



Project Primate, Inc. is a United States 501C (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of chimpanzees, chiefly through the support and release of chimpanzees who have been orphaned, and through local public education. Project Primate, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Illinois (file number: 6121-440-2) and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code (Employer Identification Number: 52-2146831).

Project Primate is working to secure the future of the Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC), a chimpanzee rehabilitation sanctuary, which is currently home to 46 orphaned and confiscated chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) located in the Parc National du Haut Niger, Guinea. Since its creation PPI has raised enough funds to ensure the proper functioning of the CCC and to allow the centre to expand in its size and activities, thus improving it's effectiveness in working to protect and conserve chimpanzees in Guinea.

All the CCC's objectives are part of a worldwide conservation effort to save great apes. The CCC is hoping to continue improving the lives of the chimpanzees under its care, release the first group of the CCC's chimpanzees into the wild, and protect the wild population of Guinean chimpanzees through an education and awareness program.

### **Organizational chart**

#### PPI board of Director:

President: Estelle Raballand

Secretary/vice president: Nancy Bailey

Treasurer: Helene Lesbats

#### PPI board of Consultants:

Dr. Andrew Rowan

Dr. Geza Teleki

#### Volunteers:

Evie Cobb (volunteer's program)

Tony Ruzicka (Accountant)

Beth Bray (web master)



The CCC is one of the most cost efficient non-profit non-governmental organizations in the world. Over 95% of all financial resources are programmed to the operation. The remaining 5% is used for fundraising and minimal general and administrative costs.

## LETTER FROM ESTELLE RABALLAND CCC'S DIRECTOR



Estelle 'en brousse' with the quarantine

Another year has passed with its joy and its heart-aches. If anything this last year has been busier than previous years, with the education programs, all the constructions both in Somoria and at the release site, the release preparation etc... but if anything it was also one of the most exiting years. We're getting closer every day of accomplishing our goal, to give freedom back to some of our guests!

The annual report is a bit late this year since the seasons in Africa rule our world and lots of activities had to happen before the rainy season started. Consequently I didn't seem to find enough time to sit down and write the much needed 2006 annual report.

As you'll notice in the financial report, we've spent more funds this year than the previous years due to the release preparation and an increase of our staff and animals. Thanks to our long lasting supporters, the Arcus foundation and The Edith J. Goode Trust who gave grants for general running expenses, I've been able to fundraise for specific activities. The International Primates Protection League has given the much needed grant to build a new kitchen and the Great ape Trust of Iowa has help for the purchased of the dummy collars. This last year private donors, both in Guinea and internationally, have been an important part of the funds rose in 2006. Relationships have been built with mining companies and I'm hoping that their financial help will continue and even increase next year. Mining companies are very important in Guinea, both financially and politically, and I've decided to accept their help, considering that these funds will be used in Guinea instead of overseas, to try to do some good with it. I am also grateful for the collaboration with the CCSP, through which both the center and Christelle Colin, who has been a volunteer manager for many years, have beneficiated financially.

Once again, the local staff and volunteers have been a big part in our successes. Thank you for your help and commitment. Thank you also to all the volunteers working on Project Primate in the USA and in France, especially Helene Lesbats who has risen to the occasion when Katie Conlee step out of PPI-USA.

I'd also like to thank persons that have helped us this past year, and before. Mr. Andrew Rowan, Mr. Andrew Reid, Mr Garry Kukura, Linda May, Doug Cress, Dr. Steve Unwin, Dr. Ben Beck, Dr. Tatyana Humle, Dr. Geza Teleki, Mr. Tony Ruzicka, Mr. David Van Gennep, Mr Diallo, the new PNHN conservator, Dr. Wendy Bailey and all the others that I don't have enough space to thank...

Hope you enjoy reading our 2006 annual report!

## INTRODUCTION

The Chimpanzee Conservation Center (“CCC” or “Center”) made significant progress in achieving its goals in 2006. Much needed work in bettering the quality and size of the CCC’s carrying capacity was completed. Following the activities in 2005, at the chosen release site in the PNHN more work was done and the initial successes achieved at educating local populations were expanded over the course of the year though a collaboration within the Chimpanzee Conservation and Sensitization Program (CCSP). These three areas are discussed in brief below, and in greater detail in the body of the Annual Report.

- Construction

The CCC long ago reached its carrying capacity. In 2006, a new nursery was built in cement and metal bars that can accommodate more orphan babies while providing them with a safe and comfortable environment, thanks to a donation from a private individual working in Guinea. This construction has been particularly valuable since the rate of new orphans being rescued by the CCC has increased significantly this year, however there are still many more captive chimps in need of a place at the CCC.

Thanks to a grant from IPPL, a new kitchen with running water was constructed to prepare and store chimpanzee food. A new locally built office was finished and furnished at the beginning of 2006. An electrical fence extension for a separate group of two adult chimpanzees, who are not part of the release program, was also built in 2005 and 2006 thus more than tripling their original fence size.

- Release Site and release preparation

At the chosen release site in the PNHN that has emerged as the most suitable location for the release, a pre-release enclosure with a containment cage (for veterinary purpose) has been built. A local camp for staff will be built across the river prior to the move of the chimpanzees at the site.

At the end of 2006, all the releasable chimpanzees were fitted with dummy collars that are the exact replica of the collars that they'll be wearing once they are release.

- Collaboration within the Chimpanzee Conservation and Sensitization Program (CCSP)

Through the support of USAID Guinea, the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation and its partners - the Humane Society International (HSI), ProNatura International (PNI), the Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) in Guinea and the Tacugama Sanctuary in Sierra Leone - have undertaken a 2 year program (September 2005 – August 2007) in response to USAID/Guinea’s Annual Program statement (APS) for the Guinea and Sierra Leone Chimpanzee Conservation and Sensitization Activity (CCSP).



