

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER**  
**2008**

**Letter from the Director**



Estelle and Robert  
in the forest after he'd lost his collar

The year 2008 has been full of activities and emotions. One of the best ones was to open the door for the males and one of the most intense was to find Robert alive after his collar gave a mortality signal. The worst was to lose John.

The hard work that all the CCC's team has done for over 10 years has finally paid off. We're thinking of all the chimpanzees still at the sanctuary and we hope to see them free one day as it's the most amazing experience to see the release chimpanzees happy in their natural environment. I'm very proud of them.

I'm also happy that their release has helped to protect the wild life and the forest of the Park National, especially after reading the report from Ivory Coast made by Dr. Boesh that shows that 90% of the chimpanzees have disappeared in the last 18 years in Ivory Coast. It's terrible and the sub specie of West African chimpanzees needs to be protected more than ever or they'll become extinct. Guinea is their last chance for survival.

Usually I write the annual report using our log book. This year, Lottie, in one of her kitchen rampage, stole our log book and dropped it in the river... I hope I didn't forgot anything too important!

I'd like to thanks all the funders past and present who have trusted us so we could accomplish what was considered a dream ten years ago and is now a reality. It wouldn't have been possible without your trust. Thank you to all volunteers in Guinea and outside Guinea who helped and are helping with all our activities, including administrative or banking activities.

We're continuing our work with more confidence now that we know that all of us are making a difference.



## Executive Summary

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 38 orphaned and confiscated chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), 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. In June 2008, the CCC has released its first group of chimpanzees back to the wild in the PNHN. The CCC is monitoring seven of them via their VHF collars.

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, continue the monitoring of the first released group, release the second group of the CCC's chimpanzees into the wild, protect the chimpanzee population living in the PNHN (the largest wild chimpanzee population in Guinea) and continue our education and awareness program.

## Organizational chart

### PPI board of Director:

President: Estelle Raballand

Secretary: Cassie Barnes

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)

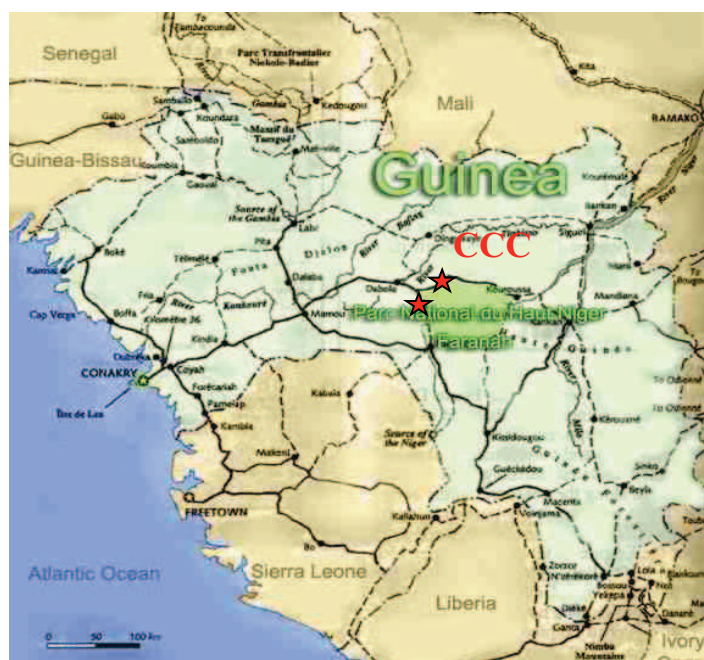
Beth Bray (web master)

Lissa Ongman (web update)

Matthieu Laurans (volunteer's)

Isabelle Heuchamps (volunteer's)

Charlotte Houpline (PP france)





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.

### **The chimpanzees**

#### Present population

##### ***At the sanctuary:***

Nursery group: 8 chimpanzees from 1 ½ years old to 5 years old

Youngster group: 15 chimpanzees from 1 ½ years old to 8 years old

Bigger group: 12 chimpanzees from 8 years old to 15 years old

(Siala who was born in April 2007 is in reality the youngest chimp in the bigger group!)

Other group: Coco who is about 26 years old

##### ***Release chimpanzees:***

Some chimpanzees were released without a collar. One adult female, one young male and one male can't be followed. Nothing indicates that they aren't alive.

