



Annual Report 2019



CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER

www.projectprimate.org

Preamble



2019 was a busy year, some of which put us to the test but it ultimately allowed us to move in the right direction. I sincerely hope so.

For the first time in the history of the CCC, we were called to attend to a wild female in distress with her baby, in a mining area. We were unable to save neither of them, despite the hard work of our team. This incredibly tough ordeal is a reflection of what Humanity is inflicting to life on the Planet: indiscriminate destruction of the environment, leaving no chance for many animal species. Humanity sweeps everything on its path ...

Today Nature has stopped us, sending us a virus that suffocates people. It is certainly not a coincidence, because Nature has finally been able to breathe ...

I hope that we will learn from this pandemic, that we will regain the humility of our condition and our place as co-inhabitants of the Earth.

Thank you all for being with us to continue protecting the chimpanzees.

Christelle Colin - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Colin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thank you...

To Hélène, Stuart, Emeline, Quentin, Guillaume, Sylvie, Faya, Benoit and the whole CCC team in Somoria, Bakaria and Faranah, to all the volunteers, who dedicate their energy and soul to the chimpanzees every day;

To Project Primates Guinea 's Board of Directors members for their support;

To the Guinean authorities, the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves, the Regional Directorate of the Environment, the Haut Niger National Park, and all of our local partners for their support;

To our partners and friends of Projet Primates France in France and Project Primate Inc. in the USA who support all our efforts and allow us to offer a future for the chimpanzees;

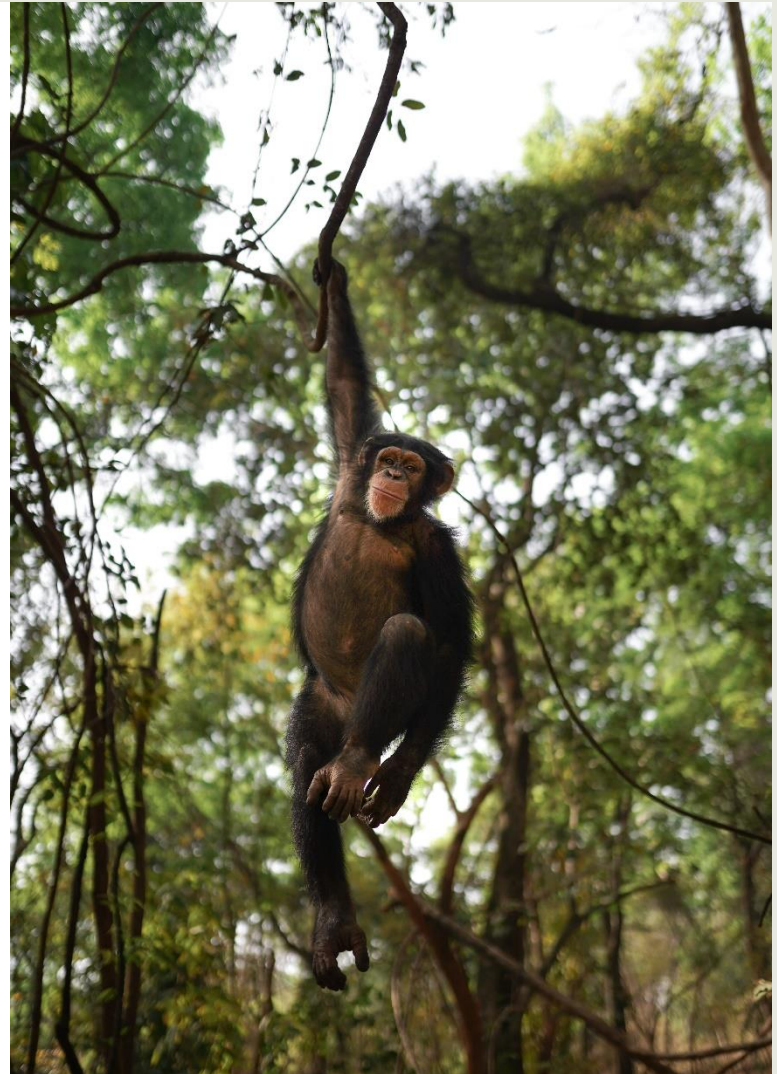
To all our colleagues and friends of PASA;

Last but not least, to all our donors and all private donors around the world, we could not do anything without you ...



