

CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER



Annual Report 2016

www.projectprimate.org

Letter from Christelle Colin, Executive Director

2016 was a very intense year for the CCC. We have made progress on many fronts, with our local team and with our chimpanzees. The entire CCC team worked very hard and with great heart throughout the year. We were able to improve the quality of life of our residents, build the capacity of our local team, relaunch the awareness program, and increase our visibility in the Guinean and international media.



Chimpanzees need our help more than ever since the western subspecies (*Pan Troglodytes Verus*) is now classified as Critically Endangered. The very survival of this subspecies is now called into question. Our work is all the more critical and necessary since the CCC is an essential partner in the conservation of chimpanzees in Guinea. We care for chimpanzees confiscated by the authorities in the fight against the devastating trafficking of baby chimpanzees, but we are also a very active player in the in-situ conservation of wild populations in our area of intervention. And now we must redouble our efforts to protect them.

This year has also been a very difficult one with the loss of two of our chimpanzees. Charlotte, a 14-year-old adult female, was taken away from us at the end of July by a terrible septicemia, despite our veterinarian's and the entire team's best efforts. She was a very gentle chimpanzee with a strong personality, who played an important role in her group. Her death was a heartbreak and a great loss for our family. This was followed by more painful news at the end of August, when we learned that Mama – who was released in June 2008 – was killed in a baboon attack. Mama was unique and extraordinarily sweet. She was already a big teenager when we met for the first time in December 1999, but she was always incredibly kind. I was fortunate to participate in her release in June 2008 alongside CCC founder Estelle Raballand. I will never forget the happiness on her face when we opened the door. Mama lived eight years in freedom – too little time, but unfortunately more than most formerly captive chimpanzees are granted. We will continue the fight so that the other members of her group can continue to roam free for many more years in the forest.

I will finish by thanking the members of the CCC's local team, who are the soul of the project, for their courage and devotion to the chimpanzees. This includes our fantastic volunteers, as well as the management team, which keeps the project running smoothly on a daily basis: Matthieu, Elise, Hélène, Stuart, Gaspard and Guillaume. They perform the work of a titan in the field with exemplary energy and dedication, and I am very proud to work with all of them.

I am also grateful for our Government partners, the Ministry of the Environment, OGUIPAR, UNOPS, local authorities and the Park authorities who support us day after day.

A huge thanks also to all those who make our work on the ground possible: Céline Danaud, President of Project Primates France (PPF), and all the PPF volunteers, for the continuous help and the sensitization carried out in France; to Estelle Raballand and the rest of the Project Primate Inc. team in the USA; and to the CCC Board members, Ousmane Baldé, Estelle Raballand, Jordan Kimball, Tatyana Humle and Melissa Ongman, for all the time and energy they devote to the project and for their continuous guidance and support. We have made a lot of progress together and the CCC is now stronger thanks to you.

And finally, thanks of course to all of you – the individual donors, companies, foundations and associations that make our work possible. It is thanks to your support that we were able to continue fighting for the chimpanzees of West Africa this year!

Christelle Colin
Executive Director

In memory of Charlotte and Mama



Charlotte



Mama with her offspring

The Chimpanzee Conservation Center mission is: protect wild chimpanzees and their habitat, rescue, rehabilitate and ensure the well-being of orphaned chimpanzees confiscated by the Guinean authorities, release chimpanzees when possible following the guidelines established by the IUCN and raise awareness on environmental issues at local and national level

The Chimpanzee Conservation Center works under the Ministry of Environment and Water and Forests, and in particular the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves (OGUIPAR).

In Guinea, the CCC is represented by the association Project Primates Guinea (PPGui).

The CCC benefits from support organizations in Europe and the United States : Projet Primates France and Project Primate, Inc.

Members of the Board of Directors of PPGUI (2016) :

- Mr Ousmane BALDE, President
- Ms. Estelle RABALLAND, CCC's founder ; Treasurer
- Mr Jordan KIMBALL, Secretary
- Ms Melissa ONGMAN, PPI Representative
- Ms Tatyana HUMLE, PPF representative

ACRONYMS

CCC : Chimpanzee Conservation Center

HNNP : Upper Niger National Park

OGUIPAR : Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves

PPGui : Projet Primates Guinee

PPF : Projet Primates France

PPI : Project Primate Inc.

UNOPS : United Nation Offices for Project Services

The CCC Team

In 2016, we continued to build the local team capacity that we began in 2015.

Local Team:

Our keepers trainer, Stuart Beaman, worked all year long with the team. Our team has improved their knowledge on chimpanzees' behavior, which facilitates daily work. The use of positive reinforcement in working with chimpanzees is now a routine practice. Hygiene has been improved through the introduction of more rigorous cleaning protocols.

