

# CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER

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**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

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## EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The year 2023 has been another challenging one for the Chimpanzee Conservation Centre (CCC) on many fronts.*

*Internet restrictions in Guinea, for example, have drastically slowed down our ability to communicate effectively. This problem remains unresolved to this day.*

*Another example is the explosion of the main hydrocarbon depot in Conakry, which put a strain on our activities. Serious restrictions have been put in place and, of course, prices have risen. As the CCC is the most isolated sanctuary in Africa, it's vital for us that our pick-ups can go into town every week to ensure food supplies and personal safety.*

*The examples are numerous, but the CCC has developed a formidable capacity for adaptation over the years.*

*We would like to underline the unwavering commitment of our teams who, day after day, continue to work for biodiversity and the protection of chimpanzees.*

*This report gives a transparent account of our successes, weaknesses and future activities.*

*Many thanks for the support we receive from all our partners. It is invaluable to be able to exchange ideas with each and every one of you, who are the driving force behind CCC.*

*Thanks also to our entities in France (Projet Primates France) and the United States (Project Primates Inc.), who are there every year to support the CCC.*



*Ade PPGni*





CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER



# THE SANCTUARY



## A STABLE TEAM



There were no changes to our sanctuary teams in 2023. The sanctuary is still managed by Mr Pierrot M'Bonzo for the administrative side and Stuart Beaman for the chimpanzee/caretaker training side. Pierrot has been with us for almost 2 years now. His long experience in conservation (16 years at the Lola Ya Bonobo sanctuary and then as a consultant for P.Wac, WWF/RDC) provides the CCC with high-quality expertise. Stuart has been with the CCC for 10 years and knows the ins and outs of the project inside out.

Cédric Kamberé has also been in post for 2 years as a veterinarian, and is always very communicative with our various experts to ensure quality care for the chimpanzees. The CCC is very isolated and the climate is conducive to the spread of tropical diseases. His vigilance is very reassuring for our managers.



17 caretakers work at the sanctuary as in 2022. Among them, Mr. Faya Abel Tolno and Mr. Alimou Barry are in charge of the animals. They are supported by Mr Antoine Koundounou, who replaces them in case of absence. Only one of our caretakers has had to leave his post for health reasons that have become incompatible with life at the sanctuary.

We're delighted to be able to count on a team that continues to grow year after year. Some of our carers, like Antoine, have been with us since 2008, and Faya since 2012. Building a team is a complex task in Guinea. Most of the population has never benefited from formal education, and training takes a long time. As a result, each new team member has to be given special attention over several years to ensure that they are fully familiar with the center's various activities. Life in the forest sometimes adds a difficulty to recruitment, as many people in Guinea are more attracted to the city.



Of course, other skills are also necessary for the smooth running of the center. That's why we also work with :

- 1 technician who takes care of all the small jobs and maintenance at the sanctuary
  - 2 drivers who guarantee supplies for the center and the release site
  - 2 camp assistants who ensure the smooth running of the camps dedicated to sanctuary staff, and sometimes also support our technician or caretakers.
- There were no changes to these positions in 2023, apart from one camp assistant who arrived in 2022 and had to be replaced.

## SUPPORT FROM VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers coming to reinforce our team are recruited and prepared by the French branch of "Projet Primates France". Four volunteers were recruited in 2023 for 3-month periods.

They help us in particular with the environmental enrichment of chimpanzees awaiting integration. This is a time-consuming task. The volunteers are also in charge of taking the visuals needed to feed our networks, reports, sponsorship program... Finally, they support the team in camp maintenance or any other urgent task for the center. Many thanks to them!

In 2023, we also welcomed a dentist and her assistant on a voluntary basis. Their arrival enabled us to treat urgent cases among our residents (and our team!) and set up care protocols. It also enabled us to reinforce the skills of our veterinarian, who was able to learn more about dentistry. This is an important discipline, as many of our residents arrive with gunshot wounds to the jaw, or with dental complications resulting from malnutrition or disease.





## THE CCC'S CHIMPANZEES

### RESCUES FROM 2023



**MALO**

Seized in April near Kindia, Malo had been kept as a "pet" by a private individual who had bought him from a poacher in Soya. In good health, despite an amputated toe, and aged around 4 years, Malo showed great independence from the moment he arrived, and immediately took an interest in the other chimpanzees, placing little trust in our team. His outings in the forest have already shown his great aptitude for living in the wild and using tools. Today, Malo lives with several chimpanzees who have adopted him, and will be integrated into a large social group in 2024.



**DOURA**

Doura was seized in July in a village near Mamou. Very sad and tired when our teams arrived, he responded to the staff's vocalizations with joy and ran into their arms. Doura still has scars where he was tied up with a rope, but arrived in good health. Very frightened when he first met us, his integration required a lot of gentleness and reassurance. He now lives with 9 other youngsters and is around 3 years old.



**SIAKA**

At the end of December, another baby arrived at the sanctuary. Siaka is around 2 months old. Attacked by dogs who bit him on the hand, Siaka is slowly recovering from the resulting infection. His mother was probably killed. Very small, Siaka still spends a lot of time sleeping and suckling. He is becoming increasingly aware of his surroundings, reacting to his surrogate parent's vocalizations. He has been named Siaka, in honor of the curator of the Upper Niger National Park who helped rescue him.