This report summarizes the events of 2019 which had been detailed in the interim reports. These are available upon request.

We sincerely thank all our partners for their support allowing us to accomplish our daily missions, and who also support us in the development and improvement of all our activities.



TEAM



In 2019, we carried out significant restructuring and reorganization of the CCC's team on all levels.

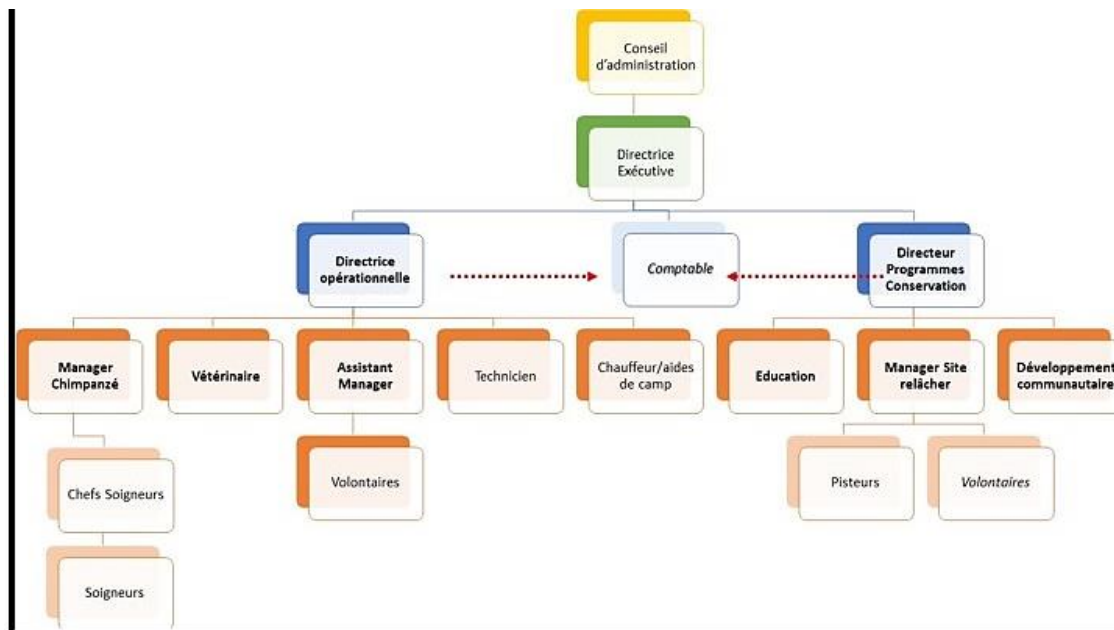
First of all, we have increased the team in order to respond to the growing challenges and our desire for development. This is how we opened 1 position for a veterinarian and 1 position for Director of Conservation Programs. Dr Emeline CHANOVE, veterinarian, joined us in mid-January for 2 years. Mr Miguel GARCIA was recruited at the end of the year, also for 2 years, to develop our conservation activities and impacts..

With the keepers, it is our trainer / manager chimpanzees Mr Beaman who worked on strengthening the skills of the team of keepers and the specialization of some.

Unfortunately, internal issues led to the departure in March of our assistant manager Mr OUENDENO, who was not replaced. We preferred to think of another way of managing and to increase the skills of the rest of the local team. In addition we have created the position of Operational Director of the sanctuary Ms. Hélène RASE, previously the CCC manager, started in this position in November.



New organization chart



The activities of the CCC are now divided into two areas::

- The sanctuary activities directed by Mrs. RASE, Operational Director
- The Conservation programs, led by Mr GARCIA, Director of Conservation programs

Management team in 2019



At the Sanctuary:

- **Hélène RASE** Operation Director
- **Stuart BEAMAN** Chimpanzee Manager, in charge of keepers training and sanctuary chimpanzees
- **Emeline CHANOVE**, DVM
- **Faya Abel TOLNO** and **Benoit KAMANO**, head keepers

For Conservation programs:

- **Miguel GARCIA** Conservation programs Director
- **Quentin PIGNARD** manager release site
- **Guillaume BANVILLE** Anti-poaching manager and camera-trap project supervisor
- **Sylvie DECONNINCK**, Volunteer in charge of the education program

Local Team



The local team made huge progress in 2019, thanks to the continuous training provided by our chimpanzee manager Stuart BEAMAN.

