffer zone. The communities were very cooperative and twice warned the team of his presence. Two retrieval missions allowed the team to bring him back down to the South to a decent patch of forest. On August 29th 2021, his collar stopped emitting. No messages were received (mortality or battery). Further searches yielded

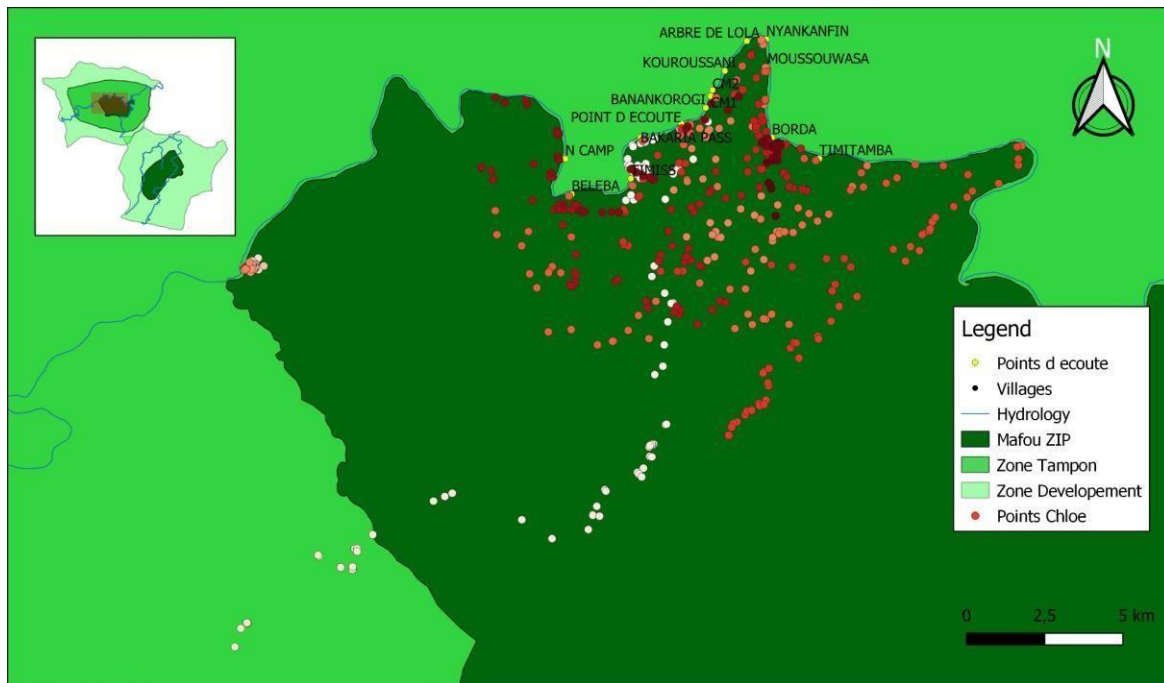
nothing and nobody in the northern communities have reported any incident with him. The destruction of the antenna (cut) would explain the sudden stop of VHF and GPS transmissions.



BAILO POINTS 2021

Darker blues mean later days on the year (last point 29/8 15h)

Chloe, also released in 2020 had to be recovered at the end of January 2021 in the South of the full protected area. January is the dry season and she was searching for water. Following the massive escape in Somoria, and the intensive search for Lobai, Chloe was kept isolated in quarantine at the sanctuary in order to be released in the rainy season. She was re-released in August 2021 near the group's territory. Since then, she has been roaming in their territory, sometimes very close to the group or in areas where the presence of wild chimpanzees has been confirmed during transects and by camera traps. As this report is being written, Chloe once again left the full protected area in the south and had to be retrieved. She will be re-re-released with Siala in the Eastern side of the UNNP full protected area in July 2022. It will be her last chance to integrate with a group of wild chimpanzees.



CHLOE POINTS 2021

Darker reds mean later days on the year

The Release group: (As of May 2022)

The group is composed of 6 adults and 7 youngsters: Albert (28), Robert (35), Lottie (34) with offsprings Luc (4) and Lion (6 months), Nanou (27) with offsprings Nina (4.5) and Natalie (1 month), Lola (27) with offsprings Leïla (6) and Lumière (2), Annie (20) with offsprings Aniouma (6.5) and Alpha (1.5).

