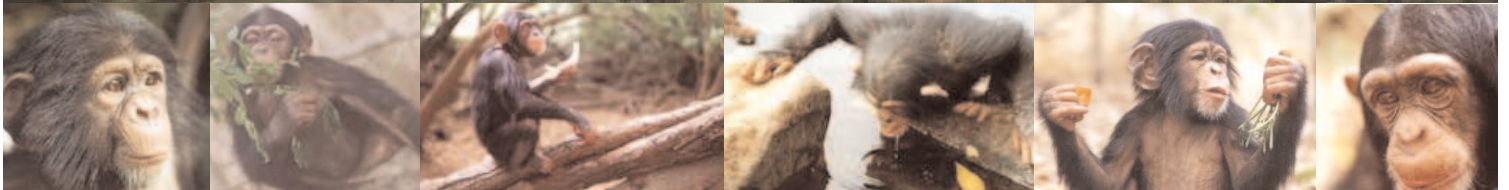


Centre de Conservation pour Chimpanzés

Annual Report 2003



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From the Manager and the Director

This year has been particularly uneventful! We're looking forward to 2004...

- *Dr. Christelle Colin*

From the Director:

I wouldn't go as far as Chris' note but it's true that this year went by very quickly with no major events. Lack of funding is one of the reasons for this calm year but we did accomplish most of our goals that we had set for 2003. The only delay was for the surveys of potential release sites. The funding from USAID/Guinea (we were waiting for those funds to accomplish the surveys and increase our carrying capacity) didn't come in 2003. As I'm writing the report, the grant has just been signed.

The chimpanzee's soap opera has been full of twists and turns in the adult group. We've changed alpha males three times this year, but Alfonse finally accepts staying in the fence with the others. The opera continues, and the males are working hard on their alliance. The teenagers are being true to their reputation and the youngsters are as lively as always! So stay tuned to follow the chimp soap in 2004.

We unfortunately got six new orphans in 2003. One of them didn't survive the physical and psychological trauma of losing his mother. And I can already tell you that I have confiscated another infant in January 2004.

Guinea held its presidential election in December. We were worried that it would create political instability, but the lack of opposition to the current president made it a formality that "allowed" Lansana Conte to stay in his presidential seat.

I'd also liked to give a big thanks to the Arcus Foundation. Once again, the foundation, through Ms. Linda May, has proven to be a faithful supporter. This year, I also had the privilege of meeting John and Rob at the fundraising event in Chicago. The Arcus Foundation granted the CCC with a donation of \$30,000 per year for the last three years. It doesn't show in the 2003 income, as the check has been cleared in January 2004! Thank you very much.



I'd like to thank Dr. Rowan from the Humane Society of the United States, for his ongoing support through the Edith J.Goode foundation and for his overall friendship as well as WSPA for the funding of the youngster cage.

Closer to Somoria, I can already thank Mr. John Hansen (I'll thank him again in the 2004 report!) from USAID/Guinea for doing more than just facilitating the acceptance of CCC's grant with USAID but also for taking care of Cookie and understanding our need and goals.

For fear of writing like an Academy Award speech again this year, I do want to thank the following people:

All the CCC and PPI supporters and founders; The PPI board for dealing with the non-glamorous part of the job and especially Dr. Teleki for his advice and support; All the PPI volunteers and helpers for keeping the faith; All the CCC volunteers (present or past) for supporting my moods and still remain smiling; My Conakry roommates for their support, especially Mr. Xavier Dufail for managing the education program, for his endless help and for taking beautiful pictures of the chimps; Dr. Christelle Colin for coming back, Somoria is just not the same without her; The CCC's Guinean staff for loving the chimps almost as much as I do; And last but not least, my husband, Dana, for moving to Ivory Coast from Cameroon to make it easier for me to go "home" and to my son, Nicholas for being understanding. . .

- *Estelle Raballand*

The Animals (as of December 31st)

Older group: 14 individuals aged 13 to 18 years with two second-generation chimps (4.5 and 3.5 years old)

Teenager group: Five individuals aged 11 years

Younger group: Eight individuals aged three to eight years

Other adult group: Two individuals, 14 and 20 year olds

Quarantine: Three females (1.5, 2.5 and 4 years old) and one male aged 3.5 years old.