This strengthening of local skills is very positive



We were thus able to develop specialized positions:

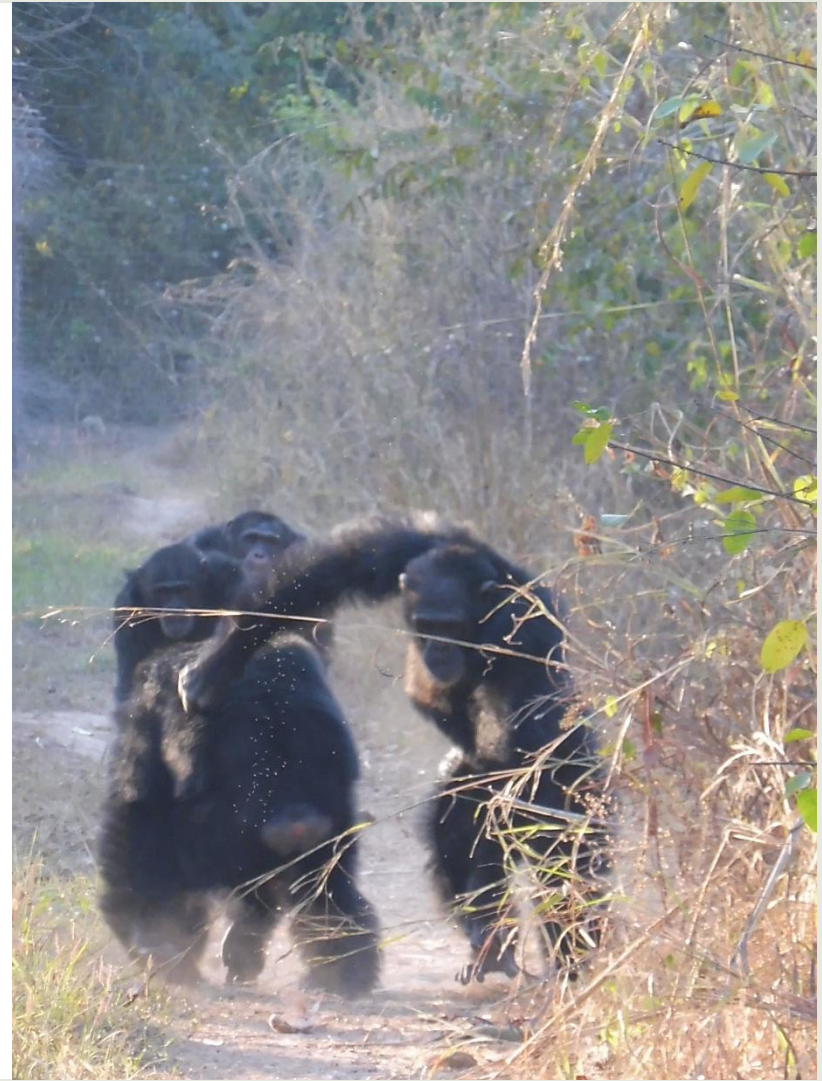
- 2 head keepers:, Faya Abel TOLNO and Benoit KAMANO
- 1 head of quarantine section Antoine KOUNDOUNIO
- 6 keepers for the medical quarantine section
- 3 keepers for the quarantine babies
- 2 leaders for the chimpanzee food stocks

Creation of an evaluation system

NIVEAU	Nombre de SOIGNEURS
Soigneur junior	1
Niveau 1	5
Niveau 2	7
Niveau 3	2 (en cours de formation)
Chef soigneur	2

On the chimpanzee side

- As of December 31, the CCC hosts 64 chimpanzees, in 8 different groups, and monitor 6 released chimpanzees and their 5 babies.
- 3 baby chimpanzees were rescued, including 2 via our partner from Guinea Application of Wildlife Laws (GALF) and the Guinean authorities. One baby, Gaby, did not survive
- Opening of our 1st secure enclosure on January 1
- Many conflicts in our 2 main groups of adults due to lack of space, led to several escapes. We had to separate several males due to these problems
- Integration of 3 young females into social groups
- We are sorely lacking in space and structures adapted to our growing chimpanzees! 7 adult males are thus isolated due to lack of space. We are launching appeals for a new adult enclosure building.