Earlier this year we trained **four senior keepers as team leaders**: Antoine Koudounio, Sekou Kourouma, Faya Tolno and Alladinié Kouyaté. These four team leaders help the management team and have more responsibilities in their daily work. They are in charge of ensuring safety during the cleaning of chimpanzee infrastructures; when chimpanzees are moved between enclosures; and during the forest walks with the youngsters. They supervise the work of their colleagues and report to us on the chimpanzees' health, infrastructure management (for example, they tell us what repairs are needed), and the food needed for the chimpanzees. They also help Stuart and the managers train new keepers.



Faya, Sekou, Kouyaté

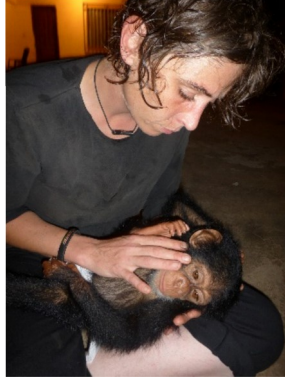
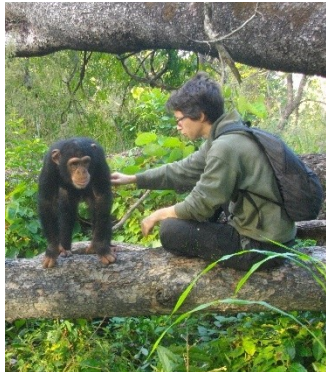
We have also continued to strengthen the team with the addition of five new keepers. As of January 31, 2017, the team consists of 12 keepers, 1 trainer / technician, 2 drivers, 2 camp aids.

Setting up a welcoming protocol for new trainers: All new keepers have an interview with a manager and Stuart. During the interview, they explain the CCC's mission and the working conditions, and then show the new keeper a short educational video detailing the life of one of the CCC chimpanzees. This welcome interview provides a better immersion and understanding of the work of the CCC.

The training will continue in 2017 and we are very optimistic about the evolution of this team, which is becoming more and more professional day after day.

Management Team:

In 2016, the management team was composed of Matthieu Laurans, Elise Neveu and Stuart Beaman, and was reinforced by H  l  ne RASE, who replaced Rodolphe Violleau, who left his post in early 2016. H  l  ne came as a volunteer twice and her experience is an asset for the team.



Elise, H  l  ne, Stuart and Mathieu with the local team



In 2016, we were able to count on Guillaume BANVILLE as protection manager. Guillaume has also invested heavily in managing our small camera trap project.

We were also excited to recruit Gaspard Julien-Lafferri  re as the release site's manager. We were able to hire Gaspard within the framework of a Volontariat de Solidarit   Internationale (VSI), in partnership with the Catholic Delegation for Cooperation. Gaspard's mission is to train the team of trackers working at the release site, and particularly Mamadi Camara, who has been working with us for eight years. The purpose of this training is to increase their skills and ability to collect valuable data as part of the protection of the release area. Gaspard's one-year mission was renewed for another year to finalize the training of Mamadi and his colleagues. When Gaspard leaves in February 2018 Mamadi will become the release site local manager.





The trackers team at the release site, Mamadi, Robert and Siba

Volunteers

We are grateful to all of the volunteers who came to help us in 2016. They brought an enormous amount of skill, energy and good humor!



The Chimpanzees

2016 is the year that the international community sounded the alarm for West African chimpanzees: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) changed the conservation status of *Pan Troglodytes Verus* from its 1988 classification of **in danger** to **critically endangered**. A number of serious threats to the subspecies – from the development of extraction industries and commercial agriculture to the trafficking of baby chimpanzees and bushmeat trade – are having a devastating impact on wild populations, whose numbers continue to decline. Guinea is currently estimated to have the largest population of wild chimpanzees in West Africa (see the IUCN website Red List of threatened species: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/full/15935/0>).

The conservation component of this project is thus critical and we must increase our efforts on all levels to protect this iconic species. By accepting and rehabilitating the orphan chimpanzees confiscated by the Guinean authorities, we can help the government and NGOs to enforce the laws that protect chimpanzees and stop trafficking. Equally vital is awareness raising among local communities and community development; we will not be able to save wild chimpanzees without the support of the human populations that live alongside them. We must therefore scale up our efforts in this area if we want to successfully protect wild chimpanzees going forward.

CHIMPANZEES GROUP composition as January 1st 2017

The CCC currently cares for **52 chimpanzees** (25 males and 27 females), aged 14 months to 37 years.

- **Adults group:** 10 individuals + Bamba in integration + 3 males separated
- **Young adults group:** 11 individuals + 1 separate male
- **Teenagers group:** 8 individuals
- **Juveniles group:** 11 Individuals
- **Babies group:** 3 individuals
- **Coco's group:** 3 individuals
- **Quarantine:** 1 individual, Toto



We follow a chimpanzee management plan created by the management team in collaboration with the keepers. But often chimpanzees upset our daily lives and we must constantly adapt to the most pressing needs!

New arrivals

Adi: (see 2015 Annual Report) Adi was confiscated mid-January by the Guinean authorities. After her quarantine, she joined Soumba and Kanda, who had arrived at the CCC two months earlier.