Chimpanzee Situation

In January, the new youngster's cage was completed. The past young group was then separated in two groups: one that left the teenagers by themselves in their old cage with their fence and the youngster group who was moved to the new cage. That new separation was particularly beneficial to the young male chimps as Mike and Rocky who were having difficulties with Albert. A week before the separation, Georges bit off of a piece of Ced's left ring finger, which healed without complication.

Albert had been separated from the group since September 2002. The new cage allowed us to reunite him with the rest of the teenager group (Georges, Nanou, Lola, and Bobo). The only negative point of that separation was for Bobo. He was lonely at first and would stay by the young cage to play with them during the day. Unfortunately, that new cage doesn't have a fence. A proposal has been submitted to USAID for the construction of that fence. Until that fence is built we're taking that group out twice a day (two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon). Once it's been built, they'll still go out at least once a day.

In January 2003, we were also able to introduce the 3 quarantined chimps, Mokka, Sita and Nimba with the rest of the young group. It went very well, especially for Nimba who's like a princess in that group!

We've been having dominance fights. Robert who's been the alpha for years lost his dominance at the beginning of the year to Elhadj and Alfonse. Then, a month later, Alfonse lost it and Elhadj was dominant. Then towards the end of the year, Alfonse took it back with the help of the old "teenagers" (Prince, Maddy and John). Robert has been slowly building up his confidence and working on his alliance with the other sub-adult males. It wouldn't be surprising if he won it back in 2004. The only problem with Robert's dominance is that Alfonse is afraid of him and escapes from the fence when they go if Robert is the alpha. In 2003, Alfonse hasn't escaped but he's only been allowed back inside the fence since the beginning of April. During the mango season, the big chimps wouldn't come back into the cage at night. The record is currently held by Nikita - who stayed out 8 days without coming back - not even to drink!

New Arrivals



Charlotte - female, appx DOB: April 2002

A Canadian woman who has confiscated her from a seller in Kamsar, Guinea maritime donated her in January 2003. The seller wasn't the hunter. Charlotte was very young but didn't suffer too much of malnutrition or other diseases on arrival at the CCC. A pellet was removed from her stomach area but she didn't have any other superficial wounds. She was kept at camp until June 2003, when Amina arrived. They were then introduced to each other, and she has been part of the quarantine group ever since. She'll probably stay in quarantine for at least another 6 months.

New arrivals



Amina - female, appx DOB: mid 2001

The director confiscated Amina on May 26th, 2003. Her owner was trying to sell her in the neighborhood close to where the CCC's director stays while in Conakry. The director called the owner and presented herself as a buyer. A meeting was set up. Wildlife officials and police were on stand by and as soon as the owner made a clear affirmation of his will to sell the chimp, he was arrested and Amina was seized. The owner was not incarcerated but he had to pay a fine equivalent to the amount he was hoping to get for her. She was brought to the CCC the next day and joined Charlotte in quarantine. She was quite humanized and it has taken her a long time to get used to being in the forest. She still has some of the autistic behavior she had on arrival but

she's doing much better. She's not psychologically ready to integrate the younger group yet and will stay in quarantine with Charlotte until she's ready.



Kyo - female, appx DOB: beginning 2000

Kyo was donated only 2 weeks after Amina's arrival to the CCC, on June 13th. She was kept chained to a tree in an old logging company compound for over a year. The logging company's manager had taken her from a hunter. She was confiscated with a young male as well. Unfortunately, the compound being by a major road, a passing car killed the male while he was out of the compound. Kyo was with him when he got killed and she has sustained a great deal of emotional suffering as a result of his loss. She adapted very easily to the life at the CCC. She's the oldest of the quarantine group and she's the dominant female. We've started her integration with Paco to the younger group. She's been doing as well as can be expected so far. Integrations are always stressful for the chimpanzees, even though we

always try to make them as easy as possible.



Paco- male, appx DOB beginning 2001

The wildlife officials seized Paco in Conakry on June 29th 2003. A man in the Guinean military came to the wildlife offices saying he had a chimp he wanted to register. Mme Sagno, the director counterpart, who's also the director for wildlife, told him to come the next day with the chimp. When the military man came with the chimp, they confiscated the chimp and the man was fined. Paco was brought to the CCC several days later. He was very anemic and had at least 6 preeminent pellets. A pellet had pierced his left eye. We've removed 4 pellets but the 2 others are too deep in to do it without massive surgery. The director has also decided to leave the pellet in his eye. An ophthalmologist might be brought in and he'll then remove the eye.