Rescues of the year

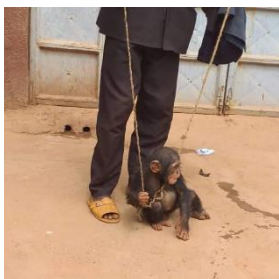


Gaby was rescued in May from a mining concession in the northwest of the country. His wild dying mother could not be saved. Our team carried out an autopsy, Results diagnose yaws disease (*Treponema pallidum*), in collaboration with the Robert Knoch Institute in Berlin. Gaby unfortunately died 3 weeks later due to his great weakness.



Kaddé also comes from the mining area of Boké, as Gaby. The trafficker unfortunately fled while trying to sell Kaddé to Chinese nationals.

Kaddé most likely lost all of her right foot toes in a trap.



A small female was captured in April north of the Haut Niger National Park by the authorities. Unfortunately, she died of severe diarrhea before we had time to get to her. The poacher was arrested.



Cesar was confiscated from a customs officer by GALF staff in Forécariah, on the border with Sierra Leone, where he might be coming from. The custom officer was internally sanctioned and sentenced to a suspended prison sentence.

Strengthening of veterinary capacities



The recruitment of a permanent veterinarian became an absolute necessity. This is how we welcomed DVM Emeline CHANOVE in January to the team, for a 2 year contract.

Her missions include the strengthening of all our protocols, the implementation of a more efficient and effective chimpanzee health monitoring, the capacity building of the local team in terms of chimpanzee health monitoring, the recruitment and training of a Guinean veterinarian, and the establishment of an in-situ laboratory in order to develop our capacities.



The veterinary room was equipped this year: fridge, centrifuge, incubator, microscopes, dyes, rapid tests thanks to the support of many partners and colleagues. We are now able to perform the basic health tests.



We carried out health checks on the sanctuary chimpanzees in October. We received the reinforcement of 3 colleagues from PASA who came with a lot of material and equipment. For the 1st time, we have a very complete overview of the chimpanzees health status. Our team was able to learn a lot!

NEW INFRASTRUCTURES



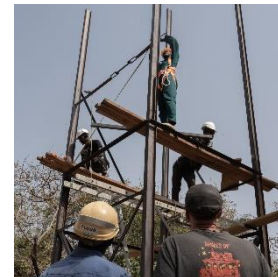
With the growing number of CCC resident chimpanzees, it became necessary to increase the food storage room and improve it to meet the best possible hygiene standards. This construction was carried out at the beginning of the year under the supervision of Mr Damien BEAUSIRE.



We now have a large storage room, a weighing / washing / food preparation point, a room for preparing baby bottles and contraceptive pills. We were also able to equip it with a powerful solar system which also allows us to charge all our hand-held radios, power a fridge and the adjacent veterinary room.



At the sanctuary, four rooms and a canteen / living space were built for the local team, equipped with light and a solar charging system. It's a huge improvement for their living conditions.



At the end of the year, we started construction work on a new 15m high water tower to support our new 5000 liter water tank.



CONSERVATION

The CCC has been carrying out conservation activities for many years. This year, we have launched a development strategy to better coordinate all of these activities.

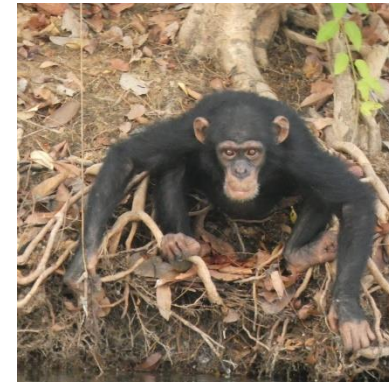
A pro-bono social studies mission carried out in February by Ms. Sépanta AGADO provided us with important data on the problems and needs of the populations in the North of the High Niger National Park and the need to better coordinate the 3 key activities of the conservation: awareness, community support and park protection.

We launched the recruitment at the beginning of the year for a Director of Conservation Programs position in order to give a new boost to our activities. The 1st candidate selected unfortunately did not stay and we had to restart the recruitment process after reviewing the criteria.

Our new director, Mr Miguel GARCIA, was hired in December and started his mission in February 2020.



