



ANNUAL REPORT

CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER

2010

Letter from the director:

I'm currently sitting in the safe room at the release camp. The chimpanzees are across the river, a kilometer away, so close but yet so far. Everything is silent around me, except for the birds and insects chirping away and unfortunately the fan noise from the device I am using to plug my computer to a solar panel, via a battery...technology... It feels like it is about 55 degrees Celsius in here. We all know that we had an awful winter in Europe and I promised myself I would never say "it's too hot" when I got back to Guinea. Well, right now, sorry, I am breaking this promise, it is too hot.

I am going back through all the good and bad memories of 2010, to try to explain to you, our supporters and funders, this complex project. These come as flashes of beautiful and amazing experiences such as feeling Mama's belly, a release chimpanzee, whom I thought was sick and then realizing there was a life moving inside her swollen belly (despite the negative pregnancy test and the constant swelling!) and then having Mama giving birth to a healthy beautiful baby girl. These feelings of accomplishment are now being tainted by the fact that in January 2011, Mama was seen without her infant. What happened? Only she knows. Then, of course, 2010 is the year when Charlie, a six year old chimpanzee, died of a snake bite, in my arms. I guess this is bush life but if he had been with his mom, I can't stop thinking that this would not have happened.

2010 is also the year of Guinea's first democratic presidential elections hence a lot of instability. Most of you have heard about the presidential election and all the problems that came with it in a country that has never before had a real democratic election. I am proud to say that the Guineans have risen up to the occasion and kept their calm, even when things looked bad. For us, we have the advantage of being far from city life and all it entails; we are totally cut off from what is going on. The impact on the project is mostly when it comes to getting fuel for the vehicle and the boats. When there is none at petrol stations, we have to go through the military and official channels to get what we need for the week.

We have been working closely with the local government to continue our protection activities around both sites (sanctuary and release). A prominent poacher was arrested and judged thanks to a combined effort between the CCC, military personnel and the justice system.

I am proud of the CCC's staff and volunteers for all they have done and are doing. As you might remember, we have a new manager, Matthieu (who is amazing!). I'm looking to hire a second one so I can then be director full time and spend more time fund-raising. I also want to thank Chris, Tatyana, Carole, Alex, Mel, Amaury, Isa, Peggy... (sounds like the Oscars...) Anyway without the CCC's local and expatriate staff (including the volunteers who have come back and are still really active) and your support, the CCC wouldn't be what it is today; all the villagers we are working with and all the CCC's chimpanzees would have no future. In their name, thank



you and I hope you will enjoy reading this annual report (I probably sweated about 5 liters doing it so I hope you'll forgive me for the spelling mistakes!)

Estelle RABALLAND

Executive Summary

Project Primate, Inc. (PPI) 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).

Projet Primates France (PPF) is a not-for-profit French association created to support PPI's efforts to protect chimpanzees and support the Chimpanzee Conservation Center in Guinea.

PPI and PPF are working to help 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 their creation, PPI and PPF have raised enough funds to ensure the proper functioning of the CCC and to allow the centre to expand its size and activities, thus improving its effectiveness in working to protect and conserve chimpanzees in Guinea. In June 2008, the CCC released its first group of chimpanzees back to the wild in the PNHN. The CCC is still monitoring five 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 CCC chimpanzees into the wild, protect the chimpanzee population living in the PNHN (probably 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: Dr. Geza Teleki

Volunteers:

Dr. Christelle Colin

(volunteer's program and PP France)

Tony Ruzicka (Accountant)

Matthieu Laurans (Manager CCC)

Isabelle Heuchamps (Secretary PP France)



The CCC is a very cost efficient non-profit non-governmental organizations. Over 95% of all financial resources are programmed into its operation. The remaining 5% is used for fundraising and minimal general and administrative costs.

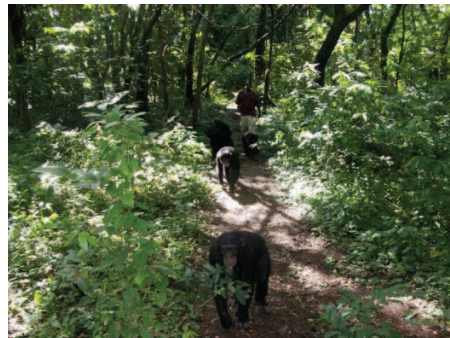
THE CHIMPANZEES

Present population

At the sanctuary:

- *Nursery group:* 9 chimpanzees from 1 ½ years old to 7 years old
- *Youngster group:* 13 chimpanzees from 3 ½ years old to 10 years old
- *Older group:* 12 chimpanzees from 10 years old to 17 years old (not including the two females youngsters born at the CCC who are now 3 and 1 years old)

Other group: Coco who is about 30 years old and Zoe who was rescued in November 2009. She is about 12 years old now.