Toto: Toto was transferred to the CCC from Senegal on November 8th, following extensive preparation and at the request of our colleague Mrs. Carter – director of the sanctuary in the Gambia – and the Senegalese authorities. Toto has a very special history: he comes from the study site of Fongoli in Senegal, which is directed by Dr. Jill Pruetz, an American primatologist. Toto's mother died in August 2012 from a snake bite, and Dr. Pruetz's research assistants recovered Toto when he was only about a month old. He was given to Mrs. Carter with the initial idea of reintegrating him into his native group when he was older. In 2015, when it became clear that this would not work, Mrs. Carter contacted the CCC to ask for help, as the Gambia sanctuary could no longer accommodate new chimpanzees.



It took months to organize Toto's transfer, which required numerous authorizations (CITES permit and transfer authorization) and waiting for the roads between Senegal and Guinea to be operable. Toto finally left Senegal on November 8th, with his keeper Dondo.

Our team met Toto and Dondo at the border. Toto arrived in Faranah the following evening and at the CCC on November 10th after three days on the road. He was remarkably quiet the whole way!



Dondo stayed with Toto for 10 days to help ease his transition before handing care over fully to the CCC team. Toto has since settled into his new life and we will soon integrate him with the other chimpanzees.

We are grateful to Mrs. Carter, Friends of Animals, and Dr. Jill Pruetz, for looking after Toto for four years and for the financial support provided for his care at the CCC.

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF CHIMPANZEES

The adult group

Nelson, a 14-year-old young adult male, joined the adult group in 2015 but after a few months began to challenge the two dominant males, Mocha and Ced. It wouldn't have been an issue if Nelson had accepted their dominance, but he didn't. So after several rather violent conflicts, we decided to remove Nelson from the group at the end of July. We are planning to integrate him into a group of younger chimpanzees – such as the juveniles – to create a multi age group.

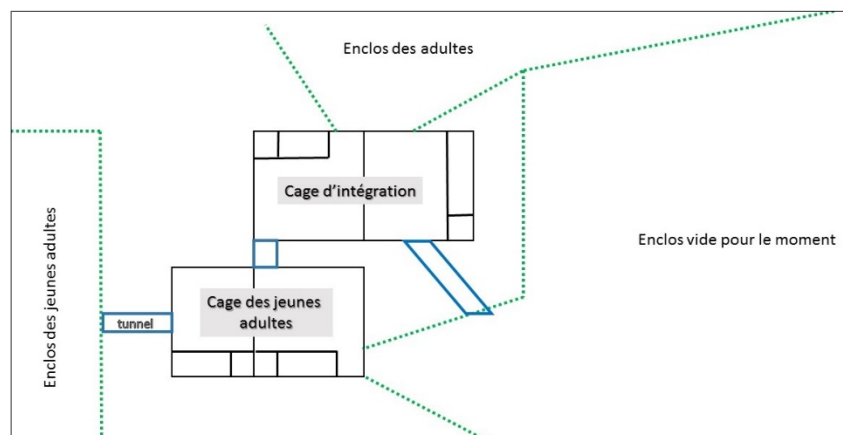
In 2016 we were able to build a new satellite cage by the adult group's electrical enclosure. Until now, the adult group, who have free access to their forested enclosure, were fed four times a day in the satellite cage of the main cage complex. The proximity with the group of young adults caused great tension during feedings. The new cage was built a hundred meters from the main complex and since then the feedings are much quieter for both groups.

With more space, we can also integrate chimpanzees in the group of adults in a more secluded place, hence avoiding conflicts instigated by the other groups.

Opposite: the main cages complex with the two satellite cages for two groups (adults and young adults)



Below: design of the main complex facility



The adult group closely followed the construction of the new satellite cage by their enclosure, which lasted from April to July. The group has gradually grown accustomed to eating in this new space and the routine is now well-established.

Feedings are now much quieter and calmer. However, we allow free access to the old cage if we do not need it for integrations and some chimps like to spend time in their old satellite cage between meals.

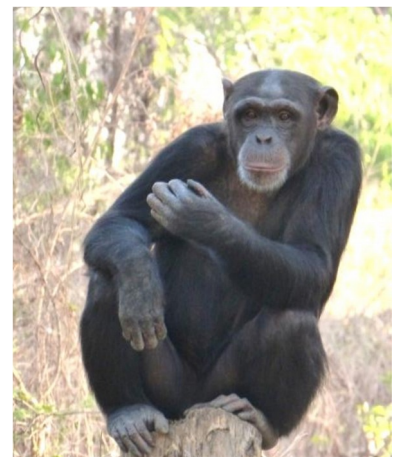
What's next?

Due to its location away from the main group of cages, this new structure will help ensure calmer and less stressful integrations. We will be able to create a multi-age group that will better address the social needs of our residents while ensuring a better occupancy of the space since the adult group's forested enclosure can easily accommodate about twenty chimpanzees (they are currently 11). We will therefore increase our capacity by freeing space in other infrastructures/groups, while improving the chimpanzees' rehabilitation process by offering them a more natural social life.