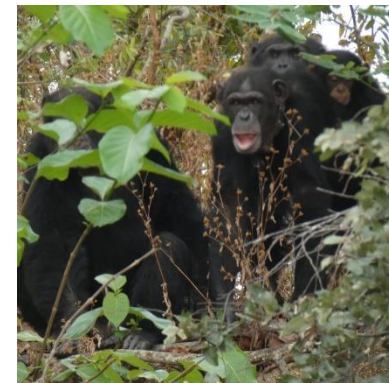
RELEASE PROGRAM



We continued to monitor the group of released chimpanzees including 6 adults, 1 teenage female and 4 babies.

We also trained 3 new trackers, and selected among them Sékou CAMARA to be trained as the new local manager, after the resignation at the end of 2018 of the previous manager.

As a reminder, the presence of our permanent team in the area, combined with approximately 6 months a year of the HNNP eco guards , ensures the protection of the area.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION



In order to develop a structured program, we hired a consultant, Ms. Teresa SAUQUET, who carried out 2 field missions in 2019. She was able to work with our team to design and develop a conservation education program during the summer.



The team set up a program in 3 assignments during the 1st semester in 7 classes of 4 schools in Faranah and 3 schools in the High Niger National Park, reaching 315 children.

Our educator also visited 23 villages of the HNNP (nearly 850 people).



The education team has grown: Mrs Sylvie DECONNINCK has supervised the work of our educator Mr BALDE and a new educator was recruited in September, Mr Faya DIAWARA.



Our new program in 6 assignments was able to start in October at the start of the new school year with 5 classes from 3 schools in Faranah and 3 schools from PNH, ie 239 children.

The new environmental education program is more fun and uses new media such as an image box.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Our education team organized a day of sanitation in the town of FARANAH at the end of June, with the town hall and 2 groups of women sweepers. This initiative for the cleanliness of the city of Faranah allowed to launch a plastic recycling project with nearly 400 women.



The shopping bag project was launched after the sanitation day: the idea is that the women sweepers recycle plastic water bags to make shopping bags for shopping at the market to limit the single use of plastic bags. This campaign is called "plastic is toxic, shopping bags are fantastic!" "



We responded favorably to a request for support for reforestation in 3 villages of the HNNP: 1000 plants planted in Yérédou, Niako and Dalafilani. We will assess success / failure after a year.



Two saponification projects were launched with the 400 women sweepers from Faranah and with a group of women from one of the villages of the HNNP. Supporting women in their access to financial independence helps them to be less dependent on the use of natural resources.

ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES



The CCC has actively supported anti-poaching activities in collaboration with the authorities of the High Niger National Park for years. This year we have obtained very good results.

These activities were supervised for the 5th consecutive year by Mr Guillaume BANVILLE, who knows the field very well.

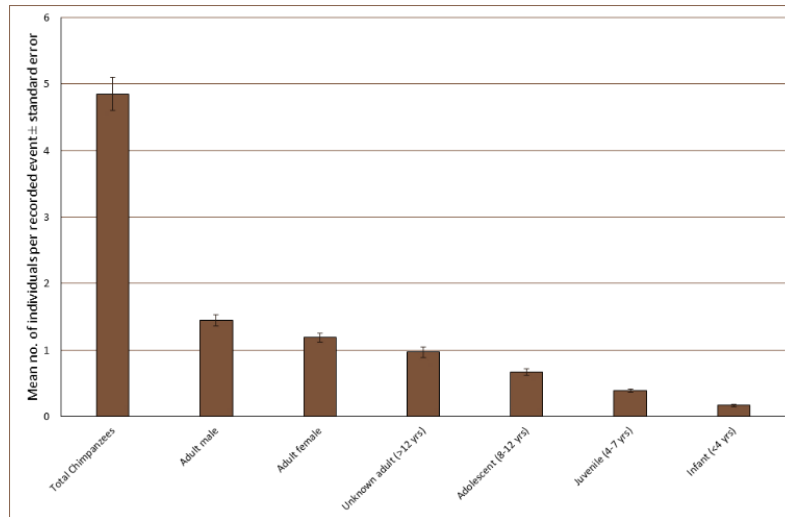
For the first time, we were able to support 5 eco-guards spread over our 2 sites, at the sanctuary and the release site.