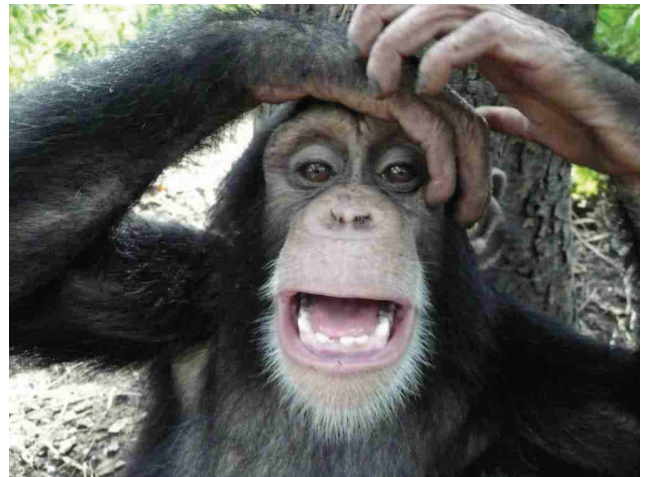
We are monitoring three adult males and four adult females.

#### New Chimpanzees

##### **Ama**



##### **Kirikou**



Ama (female, 3 years old) and Kirikou (male, 5 years old) were dropped off at the wildlife protection government office by a Guinean who didn't want to care for them anymore.

Their captivity must have been traumatic as Ama has physical problems due to an imbalance calcium/potassium and Kirikou was really anemic and had psychological problems. Ama had her ear pierced.

They are now part of the nursery group. The nursery males fight to have the chance to have Ama walk with them! Kirikou still has some autistic behavior but he is good friend with Panza and this friendship helps him with the rest of the group.



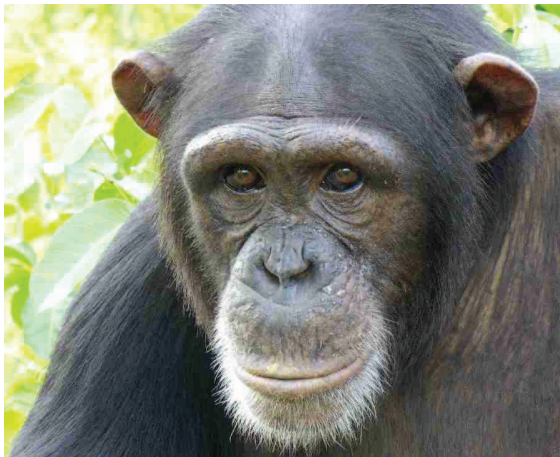
## Siala



It is always difficult to insure that the adult females take their pill everyday since they live in large electrified forest enclosure. Also, sometimes they take it (we crush it and add honey to it and then give it in a syringe) but go away and spill it! Lola is one of the tricky ones and in April 2008, she gave birth to a baby female. It was not a happy surprise since Lola was one of the females who were supposed to be release in June. With her female infant to care for, we decided to wait until the next release to let her go free, to give a chance to that baby. Siala is very independent already and she still has clear colored eyes as when she was born. It makes her special.

## Our Loss

### Awele



### Nikita

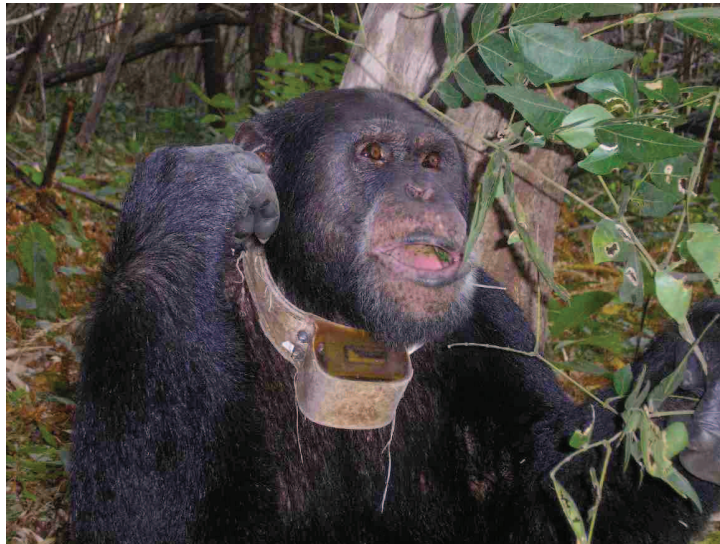


The CCC was plagued by an undiagnosed disease and we tried everything to save Awele and Nikita but Awele passed away in March and Nikita left us in April. The symptoms were similar to typhoid fever but the CCC veterinarians and the CCC referring vets didn't think it was possible. After Nikita passed away, the director decided to try to treat

Nikita's youngster, Koumba who was also sick and an orphan, with typhoid treatment and it worked. Koumba is now healthy and has been adopted by Fatim in the youngsters group. The loss of Awele was very hard on Rocky who had been with her since their first day at the CCC. Awele was a very sweet gentle female well integrated in her group. We're missing her every day.