# GROUP DISTRIBUTION

61 chimpanzees live at the sanctuary. We had few new arrivals in 2023, but they are all males. In recent years, the vast majority of chimpanzees have been males, which can make the creation of social groups more complex. No deaths occurred in 2023.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 1</b></p> <p><i>This group is due to be remodeled. There is currently only one male in the group, and there are only 7 chimpanzees in the 3-hectare enclosure. The females have often opposed the integration of males, but with Loundan and Anara out of the group (see special cases), integrations could be easier in the future.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Moninga, Sita, Nimba, Kyo, Kumba, Laurence, Bomba</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 2</b></p> <p><i>Ced and Dali were integrated at the end of 2023. Ced had been living in Group 1 for years as leader, but was dethroned by Moninga. Since then, Ced seemed to want to change groups by trying to get out of the enclosure. Ced has excellent chimpanzee behaviour and has gradually carved out a place for himself. Dali is much younger and his integration, which is still in its early stages, will be less complex.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ced, Dali, Habou, Léonie, Shelly, Louna, Vévé, Dave, Noel, Sanka, Lily, N'dama</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 3</b></p> <p><i>Very stable group with excellent dominance from Hakim</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hakim, Rocky, Tango, Moucky, Mata, Flo, Ama, Tya, Sam, Sumba, Demu, Gypsie, Toto</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 4</b></p> <p><i>This group is also relatively stable</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gouela - Nelson// Zoé, Missy, Kadde, Labé, Kanda, Ali, Sierra</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 5</b></p> <p><i>Douma and Bobo/Panza share the highly secure enclosure every other day. An integration of Douma with the 2 males is regularly attempted, but the presence of wild chimpanzees around the center disrupts the success of the operation.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bobo, Panza // Douma</p>





<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This group is still young, and goes out into the forest every morning and afternoon with two carers to sharpen their skills in the wild.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marco, César, Doura, Sewa, Bingo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group 7</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This small group consists of four youngsters who have just completed their training in the forest. They will soon be integrated into a larger social group in a wooded enclosure.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oumou, Nana, Malo, Simon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursery</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Siaka is a 2-month-old baby who arrived in January 2024. He is still too young to walk and climb. He will first have to develop his faculties before being integrated into group 6.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Siaka</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special cases</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>These chimpanzees are awaiting integration into secure enclosures. Although they have been integrated into groups several times, they regularly escape, threatening the safety of the other chimpanzees and the teams. They are mainly males. Some, like Bamba, have already arrived as adults and have few social codes. Loundan and Anara were originally wild females who joined the sanctuary of their own free will. A specific enrichment program is dedicated to them.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bamba – Max – Wodo – Paco – Moka - Dan // Loundan et Anara</p>

While there were no fatalities in 2023, January 2024 was gloomier. During an outing in the forest, wild chimpanzees suddenly arrived, creating a lot of confusion among the youngsters in group 6, who were in the trees and ran off in all directions. The carers on the ground remained determined to protect the youngsters and tried to round them up, but Pepe and Thola were missing. Our teams searched tirelessly for Pepe and Thola, to no avail... Ecoguard patrols were also deployed over dozens of kilometers. Unfortunately, one of them found the young lifeless along the river... An autopsy was not feasible. Climatic conditions accelerated the deterioration. Wild chimpanzees seem to have become more numerous in recent years around the sanctuary. Anthropogenic pressures in Guinea are pushing them towards areas that are still secure. We are currently reviewing our protocols to guarantee greater safety.

# OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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## SECURITY REINFORCEMENT ON GROUP 2 ENCLOSURE

To enhance sanctuary security and the stability of the chimpanzee groups, we have double fenced the wooded enclosure for this group.

This reduces the number of chimpanzees escaping for the following reasons:

- tension within the group or with another group
- presence of wild chimpanzees around the sanctuary, prompting them to defend their territory
- fear at the time of integration

The more the chimpanzees manage to get out, the more this behavior is repeated, even in the long term if there are no problems.

For example, this problem led chimpanzee Dave to go outside several times during his integration in 2022. With this new closure, Dave was unable to exit on the resumption of his integration in 2023. This led him to rationalize his fear and reach out to others. Dave is now very well integrated.

This reinforcement will enable us to integrate more chimpanzees into this enclosure.

## REPLACEMENT OF POSTS FOR GROUP 3 ENCLOSURE

The wooden posts of this enclosure were badly damaged. We were worried that a storm might wash away part of the fence, or that the chimpanzees in this group might be tempted to wobble it. We chose metal posts, which will last much longer and make the fence even tighter.





# EXPANSION

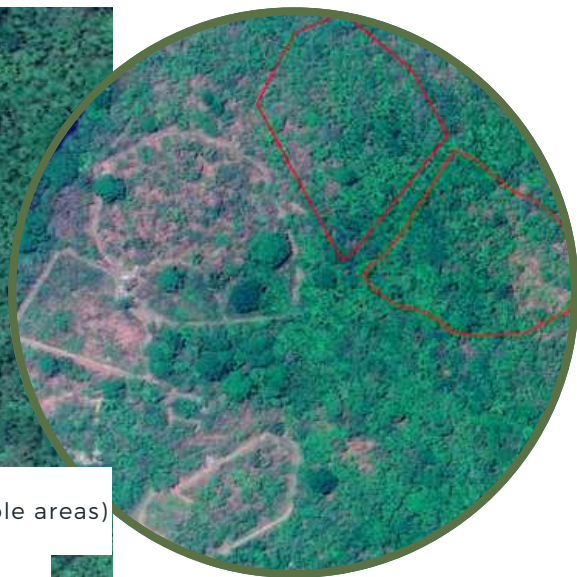
Expansion work (7 hectares) is still underway.

2023 was marked by numerous delays. Equipment was not completely delivered due to shortages before the rainy season in June, and we had to wait for the rains to stop before receiving the rest of the equipment in November.

The building and pruning of the area have been completed, and we hope that 2024 will see the real end of this work, which will greatly simplify the management of the CCC.

*Good news on the financing front. The CCC has been included in the European Union's "Natura Guinée" project, and funds to complete the expansion and renovations have been secured. The next few years promise to be very busy.*

# SANCTUARY PLAN



On the map, in red, the expansion in progress.



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# THE RELEASE



## THE TEAM ON SITE



**MARIUS  
KABONGO  
NTUMBA**

The site is still managed by Marius Kabongo Ntumba. Marius holds a degree in Environmental Science and Management, and has also acquired solid experience in the field of releasing and monitoring wild populations. He is supported by 5 Guinean employees who monitor the released chimpanzees by telemetry, provide weekly supplies by boat... Only one departure is planned for 2023. Benoît Kamano has been replaced by Faya...