Cookie – male, appx DOB mid 2002

In mid-December, a peace corps volunteer in Guinea sent an email to the director explaining that a hunter had come back to the Village where he's posted, with the body of an adult female, a teenaged male body and a baby chimpanzee who was still alive. Ms. Raballand was in Abidjan at the time, on her way to the US for Christmas break. She contacted friends, including Mr. Hansen from USAID/Guinea in Conakry, who are involved with the CCC, and they organized a mission with the government officials. On Friday 20th, they traveled with a wildlife agent to the closest city, Dubreka, of the village, Falesade, where the chimp was being kept. Unfortunately, without the "mission order", the Dubreka officer wouldn't confiscate him. They came back the next day

with the mission order. The Dubreka agent had already seized the chimp from the village that morning (80 km from Dubreka). They took him back to Conakry and started treating him for his many injuries. He had deep cuts on both of his hips where he was tied up, he was missing two toes on his left foot and another toe was cut. He was very dehydrated and was put on an IV drip. The US embassy nurse checked on him every day. The CCC's veterinarian checked him the next Saturday. He was not doing well and died in night between Saturday and Sunday December 28th. He had lost his will to live. The two dead chimpanzees were his mother and his brother. The hunter is currently being prosecuted, as on top of killing an endangered species, he didn't even have a hunting permit.

Veterinary Problems

This year, we mostly had to treat wounds and colds.

Charlotte had severe amoebic dysentery but we treated her quickly and she recovered. She seems to have a very sensitive digestive system. She's had many diarrhea outbreaks over the year.

We removed two growths on Amadeus in February, one on his back and one on his leg. The biopsy was done in France and the growth from his back is cancerous. It hasn't grown back so we're all hoping that to remove it was enough to stop it. He has been on epileptic drugs since his medical problems in December 2002 when we almost lost him. We're slowly cutting down his dosage, hoping to stop all together at the beginning of 2004.

Mid-February, Coco stole Amadeus's drugs that were at their cage, in a little box, with a very long stick that he got from his enclosure. He ate 20 pills of di-hydan, Amadeus' anti epileptic drug, an almost full bottle of children multivitamins and 20 calcium caps. Luckily, Ms. Raballand went to see him between the meals and found the empty packs everywhere. She made him vomit right away and gave him charcoal. She called poison control in the US but they were not very helpful. She spent the whole night with him in his cage to monitor him and to make him drink as much as he would take. He was fine by morning and was very happy to have had Estelle as a roommate for the night.

Toward the end of the year, the whole quarantine group had scabies. We treated them with a special shampoo in November. Paco didn't react well: his skin was burned and he peeled almost completely. We had to tranquilize Charlotte a little, as she wouldn't let us treat her or rinse her! We treated them again in December.

Wild Chimpanzees

At the end of March, the wild chimpanzees came to the "village", 50 meters from the fence. The CCC's chimps were interested but not overly frightened. A lone wild female has been visiting Coco on a regular basis. She was also met while taking a forest walk with the teenagers in May. We do believe that it was the same female that goes to Coco. She was in heat, and was walking back from Coco's cage. Neither the CCC's chimps nor the staff scared her off. She just walked away.



Construction and General Work

Sliding door:

In March, we repaired and improved the middle sliding door in the big chimp cage. The door now opens vertically instead of horizontally, and no longer breaks continuously with the chimps playing with it or blocking it when we wanted to close it!

Road work:

In September, at the end of the rainy season, the CCC had to hire 10 general workers and one foreman from nearby villages to fix the road to Sidakoro (50 km from Faranah and 32 km from Somoria). This road is supposed to be fixed by the Park as it's in the Park itself and belongs to it. Unfortunately, there have been financial problems as the Park is part of the AGIR program, funded by the European Union. AGIR is on the verge of closing, so its activities are at a minimum. It was an unexpected expense but we had to do it, considering that the car kept being stuck in mud and in consequence, we were having car problems every week.