The young adults group

At the end of July 2016, we had the tremendous pain of losing Charlotte, a 14 years old young adult. Charlotte was carried away by a terrible septicemia despite the intensive care she received from our veterinarian and the entire team. Her brutal disappearance left the whole team in shock. Her group was also affected, as Charlotte was one of the dominant females in the group.





Our veterinarian Hélène assisted by Faya, one of our team leader, watching over Charlotte.

The dynamics of the group inevitably changed after Charlotte's passing, both because of the power vacuum and an even more unbalanced sex ratio, with 7 males for 4 females.

Paco integration into the group in early 2016 (see annual report 2015) was positive, but not to the extent that we expected as he did not take over dominance of the group, as we had thought he would. Dan has remained the dominant male, but the other young males often test him. We are studying which young females could be brought in to re-balance the sex ratio.



Creation of one group of juveniles

We integrated the chimpanzees from the "Big Babies" group – composed of three chimpanzees aged 4 to 6 years, (Noel, Hawa and Missy) – with the "Nursery" group, composed of eight individuals aged 4 to 8 years. These two groups benefit from daily forest outings, an important stage in the rehabilitation process that allows the orphaned chimpanzees to learn the necessary survival skills they'll need in the wild.

We did not originally plan to integrate them all together so fast, but they decided for us: the three males from the nursery group (Sam, Bailo and Tango) regularly searched out the three young ones in the forest. Their interest in the "babies" was strong and very clear.

We thus decided to take their lead and combine the two groups in order to offer everyone a richer social environment. Integration began at the end of June, under the leadership of chimpanzee manager Stuart Beaman, who was assisted by the team of keepers, as well as Hélène and some volunteers. Integration was progressive over

several weeks, and everything went very well. Sam, the dominant male of the nursery group, played his role perfectly throughout the process, calming his companions to protect the three little ones. Social interactions are now more varied.



The three young chimpanzees continued to sleep separately in their "baby quarters" until we finished building an annex to the nursery. They were transferred to this annex at the end of December. They are still sleeping separately for the time being, but are eating their meal with their new group.

Hawa's integration was the most difficult of the three. She was rescued in 2015 and is older than Noel (who is about 5 years old) and Missy (about 4 years) who were immediately welcomed and accepted by the whole group. She began to develop neck and groin masses during the integration, likely due to the stress and underlying conditions from her past captivity.

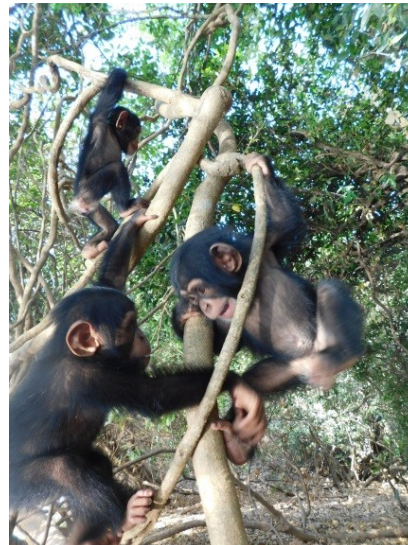
After several failed treatments, one of our past volunteer veterinarians, Dr. Claudie Reyland, made a trip from Luxembourg in early December to take samples of her masses for biopsies. We were able to get results quickly and treated Hawa accordingly. We are very grateful to Claudie for her invaluable help in treating Hawa!



Babies

Adiatou, a small female about a year and a half old, was placed under our care in mid-January. She had been confiscated by the authorities near Kindia after she was found abandoned in a field (at least that's the official version).

Left Adi with our manager H       aux Eaux et For     in Conakry. On the right, Adi with Kanda and Soumba.



After her quarantine, Adiatou, whom we call Adi, joined Soumba and Kanda, who were confiscated at the end of November 2015 in Bok   during a joint operation of the Guinean authorities, Interpol and the NGO GALF (Guinea Application of Wildlife Laws). Adi, a little bigger than the two other young babies, quickly found her place as "big sister" of the two smaller ones. Adi plays a lot with Soumba and has helped her gain confidence in the trees. Adi and Soumba are also very attentive to Kanda, to whom they give a lot of reassurance and comfort.



These three babies are cared for by a small team of surrogate mothers (volunteers), who take turns each day. A caretaker accompanies the "mother" and the three babies out to the small forest next to our camp every day.

What's next?

The three babies spend more and more time with the caregivers, who are now an integral part of their daily lives and will play an important role in the rehabilitation process.