Nikita was supposed to be release in June. We were very confident with her ability to survive. She was one of the chimpanzees who had experienced life outside of the CCC as she escaped five years ago and only came back three weeks later with a male wild chimpanzee. It is a very sad loss for the CCC and the conservation of the specie. Nikita still lives in Kumba and hopefully she'll be as able as her mom to be release one day.

### John



John was a beautiful healthy male who was release in June 2008. Thanks to his satellite collar we knew where he was at all time. After the release he went south following a small river called Koffin, one of the only rivers inside the PNHN that have water during the dry season. In November, he had gone even more south and the director was worried that he was getting too close to fields although he was still in the full protected area of the Park National. It was decided to go and retrieve him to bring him back closer to what was designed the release site, on the north side of the Park, close to the Niger River. None of the villagers that we interrogated had seen or heard him. When he was found, he followed for a while but then stopped and tried to go back to his chosen area. He was left in the forest. The director went back to the CCC and she sent a team to retrieve him. The director asked the veterinarians to anesthetize him to take him to the vehicle and to then drive him back to the release site. Unfortunately, the CCC depends on volunteer veterinarians who are sometimes not qualified and they made mistake in dosage and then didn't put him on IV fluid the whole way. He was asleep for over 24 hours. When the vet



finally called the director on the phone, she ordered them to put a drip to rehydrate him and to help him wake up. The vet gave the wrong solution and he passed away. That volunteer “vet” was fired immediately but it was too late for John.

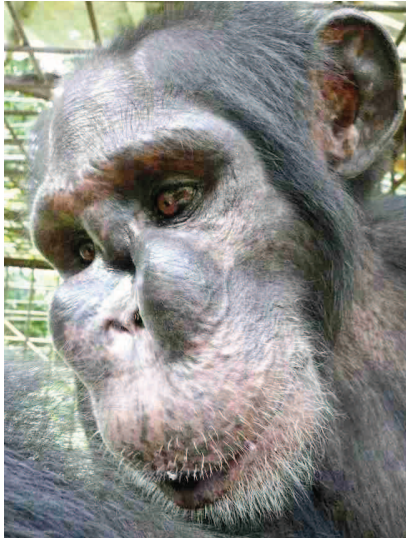
It is a very difficult loss that is not directly related to the release but was due to human errors and CCC’s lack of funds to hire experienced and reliable personnel.

There is not one day that passes without wishing that I (the director) made another decision and had been there myself for the retrieval. He was part of the director original group and to see him in the forest, healthy and happy was a great moment. It’s a great loss for me, the CCC and conservation. He was one of the living proofs that adult male chimpanzees can be release.



*Estelle and John in the forest in November during his failed retrieval*

### Marco



Marco is another sad story. He was living in captivity in Conakry with a female chimpanzee, Mouska, and was cared for by a Russian woman. The Russian woman had asked us to take both of them. Adult chimpanzees are harder for the CCC to take and we were planning the move after the release but Mouska passed away before we were ready to retrieve them.

A couple of month later, the Russian woman died of a heart attack. It then became urgent to take Marco. We transported him back to the CCC in September where he was housed next to Coco. He had physical deformity due to a long lasting imbalance between potassium and calcium. He also had infections. We started treating him right away. He had access to a forested enclosure and for the first time since his mother was killed he could climb trees and run in the forest. He was really happy and loved his enclosure. He started having a persistent cough. He had been tested twice for TB so we knew it wasn't that. We tried to treat him and finally took him at camp where he was cared for 24 hours a day. After a couple of days he was doing better but on the fifth day, he had pulmonary hemorrhage and died. We're happy that he had a couple of months of happiness and he got to be loved and cared for. Coco misses him a lot.



