



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: Nancy Bailey

Treasurer: Helene Lesbats

#### PPI board of Consultants:

Dr. Andrew Rowan

Dr. Geza Teleki

#### Volunteers:

Dr. Christelle Colin

(volunteer's program and PP france)

Tony Ruzicka (Accountant)

Beth Bray (web master)

Lissa Ongman (web update)



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 THE DIRECTOR

First I'd like to apologize for the delay in producing the 2007 Annual Report. As most of you know, 2008 was a really busy year with the release. It's a bit strange to write events that happened last year and remembering all the activities, questions and uncertainties that we had regarding the release at the time. I'd like to thank all our funders for supporting us thus helping us to prepare the release and still run all our different activities.

The CCC has grown to an important project for Guinea and the sub region with not only our sanctuary activities but our release project, our education campaigns, the community work that we do as well as the park protection that is taking a more and more important role due in part to the release but also the lack of resources, and interest, from the government and past funders.

We've had great joy and hard time as well. We still miss the chimpanzees that are not with us anymore while watching the new comers growing happily.

Thanks again to all of you who's trusted us. I promise that the 2008 Annual Report will be more on time!



- **New Arrivals**

**Lily**



Lily was confiscated by wildlife officials in a village close to a city, Oure Kaba that is about 100 kilometers from Faranah. Since the confiscation happened during the strike we couldn't go and get her right away. They kept her for a month then we took her back to the CCC. She had a severe cold and was really skinny. She's grown a lot and she's now as big as Hakim or Panza who are 5 years old! She's a really independent young females and quite fierce when she doesn't get what she wants!

**Douma**



Douma is an example of how education program does raise awareness. He was privately owned by a student in Faranah who came to one of the conference that we did in Faranah. He got in touch with my staff and gave him up. He was really tiny; he had scabies and ring worms as well as intestinal worms. He was kept separately from the nursery group for almost 6 months. That time was necessary for him to recover and grow so he could fit in the nursery group. He's now full of energy and when he gets tired the other chimps take turn to carry him.



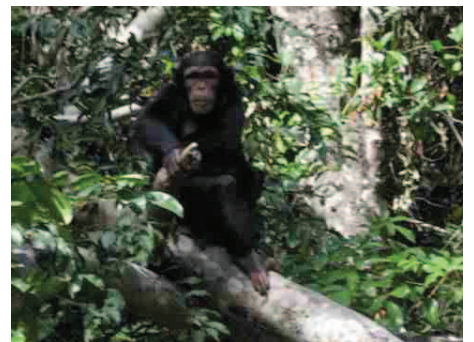
## Flo



Flo was really lucky in her unlucky life. She was tied up to a truck coming from the forest region to the capital city, probably to be sold as a pet, when the truck had an accident. Fourteen people were killed in that accident. Her rope broke and she fell from the truck. She ended up in a field where she was found by a villager who took her to his village. He wanted to keep her but the chief said that he couldn't since it's a chimpanzee that is a protected animal and endangered. They went to the chief of the area who got in touch with the wildlife officers from Faranah. A mission was put in place to bring her back to Faranah from that village that is 80 kilometers away, where we then picked her up. She wasn't unhealthy just emotionally scared. She's now doing very well. She has a huge amount of energy. She never stops from the moment she wakes up until she falls asleep. She's a pleasure to watch. She's so happy all the time!

## Annie

Annie is the wildest chimp we ever had. She was confiscated by a bird seller in Conakry who saw her for sell and reported her to wildlife officials. He brought her to the wildlife department where we picked her up. She was shut in a wood box. She was at least 5 or 6 years old and just captured. She was really shy and scared. After we took her to the CCC it took her a long time to adjust. At first we didn't take her on bush walks for fear that she would disappear. She is a great teacher for the other chimps as she knows the forest really well and since she's older she looks after them.



- Our losses

### MADDY



In February 2007, a dramatic event happened. The adult males were having dominant fights and chasing each other in the fence. Maddy was the dominant then and was under tremendous stress from the other males. While he was being chased he jumped from a high tree to another one and he missed. He fell on the ground, on his back.