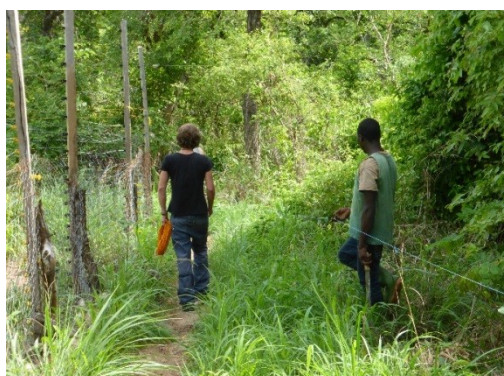
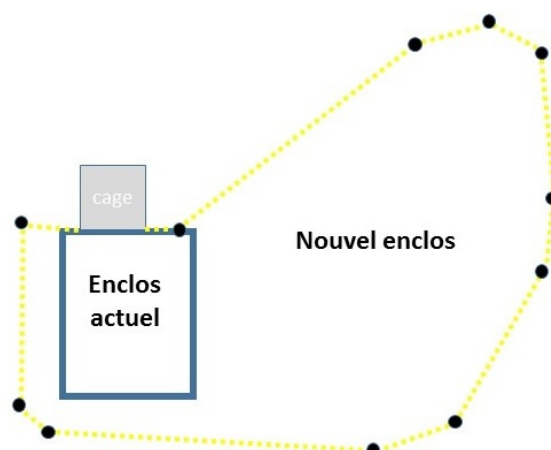


The adolescents electrical fence extension

We started to work on the teenagers' new enclosure in mid-May 2016. Some of the equipment was sent from France in a container we received at the beginning of January 2016 (see 2015 report). The remainder of the equipment was purchased locally and some building materials were graciously donated by a local company.

The new electrical fence was built around the existing enclosure, but five times bigger.

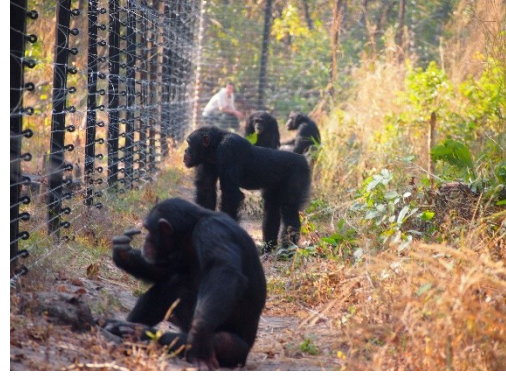
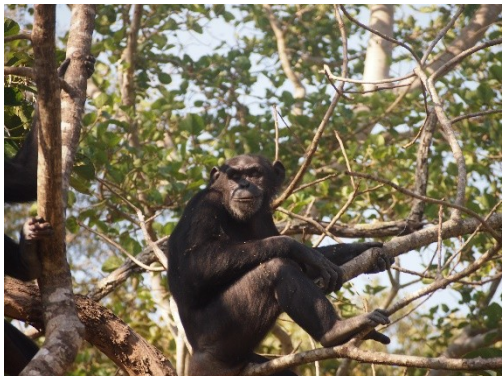
The managers, H  l  ne, Matthieu and especially Elise managed the entire construction process, part of which was carried out during the rainy season, which slowed down the work. We applaud the work of our two daily workers, Mamoudou Kourouma and Maurice Lama, who were helped by local workers and CCC volunteers, but who contributed the most to this 6-month project.





Work was completed on January 27, 2017 with the dismantling of the old enclosure and the completion of the new enclosure. The chimpanzees were remarkably patient throughout the project, calmly observing with great interest the agitation around them!

They were allowed in the new fence on January 28th for the first time. It was a moment of great joy and excitement for the chimpanzees and also of pride for the entire team!



What's next?

The teenager group now enjoys a beautiful wooded enclosure! Some of the chimpanzees will be integrated into the adult groups, while some juveniles from the Nursery group will join this group. This is part of the long rehabilitation process for the chimpanzees that has been in place for years at the CCC, which allows chimpanzees to gradually detach themselves from humans and acquire the social skills essential to group life.

Mouky

Mouky was successfully integrated with Zoé last year. Unfortunately, this year, Mouky learned how to escape from her fence by climbing up the poles. She is therefore temporarily being kept in the satellite cage of the enclosure. Zoe is fed in that satellite cage at each meal. The two friends (below, Mouky on the left and Zoe on the right) can have contact but the situation is frustrating for both of them.



We thus plan to work on securing the enclosure. We will add returns on the top of the posts, where we will add between 5 to 8 electrified lines, preventing any crossings. The wires needed for these returns will be taken from the former adolescents' electrical fence that we took down.

What's next?

We also hope to expand Mouky's and Zoe's satellite infrastructure to include the one where Coco is currently housed. Coco and Mouky seem very interested in each other and we would like to give them the opportunity to have contact in a secure infrastructure.

With more space, we can also bring over some of the adult chimpanzees that have failed to find their place in the current adult group. We have, for the moment, Bobo and possibly Rocky who could benefit from this new structure.