Veterinary problems

**Fatim**



Fatim is a 6 year old female who lives in the younger group. She is the adoptive mother of Kumba, Nikita's daughter. She started to develop a mass on the side of her neck in June. By November it had become huge and really hard. The director tried to take it out but after slicing it realized that it wasn't a tumor or anything removable but the skin itself that was inflamed. She made a couple of biopsies. The result came back as dermatitis caused by parasites. Fatim was treated for all known parasites and still the growth didn't recede. She's now on cortisone and antibiotic. It has gone down a bit but it's still big and it makes her tired and she can't care for Kumba the way she did. Luckily the other chimps take turn on carrying Kumba. We're hoping that she'll be cured soon.

**What's new at the C.C.C:**

Infrastructure:

We haven't built anything at the sanctuary but many new buildings were put up at the release site to create the new release camp that we call Bakaria since it's 5 kilometers from the Bakaria village.



*Safe room at the new camp in Bakaria*





A safe room, a kitchen, and two local rooms were built to house the personnel local and expatriate who are monitoring the released chimpanzees that have stayed in the release area.

In March when the males were moved to the release caged, the welder spent weeks reinforcing the cage. We were camping at the river on the same side as the males up to the release. We moved to the new camp across the river the morning before the release.



*Bakaria "Camping" before the release*

### **New equipment**

#### Toyota 4 runner



In October 2007, we purchased a used vehicle for the release program. It started to overheat in December and we had to take it to a garage in Conakry, the capital city. It stayed there for weeks. When it was finally fixed, in January (so they said!) we drove it back to Faranah. On the way, it broke down a couple of times and was fixed... But about 50 kilometers from Faranah, it caught fire and burned to the ground on the side of the road. No one was hurt but the passengers lost their belongings and the car couldn't be saved.

Mitsubishi Pajero

To replace the Toyota, another 4x4 was purchased, thanks to some of the CCC funders who were willing to give additional funding. We bought it in Conakry in April from a friend of the CCC for a very competitive price. It is a very reliable vehicle. We made a rack on the roof to transport additional luggage.



*Christelle and Kenda listening to Zira's VHF collar*

Unfortunately the rainy season was particularly intense in 2008 and the bridge that crosses Koffin, 2 kilometers from Somoria on the way to Faranah was swept away. We then used the boat to cross Koffin and when the water was low enough we went through the river directly. One time at the end of August, the driver thought that it was low enough but the car stalled in the middle. We evacuated all the persons and luggage and tied it to tree. While we were waiting for a pick-up to come to pull it out, the water kept rising! The vehicle was almost completely covered by water.



We managed to pull it out and tracked it all the way to Faranah (82 kilometers of bush road). The mechanic changed the filters, cleaned the motor, changed the oil and it was running again. We took it to Conakry for the electric system and a couple of weeks after spending 24 hours submerged in water, the Pajero was running smoothly again. Repairing the bridge before the next rainy season is really high on our priority list for 2009!

#### VHF radio

In 2006, USAID gave a grant for VHF radios. We also received, through PASA from Gorilla Heaven, hand held radios. The fixed VHF radios were installed in Somoria and in Bakaria. At first, communication was really difficult and we had to raise the antennas to over 40 meters. It now works fairly well. Another radio was installed in the Pajero but the channel needs to be reprogrammed.

#### New water pump

Most of 2008 was spent without running water at the CCC since our water pump broke down and we couldn't afford a new one. We were carrying water from the Niger river every day to drink (for ourselves and the chimps) and clean cages. It was hard work and not a healthy way of living. Thanks to Columbus zoo, an emergency grant was received that allowed us to buy a durable immersed water pump. The pump was installed in November and is working without fail!

#### **Filming**

A team paid for by Stichting AAP traveled to Guinea to film the release. Unfortunately due to safety constraint it wasn't possible to film the actual release of the males and the team left after the move of the females. No documentary using with the footage has been made.



## Education program

In 2008, our education and sensitization program was increased using the education materials created under the Chimpanzee Conservation and Sensitization Program funded by USAID in 2006. Teams went to all the villages around the park and in Faranah many times. We have programs in Bakaria every week. The themes are chimpanzee conservation, explanation of the release program, park protection, illegal logging and how to react in front of a chimpanzee. The feed back has been positive as the hunting in the park has decreased a lot as well the logging (in collaboration with the government actions) and the respect for chimpanzees has risen. The population now protects chimpanzees, not only the released ones but all the chimpanzees living in the park.