We also supported the authorities by funding several ad hoc missions in the Fully Protected Area of the High Niger National Park.

Our monthly reports were sent to the HNNP authorities and protection partners, which helped them to coordinate protection efforts.

Nb of patrols	90 over 6 months		
Confiscations	5 guns	18 fishing nets	1 pick-up and 1 truck full of wood
Arrests	3 poachers brought to justice		
Protected area size	10,000 hectares =20% of the full protected area		
Highlights	Revocation of the previous PNHN Conservative following the CCC report on illegal timber traffic in the North of the Park!		

CAMERA-TRAPS PROJECT



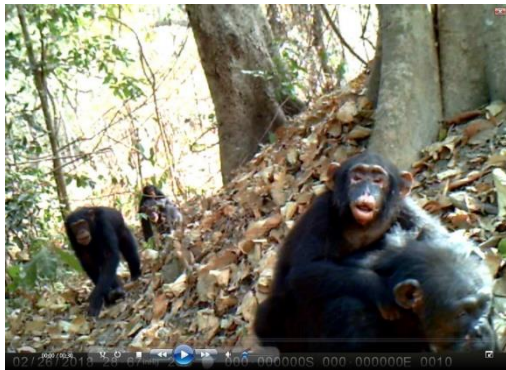
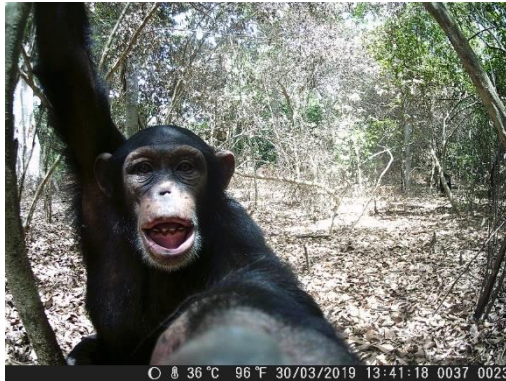
The aim of this project is to obtain data on the populations of wild chimpanzees in the heart of the High Niger National Park and thus to define their population density and distribution.

42 camera-traps were deployed from February to the end of May. This project was led by Mr BANVILLE seconded by Mrs Marine TCHOUBAR.

RESULTS:

- 36 species of mammals recorded
- Chimpanzees more prominent inside the ZIP than on the outskirts
- Presence of leopards near our sites = protective effect of our presence
- Detection of chimpanzees showing malformations

CAMERA-TRAPS PROJECT



- Image recordings of chimpanzees with facial deformities
- At least 8 different chimpanzees identified. Both gender, all ages, in different groups are affected
- More or less extensive lesions of tissue destruction with depigmentation, often affecting the face
- In 2018, a small preliminary study had identified 4 individuals
- WE NEED TO FOLLOW EVOLUTION and TRY TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE (suspicion of *Treponema pallidum* yaws) in 2020

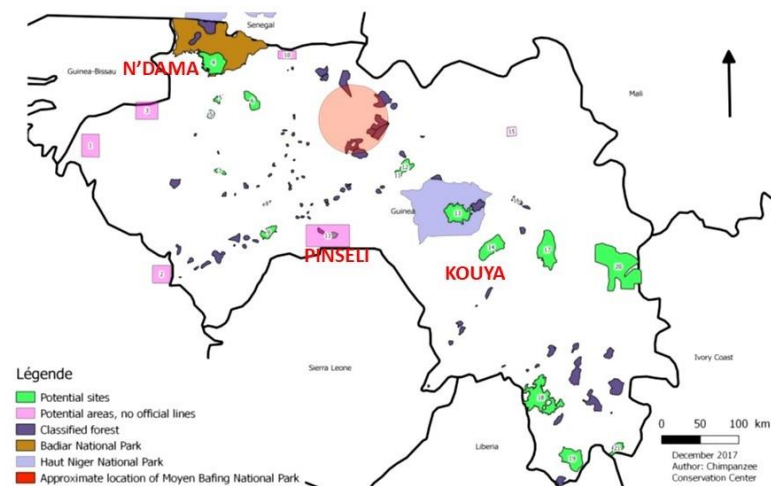
NEW RELEASE SITE SEARCH

This research was started in 2017 with Sarah BUNEL. In 2017, several potential areas had been identified.