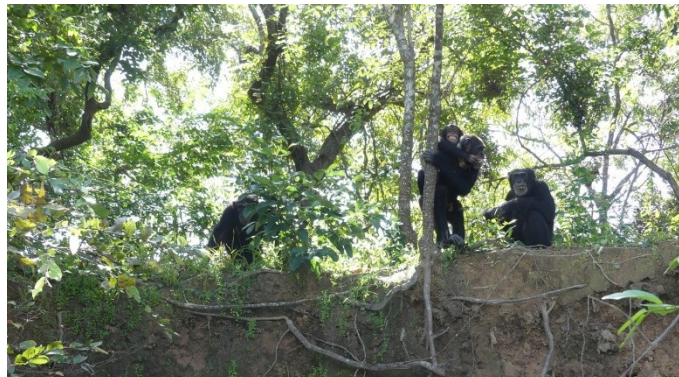
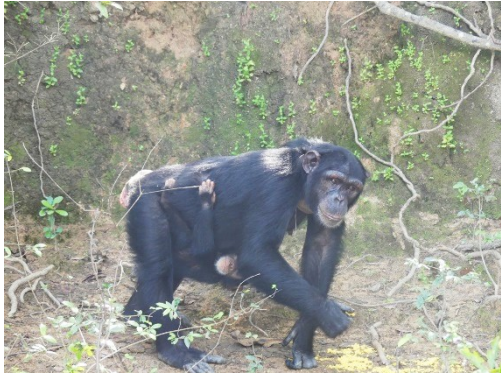
Release Site - Conservation

At the release site

In June 2016, we replaced some of the collars on the released chimpanzees whom we have been following since 2008. The two males, Albert and Robert, were fitted with simple VHF collars instead of the Argos/GPS collars with which they have been fitted since their release and that we've changed every year since then.

Replacing collars is also an opportunity for our team to check on the chimpanzees' health, to deworm them and to give them vitamins.

All the chimpanzees were in very good physical condition, as were the babies of the five females, Lottie, Mama, Nanou, Lola and Annie.



Annie and her daughter; Lottie, Nanou and Robert;



Lottie and Albert; Lola with Dinié, son of Nanou, and her two daughters

In 2016, the group extended its territory to the east along a gallery forest rich in fruit trees. This behavior is very positive since it demonstrates their ability to use their territory to sustain themselves. The group continues to have fission-fusion behavior, separating regularly to reunite themselves a few hours or a few days later.

Unfortunately, at the end of August, a large group of baboons of about a hundred individuals, which we know well, came to the release area while 2 females, Annie and Mama, were separated from the rest of the group. Our follow-up team heard screams of fighting between our chimpanzees and the baboons. The next day, Mama was found dead with multiple wounds. Unfortunately, her baby had also disappeared. This is not the first time that our chimpanzees have suffered attacks from this large group of baboons and several other babies have disappeared following similar attacks.

Since then our team remains very vigilant when the baboons are present in the area, but there is not much we can do with such a large group.

This year, we hired a manager for the release site – Gaspard Julien Laferrière. His mission is to build the capacity of the local monitoring team. He is also training our senior tracker, Mamadi Camara, to take on the position of local manager. Gaspard works with the team on listening techniques, GPS data collection, collaboration with park rangers for the protection of the area, and sensitization of local populations around the release area. We renewed Gaspard's contract for one year so that he has enough time to train Mamadi Camara for his future duties as a local manager. Gaspard will leave his position on January 31st, 2018 and Mamadi will replace him at that time.

Protection

This year, we once again hired a volunteer specifically to manage the Park protection work. Guillaume Banville came for the third time to manage the protection of our area of the Park. Unfortunately, we did not have additional funding to support the protection activities in the Upper Niger National Park. The Park guards' training was ongoing in town during the dry season, limiting, rather considerably, guard presence in our areas. Guillaume continued to collect data on anthropogenic activities and sent monthly reports to the Park authorities, the Ministry of the Environment and UNOPS.

At the end of 2016, a new conservator, the captain Kouyaté, was appointed. He knows the park and its problems, as he was a part of the first team following the Park's creation in 1996. We contacted him quickly and collaboration started right away. At the end of 2016, a hundred guards were deployed in the Park.

Camera-traps Project

Guillaume continued the camera traps project started in 2015. We were able to collect wildlife, chimps, herbivores, etc. pictures and also several images of panthers. We hope to develop a more comprehensive project in late 2017- early 2018 in partnership with our scientific advisor, Dr. Tatyana Humle, who is with the University of Kent (DICE).

Scientific Research

Our scientific research projects were supervised in 2016 by Jeanne Legras, a former volunteer, under the direction of Dr. Humle.

Behavioral Study

In 2012, the CCC launched a behavioral study of the young chimpanzees to better understand the rehabilitation process and acquire data on the long-term ecological and social skills of chimpanzees. The objective of this study is to use this information to see the evolution of individuals and in the long term, to help us select individuals who can be released into the wild.



In 2014, three keepers have been trained to collect data on the chimpanzees' behavior living in the juvenile group during the daily bush walks. Sekou Kourouma, Alladinié Kouyate and Faya Abel Tolno learned to use the "Animal Behavior" iPhone application with Jeanne's help. This study was completed in October 2016.

Jeanne has continued to work with a new but similar study on the same group, with the aim of publishing an article. This article will be able to help other great ape sanctuaries replicate this study, which will help them identify individuals ready to be released. In August 2016, Jeanne presented a first version of this study in a poster at the American Society of Primatology meeting and at the International Primatology Society in Chicago, USA.