Marius also monitors the area's protection missions and provides support for certain community activities in the vicinity of the site.



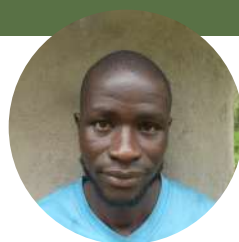
**FAYA  
KAMANO**



**ANTOINE  
DYOMBUNOU**



**SAYON  
OULARE**



**SAIO  
KOUROUMA**



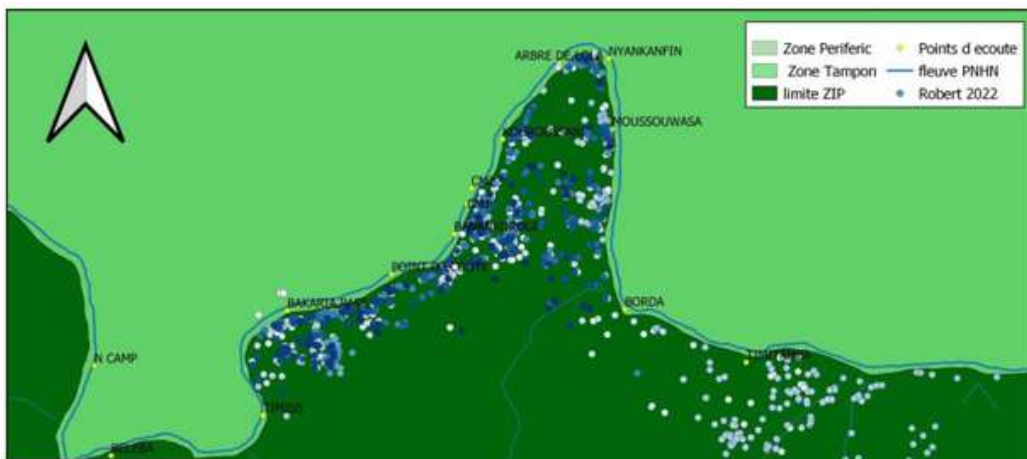
**FACELI  
MANSARE**

## THE TELEMETRY-TRACKED GROUP

*Our team of trackers follows some of our released chimpanzees by distance (the Niger River separates them) and telemetry. Among those no longer being tracked, some are females who have joined wild groups.*

The group we are following is made up of 2 adult males, 3 females and 7 youngsters, including 1 born this year.

<b>Robert</b>	36 years	<b>Lola</b>	28 years	<b>Luc</b>	6 years
<b>Albert</b>	30 years	<b>Anima</b>	10 years	<b>Lumière</b>	4 years
<b>Nanou</b>	29 years	<b>Leila</b>	10 years	<b>Lion</b>	26 months
<b>Lottie</b>	34 years	<b>Nina</b>	7 years	<b>Noura</b>	7 months



*The dots on these maps represent the movements of Robert, one of the two adult males in the group. They are indicative of the movements of most members. The map on the left shows movements in 2022, and the one below shows movements in 2023.*



**Robert locations in 2023**

- Niger river
- Mafou's FPA Boundaries
- Robert locations in 2023 (from white to dark green: from oldest to newest)



*The group knows the area inside out, and navigates an established territory of several kilometers, as the 2022/2023 comparison shows.*

The females in the group reproduce regularly and without difficulty. The young mentioned are all born in the wild. Some females (those aged 10) will soon leave the group to join another wild community. This behavior is natural and helps avoid inbreeding.

Note in 2023: Annie, one of our females released in 2011, was not seen with the group in 2023. Having removed her collar, we were unable to locate her. However, Annie is the wildest female we've ever released and she took a long time to integrate. It's not inconceivable that she may have joined another wild group.



## NEWS FROM THE TWO FEMALES RELEASED IN 2022

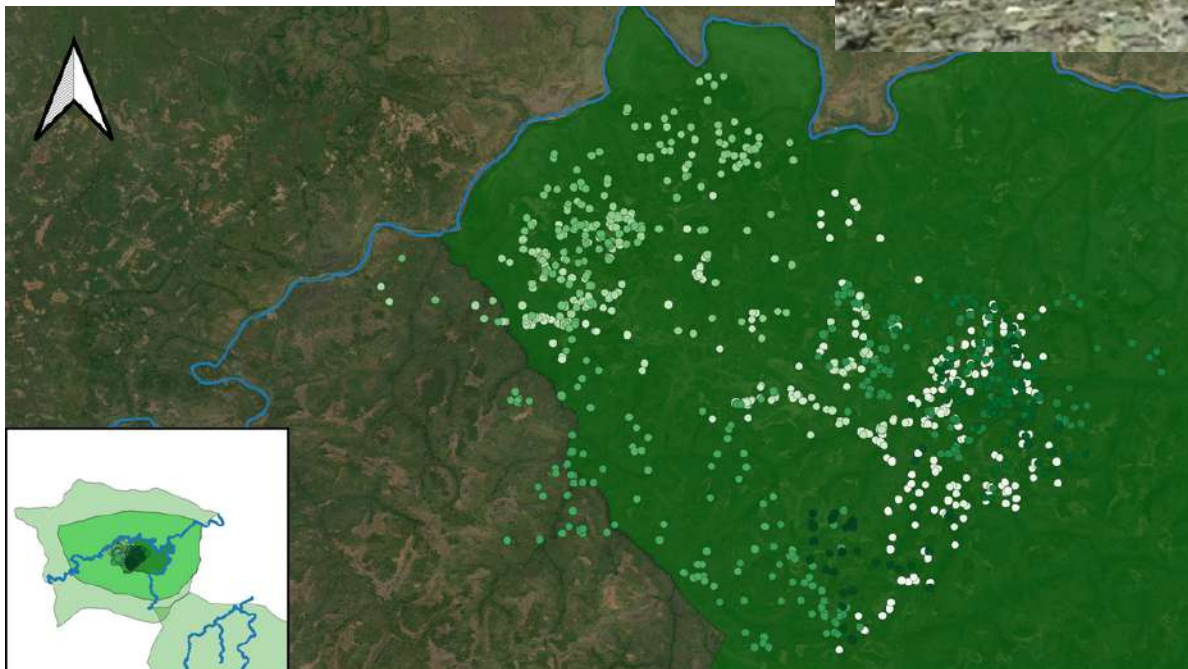
Our report for 2022 includes the release of two females, Chloé and Siala. Both released in the past, they had failed to integrate into the wild despite having good aptitudes.