We had to get into the fence to bring him back in the cage as he wasn't coming on his own. He stayed in a separate cage where we tried to help him. He was in a lot of pain and we couldn't make a proper diagnostic as he wouldn't let us listen to his heart or lung with the stethoscope. He couldn't lie down because of the pain even if he was on strong pain killer. Two days after his fall, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, he fell asleep and didn't wake up.

He was a loving and gentle chimp. The autopsy showed a massive bruise on his heart and a big blood clot. There was nothing we could have done.

He was the last male of the Bissikrima group and we are still missing him to this day especially when the release is so close. He would have been so happy to be free.

### NOAH

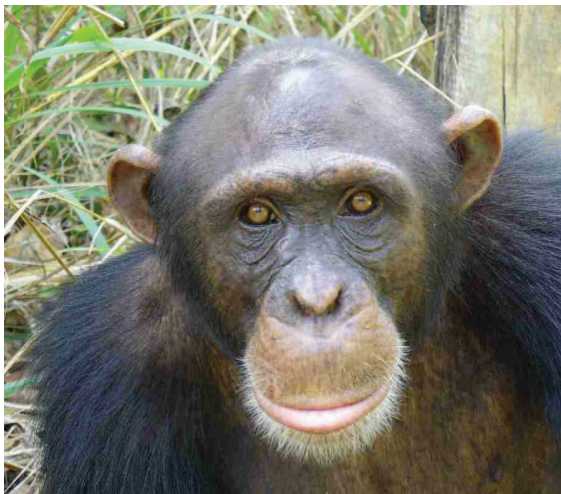


Noah was brought to the CCC by an expatriate working in a mining company. He was confiscated in a village close to the mine. He was very depressed and wanted to die. We couldn't pick him up to give him comfort. He was kept with Douma. He had just started to feel a bit more comfortable when one day on bush walk, they were attacked by bees. Douma ran to the volunteer but Noah just disappeared into the forest. Search parties were organized but we never found him. He was between 3 and 4 years old.



Amadeus had a condition and we almost lost him three times since he came to the CCC. His condition was a genetic disease called hypoparathyroidy. He was obese and had difficulty moving. He passed away in September. He was really sweet and we deeply miss him.

## KENO



Keno was put in Amadeus fence, next to Coco after that Amadeus passed away because Coco was really depress. At the time Keno was kept in the quarantine fence. He never escaped from it in the 2 years he was in it. Then after a month in the fence by Coco's he escaped. We tried everything to find him again. He came back for weeks to eat food between meals that we left outside for him. He could be alive and well in the forest for all we know and we're hoping that he's made it outside. He was 14 years old.



- **The chimpanzees of the CCC (as of February 2008)**

**ADULTS**

**Males:** Robert, Albert, John, Orlando, Rappa, Andrew

**Females:** Nikita, Nana, Mama, Lottie, Nanou, Lola, Zira, Laurence, Koumba, Sima

**TEENAGERS**

**Males:** Bobo, Mike, Rocky, Ced

**Females:** Kyo

**YOUNGSTERS**

**Males:** Mocka, Paco, Oga

**Females:** Sita, Nimba, Kindy, Charlotte

**JUVENILES**

**Males:** Lobai, Wodo, Dan, Nelson, Charlie, Max

**Females:** Veve, Shelley, Chloe, Fatim, Louna

**NURSERY**

**Males:** Habou, Hakim, Panza, Douma

**Females:** Annie, Lily, Flo

**BABIES**

**Male:** Kirikou

**Females:** Ama

**ADULT Male**

Coco



- **Birth**



At the CCC we have a non-breeding policy. All the females who are at reproduction age are given birth control pills every morning. Unfortunately some females, like Nikita and Lola either stay in the fence for days or refuse to take their pills. We then have to put it in all kind of different drinks or food but they still miss doses. The pills are locally purchased but they are USA made and distributed to Guinea by a US NGO, PSI, working on family planning. Nikita gave birth on June 13th to a baby girl that we named Koumba.