Inventory of Plants eaten by chimpanzees

At the same time, Jeanne, with the help of two keepers, Sekou Kourouma and Alladinié Kouyaté, identified plant species eaten by chimpanzees in the forest and/or in their quarters. About 70 species have been identified and photographed to date.



This botanical inventory will be a great tool for the rehabilitation process since it will help the CCC team teach young chimps the plant species they can consume. It will also help us in botanical studies for our future release site research.

Study on cortisol

In March and April 2016, Jeanne, with the managers' help, was able to recover hair samples from all the chimpanzees living at the CCC. They were sent to a laboratory to analyze the levels of cortisol (stress hormone). Hairs of our released chimpanzees were also collected 3 times while they were in the release holding facility for collars batteries replacement. These findings will help us evaluate their stress level and evolution during this "captivity" period.

Study on hair regrowth

Meanwhile, Jeanne has conducted a study on hair regrowth rate in chimpanzees. This is the first study on chimpanzees and could be useful to many researchers, especially in cortisol studies. We were able to carry out this study with Esther Carlitz' support as she carried out a similar study with orangutans.

Following this collaboration, a study was set up at the CCC to help Esther Carlitz in her work on wild chimpanzees. Esther's research hair collected in wild chimpanzees nests. Jeanne has then tried to count how many hairs fall off naturally by passing a comb on our chimpanzees various body parts to determine the best season to collect hair in wild chimpanzees' nests.

What's next?

We wish to pursue non-invasive research at the CCC. Jeanne will draft protocols to help the CCC pursue two projects:

- The study on cortisol, a stress hormone. The goal is to quantify and monitor the stress of our chimpanzees at key events in their lives such as their arrival at the sanctuary, their integration into a new group, and etc.
- The second project will be done in collaboration with Stuart Beaman, our chimpanzee manager. This study will aim to develop a specific protocol for behavioral data collection during integration into a group. Analysis of these data will help us better understand and evaluate the integration process.

We wish to thank Jeanne for her many year of investment in the CCC and for helping us develop scientific research!

Our awareness activities resumed

We relaunched our outreach activities after the long interruption due to the Ebola outbreak. Our main goal was primarily to reconnect with the local population.

We sincerely thank the family of Guillaume Banville, our protection manager, for their generous donation, which allowed us to buy a new motorbike to boost awareness activities.



Ibrahima balde, our educator, on the new bike

In April, the released chimpanzees' monitoring team, led by the release site manager Gaspard Julien-Laferrière, met groups of fishermen several times after they had entered illegally on the Niger River in the fully protected area of the HNPN. We regularly try to educate them on the fishing rules and others that protect the Park. A moratorium is in effect on fishing in this area to leave breeding areas for fish, but it is very difficult to enforce the ban. Unable to directly intervene, we try to establish a constructive dialogue with these fishermen.

In late April, Gaspard and our educator, Ibrahima Balde, visited five villages north of our release area. They met with leaders and wise men of several villages. They re-explained our conservation activities, including the release of rehabilitated chimpanzees in the area. The film "Nelson's story" was showed to adults and in two schools.



Our team plans to begin outreach missions in the northern area of the Park next year.

We also organized an awareness week in six villages' schools along the southern area of the fully protected area of the Park. Our educator went along with Julie, one of our volunteers, who works with children in France and has significant experience designing educational activities for children. They visited six schools in one week, reaching more than 300 children. They broadcast the short movie "Nelson's life story", and organized play sessions around the chimpanzees' lifestyle. The children, as well as teachers and parents were delighted with these interactions.



We also organized several interventions in schools in Sidakoro and Sambouya, our two village partners. We distributed textbooks and school supplies collected by the children of a French class at the initiative of our partners at *La Fondation du Pal Nature*. We were able to do awareness sessions with the children at the same time.



What's next ?

For the next dry season, we are planning several awareness activities:

- Outreach campaigns in the villages within the Park on chimpanzees' conservation and protection, to work both with school children and adults.
- Organizing discussion meetings / awareness with fishermen, hunters and farmers groups involved in the Park, in collaboration with the local authorities
- Radio spots broadcasting in order to reach a wide audience, both in urban and rural areas
- Opening an office in Faranah (the closest city to the CCC) to have a permanent presence.
- Contacting Faranah schools to established long term sensitization and awareness campaigns in schools.
- Organization of events in Faranah for children and teenagers (football tournament, concerts, etc.) around environmental protection messages.