*Sensitization in Komandi Koura*

## Protection of the Park National du Haut Niger

Most of 2008 was spent trying to stop the illegal logging happening in the PNHN. It took months of work in collaboration with the local and national government to succeed. The deceased president had signed a presidential decree a couple of years ago banning all logging and exportation of wood from Guinea. That law was never enforced but the CCC has used that law to fund missions and actions by the Guinean government to stop logging and protect the PNHN.

### Stakeholder meeting

One of the first activities was to set up stakeholders meetings, with the governor acting as president. An action plan was created and slowly put in place funded by the CCC.

### Road block

A road block was set up in October, funded by the CCC, but with personnel from different government agencies (wildlife, customs, police and Park guards) a couple of kilometers from Faranah on the road leaving the PNHN. Some confiscations were made but after pressure on the government by the local population, it was removed.



After the president's death, all high ranking government personnel were changed and were replaced by military. Another meeting was set up with the new governor and prefect and another road block was set up in Faranah town this time, blocking every trucks transporting wood. The effect on the PNHN was immediate and it's now very unusual to hear chain saws or to see logging trucks on the road.

### Missions

Many missions were funded with military personnel, government officials and/or local officials in the PNHN or in the villages around the PNHN to educate local population or to enforce protection. In the east side of the PNHN, there is an on going activity with high ranking officials from both Faranah region and Kankan region to prevent villagers to enter the PNHN to cultivate and gather honey. Retro cession of fields in the buffer zone is ongoing and we expect the signature of an agreement between three villages to be signed before the beginning of the rainy season 2009. A specific mission was set up to remove fishermen from the Niger river prior to the release. A mission of the fishery government official was funded to give fishing cads to local fishermen that will allow them to fish in the Niger and the Mafou, while preventing outsiders to use their resources. Local populations have a higher respect for the PNHN boundaries and are really understanding of the release project. Non local fishermen who sometimes comes from very far away are really destructive and do not respect the PNHN boundaries.

### Minister of Environment

The CCC director also had a meeting in November with the minister of environment regarding logging, hunting and population encroachment in the PNHN. Unfortunately, national government is far from the PNHN and is rarely aware or interested in issues on the ground. The ministry has promised the CCC director the nomination of additional park guards. Thanks to local government, the lack of park guard will soon be a non issue as the governor has promised military personnel to enforce the protection of the PNHN if the CCC can afford to fund them.

### Surveys

Prior to the release, the release area was surveyed by Dr. Humle, associated with two guides that she had trained. She is currently doing another survey to evaluate the impact that the release program had on the wild life of the PNHN and on its chimpanzee's population. It is oblivious for the director and the CCC staff that the amount of hunting has decreased significantly to almost zero in areas where released chimps live and where the CCC staff is posted. There has been almost no fishing, apart from local fishing in the rivers and illegal logging has stopped.

### **Workshops**

#### PASA manager workshop in Sierra Leone

In June 2008, a manger workshop was organized by PASA in Freetown. The director participated as a PASA board member and as a PASA sanctuary director. She made a presentation regarding release preparation and made contact with potential funders.



#### PASA veterinary workshop in Lubumbashi

In November 2008, Dr. Christelle Colin went to the PASA veterinary workshop. She presented Marco's case and made a presentation regarding the health status of the release chimps and health screening made on the chimps prior to their release.

#### GRASP meeting in Faranah

The Great Apes Survival Program (GRASP) met in Faranah where survival of chimpanzees in Guinea was discussed in October 2008. The CCC director participated in the meeting as well as different government agencies and two non governmental organizations (the Jane Goodall institute and LAMIL project) who work in Guinea for the protection of chimpanzees. After the meeting, most of the participant paid a visit to the CCC where the CCC activities were explained and solutions for the sustainability of the CCC were discussed.

#### **Project Primate France**

Thanks to Dr. Christelle Colin and Charlotte Houpline, Projet Primate France (PPF) was reactivated. Returned volunteers have made conferences and expositions to present our work in Guinea. During PPF conferences, adoptions of CCC's chimpanzees and adhesion at PPF have helped fund some of the CCC's running costs. Volunteers and Dr. Colin write newsletters with news from the CCC's activities and PPF activities every trimester that is sent to all adherents of PPF. A French web site will be operative at the end of March 2009.