They were given another chance at the end of 2022. They stayed together for just a few days before going their separate ways. We can follow them thanks to their collars, which transmit bridges via satellite or telemetry.

Chloé stayed in the fully protected area, and the good news is that we were able to observe her on camera traps set up in the area with wild chimpanzees! So Chloé has managed to integrate.



*Extract from camera traps - Chloé in photo 1 and two wild males in photo 2.*



### Chloé locations in 2023

- Niger river
- Mafou's FPA Boundaries
- Chloé locations in 2023 (from white to dark green: from oldest to newest)



As for Siala, she has moved into the buffer zone of the national park, which is a less secure area. Siala is quite detached from humans and doesn't approach our teams either. Concerned for her safety, however, several exploration missions were organized in the area where she was sailing.

Siala carefully avoids areas where human pressure is high and, above all, the points on her collar corroborate with the presence of wild chimpanzee nests on the map.

It was therefore decided to continue following her, but from a distance, so as not to interfere with her potential current integration.



### Siala locations in 2023

- Niger river
- Mafou's FPA Boundaries
- Siala locations in 2023 (from white to dark green: from oldest to newest)



Work has also been carried out on the camp at the release site to make it more independent from the sanctuary, which sometimes finds it difficult to link the two sites. In 2023, the following were built

- A two-bedroom hut for volunteers who come to help with the "camera traps" project.
- A storage room for tools and fuel.
- Two huts for meetings, organizing missions and living on site.

A well will have to be built in 2024, as our teams currently only have access to the river.



CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER



# UPPER NIGER NATIONAL PARK PROTECTION



**SIAKA  
OULARÉ**

## **A NEW CURATOR**

Mr Siaka Oularé took up his post as Curator of the Upper Niger National Park (UNNP) at the end of 2022. Trained in criminal investigation, Mr Siaka Oularé has been working in the environmental field since 2004. He is well acquainted with the Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, to which the PNHN belongs, having worked as a study officer in the GONPWR's Planning and Management Department for 3 years.

## **ECO-GUARDS PATROLS**

The CCC continues to support the Upper Niger National Park by, among other things, patrolling and equipping eco-guards in the fully protected area.

In 2023, we patrolled a total of 5213 km. This result is quite similar to 2022 (5365 km), and we are beginning to see some stability compared with previous years (1279 km in 2021).

This represents more than 33 patrols by motorcycle and 48 on foot over several days.

Natural resource harvesting activities are still very present in the FPA (logging, hunting, fishing, rice growing and gathering). Reducing these pressures, which threaten chimpanzee habitat and UNNP ecosystems, is a long-term task. Indeed, many of the local people have been able to carry out these activities for a long time without concern. Raising awareness, convincing people and enforcing the law are the objectives of these patrols.



## SMART SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION

Marius has set up the SMART data collection system to capitalize on the information gathered during patrols and monitoring missions for reintroduced chimpanzees. The application can be used on any Smartphone and uses location data to accurately track activities in the park.



Presenting indicators used in many protected areas around the world, it provides the team with standardized data, facilitating exchanges of experience with our colleagues and enabling us to easily draw up cartographic supports for our analyses. It's a great step forward!

In agreement with the national park authorities, the CCC hopes to extend the use of SMART to the entire perimeter. This will enable us to have a more detailed understanding of the park's biodiversity and the pressures on the FPA.

This software also enables us to better supervise and manage the eco-guards, who are still very corrupt. The Upper Niger National Park (UNNP) is under heavy pressure (timber trafficking, poaching, cultivation, fishing, bush fires, etc.) and the eco-guards are often on their own. Better supervision and awareness-raising will improve our results.

To increase efficiency, we have also set up a series of actions with the National Director of Parks and Reserves and the Curator, to be assessed in 2024:

- Annual rotation of all agents, so that they don't have time to forge links with poachers, loggers, etc.

- Introduction of a variable bonus system for ecoguards, calculated in proportion to results (arrests / confiscations).
- Penalties for ecoguards who facilitate illegal activities.
- An annual ceremony to reward ecoguards with the best results.

In addition, the UNNP, which will receive funding from the World Bank, will have the funds to better equip and pay ecoguards in 2024. These major changes, together with a more rigorous working framework and better equipment made possible by the park's new funding, will enable us to achieve ever-greater efficiency in the area.