Fire break:

Every year in January, bush fires lit by hunters or villagers for farming, burn a lot of areas in the park around Somoria. In 2003, we built our firebreak too early and too small, so when the bush fires came a couple of months later, ignited by the villagers many miles away, we had to fight the bush fire around our fences and camp for 5 hours. It was very frightening. So in December 2003 we hired six general workers for 2 weeks to create the firebreak around the fences and the camps so when the fire came, as the area was already burned, it stopped when it got close to Somoria.

Fence cleaning:

At the height of the rainy season, grass and small trees grow very quickly. The fence manager was having trouble keeping up with the cleaning so we hired three workers from the villages. They spent a week cleaning inside and outside all fences.

Roof repairs:

In December, after the firebreak, the workers repaired the thatched roofs at Somoria (five in total). It took about a week.



Education Program

During the PASA conference in Uganda, Ms. Rebecca Rose from Columbus Zoo offered to print 500 stickers. Ms. Raballand designed them showing a chimp behind bars. The slogan is: Killing, Eating, Capturing, or Buying chimpanzees is ILLEGAL (in French). All the stickers have been distributed. The demand was great so it was decided to redo stickers in larger quantity. Two other designs were made and they'll be distributed in 2004 all over Guinea

PASA

In May 2003, the director attended the PASA conference that was held in Entebbe, Uganda. The CCC is one of the 17 member sanctuaries of PASA and Ms Raballand is a member of the board as well. There also was a PASA veterinary workshop but the CCC's vet couldn't attend. The CCC didn't send a representative for the PASA education workshop as, at the time, our education program was almost non-existent and we didn't have enough funding in 2003 to hire an education officer.

Logistical Difficulties

Koffin bridge:

The Koffin is about two kilometers from Somoria. At the end of August, the Koffin River swelled so much it took the bridge away. Luckily, it happened during a weekend when there was a car on each side of the river. The pickup truck was on the CCC's side and the Pajero on Faranah's side. We transported a boat to the river and passed all the bags by boat from one side of the river to the other for a month, until the river level went down.

Gas Shortage:

There are regular gasoline shortages in Guinea, particularly in Faranah which creates heavy logistical difficulties and additional expenses. We now have bought 60 liters of gas that we're keeping in Faranah and Somoria.

Workers (ferah):

The head keeper took the entire month of August off, without pay, to stay with his brother in Faranah. Since he came back he has been unhappy about working away from the city and has indicated that he might resign in 2004. We've tried to change the schedule to fit his family needs but there is only so much we can do without disturbing the CCC's work.

Cars:

Since 2000, the CCC had the use of two Mitsubishi Pajeros bought while the EU funded the project, and put at the CCC's disposal by the Ministry of Agriculture. At the beginning of 2002, the CCC bought a Mitsubishi pickup truck. One of the Pajeros hasn't been running since the beginning of 2002, so in order to repair the other one, the CCC asked the government's permission to sell it. The car was sold as it was, not running, and with missing parts, for 3,500,000 GF (\$1,800). So far the buyer has only paid GF 2,500,000 as we've been waiting for a paper from the minister. As soon as we get the paper, he'll pay the remaining GF 1,000,000.



Fundraising Event

Once again, Nancy Bailey organized a fundraising event in Chicago in August. Estelle Raballand did a presentation and showed a CCC movie. The event was a success as we cleared over \$1000 in donations.

Release program

The surveys of the potential site are key to the release program. While in Washington, DC in December, the director met with Mr. Dirk Prevoo, World Bank officer for Guinea, to talk about the GEF program in Guinea maritime and a potential niche for the release program. We're now anxiously awaiting the survey results to decide if such a program is possible in Guinea maritime.



Keepers' Training Program:

During the month of July, the keepers were given a class every night for a week about wildlife, chimpanzees in particular, and about all the skills necessary for their work at the CCC. Dr. Colin based the classes on Wellington Zoo's curriculum, and Uganda Wildlife Education Center's. She and Fleur, the volunteer at the time, presented the classes.

Current Guinean Staff:

Layle Mballaou Camara (Ferah) - Head Keeper

Ferah has been working with us since June 2001. He went to the university in Faranah where he graduated in 2000 as a wildlife engineer. He's now married and has a little girl, who was born in May 2003 with Estelle Raballand's help!