In 2018, extensive studies were done in the KOUYAH forest, the 2nd Fully Protected Area of the High Niger National Park (Julie Garlinskas & Alexandre Konaté):

- **Adequate environment (habitat, legally protected area)**
- **Presence of wild chimpanzees**
- **BUT anthropogenic pressures too high (chimpanzees hunted, village in the full protected area)**

After consulting the authorities of the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves, we extended our search in October 2019 in 3 areas: N'Dama Forest (Badiar National Park), the Pinseli Classified Forest and Diwassi. The studies were carried out by Julie Garlinskas and Eddy Printanier. The preliminary results for N'Dama are encouraging.



NEW RELEASE SITE SEARCH



Preliminary study of the N'DAMA Forest, BADIAR National Park

Discarded in 2004 during the 1st studies for a release site but protected since, with the presence of a buffer zone and physical barriers (Koliba river to the East)

- ❖ Good size (67000ha), chimpanzee habitat, the density of which is to be studied
- ❖ Little human pressure, BUT presence of livestock authorized by the authorities
- ❖ Existence of a potential pre-release area where a group of chimpanzees could be "confined" before being released

= good potential, but chimpanzee density studies as well as a botanical study will have to be done in 2020

PROJECTS for 2020

Continued training of the local team at the sanctuary and release site

Beginning of construction of a new large enclosure to create a large group of chimpanzees

Improvement of existing chimpanzee infrastructure

Work on the different groups of chimpanzees in order to start preparing a group to be released

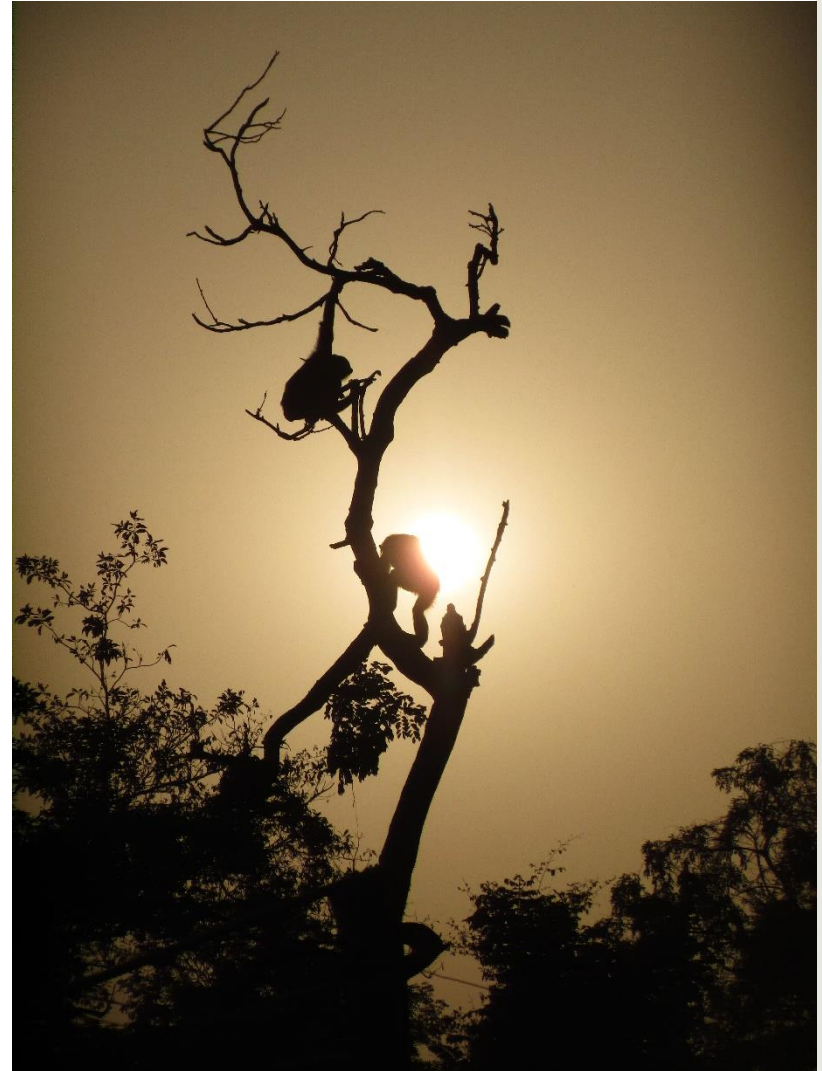
Complete renovation of the water system and installation of drinking access points in all enclosures

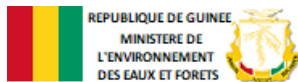
Implementation of the 2nd year of our conservation education program

Development of community projects in the HNNP

Continued research on HNNP chimpanzees

Extensive studies in the N'Dama forest, potential release site, and further investigations in Guinea...