The goal of the CCSP is “*To contribute to an enabling environment conducive to the protection and conservation of chimpanzees in Guinea and Sierra Leone*” through multi-faceted approaches and methodologies.

The CCC director with her expertise in chimpanzees’ issues (sanctuary, awareness materials, confiscation, release, etc.) is the senior conservation advisor for Guinea within the CCSP.

The CCC and its director are specifically involved in the development, implementation and the follow-up of the awareness campaign.

The CCC is also responsible for the supervision, planning, execution and reporting of the Guinean veterinary training program in 2006 and 2007, funded by USAID, which aims to train a local veterinarian and provide higher levels of veterinary care for the chimpanzees at the CCC.

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

### **I. The chimpanzees**

- **New arrivals**

**Shelley** ~ female approx DOB January 2004

**Charley** ~ male approx DOB end of 2005

Both Shelley and Charley probably come from the PNHN or around it. They were rescued by an Australian, Garry Kukura, working in a mining company east of the PNHN. He was looking for a solution for Shelley and Charley (who he had rescued a year after Shelley) when he heard of the CCC.



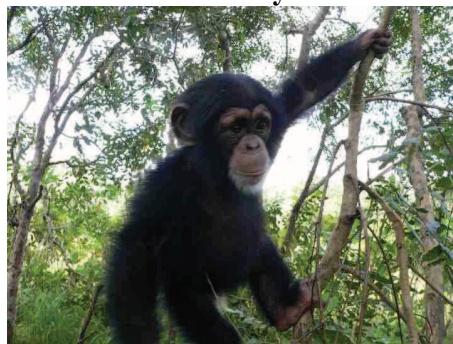
**Shelley**





We didn't have room when he first contacted us, so he offered to fund the construction of a new nursery so that we could take them. Shelley and Charley were brought to the center in August 2006. They stayed in nursery with Habou, Hakim and Panza for 6 months and are now, since March 2007, integrated with the quarantine group. They are both doing great. Shelley is very sweet and calm. Charley can sometimes throw huge tantrums, especially for his bottle but he's still the quarantine chimp favorite.

**Charley**



**Chloé** ~ female approx DOB beginning of 2006



**Chloé**

Chloé was rescued by a forestry guard on the North East side of the PNHN. A hunter was traveling with her, probably to bring her to Faranah or Conakry to sell. The guard came to Faranah and presented us with her. She arrived at the center in poor physical health. She was seriously malnourished, which for a baby as young as she was, could have been lethal if she had not been rescued and received treatment so quickly. She's really independent and was placed with the quarantine after only one month at camp. Kindie adopted her right away as her surrogate baby. Since Kindie has been moved to the youngsters group, she now goes with all the chimps, who take turns on carrying her.

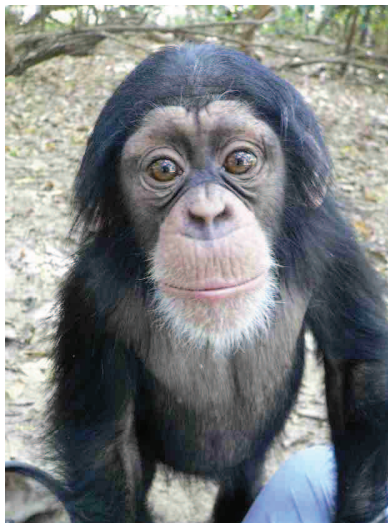
**Hakim** ~ male approx DOB beginning of 2005



**Hakim**

Hakim was first seen in Conakry in front of a house. The director took the information concerning him and the name of the owner, a Lebanese business man. A couple of weeks later, she found out that the chimp had been moved to an island of the coast of Conakry. She started talking to the owner to convince him to donate Hakim to the project. After many conversations he finally agreed and Hakim was transported to the center with Lobay and Jolie in March 2006. He's a very sweet chimp, but quite spacey. He's always in a great mood and looks like a little stuffed animal. He's probably one of the nursery chimp favorites.

**Panza** ~ male approx DOB end of 2005



**Panza**

Panza arrived at the CCC in September 2006. He had been bought by a South African man who wanted to "save" him. The CCC accepted him despite this but made the owner pay a thousand dollars for his up keeping. Panza means big belly in Spanish and his name is a perfect fit! He's not very humanized and despite his young age on arrival he has fitted into the nursery group very easily.

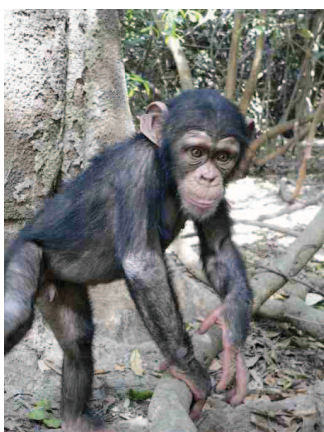
**Nelson** ~ male approx DOB mid 2004



**Nelson in March 2006**

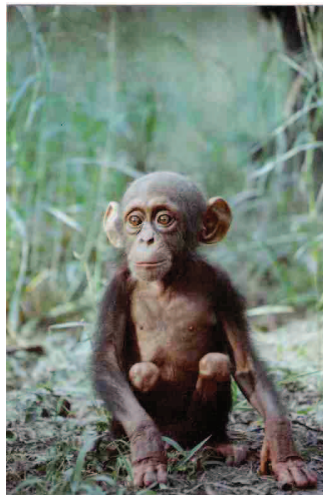
Nelson had been living in captivity in a military house in Faranah for at least 6 months. He was first sighting during the summer but lack of space at the CCC made his confiscation impossible at the time. The director went for a status evaluation and found him in terrible condition. The military owner had refused to give him up, so pressure was put on the owner through senior military officials and he agreed to give him up a week later. Nelson was very skinny and malnourished. He had lost most of his hair and was really scared of humans. It took him weeks to be comfortable with people at the CCC. He's now a healthy, lively little chimp. He's very handsome and very cute.