PROTECTION OF THE UPPER NIGER NATIONAL PARK

The 2021 political situation in Guinea made it difficult to ensure ecoguard presence on site. Four ecoguards remained at the release site for four months, and teams of four took turns at the Timitemba pass for three months to protect the area where Baïlo was located for several months. During the 2021 dry season, ecoguards patrolled an area of 22,490 ha in the park including 4,419 ha on foot in the strictly protected area. The area covered was calculated using a 100m zone on each side of the patrol lines. The guards confiscated 1 truckload of charcoal, 1 poacher's motorcycle, 8 chainsaws, and 108 stocks of illegally cut timber. The presence of the guards is a deterrent because most offenders avoid acting when the guards are on the ground.

BIOMONITORING PROJECT

This year the biomonitoring project expanded compared to 2020, as 31 camera traps were deployed. This represents a coverage of 53% of the UNNP (279km², with one trap per 3kmx3km square). 1776 videos were recorded, 958 of which were of identifiable animals, 288 of which were of chimpanzees.



Other identifiable species included leopard, buffalo, several species of duiker, harnessed guibs and Fassa cobs, in addition to other common species. This year, at least 12 videos show chimpanzees with lesions that could be consistent with a yaw's infection. A research project is underway to analyze data from 4 years of bio-monitoring to a) identify hotspots of chimpanzees with lesions to collect feces for pathogens and b) verify if lesion characteristics are consistent with those of yaws disease. The data collected in 2022 will be used in the future to verify data analysis.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Team

The team, composed of Ibrahima Baldé and Faya Diawara, grew in 2021 with the recruitment of the first Guinean woman of the CCC, Marie-Jeanne Bourouno (graduate in agroforestry from the ISAV). The team also welcomed a volunteer, Gabriella Fornerod, environmental educator, who has done a lot of pedagogical training throughout the year. She was able to train the educators in modern pedagogical techniques, to help them develop new tools and to develop a program of awareness programs broadcast on the radio Djouma of Faranah.



Education program in schools



The school education program had two parts delivered over two school years to more than 300 children (11 and 12 years old). The CCC education team worked with three schools in Faranah and three village schools, representing 330 children reached.

Pre- and post-program evaluations show excellent results for children who completed the 2-year program. The 2021-2022 school year is the 3rd year of this CCC program.

This year, the CCC was able to support each student with the distribution of a notebook and a pack of crayons, as well as a copy of the book "Mama P" thanks to the support of PASA (300 printed books for children), a book explaining the work of a caregiver at the Tacugama sanctuary in Sierra Leone. A garbage can was also given to each class to sensitize students and teachers not to throw waste on the ground.

Awareness billboards in Faranah

Six awareness billboards on the protection of chimpanzees were installed in Faranah. One side of the billboard reminds the public that chimpanzee trafficking is illegal and should be denounced. The other side reminds the public of the similarities between chimpanzees and humans. A pre-panel survey was done, and another survey will be done to evaluate the impact of these billboards.



Radio program

A radio program was developed with Radio Djouma, that broadcast throughout the Upper Guinea region on FM. The topics covered, in Malinké, and with the participation of park authorities, include: 1) CCC and UNNP presentation, 2) UNNP animals, 3) Conservation in general in exchange with the UNNP conservator, the importance of protecting one's environment and the natural resources of UNNP, 4) UNNP rules, its limits, what communities can and cannot do according to the zoning. Each program is recorded and broadcast twice a month.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Beekeeping

30 Kenyan beehives were donated to the Moussoni Sambouya beekeeping group. The education team conducted a workshop with adults and children of the village to explain the life and roles of bees in the environment, through games and playful exchanges. The hives were installed with the villagers not far from the village. The goal is that in the long run the men of the group will abandon the harvest of wild honey, a practice that is very destructive for the environment (cutting down trees to harvest wild honey, or destroying the swarms during the harvest in traditional hives made of straw and mud).



The CCC educators have been trained by the Association de Développement Social EcoProtecteur (ADSEP) on the installation of Kenyan beehives and on honey harvesting techniques. The first step is the natural colonization of hives.