Mohamed Kenda Diallo - Keeper

Kenda has been working with the first group of chimpanzees, for more than 10 years ago - even before they had been moved to the park. He's seen them grow up and is eagerly awaiting their release! He's still single.

Felix Mara- Fence Manager/Keeper

Felix had been hired with his brother in January 2001 to build the electrical fence. After construction was completed, Felix was kept on as the fence manager. Since then, he's been trained as a keeper but he's still in charge of most building projects and fence problems. Felix's girlfriend is expecting a baby in mid-2004.

Thierno Ousmane Balde - Keeper

Thierno was hired in September 2002 on a trial basis. He signed his contract in January 2003. Though Thierno has been having some difficulties with the chimps, his positive attitude and hard work has overcome his lack of dominance over the teenagers. He's also single and turned 21 this year.

Sekou Camara - General Worker

Sekou is our youngest recruit and is still on a trial basis. He is the son of the fisherman living at camp. The CCC didn't particularly need an extra worker, but he needed a job! His salary is less than the others, but is a very important income for his family. Sekou is training to be a keeper but his young age, 19, is creating the same kind of problems that Thierno faced. The chimps need someone assertive and young workers seem to be lacking that particular trait. Sekou is very hard working, and our hope is that he'll rise to the occasion.

Kalil Sidibe - Driver/Mechanic

Kalil has been the CCC's mechanic for years. When the director dismissed the last driver for drunk driving, Kalil was hired on a temporary basis while looking for a permanent replacement. After 2 weeks at the site, Kalil has asked to be hired as a permanent driver/mechanic in March 2003.

Current expatriate staff (as of the end of January 2004):

Estelle Raballand, Director

Dr. Christelle Colin, Manager

Dr. Anne Frère, Veterinarian Volunteer

Lissa Ongman, Volunteer

Julien Lecomte, Volunteer

Personnel Movement:

Expatriate Volunteers in 2003:

Sharon Parker - end of August 2002 – May 2003

Evie Cobb – mid September 2002 – June 2003

Fleur Daugey – May 2003 – end of October 2003

Amelie Dutoit – June 2003 – August 2003

Michelle Escalona – August 2003 – December 2003

Lissa Ongman – early October 2003 –

Cedric Makkbous – mid September – mid November 2003

Dr. Nelle Hallin – end of September 2003 – end of December 2003

Julien Lecomte – early December 2003 –

Dr. Anne Frere – early January 2004 -



2004 Goals

Building

The CCC needs to increase its carrying capacity. There are many orphaned chimpanzees in Guinea waiting to be confiscated. The USAID grant will allow us to build a fence for the youngsters adjacent to the cage built in 2002. A new quarantine cage with a fence will be built as well. The old quarantine room will be destroyed. If we have fencing equipment left over, we'll increase Coco and Amadeus's fence. All the fencing equipment will come by boat from the US but all the other building materials will be bought locally.

But to be able to bring the heavy equipment, we'll have to repair the Koffin Bridge. The director is putting pressure on the Park authority and the EU as its founder, so they'll fix it before the rainy season begins.

Survey

The survey will have to be finished before the rainy season begins. A researcher will come to collect data in the Guinea maritime forest first. The survey will require at least one month in the forest. He/she will also be required to help analyze the data and write the report.

Education Program:

Funding from the Disney Fund and from the Arcus Foundation will allow us to create and broadcast radio spots (in three local languages and French) on national, rural and community radio, during 2004. We'll also print bumper stickers and regular square stickers. The messages will be similar to the other stickers: To kill, eat, capture, sell, buy chimpanzees is ILLEGAL.

The radio spot production will take place in the first quarter. We're hoping to broadcast it until the end of the year. In addition to the stickers and radio, we'll print posters, flyers and have promotional items made (such as Tee shirts and caps) with the USAID grant.

Guinean Government:

The Guinean government's financial involvement has been minimal since the beginning of the program. The immigration laws have changed so expatriates such as Ms. Raballand or Dr. Colin are now required to pay their visas. One of the 2004 goals is to get the government to pay for it.

Web Site:

2004 will see the update and the translation of PPI web site.

USAID Proposal:

The CCC is intending to apply for a USAID grant aiming at chimpanzee conservation in Guinea and Sierra Leone. It will be a 5 way proposal with Pro natura-usa, HSUS, the CCC, WCS and the Tacugama sanctuary.





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