**Habou** ~ male approx DOB mid 2003



**Habou**

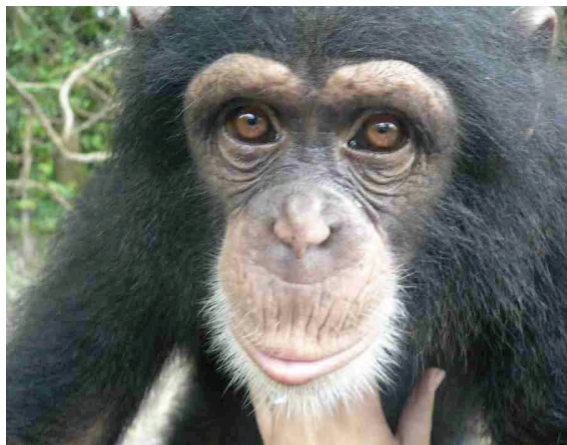
**Nelson on arrival in November 2005**



Habou was confiscated in Conakry by the directeur adjoint des Eaux et Forêt who saw him on the side of the road. Habou was for sale for \$300 equivalent. The seller was arrested and fined. He spent one night in jail and was released on bail. Habou stayed at the CCC's house in Conakry for a couple of days. When he arrived he stayed at camp for a week and was then moved to the nursery. He had a hard time to settle and was auto mutilating his foot for over a month. Increased attention and oral comfort through baby nipple sucking and sticks helped him recover. He's now fine and getting bigger everyday.



**Lobay** ~ male approx DOB beginning of 2003

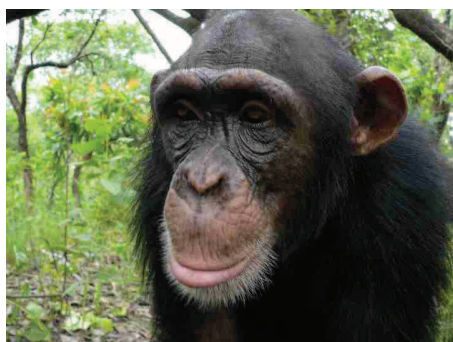


**Lobay**

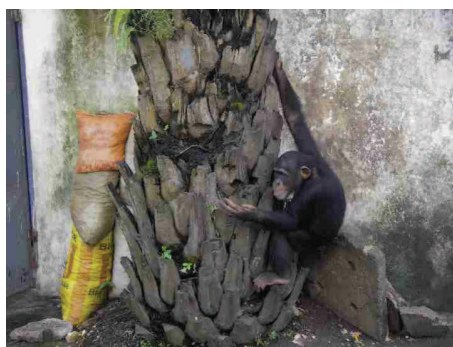
Lobay was first sighted by a French couple that was living across the street to where he was chained up. Constant beating and his scream of pain drew the whole neighborhood into action.

They contacted the director who went for a visit. Lobay wasn't in bad physical condition but demonstrated autistic behaviors such as rocking. The owner, a Guinean married to a Chinese woman, agreed to give him up after the director's sensitization. Lobay was brought to the center on the same day as Hakim and Jolie. He was introduced to the quarantine group right away as he didn't accept to be left in a transport cage or a pet carrier on his own at night. He was really shy at first but slowly he became more comfortable and the rocking diminished. He's now a full member of the group. He's got very long and dark hair. The keepers have a soft spot for him as he's a really attentive and gentle groomer!

**Keno** ~ male approx DOB 1998



**Keno**



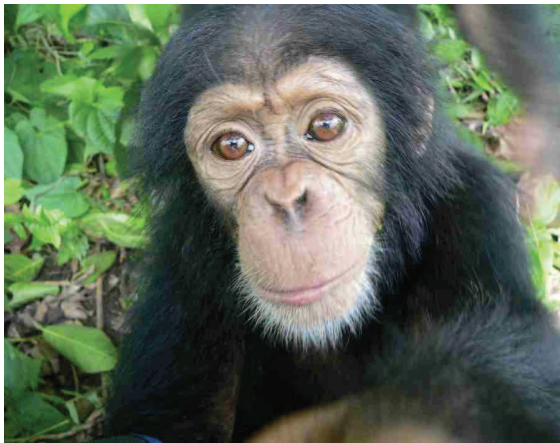
**Keno in captivity in Conakry**

Donation or confiscation of older chimpanzees is never easy. Keno was spotted and reported to us by friends of the project. We tried to take him the week after (in July) but he was too big to fit in a pet carrier. We had a box made and came down with a metal transport cage. Due to his long and suffering captivity, he was hard to anesthetize and we were worried about his adaptation at the center. His transfer, in September 2005, was made at night to insure that he would be calm...he wasn't.



After a day in his transport cage, we've moved him in one side of Coco and Amadeus's cage. He was too big to go in quarantine with the youngsters and had to be separated from the others for at least three months. Coco wasn't too happy about his new neighbor! Keno was very stressed for many weeks and would only eat with Thierno, one of the keepers, when he went inside. He's now doing much better and he even played with Coco. We've also seen him being reassured by Amadeus. We then decided to introduce him to the quarantine group at the beginning of 2006, but after 6 months with them, we had to separate him. He was scaring the babies and it became increasingly harder to bring him back to the cage. He's now in the quarantine fence and will be moved with Amadeus, who's alone now that Coco is in his cage all the time (escape artist!). Coco and Amadeus' fence extension had to be fixed prior to his transfer.

**Danley** ~ male appx DOB beginning 2004



**Danley**

Danley was left at the DNEF mid June by an American man. He said he had had him for 6 months. We didn't talk to him and he didn't leave his contact. Such behavior places the center in a very difficult position as we have to take the chimpanzee even if we have no space or money. Normally, if a chimpanzee is donated to the CCC, a \$1,000 fee is required. Luckily, a donator and friend to the project donated the \$1,000 for Dan's care. In exchange for this generous support, he named him after himself.