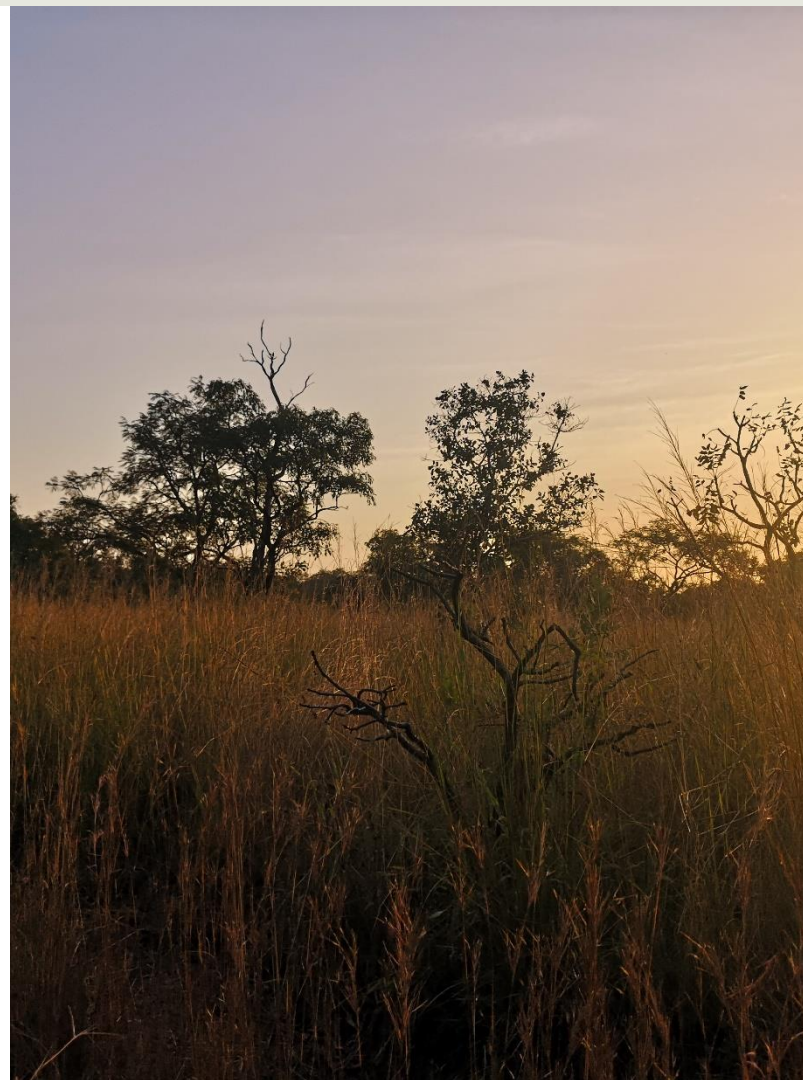




We sincerely wish to thank the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forestry, and His Excellency the Minister GUILAVOGUI; the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves and Colonels KEITA and SOW, National Director and Deputy Director; the National Directorate of Water and Forests and its director Colonel CAMARA; the Faranah Regional Environment Department, and its Regional Director Chief Warrant Officer DIANE; High Niger National Park and its Chief Conservator, Chief Warrant Officer SAMOURA; the entire Guinea Wildlife Law Enforcement Project (GALF) team, and Ms. Charlotte HOUPLINE its director; the entire UNOPS team, in particular Mr DAOU, Mr YACOUBA and Mr NISHULI.

Thank you to our partners Project Primate Inc. and Projet Primates France,

The Chimpanzee Conservation Center is a member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), is verified by the Global Federation Animal Sanctuary (GFAS) and is a project of Project Primates Guinee





THANK YOU
to all our partners