Released chimpanzees:

We are monitoring two adult males and three adult females. Two of the released females gave birth, one to a male in November 2009 and the other to a female in March 2010. One other female, who has integrated a group of wild chimpanzees, was last seen in January 2010 maybe also carrying a newborn. But since she no longer is wearing a collar we cannot monitor her daily via VHF as we do with the others.

Some chimpanzees were released without a collar - one adult female, one young male and one male. They cannot therefore be monitored. Nothing indicates that they are not still alive.

Chimpanzee Conservation Center Annual Report 2010



Lottie and her son

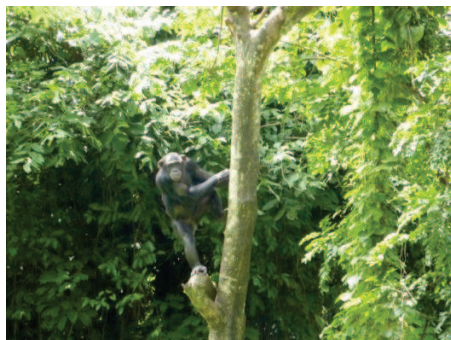


Mama and her daughter

Coco and Zoe:

This year, we have tried a couple of times to put Coco in his enclosure with Zoe. Unfortunately for him, Coco is an escape artist and although his enclosure looks like Alcatraz, he already found a way out. The longest he stayed in was 4 days! Although he is happy in his enclosure and has contact with Zoe, he is very easily scared by screams or noises coming from the other chimpanzees and seeks to escape. Although his cage is small, he likes it better there since he feels safer. We have written a proposal to extend his cage and add rooms and a tunnel to improve his captive conditions. He unfortunately can't be released since he is too humanized and suffers a physical handicap due to gunshot wounds he suffered when he was kept as a pet in hotel/restaurant in Conakry.

Zoe enjoys the enclosure. She even has her favorite trees! We have given her the opportunity to spend time with Coco together in the cage. They both enjoyed it and Coco was very understanding when she got scared of him. He didn't follow her to her 'side' of the cage. We will continue to put them together on occasion until we get the funding to expand Coco's cage.



Zoe in her enclosure



Adult group:

At the beginning of the year, the group was separated for a while to lower tensions among the males. A couple of months later, they were reunited and had the use of both enclosures. There are still tensions but they are more manageable now especially since Rappa, the adult male who was brought back from the release site in 2009, has started to take on more power, reestablishing some balance in the hierarchy.

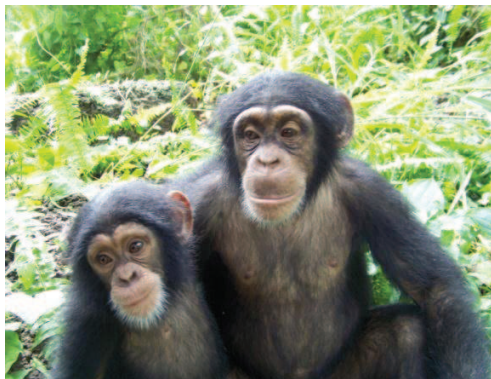
Annie and Bobo

Annie was with the youngsters since her arrival. She has always had a wild chimpanzee behavior probably due to her late capture. Since she started to cycle, she has been more interested in the adult group. This year, she escaped many times from the youngsters' enclosure to get into the adult enclosure. It wouldn't have been a problem if she had not got out again and back in again. In the process she showed the youngsters and some of the adults how to get out the enclosure! Luckily for us, big chimpanzees can't pass through the enclosure wires like she does. Oga, the oldest male from the youngsters group refused to go on bush walks when she was with the adults. It was decided to put her with Bobo, an adult male, who lives next to the youngsters and who can't go in the enclosure, since he is able to get in and out as he pleases! So Annie was happy to have a big male with her, and Oga was happy to have Annie next door!

New Arrival

TANGO

Tango, who was actually named Tamba, arrived at the CCC on June 17th, 2010. He was in good health since he had spent three months with a Canadian woman in a mining company. This woman, Cynthia Plante, had got in touch with the CCC director explaining that she had "confiscated" the baby chimpanzee. It is not the CCC policy to accept chimpanzees who have not been properly confiscated by the authorities. It took several months of emails and phone conversations and a donation equivalent to the fine that would have been given by the authorities for the director to accept this new arrival. The mining company involved will now support chimpanzee conservation.





Our Loss

CHARLIE

Charlie arrived in September 2006 at the CCC. He was rescued with Shelly by a mining company which helped us to build a nursery to welcome new babies.