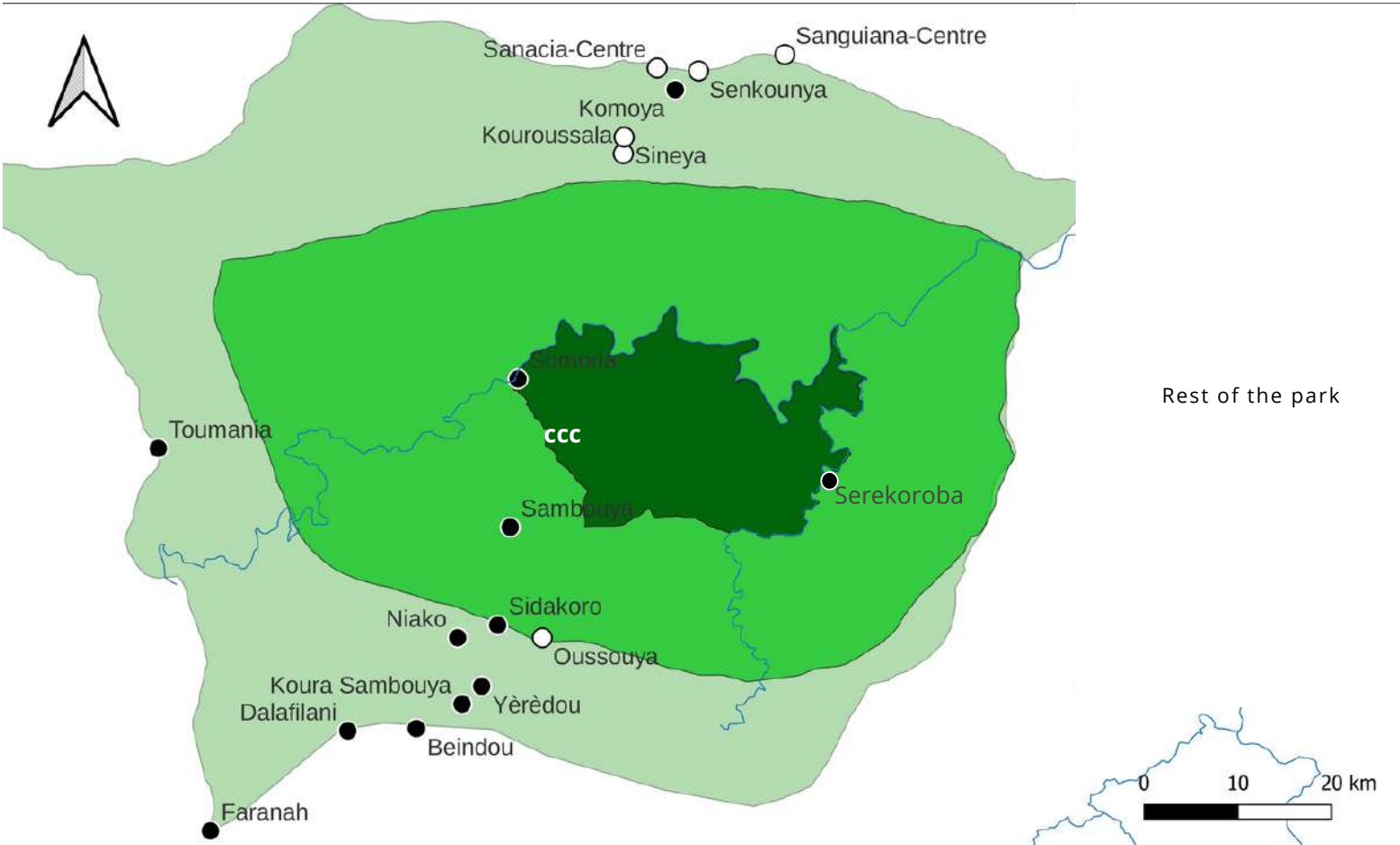
The meeting to present the new pay-for-performance system and the terms of reference for the work to be carried out with the CCC was very well received by the ecoguards who will be joining us in January 2024.

We're off to a great start this year!





# DELICATE SITUATION IN SOME VILLAGES ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE FPA



The CCC itself is an Fully Protected Zone (FPA), at the very opposite from large villages such as Serekoroba. Located very close to the FPA, this village carries out agricultural activities in the protected area. Other villages bordering the park, such as Komoya and Komandi Koura, also engage in this type of activity, which is highly detrimental to the park.

In March, the curator called a meeting with the chiefs of the communities concerned to explain the laws and sanctions that can be applied. Although the village chiefs pledged to stop these activities, this was not respected.

Communities are encouraged by outside contractors to do so for a fee, which undermines the communities' commitment to the park.

For this year, it has been agreed with the curator that the share that normally goes to the workers (around 15%) will exceptionally be returned to them this year. In this way, we will only impact the entrepreneurs of these cultures and limit the impact on the communities by gaining their trust.

In 2024, this indulgence will no longer be possible, and the whole thing will be seized if necessary.

# BIOMONITORING PROJECT



*Using cameras that are triggered by the presence of a living creature, we monitor the evolution of wildlife in the Upper Niger National Park year after year, as well as the "yaws" disease (a human disease) circulating among wild chimpanzees.*

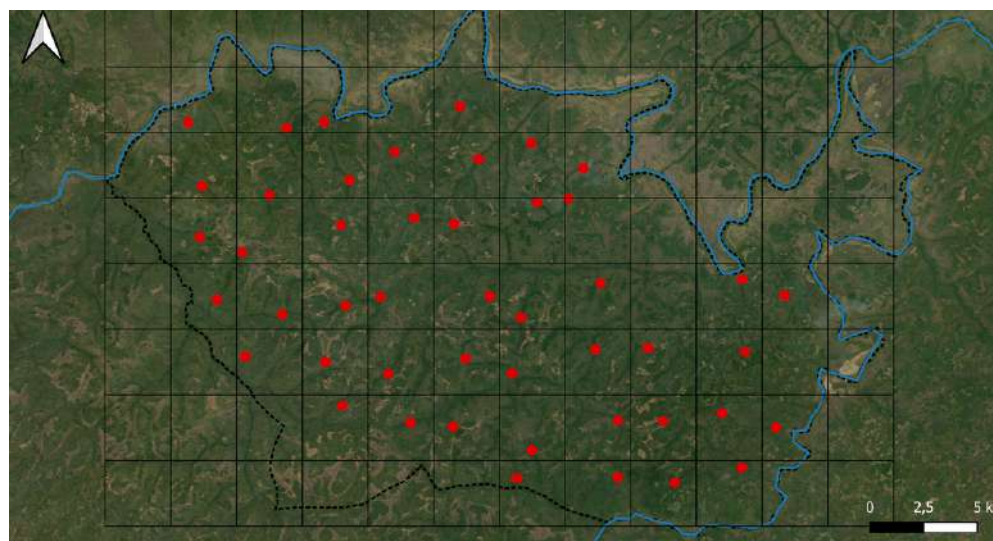
This year, the cameras were in operation from ... March to ... . It's not possible to install them during the rainy season, as the vegetation is far too dense and we can't reach all of them to pick them up.