The CCC in the media

At the end of 2015, we were visited by Dan Kitwood, photographer of the famous agency GETTY IMAGE. Several reports have since been published:

- in Paris Match : [Chimpanzees, the paths of freedom](#)
- on the site Upworthy : <http://www.upworthy.com/take-an-inside-look-at-a-home-dedicated-to-saving-orphaned-chimpanzees>
- an article appeared in the Italian magazine IO DONNA, see our post on FACEBOOK [here](#)

Dan also received an Award of Excellence for the photos taken at CCC. You can find photos by Dan on the GETTY Images website:

<http://www.reportagebygettyimages.com/features/chimpanzee-rehab/>

In addition, the documentary filmed in February by a Luxembourg journalist Pascal BEKER aired in Luxembourg in May on **RTL** (Radio Television Luxembourg). It's a beautiful story, told in Luxembourgish, that followed our volunteer veterinarian Dr. Claudie Reyland and included many interviews of our team in French. This report shows the many sides of the project! View it [on line here](#) .

Christelle Colin at Kolomatin in Guinea.

Christelle was invited for a national TV interview following a photo exhibition held in early January at the Franco-Guinean Cultural Center. This program airs on the national TV channel Radio Television Guinean (RTG) and is quite popular, and we were thrilled to see chimpanzee conservation and issues of their disappearance in Guinea broadcast at prime time.



Another interview took place on the radio FM Radio Soleil, also following the photo exhibition.



Christelle Colin, director of the CCC, won the Trophy of French Abroad in the Environment category. The award ceremony took place on March 13th at the Quai d'Orsay, during a wonderful evening.

Christelle with her parents and a part of the management team (from left to right Claudie, Christelle's parents, Christelle, Helen, Matthieu and Anne-Claire)

More details on the Petitjournal.com Site, which organized the Trophy:

<http://www.lepetitjournal.com/expat/portraits-expat/241218-christelle-colin-son-combat-pour-proteger-les-chimpanzes-en-guinee>, and an interview on Radio France Internationale that can be heard [on this podcast](#).

Finally, the Dutch public television channel produced a report on the CCC in mid-December for the program "Floortje Naar Het Einde Van De Wereld." This report can be seen [here](#). It helped to broaden the CCC's exposure outside of French and English-speaking countries.

PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance)

PASA INSPECTION

The CCC has been a PASA member since its creation. In late October, we were visited by Agnès Souchal for an “Inspection Tour” to verify that the CCC adheres to the rules and PASA guidelines. Agnes spent two full days at Somoria (the sanctuary) and a half day at Bakaria (the release site). She was able to see the daily sanctuary routine and talk to keepers, volunteers and the management team.

This visit was very interesting and constructive, and Agnes's remarks and the subsequent PASA recommendations helped us to make improvements.

The CCC accreditation by PASA has been renewed for 5 years.



PASA Conference of Strategic Development and Strengthening Capacities Conference of PASA / GFAS / ARCUS

The annual meeting of directors/managers of PASA member sanctuaries was held in Entebbe, Uganda, from December 1st – 4th. Christelle Colin represented the CCC. These days were very rewarding and it was, as always, a good opportunity to reconnect and exchange with colleagues from other sanctuaries.

This PASA conference was followed by a joint PASA / GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries)/ARCUS capacity building conference. The CCC is currently undergoing the verification process by GFAS.

The conference featured discussions on technical and organizational topics, such as staff management, accounting, and infrastructure design. GFAS-accredited sanctuaries from Africa and Asia were present to share their experience with us. Christelle found these exchanges to be beneficial and constructive.



Financial Report

TOTAL EXPENDITURE for the CCC in Guinea and expenses paid in France and in the USA by our supporting organization PPF and PPI.

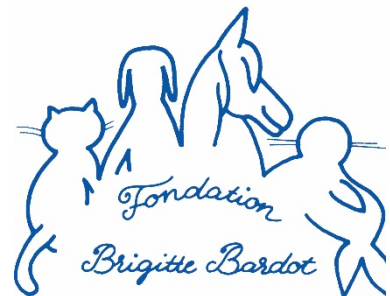
PERSONNEL	
CCC Team (expats and locals)	\$59,348
Volunteers expenses	\$4,218
Consultant CCC	\$8,700
CCC Activities	
Chimpanzees rehabilitation	\$76,170
Protection and Sensitization	\$679
Release program	\$7,355
Bank fees in Guinea	\$266
Total expenses for the CCC (Guinée,France,USA)	
	\$156,736

TOTAL Income in GUINEA

Cash income in Guinea	
Donations	\$1,438
Donations from Europe	\$2,176
Filming fees	\$2,176
Exchange hard currency	\$2,831
Donation PASA (bushmeat campaign)	\$ 200
Donation in kind 5 tons of Cement – equivalent in \$	\$814
Donation in kind 300 metal bats - equivalent in \$	\$3,488
TOTAL Received in cash	\$8,571
Funds transfered to CCC	
Projet Primates France	\$50,167
Project Primate Inc.	\$26,500
Donation LUSH USA	\$20,000
Donation FRIENDS OF ANIMALS	\$10,000
TOTAL TRANSFERRED	\$106,667

Note that our PPF and PPI support organizations directly support some of the CCC expenses (equipment purchasea ; Satellite phone bills ; expatriate staff stipend ; etc.) which are accounted for here in the overall CCC budget.

Our partners... Thank you!



As well as all our individual donors !