Charlie had a strong character and after his quarantine with Shelly, he integrated the youngsters' group where he had a special position even if he was one of the youngest.

Charlie was a brave chimpanzee. He learned a lot during his 4 years of rehabilitation at the CCC. He knew the forest very well but he had one major fault, he feared nothing. During the rehabilitation process, the CCC staff tries to teach the young chimpanzee to be aware of and to fear the main dangers of the forest such as lions, leopards, large troops of baboons, bush fires as well as snakes. But it is sometimes difficult. Charley had the bad habit to hunt snakes and we failed to teach him to develop a



fear of snakes. In July, during a walk in the forest with his group, he apparently attacked or was attacked by a snake in the canopy of a tree. They both fell from the tree and the snake spat/bit Charley's face. The keeper thought he recognized a black mamba, a lethal snake. Charley was quickly brought back to the sanctuary where the CCC director started right away to provide him with emergency care. Dr Pignorel, the vet, was at the release site when the attack occurred. She arrived few hours later after having given all the necessary advice on possible treatment to Estelle by radio. They both tried everything to save Charley's life but he sadly passed away 7h after the attack in Estelle's arms, surrounded by all the CCC team. All the chimpanzees and the CCC were deeply affected by the tragic loss of Charley and we still mourn his death. Shelly and Wodo, his best friends, kept looking for him for several days after his death. Charley is buried beside his friends' enclosure.

Veterinary issues:

Through PASA, collaboration has been made between a team of the University of Alabama and the CCC to collaborate on a study on SIV and malaria detection using feces. This team contributed to important work and studies on SIV on chimpanzees and the origins of human malaria. They now want to collect more data on great apes in Africa and to test them, as well as humans, for malaria to basically see if great apes potentially act as reservoirs for human malaria and/or vice versa. During these studies, their team aims to develop tests using feces. The SIV test is already ready and they hope to be able to create one to test malaria on great apes. These tests would be really helpful for disease screening in primate sanctuaries as they require only feces, which are much easier to collect than blood. The CCC already collected and sent feces for the SIV/malaria testing and will send more in the future, as well as blood smears and blood.

Zoe showed clear signs of malaria and was treated accordingly. She quickly fully recovered. We will send some of her feces samples to Alabama University for the malaria study.



All the youngsters and the nursery group were also tested for TB and their blood type was determined.

Ama and Kirikou have an undiagnosed disease that affects the structure of long bones and causes an extra bone growth on both sides of the nose. At first we thought it was an imbalance in calcium/potassium due to their captivity. A couple of years later, the growths were getting bigger and teeth problems also emerged. A biopsy of the growth was inconclusive. It was then decided to take Ama to the closest city, Faranah, to perform an X-Ray. Unfortunately the generator at the hospital was broken. She was then brought to another hospital in Kissidougou, 120 kilometers from Faranah. The X-ray was also inconclusive.

At the beginning of 2011, we are now trying to treat for Gundun, a syphilis-like disease that can create growth on the side of the nose in gorillas.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE CCC:

Infrastructure:

New bedrooms and office

All the CCC's staff infrastructures are made with local materials. An office was built a couple years ago but roof leakage and termite "activities" have almost destroyed it. We couldn't actually use it as an office either to work or to store important papers so a new administrative building is now being built. There are two bedrooms on each side of the office for the director and for the manager. The director's hut is still standing and in good shape after 10 years but there is a tree leaning very dangerously over it. We'll try to cut it but there's a fairly high possibility that it will fall on the hut...



New roofs

Every year we have to either reinforce or replace the matted roofs of the huts at camp. We hire two local Guineans from the closest village to do it. It is a very skilled job and it usually takes two to three weeks. We do it both in Somoria and in Bakaria camp (release camp).

New toilet

The original "latrine" (pit toilet) that was dug 10 years ago when there were only 2-3 volunteers was at capacity. We filled up the hole and dug a new one 10 meters from it. The new one is deeper and bigger. It will take years before we will have to dig a new one!



Youngsters' cage roof.

To protect the youngsters from the rain in the rainy season, and to give them shade in the dry season, we've always had a roof made with aluminum sheets over the cage. Every day before going on bush walks or on their way back, one of their favorite games is to climb on it to make as much noise as possible, hence making holes in it and destroying half the beams in the process! This year, we decided to try to build a thatch roof instead, similar to what we have on all the huts. It was not 100% leak proof but it did work. We have added electrified wires all around to prevent them from climbing on it. Unfortunately although the new roof had a lot of advantages it was also at high risk to catch fire during the dry season so we decided to remove it at the beginning of 2011 and replace it by placing roofing sheets again.