#### **Staff**

##### Local Staff

New keepers were hired before the release and local guides were hired for survey, protection and chimpanzee monitoring activities. Most of the keepers spend time at both Somoria and the release site, Bakaria. At the end of 2008, the CCC employed seven keepers, one driver, one boat driver, three guides and one education officer. In Conakry, a house manager is also employed to help with volunteers and task in Conakry.

##### Expatriate Staff and volunteers

Dr. Colin came back to the CCC before the release and stayed until the end of June. It was good to have an experienced manager to help the director during this stress full and exciting time! We also had returned volunteers, such as Dr. Danilo Alborgetti, Dr. Fanny Mehl (who acted as manager at the beginning of 2008), Christophe Deniau, Lisa Ongman (her third time at the CCC and who brought back the collars from the USA), Adeline Serviere and Adam Philipson, who came back as a protection supervisor.





We've had many volunteers this year because of the release and the list would be too long but there are special thanks to the veterinarians who worked on the release and the move of all the chimpanzees (Dr. Colin, Dr. Alborgetti, Dr. Greaneer and Dr. Mehl). For the tremendous work that they've done, also special thanks to Mr. Deniau, Mr. Philipson, Mr. Laurans who will be our next manager, Ms. Durillon, Ms. Broquere, Ms. Ongman and Ms. Serviere. The director had very little time away in 2008 and is grateful to all the volunteers who have participated actively in the CCC's activities of 2008.

### **RELEASE PROJECT (up to February 28<sup>th</sup> 2009)**

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2008, 12 orphans, wild born, rehabilitated adult chimpanzees were released in the core area of the Park National du Haut Niger (PNHN) in Guinea, West Africa. The core area is of 55,000 hectares of full protection. This release has been planned and worked on for over a decade following the 2002 IUCN guidelines for reintroduction. .

The release was planned as a soft release but the delay in getting funding for the radio collars postponed the release by a year and made the soft release methodology inapplicable as while waiting for a year, the electrical fence built at the release site, where the chimps were supposed to be housed, got burned by a bush fire. A new soft methodology was put in place for the males. Prior to the release, four adult males were moved to the release site where they were housed at the release cage. Later a fifth male joined them and they stayed together for three months to strengthen their ties. The females stayed at the CCC until the day of their release. The release date was chosen in June as it's during the rainy season and the highest fruit season.

The chimpanzees had been rehabilitated for years, living as a group in large forested enclosures and going on bush walks once to twice a day in the PNHN until at least ten years old. During their time at the CCC they learned to feed themselves, defend their territory and themselves and nest. Behavioral studies were conducted for a year prior to their release to evaluate their behavior and attachment to humans. Apart from one individual that was pulled out from the release group, all chimpanzees were judged suited for release. A year before their release they were mostly fed with wild fruits gathered by villagers in the buffer zone of the Park National du Haut Niger.

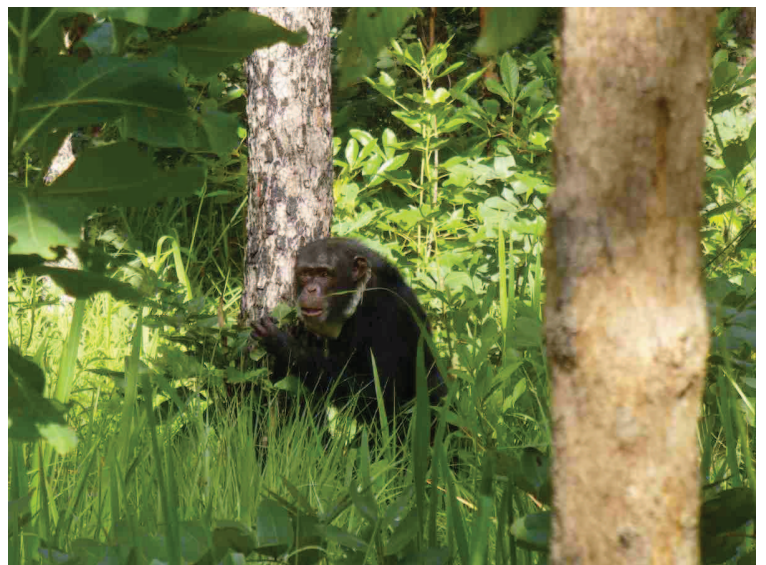
All the released chimpanzees were tested for parasites, bacterial infections and virus. None of the chimpanzees had been vaccinated and all the release chimpanzees were healthy. Deworming medicine and a broad spectrum antibiotic was administrated two weeks prior to their release.