**Louna** ~ female appx DOB end of 2003



**Louna**

Once again a chimpanzee was dropped onto our laps. Louna was brought to Faranah by her keeper by order of her owner, a French man working in Conakry for the FAO. We were given no warning and no financial support to take care of her. As with Dan, she was in good physical shape.

**Max** ~ male appx DOB mid 2004



**Max on arrival**



**Max 6 months later**

Max was confiscated in Faranah. He was spotted by Kenda, one of the CCC's keepers. At the time, he was in good shape and due to space constraint; we decided to postpone his confiscation until it was Kenda's weekend in Faranah. Once we got him, he was in such bad physical condition, that we didn't think we would save him. He had a Candida outbreak in the mouth and plaque on its teeth that we had to remove. Luckily, he always had good appetite and a strong will to live. He was bleeding internally for the first couple of days, his body being too weak to continue to function. Fortunately, we had one dose of infant vitamin K and once we gave it to him, the bleeding stopped and he started to recover. For the first two weeks at the center he was under 24 hours care and even slept in the director's bed. He's now come around and every new laughs are a small victory.

**Wodo** ~ male appx DOB beginning 2004



**Wodo**

Wodo was donated by an Australian couple in August 2005 who had him confiscated 3 months before. They had come to the center to visit 6 months prior to his confiscation and had been informed about the orphan chimpanzees' problem.

**Kindie** ~ female appx DOB beginning of 2001



**Kindie**

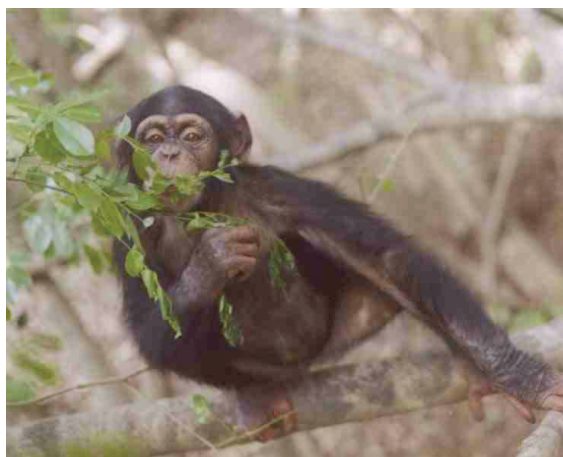
Wodo was for sale in the village where they worked and the Australian couple, Andrew Reid and his wife Stephanie, had him confiscated in order to bring him to us. Knowing our financial difficulties, he organized a fund raiser and collected \$5,000 that he donated to the center when he donated Wodo. Wodo was really shy of people at first and giving him medicine was pretty difficult! He got more trusting in time. Oga was a very good surrogate "father" to him. Unfortunately in September, he got one of his toes stuck in the cage door and he lost the tip of it. He was on antibiotics for almost a month but he has recovered very well from the wound. Since his first visit to the CCC, Mr Reid had come three times and has been fund raising for the CCC as well. The director and the manager made a visit to the mining company where Mr. Reid works. As a result of the visit and a presentation of the CCC, more funds have been raised.

Kindie was donated by a Canadian man who'd had her for two years. He worked for an environmental NGO, Winrock. He had bought her to "save" her and had been taking care of her. After much discussion, her keeper brought her to Faranah where we came to pick her up. Pressures had to be made to insure his donation. So far only half of the \$1000 has been donated. She's very chimpanzee like and is enjoying the forest a lot. She was moved with Oga into the youngster group at the beginning of 2007. They have both adjusted quite well.



- Our losses

**Amina** (appx DOB 2001- February 21<sup>st</sup> 2006)



When a chimpanzee dies at the center it's heart breaking for everyone. But some deaths are harder to cope with than others, Amina is one of them.

Her story began with her confiscation, in Conakry with the help of policemen, in front of the most prestigious hotel in Conakry, where her owner was trying to sell her. She was brought over to the center a couple of days later and was put in quarantine with Kyo, Paco and Charlotte. She adapted very well and was a very lively little chimp. When we decided to move Kyo and Paco to the youngsters' group, I felt that neither Amina nor Charlotte were mature enough at that time to move up to the bigger chimp group. They stayed in quarantine for 6 more months. When they were finally introduced, Charlotte integrated very easily but Amina had more difficulties. She was often crying or depressed. She would get better for a while and then regress for a while. She then started to develop a really swollen tummy. We thought that it was gas or constipation and treated her for that. She continued to get sicker and sicker. She was put on antibiotics, anti parasitic drugs, anti amoebic... We took her out of the youngster group in December and put her back in quarantine but she didn't get better. She got worse. We diagnosed her with typhoid fever with a meningitis complication. We treated her and she got better. At the beginning of January we thought that she was saved, even if she had very serious nervous system after effects due to her meningitis and bed sores due to her long stay in bed. She got better, started to recover her mobility on her right side and even with her left arm and her bed sores healed. Unfortunately, at the beginning of February, she started getting a persistent fever that we couldn't get under control. She seemed to have lost her appetite too. She then became weaker and eating became even more difficult. She would still have very happy times but not as often. When she was around us and we would laugh, she would vocalize very loudly. Every hou hou coming from her was a small victory but we lost the war. She passed away, with Chris at her side on February 21<sup>st</sup>. She had showed all of us what being strong meant. In my eyes, she was a beautiful being and I wish we could have saved her. Her whole life was ahead of her. I hope that wherever she is, she's found her mom and is happy. We all miss her.

**Jolie** (appx DOB 2003 – July 27<sup>th</sup> 2006)



**Celine with Hakim and Jolie**



**Jolie**

We didn't have time to get to know Jolie very well, since she was with us for only 3 months. While in captivity in Conakry, she was locked in a wood box almost all day and was seriously malnourished. She developed a bone condition as well as breathing difficulties. She didn't know how to climb or walk properly either. She had made some progress during her time at the CCC but died of her medical condition, while in the forest with Hakim and Celine. She stopped breathing and couldn't be saved. Her difficult time in captivity had left her malformed and weak. We were all very sad that she didn't have more time with us to enjoy freedom and peace.