Two volunteers manage the cameras during this period, and 49 were deployed this year, compared with 37 in 2022. We have continued to proceed with a 3km by 3km grid. Camera locations were chosen according to chimpanzee activity, giving priority to chimpanzee tracks, nests and feeding areas (in that order), so that most cameras were installed in gallery forests around watercourses. This last point also allows us to observe the rest of the fauna.

**The layout of the cameras enabled us to cover around 42,000 ha of the 54,400 ha FPA, i.e. 77%.**

In 2023, we also installed new cameras around Serekoroba, the furthest we've ever gone. As we already knew, there is a significant human presence in this area, including a farming unit and various camps.

The cameras are currently being analyzed.



**Location of camera traps**

- Mafou's FPA Boundaries
- 3 km x 3km grid
- Camera traps
- Watercourses





# BUSHMEAT INVESTIGATION

Since November 2022, the CCC has been investigating the bushmeat market in 6 villages of the Upper Niger National Park (Sidakoro, Mansiramoribaya, Koumandy Koura, Banfélè, Woroko and Sanguiana) and in the urban commune of Faranah. The investigation is coordinated by Dr. Duonamou Lucie and Dr. Konate Alexandre under the supervision of Dr. Tatyana Humle.

This investigation, which will last for 3 years, will enable us to assess the scale of the bushmeat market, identify the species most subject to poaching pressure, as well as the periods and places most favorable towards this activity. This knowledge will be an asset in setting up new awareness-raising actions or income-generating projects as alternatives to the bushmeat trade.

During the first year :

-46 species were identified during the rainy season (July-October 2023), with conservation statuses ranging from Endangered (EN) to Least Concern (LC) according to the IUCN.

-38 species were identified during the dry season (November 2022-February 2023), also with conservation status ranging from Endangered (EN) to Least Concern (LC).

No chimpanzee carcasses were found during this investigation. In the rainy season, the most hunted species appear to be the green monkey (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*), the Aulacode (*Thryonomys swinderianus*) and the Patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*). In the dry season, the most hunted species seem to be the Patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), the Aulacode (*Thryonomys swinderianus*), the warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*), and the harnessed guib (*Tragelaphus scriptus*).

The large number of carcasses testifies to the pressure exerted on the UNNP by bushmeat hunting. 1963 carcasses were identified in the dry season and 1688 in the rainy season.

The analysis report for the first year is currently being written.







**OUR COMMITMENT TO  
COMMUNITIES**



# THE TEAM



There were no changes to our local awareness-raising team in 2023. In the south (Faranah), it is still made up of Marie Jeanne Bourouno, Faya Diawara, Kémo Kourouma, and Ibrahim N'Diré, who has been involved with the CCC for 17 years now. In the north (Sanguiana), Mamadi Camara has also been with us since the position opened in 2022.



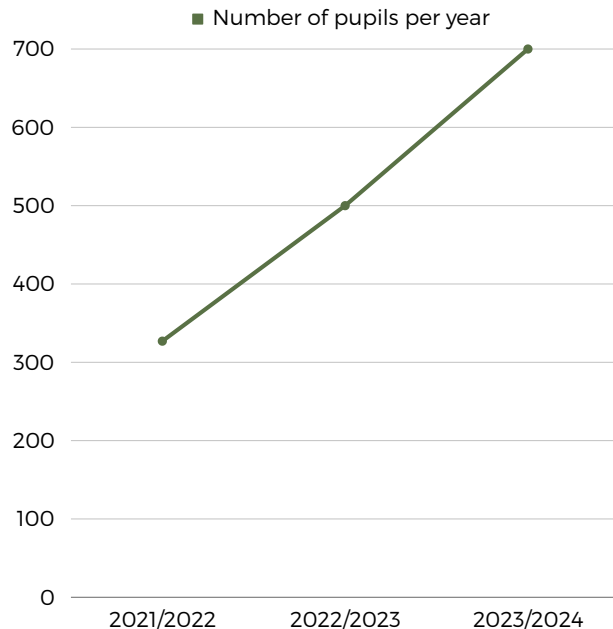
The local team is supported by long-term volunteers (1 year). Three volunteers are now part of the team.

# THE AWARENESS PROGRAM

## THE SCHOOLS

In the 2022-2023 school year, the Faranah education team worked with 7 different schools in the south of the national park, representing 13 classes and 400 pupils.

For the year 2023-2024, 8 schools (15 classes - 500 students) have received the environmental education program in the south of the park, and 6 schools for 200 students in the north of the park. That's 700 students in all!





As in previous years, evaluations were carried out at the end of the school year, both for children who had completed only one year of the program and for those who had completed both. These evaluations are very positive, and the program seems to be very well understood by the pupils.

As in 2022, we were able to offer a forest to the south of the park to some of the pupils who had completed both years of the program. This outing is an opportunity to bring the pupils into contact with nature and what they have studied over the past two years.

The outing in the forest is organized around observation activities and the collection of natural elements to create a nature mandala.

This outing is also a friendly moment between the kids and the educators, a fitting end to the training cycle. Everyone shares a meal, and the CCC distributes water bottles emblazoned with its logo to the students. This not only raises awareness of the need to reduce waste, but also leaves them with a material souvenir.

139 students were able to take part this year, compared with 108 in 2022. We hope to see this figure rise again in 2024, despite the logistical difficulties involved (e.g. no bus available).





After a year's work in the north of the park, the CCC program is now well integrated. Contact with the communities is very good, and the sessions are running on schedule. The first part of the program was delivered in the 2022/2023 school year and the second part in 2023/2024.



The northern education team is closely supported by the Prefectural Director of Schools. He wants us to extend our program to more schools. To this end, and in response to demand from communities keen to work with the CCC, we plan to recruit another educator for 2024.