In order to track them after their release, the chimpanzees were fitted with VHF radio tracking collars and for the males, VHF radio tracking collars and Argos ballast. In 2006, the releasable chimpanzees were fitted with dummy collars so when they were fitted with their real, very expensive, collars they didn't try to remove them. A safety was created by using thick rubbers and duck tape, so that the collar could be removed in case of applied strong force. Five females were fitted with store on board GPS tracking and VHF radio transmitter. The VHF system can only work up to 3-4 kilometers depending on the habitat. Four males were fitted with the satellite tracking collars and VHF transmitter. The male collars were programmed so that each collar store GPS points 6 times a day. During 6pm and 6am, the collar try to connect with one of the 6 satellites programmed in the collar. If there is a hit, the collar downloads the GPS points. There is also a build in mortality function. The GPS information are then available on the company web site that runs the program. They need to be converted in excel format to be read. We've received geo referenced spot image of the PNHN where we place the GPS points. We don't get GPS points everyday but regularly, depending on the thickness of the habitat.

The chimpanzees didn't behave as planned as they didn't stay together as a group. We had to retrieve some of the chimps who went very far from the release point and brought them together. One male had lost his collar but was found thanks to village's fishermen who were keeping an eye on him and warned us. All the chimpanzees have avoided contact with human population even when they were nearby population. Once they had established their territory they almost don't travel and their territory is quite small (a couple of square kilometers at much). All the males have avoided contact with wild chimpanzees as far as we know, or contact went well! One female is currently living with a group of wild chimpanzees. The youngest female, 10 years old, who was release with her mother as she had been born at the CCC (a birth control pill accident!) came back to the CCC a month after her release...with a wild female. We've been trying since September to have them go back to the forest but they are still at the CCC. We're planning to "release" them again next year with the second releasable group or to bring them to Albert and Rappa in 2009.

Protection of the PNHN had to be increased tremendously and extended to area of the PNHN far from either the CCC or the release site, but still in the full protected area of the PNHN, where two males have established their territory. Education and sensitization campaigns have also been increased and we can see that they are successful by the reaction that we had with the chimpanzee who's remove his collar (Robert) or with the community living across the Niger or the Mafou river (two of the PNHN boundaries).



*Some pictures of the released chimpanzees, Robert, Mama, Zira and Nanou*

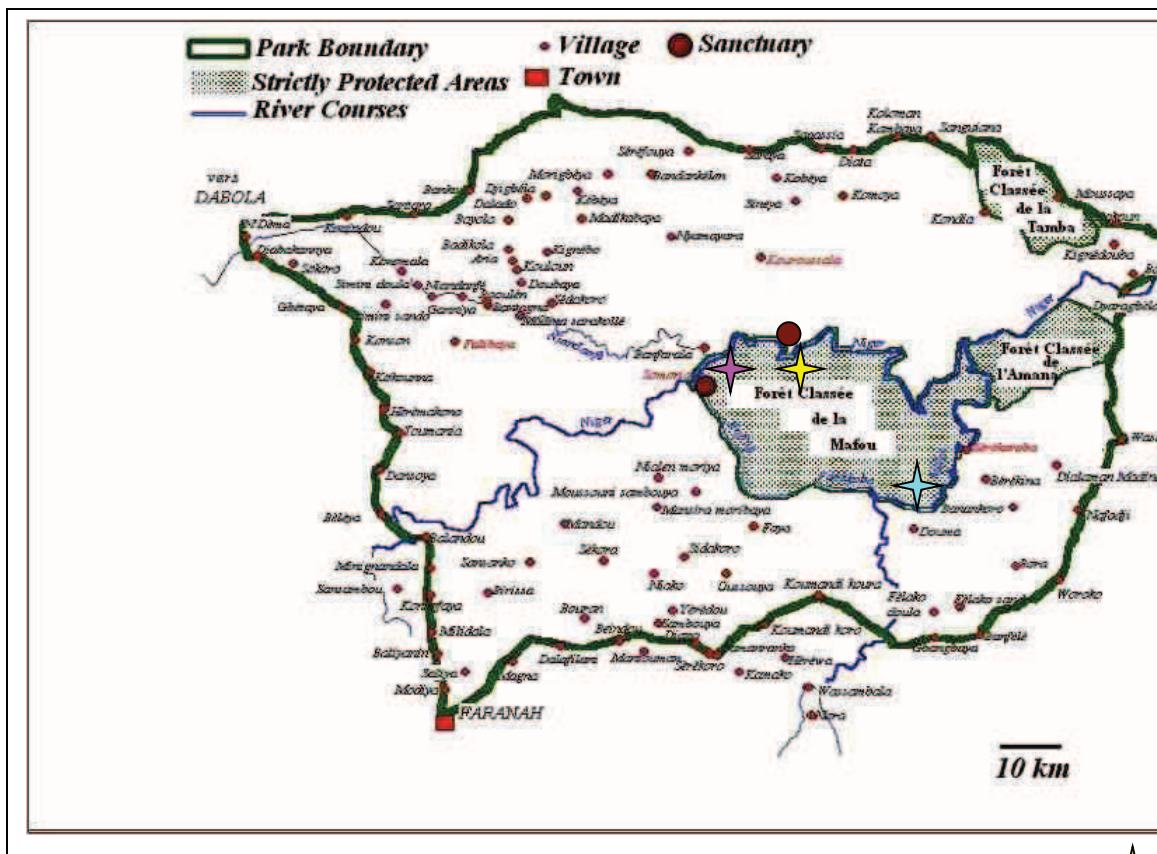
The release is only eight months old but so far, they have showed very good wild chimpanzees behavior. They are all self-sufficient, capable of defending and protecting themselves and most important dehumanized as they aren't looking for human contact, especially with people they don't know. All the chimps that we've had contact with (infrequently) are healthy and happy. Some have lost some weight but none are sick. They are proving that they can be release and survive happily in the wild.