**Babou** (appx DOB 1993 – September 7<sup>th</sup> 2006)



It is always sad to write about the chimps that passed away. Babou was a beautiful 14 year old chimpanzee that decided to escape one day with some of his friends.

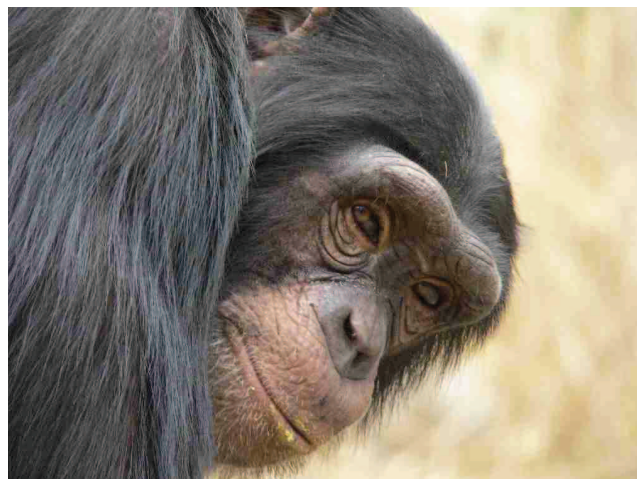


Unfortunately, he was attacked by Coco who lives in another area, the adult quarantine group. His wounds were very deep and the veterinarian of the CCC had to amputate some fingers and toes. He was on antibiotics during his recovery but despite this his condition worsened, which we believe was the result of a bone infection. His overall health became worse and worse until he stopped eating and died of a heart attack one morning. We tried to revive him but we didn't succeed. He was a beautiful and gentle big male. His absence is heavy on the group. He would have been part of the release program if he had survived. We're all sad that he never had a chance to taste freedom.

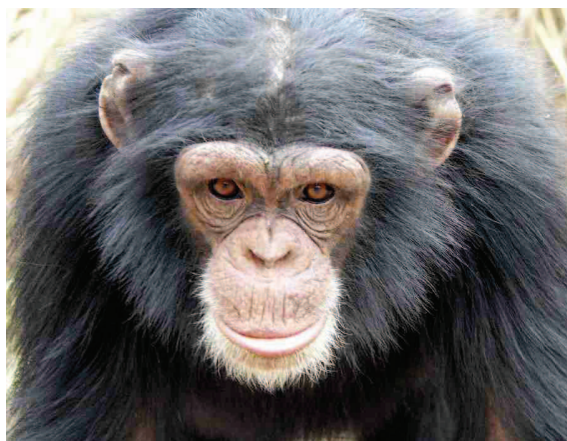
- **The CCC Chimpanzees (as of April 2007)**

***The adult group (release group)***

Robert, male, 18 years old  
 John, male, 16 years old  
 Rappa, male, 13 years  
 Albert, male, 14 years old  
 Orlando, male (castrated), 15 years old  
 Nikita, female, 20 years old  
 Nana, female, 18 years old  
 Laurence (Nana's offspring), 9 years old  
 Mama, female, 15 years old  
 Lottie, female, 16 years old  
 Andrew, male (Lottie's offspring), 8 years old  
 Zira, female, 14 years old  
 Nanou, 12 years old  
 Lola, 12 years old



**Rappa**



**Rocky**

**The teenagers**

Bobo, male, 14 years old  
 Rocky, male, 10 years old  
 Mike, male, 9 years old  
 Ced, male, 8 years old  
 Kyo, female, 9 years old  
 Awele, female, 10 years old





### **The youngsters**

Mocka, male, 9 years old  
Sita, female, 8 years old  
Paco, male, 7 years old  
Nimba, female, 6 years old  
Charlotte, female, 5 years old  
Oga, male, 5 years old  
Kindie, female, 5 years old



**Charlotte**



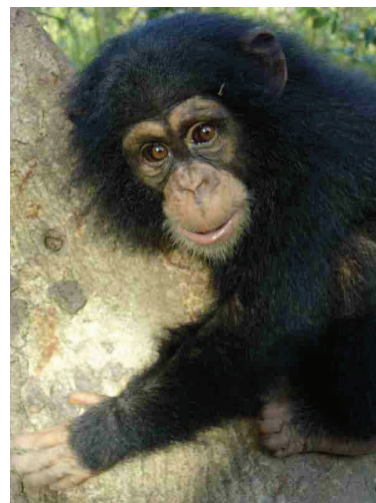
**Louna and Dan**

### **The Quarantine**

Keno, male, 10 years old  
Fatim, female, 4 years old  
Veve, female, 5 years old  
Louna, female, 4 years old  
Nelson, male, 3 years old  
Max, male, 3 years old  
Lobay, male, 4 years old  
Chloe, female, 2 years old  
Shelley, female, 3 years old  
Charley, male, 2 years old  
Dan, male, 3 years old  
Wodo, male, 4 years old

### **The Nursery**

Habou, male, 4 years old  
Hakim, male, 3 years old  
Panza, male, 2 years old  
Lily, female, 1 ½ years old



**Hakim**



**Coco**

### **The Adult quarantine**

Coco, male, 24 years old

Amadeus, male, 16 years old

- **Escapes**

#### *Coco*

Coco has been keeping us on our toes this past year! Since the new enclosure was built and Keno was moved with the quarantine, so that Coco and Amadeus could enjoy their new big fence, Coco hasn't spent more than one week in the new fence or the old fence without escaping...through the lines, climbing posts, climbing the cage etc... He's usually very good outside and pretty regularly climbs back in the fence when he sees the staff with blow pipe. We tried everything to reinforce the fence with no success. He's now locked in the cage all the time. Amadeus still has access to the fence, but not Coco. We go to visit him outside feeding time but the situation is far from ideal. We're planning on building an additional cage that would open to both fences (the old and new fence are adjacent) where we'll moved two older chimpanzees, a 10 year old female and a 8 year old male. We're hoping that with a girl next door, Coco might settle. He seems to escape out of boredom more than anything and additional excitement (and a bigger overhang on both fences!) might do the trick...