- **Escape**

In September all the adults escaped using a tree that had fallen close to the fence. It was hectic but we managed to get them back in. Since they've started coming out, there is every week escapes of at least one or two chimps. We've reinforced the fence, increase voltage, cut trees but nothing seems to keep them in! Fortunately, the release was coming up fast and we just tried our best until we could move them at the release site (which happened in March 2008).



**John enjoying a walk out!**



## RELEASE PROJECT

- **Construction**

We've finished building the cage and the electrical fence at the release site. Unfortunately during the dry season, despite our efforts and our fire breaks, bush fire burned most of the fence. We had planned to rebuild it but with all the escape problems we've had towards the end of the year in Somoria, we don't believe the fence at the release site will hold them in for more than a day and we decided to release in 2008 without using a fence. The holding facility was achieved at the end of 2007. Thanks to a grant from IPPL we've built 10 transport cages to move the chimpanzees from Somoria to the release site.

- **Education**

Every village around the PNHN and all the biggest city were visited at least one by our education officer and a volunteer. Radio spots were broadcast and education materials distributed. The focus was on chimpanzees' protection and the coming release. Local communities were really receptive.



- **Park mapping**

In preparation for the release, villages as well as all trails and fields that are in the vicinity of the park border were recorded. All these GPS points were recorded on world map on the CCC computer and that map will be used after the release to enter the chimpanzees' location. In case a chimp gets too close to a village or starts taking a road or a trail to a village, we'll be able to act rapidly.

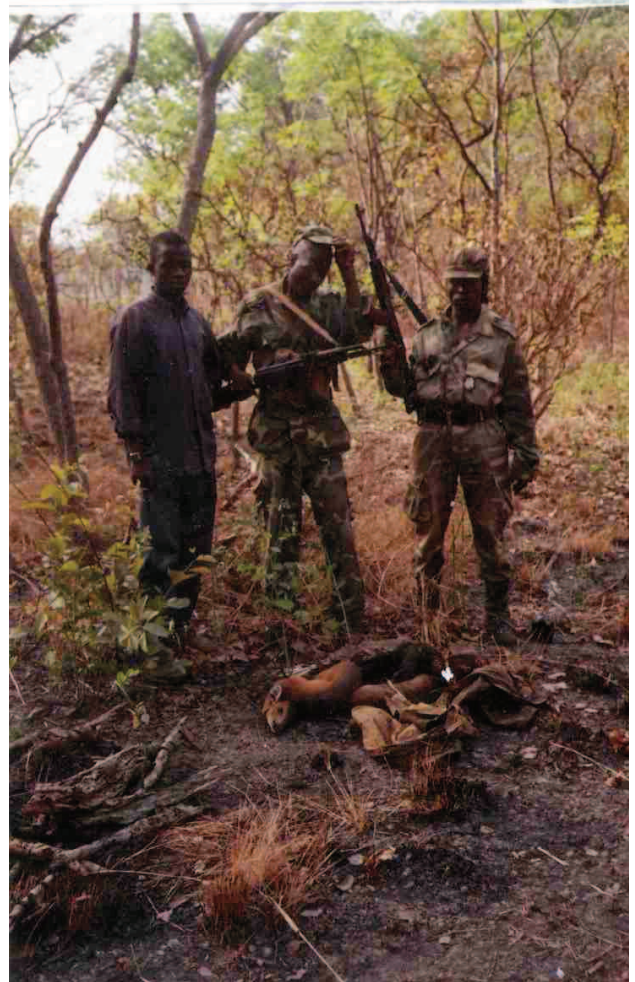
- **Park protection**



In March 2007 a military mission was organized and funded by the CCC with the Park authority approval to stop hunters and fishermen activities in the full protected area.

The military personnel stayed 10 days. They confiscated bush meat, guns and chain saws. Three poachers and two loggers were arrested and brought to justice in Faranah.