Saponification

The saponification program takes place in Faranah (2 women's groups, about 600 women) and in the village of Koura Sambouya (about 40 women). This alternative income project for women remains difficult to develop. Indeed, the profits made on each soap remain minimal and the women lack the motivation to regularly produce soaps, which are nevertheless a product of common use and therefore easy to sell.

They still prefer activities such as the collection of Detarium fruits (borons in local language), which although very difficult, brings them a bigger income. The women collect the dried fruits in the forest and extract the almond which is sold to Nigerians and Ghanaians who export them to their country. The collection of these fruits is done in the Park's Buffer Zone, but women also enter the full protected area, setting fire to the vegetation cover to facilitate the collection of the fruits that are on the ground. This leads to numerous late bush fires in the heart of the full protected area each year, plus the entry of men who transport the bags of almonds, and take advantage of the opportunity to poach and collect wild honey. Unfortunately, the Park authorities are still unable to control this practice and the CCC is working with them to implement a successful deterrent program.



Shopping bag project to recycle plastic water bags

Two women's groups in Faranah (between 500 and 600 women) are participating in this project for which the CCC has financed the purchase of two sewing machines per group. One of the groups does not have a seamstress and must therefore pay for the services of a seamstress. The CCC's partner, Projet Primates France, has ordered shopping bags and computer bags to be sold in France for the benefit of the CCC.



Support for the sanitation of the banks of the Niger River in Faranah

The CCC has supported a local youth initiative to clean up the banks of the river in Faranah. Indeed, a lot of garbage is deposited on the banks of the river, which causes serious pollution during the rainy season when the river level rises.

Support to the UNNP for the reforestation around the village of Toumania (around the village and the springhead), where 900 feet of local species have been replanted. An evaluation mission was carried out by the DPC, an educator and the conservator a few months later. The overall results were excellent, although the *Parkia biglobosa* plants did not perform well as they had been planted too young: a lesson learned for future reforestation projects.



Vegetable gardening project

The education team, under the direction of Miguel Garcia, DPC, has developed a vegetable gardening project with the village of Sidakoro to produce a wider variety of vegetables for the chimpanzees at the CCC, thus improving their nutrition and especially their fiber intake. The vegetables selected included: cucumbers, cabbage, onions, potato leaves, but also watermelons, avocado trees, etc. This project is entirely supervised by Marie-Jeanne, an educator with a master's

degree in agroforestry. A plot of land has been donated by the village for this project, and wells have been dug to water the plantations. Production is expected to begin in 2022.



STUDY OF N'DAMA FOREST

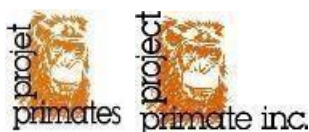
A complete study of the N'dama forest was carried out in late 2021. The final report is being written, but the anthropic pressures noted (presence of a large number of cows, rice fields, and recent artisanal gold mining) during the first mission of 2021 and this one, are too risky to hope to release rehabilitated chimpanzees in the near future.

OUR PARTNERS

We sincerely thank the Guinean authorities for their presence at our side and their support: the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests; the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves, the regional directorate for the environment in Faranah; the authorities of the Upper Niger National Park and Mr. A. Samoura, Chief Conservator; and all the local authorities who facilitate our work.

Many thanks to our partners of S.E.S Plus for their advice and support!

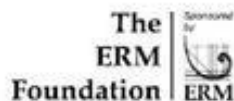
Many thanks to our partners Projet Primates France, Project Primate Inc. and The Government of Guinea.



CONCLUSION

It is in adversity that we recognize the courage and the value of a team. The difficulties encountered in 2021 were numerous and the entire CCC team was able to face them, despite the fatigue, stress and pressure. The team continued to make progress in improving chimpanzee rehabilitation, the professionalization and empowerment of the local team made great strides, but the CCC also worked hard to develop conservation projects, which are essential to save the wild chimpanzee populations under increasing pressure. The involvement of the entire local team alongside the management team in 2021 has enabled the CCC to overcome many challenges. Many challenges lie ahead for CCC in 2022, including changes in the management team, and the construction of a new enclosure and dormitory to increase the sanctuary's capacity. Hopefully, the political situation will not disrupt activities. We sincerely hope that you will always be at our side to help us develop all these projects!

Finally, a big thank you to the organizations that support us unfailingly in our daily work or on specific projects



William&Charlotte's Park Foundation for Animal Welfare