#### *Georges and Bobo*

In September, a tree fell on the fence line separating the adults' fence from the teenagers' fence. The adults all went in the teenagers' fence. Some teenagers, such as Albert, Rappa and the females, were happy with the visit but Bobo and Georges got so scared that they went out their fence right away. Both of them ran into the bush. The keepers tried to keep up with them but lost them. Search parties were put in place. Only Bobo, who was about 5 kilometers away, was found and brought back to the center. He was so happy to have been found that he actually followed the keeper back to camp. A potential sighting of Georges by villagers living 19 kilometers away from the center was reported. We still don't know where he is and/or if he's still alive. We hope so.

*Maddy, Babou, John, Orlando and Awele*

Fences are well known for being a mental barrier more than a physical one, that is why when we need to repair something, we lock the chimps in the cage... Well, we found out the hard way that the cage doesn't hold adult males that well, if they really want to get out! One morning after one night in the cage in September, they broke a part of the cage ceiling. It was pretty chaotic to have 5 adult chimps going around the cages and the camp. Before all the chimpanzees could be darted or brought back to the cage, Babou had got attacked and emergency surgery had to be performed. Awele went back on her own to her old group, the teenagers, where she still is. She had moved to the adult fence on her own accord some months before. Maddy and John went back when they saw the keepers with the blow pipe... Orlando was a little more difficult but at no moment the staff or volunteers were in danger. The chimps that had escaped were all quite tranquil with the humans that were trying to bring them back. It was a good "test" for the release! Unfortunately that incident caused Babou's death and now if the chimps have to be locked in the cage for extended period of time, a keeper and/or a volunteer sit by the cage the whole time.

## **II. Release preparation**

- ***Group dynamic and integration of the teenagers with the adults***

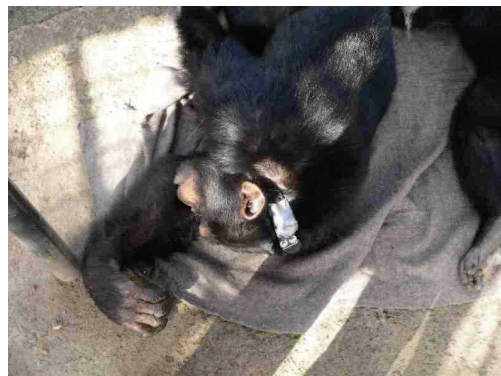
In preparation for the release a first integration was made in June 2006. The integration was slow and allowed the teenage chimpanzees, especially the males to create alliances. A month later, since the director was going on vacation, we decided to separate them again for safety reasons since Georges was having difficulties integrating as was Lola. Nanou, one of the females, refused to go back to her old group and stayed with the adults. In October, a second integration was tried. This time, it was a little quicker and all the males except for Bobo got comfortable in their new group. Georges wasn't part of the integration since he had escaped in September. Bobo let us know pretty adamantly that he wasn't happy by escaping, again and again and again... from the fence. He's the CCC biggest chimpanzee but he has the mentality of a 6 year old! All the adult males wanted to make alliances with him and he was never attacked but he just couldn't take the pressure of being with them. Finally at the beginning of 2007, he was removed from the group after another escape and introduced to the new teenagers group. All the chimps in that new group are between 7 and 10 years old and he feels more comfortable with them. His behavior has improved a lot and we're now considering moving the new teenagers' group with the adults at the end of 2007 and are hoping that Bobo will have settled enough by then. Right after the integration there was a lot of dominance fights among the males. Finally they decided on Albert, who had been the dominant male of the teenagers, as the new chief. As I'm writing this report Albert is still the dominant and things are stable. They have found a group dynamic that works for them. Dr. Tatyana Humle has created behavioral data sheets that we use to help us assess their behavior in preparation for the release. The first results show a stable group and almost no human contact outside of food gathering and drinking.



- *Dummy collars*



**Bobo and Lola under anesthesia**



**Albert with his new collar**

After the release, GPS collars fitted on every released chimpanzee will allow the researchers and staff to follow their routes through the Park over the Internet without the need to physically follow them every day from nest to nest. The GPS collars will not however, be the only means of monitoring. Staff and students will regularly follow them to record their new diet, their cycle, and their adaptation. Such GPS collars, which have been used with bears and wolves, have a battery life of three years and can connect to a satellite to upload stored information at varying time intervals, ranging from every ten minutes to only twice a day. The user can select the most appropriate upload period depending on the need. Between satellite connections, the collar stores the GPS location of the individuals, taking a reading from every two to ten minutes. This system will allow the trackers to collect accurate and regular data on the movements of the chimps throughout the monitoring period. It has never been used for great apes but the CCC management staff is working closely with the company making the collars, VECTRONIC Aerospace GmbH in Germany. In order to familiarize the chimpanzees with the collars, dummy collars were ordered, thanks to a grant of \$2,500 from the Great ape Trust of Iowa, and fitted in December 2004. Since all the chimpanzees had to be anesthetized, blood was drawn and a TB test performed. The viral and bacterial tests all came back negative. The chimpanzees, especially the females, were not, initially, particularly comfortable with the collars and tried really hard to remove them. Some succeeded and we had to refit them using a stronger security system, a band of rubber that breaks under pressure. They are now perfectly happy with their collars and younger chimps that don't have them are starting to wear vines or anything they can find to put around their neck! It's definitely the new fashion in Somoria!