After this mission, the CCC organized two additional sporadic missions and a road block to confiscate wood and bush meat was set up in Bendou, on the road leading to Faranah from the Park.





Since the appointment of a new conservator, the CCC has been able to work more easily as we didn't have to get the approval from Conakry every time. He served as the official link between the Park and the authority in Conakry. Unfortunately, on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, Mr. Alimou Kola Diallo passed away. It was a shock for everyone as he wasn't sick or old. He died of a heart attack during the night. He is missed. As of May 2008, no new conservator has been appointed.

- **Telemetry**

We've done many researches on what the best telemetric system will be for our release project. Once the grant from USFW came through, we ordered the collars from Telonics. The details regarding the collars will be in the 2008 Annual Report and the release report.

- **Behavioral scans**

Behavioral scans were created by our scientific advisor, Dr. Tatyana Humle. She trained the staff and the volunteers to record behavior. Two type of scans were used, the focal and general. The data were analyzed by Dr. Humle. In brief, the behavior recorded allowed us to feel more confident that the chimpanzees were ready to be release and had a good cohesion among them.

## **NEW EQUIPMENT**

### **Vehicle**



Thanks to a grant from the Great ape Trust of Iowa for \$5,000 and using Arcus grant to complete the purchase, and in preparation with the release project, the CCC purchased a second hand vehicle in Conakry for a total of \$10,500 in October 2007. We've had some repairs done in Conakry and had a rake built as well as a bumper protection. The vehicle showed problems quickly and start to overheat.





We took it to Conakry to have it fixed. It was in a garage for 3 weeks at the end of the year. At the beginning of 2008, while a manager, Fanny, was driving it back to the CCC with a keeper, Thierno, it caught on fire and we lost it. We couldn't do anything about it. Both Fanny and Thierno were Ok. They lost their papers and some of the shopping that they had bought. I'm happy to report that the GATOI made another \$5,000 and with a grant from Arcus for the PNHN protection through FFI, we've purchased another second hand vehicle in March with a friend of the project in Conakry; a Mitsubishi Pajero that is giving us full satisfaction, so far...

## **CONSTRUCTION**

Most of the constructions were done for the release at the release site, apart from reinforcing fences. We did build three additional mud brick huts; a large one for additional keepers and two for the volunteers.

## **FUNDRAISING AND CONFERENCE**

- **PASA managers' meeting in Rwanda**

The Director, Ms Raballand Estelle went to the manager's meeting that took place in June 2007. She made a presentation regarding the release project, how far along we were, what still needed to be done and made contact for potential funders.

- **PASA veterinarians' meeting in Cameroon**

Dr Christelle Colin, ex manager of the CCC and Dr. Fanny Mehl, current manager, both went to the PASA veterinarian meeting. Such meetings are really useful for our veterinarians. Thanks to a donation and the training provided at the conference, they've been able to determine the juveniles and nursery chimpanzees' blood type in 2008.

## **CCC STAFF**

- **Local staff**

Aliou Balde – Driver  
Felix Mara – Keeper, fence manager  
Sekou Camara – Keeper  
Sidiki Camara – Keeper  
Thierno Balde – Keeper  
Antoine – Keeper  
Albert Sonomi - Keeper  
Ibrahima Balde – Keeper, education

- **Expatriate staff**

Estelle Raballand, director  
Dr. Christelle Colin, Manager until June 2007  
Dr. Fanny Mehl, volunteer veterinarian then manager from November 2007  
Dr. Tatyana Humle, scientific advisor



- **Volunteers (year 2007, minimum stay of 6 months)**

Isabelle Heuchamps  
Lissa Ongman  
Lydie Luncz  
Dr. Catherine Sourmail  
James Mc Namara  
Charlotte Houpline  
Adeline Servere  
Nathalie Duforet  
Delphine Ronfot  
Dr. Danilo Alborgheti  
Christophe Deniau  
Adam Philipson  
Christelle Vinot  
Melanie Normandin  
Selma El Fassi Fihri  
Dr. Carole Geernaert



**The whole staff after a sweaty soccer game...**