This year, we also opened an office on the northern zone in Sanguiana, one of the towns bordering the national park. Previously, the team was based at the release site. But the distance to the villages and the round trips by motorcycle were exhausting for the team. From Sanguiana, the villages we work with in the north, whether for the education program or for community projects, can be reached much faster.

## NATURE CLUBS

At the end of the school year, after exams, the educators continue to guide children through nature clubs in interested villages. In 2023, educators visited the villages of Niako, Magna and Kourasambouya (see map p.19).

The nature clubs are an opportunity to visit villages with which the education team does not work during the school year. This enables us to reach a wider audience, including children who don't necessarily attend school, and to forge links with village communities.

124 children took part in nature clubs in 2023. These nature clubs are designed to follow the education program with a more playful aspect. They tell illustrated stories using picture boxes, encourage children to participate and mobilize them through drama... The nature clubs take place in good spirits.

## RADIO BROADCASTS



Following on from 2022, the CCC continued its activities on Djoma Media radio. This is a local radio station based in Faranah, whose airwaves cover the entire Upper Niger National Park, so that's a population of around 1,200,000. The education team visits the studio twice a month to record twenty-minute programs, which are then rebroadcast. In all, the CCC is on the air four times a month.

The programs deal with subjects linked to sustainable development, the environment and the human activities that have an impact on it... They aim to increase local people's knowledge (even for those who don't read) of natural elements and to raise their awareness of the damage that human activities can cause. These programs give a voice to people committed to the environment.

In order to be understood by as many people as possible, all these programs are broadcast in Malinké, the local language. The Peul and Kissi ethnic groups are also represented in the Faranah area. To ensure even wider distribution, short summaries in Poulard and Kissi are included at the end of each program.

These programs are appreciated by the local population, who regularly give us positive feedback.





# COMMUNITY PROJECTS

VILLAGES MAP P.19

## BEEKEEPING PROJECT

We had started a beekeeping project with Sambouya, the closest village to the CCC in 2021. The traditional technique was to cut down the tree on which the hive was located in order to obtain it. The hive and the wild bees were destroyed.

Following the installation of thirty Kenyan hives in 2021 and the first honey harvest in 2022, a second harvest was carried out in May 2023. Yields are still poor. On the other hand, the honey was sold 10 times the price of the honey normally produced in the region. This is because it has not been blended with another liquid, unlike the honey usually sold.

The CCC team makes regular visits to Sambouya to support the villagers in maintaining the hives, and to work with them on ways to improve them. We hope to see better yields in 2024, with several harvests in the same year. At present, 20 hives are already occupied.

We have extended the project to the village of Kouroussala, where beekeepers have told us of their desire to develop the activity and make it less impactful on the environment. In 2023, an initial training course was given by an expert from Conakry.



## SOAP-MAKING PROJECT

Set up in Koura Sambouya, the women involved in this project had become quite autonomous in managing the activity, producing several hundred bars of soap.

A death in the family of the group leader brought the activity to a halt during the year (the mourning period is subject to numerous obligations in Guinea).

Nevertheless, the team is working to reactivate the project, and has no doubt that it will be relaunched as soon as possible. All the equipment is on site, and many women are already mobilized to get it up and running again.

Also set up in Niako, the empowerment of the saponification project in this locality is more difficult. The groups regularly change their objectives with regard to the investment of profits, and profitability has not been forthcoming. We're going to work again with this group to better understand the dysfunctions and expectations before relaunching the project.

The CCC has also set up and supported a sanitation project in the village of Kourasambouya. Our team regularly visits the village to ensure that the equipment is maintained and the sanitation work continues. As it turns out, the project is running smoothly, and CCC members have no reason to take any further action.



## THE SPECIAL CASE OF KOMOYA

Komoya is a sizeable village not far from the chimpanzee release site and the fully protected area (FPA) of the national park.

### REMINDER OF THE SITUATION:

We've had several incidents with the village and residents over the years.

For several years now, the Komoya community has been developing rice fields by the Niger River, just on the other side of the FPA. We also know that the village is an important transit area for illegal loggers in the northern part of the buffer zone, as well as for bushmeat.

Since 2021, we have been actively working to improve our relations via a pilot project conducted with PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance) and in collaboration with the consulting firm "Impact by design". The aim is to pacify our relations and then raise the community's awareness of the need to protect the park, while offering them a tailor-made and effective development project.

### EN 2023:

Le 1er février, un premier atelier de travail a eu lieu pour réfléchir à un accord tripartite entre le parc, la communauté et le CCC. Ont été abordés le zonage du parc et les lois qui s'y appliquent, la mise en place d'un accord réciproque avec les engagements pour le CCC et pour le village et la création d'un Comité Local de Développement et de Conservation et un plan d'action commun.

L'accord a été signé le 19 mars 2023. Par cet accord la communauté de Komoya s'engage à ne plus cultiver le long du Niger et à respecter les lois qui régissent l'utilisation des ressources naturelles dans le parc. En échange le CCC et le parc accompagnent la communauté à travers le développement de certaines activités génératrices de revenus ou bien pour la refonte d'infrastructures. La communauté s'est aussi engagée à dénoncer toute personne faisant partie d'un réseau de trafic illégal.



In May 2023, the Local Development and Conservation Committee (LDCC) was formalized with the Kouroussa prefecture. This committee, made up of young people from the community and one person from the CCC, is a community body and partner for the park and the CCC. Its role is to ensure that revenues from income-generating projects are properly used for reinvestment in new projects to benefit the community. The LDCC will also assist the CCC in organizing public events.

In September 2023, as part of the agreement signed in March, the CCC, the UNNP and the community inaugurated the school, renovated by the CCC (photo).



In order to offer an alternative to rice cultivation by the Niger River, the CCC has undertaken the rehabilitation of 14 hectares of lowland near the village. Feasibility studies were carried out in 2023 with topographical, hydrological and soil engineers. Work is due to start in January 2024. It's a big job, but one that will benefit both the village and the park. We'll have to work with part of the community to develop the lowland. The Komoya LDCC has already been able to recruit a volunteer team to help with the work.