- ***Dr. Wendy Bailey***

In November 2006, Dr Bailey came to Somoria for a week to test all the chimpanzees and humans working at the CCC for parasites. She's a parasitologist working for the Liverpool school of parasitological studies in England. Her trip was funded by the school and Chester zoo, thanks Dr. Steve Unwin and PASA thanks to Doug cress. Dr. Unwin is the CCC's consulting vet for the release program and has created our release protocol. All the chimps are healthy and not carriers of any parasites that aren't naturally found in the soil of the PNHN.



**Wendy and Fanny preparing the samples**

### **III. Equipment and New Construction at the CCC**

- **Equipment**

The old Parc National du Haut Niger's vehicle, a Nissan 4x4, was repaired by the CCC in order to be used for park protection and the CCC's activities. But the Nissan required so many repairs that after spending over \$2,000 and with still repairs that needed to be done, the CCC director has parked the car and is waiting for the government's approval to sell it. The old CCC Pajero isn't functioning anymore and will be fixed and sold in 2007. In the mean time, the Mitsubishi L200 is the only working vehicle at the CCC. We're planning on selling both cars and with an additional grant received from the Great Ape Trust of Iowa for \$5,000 in 2007, we will be in a better position to buy a good and sturdy 4x4.

For the construction of the nursery, an old diesel generator was donated by the person who funded it. Some minor repairs were made but it has been really good to have it since it's more powerful than the old CCC generator. The generators are mostly used for welding, which is an activity that is really power hungry! A new welding machine was purchased in France and both equipments have been working very efficiently especially for the release site cage building.

- **Kitchen**



**The front of the new kitchen**



**James and Lissa preparing bottles**

Thanks to a grant from International Primates Protection League, the CCC finally built a new kitchen with running water. All the chimpanzees' food is now stored on shelves and in large containers. A big sink on one end, allows the keepers to clean the fruits and prepare it prior to going to the cages for the feeding. At the other end, a second shallower sink, is used for all the nursery and quarantine food preparation, including baby bottles preparation.

- **New volunteers hut**



The number of volunteers coming to help at the CCC has increased along the years, especially with the release preparation; new volunteers were hired specifically for the activities surrounding the release. It became quite evident that additional huts had to be built.

At the beginning of 2007, two new huts built in the local fashion were also built on site, which increase the number of rooms at the CCC from 3 rooms to 6. We're also using 3 rooms at the park camp.



- **New keepers hut**

The local staff at the CCC has also increased and housing the local staff in the two original rooms became impossible. Another big room was built in 2006 and as the report is being written, another hut is being built, since more staff was hired in preparation for the release.

- **New separate enclosure**



**Keno and Coco playing along the common fence line.**

At the beginning of 2006, a new separate enclosure was built. This new fence is 400 meters long and has a common fence line with the old fence where Coco and Amadeus have been living for years. The original fence was built in 2001 and was only supposed to be used for quarantine of adults. When it became clear that Coco couldn't be introduced with the other chimpanzees, Amadeus was moved with him. Amadeus has a genetic problem that creates physical problems such as obesity and a small stature. When Keno came to the center he was housed in one of the cages and had access to that new enclosure. He was never fully introduced to Coco and Amadeus since he was moved a couple of months later to the quarantine group. He will be back in that fence with Amadeus this time before the 2007 rainy season. He proved to be too big for the quarantine babies. We're hoping that Keno's presence will be entertaining for Coco and Amadeus and that Coco will stop escaping!

- **New Nursery**



**Outside the new nursery**



**Habou, Hakim and Panza in the nursery**

Mr. Garry Kukura, who worked for a mining company close to the East side of the Park, got in touch with the director concerning the two chimpanzees that he was caring for. He hadn't bought them, but had them donated to him by the poachers since they were in bad physical health. He wanted to send his two chimps to South Africa to another sanctuary. The director explained the Guinean law and the CITES regulation regarding the transport outside of Guinea of endangered specie and he agreed to send his chimps to the CCC. Unfortunately, the CCC was full at the time and the CCC didn't have a baby quarantine. Since Mr. Kukura was planning on leaving to go to Mali some months later, he agreed to build a nursery. He brought all the equipment that was needed and hired a welder. The cage was built in a record time and Shelley and Charlie, the two chimps in his care, moved in right away in August 2006. Three separate boxes that can hold 2 babies at a time were built inside. Hammocks hang from the ceiling of each box and the babies look pretty cozy when they are in them...

In the main part of the cage, toys and vines are hanging from the roof. The babies only spend a couple of hours in the nursery during the day, since they are taken out in the forest every morning from 8am to 12 and in the afternoon from 3 to 6pm.

#### **IV. New Construction at the Release Site**

One of the first activities that were completed in 2006, was to reopen the access road to the chosen release site. Every year, after the rainy season, grass grows and trees fall on the road. The clearing of the 30 kilometers that separate the CCC to the release site is a hard job. Once it was done, the fence that had been built in 2005 needed repairs. Posts had fallen and bush fire had burned some isolators...

In the mean time, a welder came on site to finish the cage. It took him more time than was scheduled but both the fence and the cages are now fully operational.

The human camp that will be across the river will be built during the 2007 dry season.



**Release fence**



**Cage at the release site**

## **V. Education programs and mapping of the PNHN**

- Chimpanzee Conservation and Sensitization Program (CCSP)

Since August 2005, the CCC has been a partner in the CCSP funded by USAID. The CCSP is a collaboration between the Jane Goodall Institute, Pro Natura, The Humane Society International, Guinée ecologie, the CCC and Tacugama chimpanzee sanctuary in Sierra Leone. Through the CCSP, the director has presented numerous educational workshops on chimpanzee conservation to stakeholders within Government and environmental NGOs, trained environmental educators on chimpanzees' protection and created a mass media campaign involving billboards, stickers, posters and radio spots, following a validation workshop with all the stakeholders in Guinea. The CCSP is a regional program for Guinea and Sierra Leone. The CCC's director is acting as program manager for Guinea and the Tacugama chimpanzee sanctuary's director is acting as program manager for Sierra Leone. The CCC has also been doing interpersonal awareness campaigns in the villages around the PNHN, using sensitization materials produced under the CCSP. These programs were focused on chimpanzee's protection but also covered environmental education and wildlife laws in Guinea and within the PNHN.