The collars will stop transmitting in April for the Argos data and in June for the VHF transmission. If the chimpanzees are still stable and healthy after a year, we will consider the release a success. We are not planning to anesthetize the chimpanzees to replace their collars. We'll try to retrieve the females collars from the three females living at the release area to download the GPS data stored on it. Without removing the collars, they will eventually fall off their neck as they are only attached with rubber and duck tape.

### The released chimps

Where are they?



First group: Robert (male) and Mama (female), Nanou (female) and Lottie (female)

Second group: Albert and Rappa (males)

Zira (female) and probably Nana (female) with a group of wild chimps





We have no news from Orlando since the release or from Andrew since he was brought back with his mother Lottie in the release area. They haven't been spotted by the local population or us. It doesn't mean that they are dead since based on the other chimps' behavior; all the release chimps seem to manage their new freedom very well. Andrew was with his mother until November 2008 and could be in the vicinity of Robert's group. He doesn't have a working collar but we're hoping that he'll reappear soon.

#### Health and behavioral status

All the release chimpanzees are in good health. Rappa and Lottie are the only ones who have lost some weight. Their weight losses have different causes.

For Lottie, she was with her 9 year old son in an area where food was abundant during the rainy season but became scarce during the dry season. She would let Andrew eat before herself. Since she was brought back to the release area, she's gained back weight.

Rappa is the youngest chimpanzee of the release group (except for the two offspring) as he was twelve years old when he was released. He has kept the same feeding behavior that he had at Somoria, which is insufficient during the dry season. Now that he's living with Albert, who eats all the time, we're hoping that he'll follow Albert's behavior and feed more often.

All the released chimps seem to have chimp lice that they remove from each other via grooming. Their parasite load is normal and their diet consistent with wild chimps' diet. Albert eats a lot of termites and none of the released chimps seem to drink much, even at the highest of the dry season. This behavior is consistent with wild chimpanzees' behavior.

Dr. Humle will analyze the data of the release and will publish them in scientific journals.



**CCC and PPI funders:**

Thanks to past and present funders without whom it wouldn't have been possible:

The Arcus Foundation  
Edith J. Goode Trust fund  
US Fish and Wildlife  
Chimpanzee Conservation Sensitization Program  
The Great Ape Trust of Iowa  
TUSK  
La fondation Brigitte Bardot  
International Primate Protection League  
The Sweedish Chimpanzee Conservation Trust  
Fauna and Flora International  
Columbus zoo

And many more over the past years and of course private donors and supporters

**In kind Donation for 2008:**

BHP billiton in Guinea for logistical support  
Stichting AAP for filming