By the end of the year, however, the rice fields by the Niger River were still being cultivated. Since the lowland near the village had not yet been rehabilitated in December, the park curator, supported by the CCC, decided not to seize the rice this year. However, we have organized a meeting with the community to remind them of the total ban on cultivation of these areas in 2024. Park agents will be posted throughout the year to prevent the installation of fields. The community has reacted well and says it wants to respect the agreements signed in March.

In December, a beekeeping project was also launched with a group from Komoya. The group seems highly motivated. Training was provided by an expert from Conakry. The equipment (hives, stands, outfits and tools) was supplied during the training. Only a few hives and outfits had not yet been produced and were delivered later. The training sessions went very well, and group members asked a lot of questions, demonstrating their motivation.



*Note: the market gardening project in Sidakoro (the park's "gateway" village), which was effective the previous year, will be resumed at a later date. The communities need real day-to-day support, which the CCC needs to consider in advance.*



The awareness program, community projects and release site were supervised and managed by Miguel GARCIA, our Conservation Programs Manager for almost 4 years. Miguel handed over the reins last October and remains an important advisor to the CCC.

His replacement is Sonja Lipenga. With a degree in conservation biology and biodiversity management, Sonja has held positions of responsibility in various conservation projects in Tanzania, Malawi and the DRC.

Sonja met Miguel in September and took up her position in January 2024. During the last 3 months of 2023, Fabien Lefèvre, a former CCC volunteer with a diploma in nature management and conservation, took over the transition.



CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER

A close-up, low-angle shot of a stack of metal server racks. The racks are silver and have a perforated front panel. The top of the stack is slightly blurred, and the bottom of the stack is in sharp focus. A solid green horizontal bar is at the bottom of the image, containing the text 'ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The legal representative of the CCC is the NGO Projet Primates Guinée.

Its members have all known the CCC for many years.



**DR. TATYANA HUMLE**  
**PRÉSIDENTE**

Dr Tatyana (Tanya) Humle, formerly a Senior Lecturer at the University of Kent, UK, with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) in the School of Anthropology and Conservation, has joined the IUCN ARRC Task Force in the section for Great Apes (SGA) in the Primate Specialist Group (PSG). Tatyana has many years' experience of working with chimpanzees in West Africa, mainly in Guinea since 1995 and some neighboring countries. Her research has focused on better understanding and coexistence between humans and wildlife, particularly great apes. She also brings in-depth knowledge of primate rehabilitation and translocation practices, culture among animals and the links between primate conservation... She has been an active member of the IUCN/SSC Section on Great Apes (SGA) since its creation, and is the current Vice-President for Conservation of the International Primatological Society (IPS). She also co-edited and helped coordinate the drafting of the regional action plan for the conservation of western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) 2020-2030.



**OUSMANE BALDÉ**  
**VICE PRÉSIDENT**

Ousmane est un ami du projet depuis ses débuts, dans les années 2000. Chef d'entreprise sur Conakry, il connaît parfaitement la Guinée, ses rouages et beaucoup de personnes influentes. Il est notre conseiller sur toutes les situations difficiles et administratives guinéennes.



**FLORIS AUBERT - TREASURER**

Floris is a former CCC volunteer who has worked for the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) in Guinea, among others. With nearly 15 years' experience as an expatriate in West Africa, Floris has a wide range of project management skills.



**RECRUITMENT- SECRETARY**

Several potential candidates are under consideration.

*The CCC is very isolated and off-grid. To compensate for this, a sister association has been created in France "Projet primates France" (PPF) and a partner entity also exists in the United States "Project Primate Inc. (PPI)*



**CLAIRE GAUBERT  
PPF REPRESENTATIVE**

Claire is a former CCC volunteer who has completed several trips, and has been PPF treasurer and very active member for many years. Her organizational skills and knowledge of associations are real assets.



**LILIANA PACHECO  
PPI REPRESENTATIVE**

Liliana worked with chimpanzees at the Jane Goodall Institute in Senegal for over 10 years. She has also lent a hand to WARA in Guinea, a wildlife anti-trafficking organization. Liliana knows conservation and West Africa inside out.





# EXCHANGES MEETING

## MEETING WITH PASA IN MALAWI

This time of exchange had been awaited for 3 years now, since we hadn't been able to get together because of COVID.

This time was divided into two parts. One part was dedicated to the management of each sanctuary and the second was a workshop linked to our community projects, in particular for the village of Komoya.

- **Course**

PASA International's new staff members introduced themselves and gave a very positive presentation of their work and PASA's evolution in fundraising.

PASA has financed (and continues to finance) some of CCC's conservation activities, such as the education program. PASA also provides emergency grants to sanctuaries when necessary.

Each member representing a sanctuary gave a presentation of his or her structure and highlighted recent achievements. It was very moving to hear the JACK sanctuary recount the security problems they have encountered and the kidnapping of two of their very young chimpanzees. The demand for chimpanzees remains high worldwide, but is increasing considerably in the Arab world, particularly in Dubai and the Emirates. We need to be increasingly cautious. It is not uncommon in some countries for traffickers to try to lure away sanctuary caretakers by offering them a lot of money...

Miguel Garcia, representing the CCC, then gave a more detailed presentation of the activities carried out at Komoya as part of our collaboration with PASA on this pilot project. It was interesting to exchange ideas and issues on this subject.



## PASA/GFAS VISIT

At the end of the year, two members of PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance), of which we are a member, and GFAS (Global Federation Animal Sanctuaries) were commissioned to assess the CCC as a whole.

This was an opportunity for our teams to take stock of the situation from an outside perspective.

The aim of this visit was to maintain our accreditation with PASA and GFAS and thus demonstrate to our partners our serious and professional commitment.

Thank you to Gregg Tully and Liliana Pacheco for coming.



2023 was a difficult year both economically and logistically.

We would like to sincerely thank all our partners for their trust and commitment.

The CCC would not be what it is without all of you, so thank you for fighting alongside us for a world more respectful of nature.