**Sensitization in Ushuia**



**Sensitization in Kouroussala**



## VI. Park National du Haut Niger (PNHN)

- Protection

The CCC is located in the heart of the Park National du Haut Niger. The central area of the Park, the Zone Integrale Protégé (ZIP) is legally fully protected. The release site is also located in the ZIP. Prior to the release a program aiming to reinforce the protection in the ZIP was started. There are officially fourteen guards allocated for the protection of the PNHN. In fact only three are currently living in Faranah. In 2006, protection missions and sensitization programs were funded by the CCC. Since the end of the AGIR program in 2004, the Guinean government no longer receives any funding for Park protection.

The CCC has had to fund protection activities to ensure a certain level of protection. To increase protection, in 2007 the CCC set-up and funded a military protection action that resulted in

a draft agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, which is in charge of Guinean Parks, and the Ministry of Defense. The agreement will insure a higher level of protection, enforced by armed and motivated army personnel. The CCC is also trying to create a collaboration with a foreign conservation NGO or a private company to protect the park in a sustainable manner.



**Confiscation of bush meat in the PNHN**

- Illegal Logging



**“Madriers” awaiting transport**

Since the Park protection has been very limited for the last two years, logging in the buffer zone of the PNHN has become a big problem.

The CCC is actively working with government authorities, locally and nationally, to stop illegal logging around the Park. The governor of the Faranah region has signed a ban of all logging in the Bendou sous-prefecture, the prefecture closest to the CCC.

The military action funded by the CCC in the beginning of 2007 confiscated illegal wood and another confiscation mission is planned. The illegal wood will be auctioned and the funds used to reimburse the money the CCC had to advance to fund the missions. It is hoped that the auction will also lead to a fall in the price of wood in Faranah, thus making illegal logging less profitable.

- New conservator



The previous Park management was removed by the Guinean government as a result of pressure from funders and the CCC. A new conservator was appointed. Mr. Aliou Kola Diallo. Mr. Diallo is working in close collaboration with the CCC. Numerous missions has been made with Mr Diallo to reinforce park protection As shown in the picture, a visit to fishermen camped out along the Niger River, on the edge of the ZIP was made with CCC's staff at the end of 2006.

## **VII. Fundraising and Conferences**

- **Release workshop in Holland**

In April 2006, the CCC director attended a release workshop in Holland, organized by PASA and funded by DEFRA. The CCC has the most advanced program for the release of some of its animals and the director presented the release program to a panel of experts. Questions were raised and solutions were proposed. A team of experts from different fields were asked to participate in a forum that will help the director to write a comprehensive release proposal. The release proposal was finalized at the end of 2006 and will be used for fund raising for the release as well as acting as a blue-print for the program which can be used by other sanctuaries and organizations. The proposal has already been used in 2007 by three Cameroonian sanctuaries who are thinking of creating a joint release program.

- **International Primate Society (IPS) Conference in Uganda and PASA Workshop**

In June 2006, the PASA management workshop was coupled with the IPS conference. The CCC director attended both as a sanctuary manager and as a member of the PASA board. The director made a presentation of the release program and had many meetings with interested experts in different fields, including researchers in behavior, virologist, geneticists... The director's presence at IPS helped to answer many of the concerns that conservation NGOs and primatologists have been having regarding the CCC release program. The release of chimpanzees into the wild is becoming a valuable conservation tool for chimpanzee's survival and a recognized potential long term tool conservation activity for sanctuaries.

- **Fund raising visit to the Societe Miniere de Dinguiraye (SMD)in Lero, Guinea**

After Mr Reid's visit to Somoria, a fund raising visit to SMD was arranged. The director and the manager went to Lero, in the north part of Guinea for three days. The director made a presentation and talked to contractors and other companies working for SMD. In one evening, \$2,100 was fund raised with promises for over \$3,000 more. Another visit is planned for 2007. Following the visit the SMD Director himself came to the CCC and donated \$1,000.



**The Gold mine**



**A Gold pit**



**Chris with a Gold lingo**





## VIII. The CCC Staff

- **Management Staff**

Estelle Raballand – Director

Dr. Christelle Colin – Manager and CCC's veterinarian

- **Local Staff (as of January 2007)**

Felix Mara – Keeper and fence manager

Kenda Diallo - Keeper

Thierno Balde - Keeper

Sidiki Camara - Keeper

Fassali Mara – Keeper and local veterinarian trainee

Sekou Camara - Keeper

Aliou Balde - Driver



**Sidiki during a weekly food run**

- ***Volunteers (year 2006)***

Lindsay Hamrick (August 2005 – February 2006)

Elise Boudreau (October 2005 – March 2006)

Marie-Laure Madin and Jean- Philippe (September 2005 – February 2006)

Dr. François Baudier (November 2006 - April 2006)

Celine Alotto (March 2006 – September 2006)

Dr. Simona Papa (April 2006 – September 2006)

Virgine Laporte (January 2006 – June 2006)

Helene Demeringo (August 2006 – October 2006)

Kelly Boyer (July 2006 – January 2007)

Isabelle Heuchamps (August 2006 – February 2007)

Dr. Fanny Mehl (September 2006 – February 2007)

Lissa Ongman (October 2006 – March 2007)

Lydie Luncz (November 2006 – April 2007)

Dr. Catherine Sourmail (December 2006 – June 2007)

James Mc Namara (December 2006 - June 2007)



**Lydie, Estelle, Isabelle, Catherine, James and Lissa at a bad taste party in the kitchen!**