VHF radio:

Since the creation of the release camp in Bakaria, we have been communicating between both camps via VHF radios. This year, the radios have had serious problems. We have bought new radios, since the old ones had fried (for no apparent reason), one of the batteries didn't charge properly and had to be changed and the cable connection melted on the roof. When there is no radio link, we have to use the satellite phones to communicate at fixed hours. This explains the high phone bill that we have had this year. We are doing our very best to fix sustainably the communication problem but every time there is an issue, we have to transport the broken devices to Conakry (15 hours away) where we can find the only specialists.

Fire break

The dry season is a very busy time of the year. For protection against bush fires, we have to cut fire breaks all around camp, enclosures, solar pump. We hire local villagers from the closest village (Sambouya). In order to accomplish the work quickly, we usually hire 9 people. In December 2011, we purposely set fire to the fire break to prevent bush fires from jumping across. It's really sad to see everything burned around the CCC but despite all the fire breaks, every dry season, we have to stop bush fires (most likely ignited by poachers) along our firebreaks.

Electrical fence:

During the rainy season, a tree fell on the youngster's enclosure, hence breaking multiple fence posts. We have fixed it as best we could but this fence was built in 2004 and was made for younger chimpanzees. The posts are now rotten and there is not enough tension in the wires to contain the teenagers! So we are planning on rebuilding it in 2011 thanks to a grant from the Arcus Foundation.

To prevent the chimpanzees to get out the fence using sticks that they put on wires to create shorts and also to create space between the wires, we have added non-conductive jumpers all around the youngsters' fence and also on Bobo's enclosure. So far it has helped a lot...until they find another way out...



Vehicles:

The CCC has two second-hand 4x4 vehicles. One of them, the Mitsubishi Pajero, had to be resegmented. This vehicle is a crucial to the CCC's activities, especially for the post release monitoring, park protection and the food runs (that we do three times a week) so we decided to go through the expenses since we couldn't afford a new vehicle. Unfortunately, the resegmentation had to be redone twice...the car parts you can find in Guinea are mostly of Chinese or Taiwanese in origin and are of very poor quality. The CCC mechanic that we use is very skilled but he is also slow. It was decided to change mechanics after a month and even with the new one, it took another two weeks of constant battling to have it fixed and running. At the end, it cost three times more than the initial price we had been quoted...Most of the car repair expenses this year concerned specifically the Pajero. In February 2011, the Pajero died on its way to Somoria. We barely managed to bring it back and this time, thanks to funds from PPF, we decided to change the entire engine. The Pajero is a sturdy vehicle and with a new engine, it should last for another couple of years.

The second vehicle, a second-hand Mitsubishi pick-up L200, which was bought in 2009, is also showing signs of tiredness. We have had to change all the suspension. We mostly try to keep it in good shape and fix any little issue as soon as it arises.

Veterinary room

Last year we had finally managed to make the veterinary room "chimpanzee proof"...well that's what we'd thought. This January, Rocky and Mike proved us wrong. They kicked the door in. Unfortunately the vet was inside preparing darts! They slapped her, but in the end there was more surprise than harm! We're now planning on building a metal door which will open outwards and with a step inside so the chimpanzees can't readily kick it in.



During the rainy season, we also realized that the veterinary room roof was leaking. Thanks to Dr. Geernaert, one of our long-term vet volunteers, who purchased with her own fund trunks where to stock all the medicine and books, we didn't lose too many supplies. It became an emergency to fix this roof before the next rainy season. Two volunteers battled for two days to remove the old one and finally the new one was installed. It seems leakage-free so far but we are waiting on the next rainy season to be sure.

Dr. Geernaert also produced, printed and plasticized signs that are now hanging in the veterinary room, the kitchen and the food room. These sheets are daily checklists: what to do in case of veterinary emergency, chimpanzee weight at a glance,



what to do in case of snake bite, useful phone numbers etc. It's very useful for the local and expatriate staff.

MEDIA

We were planning on releasing the professional 52' min documentary in 2010 but the editing took longer than scheduled and we won't be able to release it until 2011.

The 27' min and 52' min versions of "A helping hand" featured in different festivals and conferences along the year. PPF organized the sales of DVDs during these events and their education campaigns in France and Belgium.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We are working closely with villages who are set up around the Park, especially two villages, Bakaria and Sambouya. Bakaria is the closest to the release site and Sambouya to the sanctuary. Neither village has a school. We've asked the local government to provide a community teacher and the CCC via private donations will pay for the building, made locally, and will pay part of the teacher expenses. Through volunteers' parents, school books are already being collected to be sent to Guinea before the end of 2011.



One of this year's volunteers was an emergency registered nurse from France. She provided consultation and care to villagers in need in 3 villages. She went to Bakaria to deworm all the children and did a day on malaria prevention. In Sidakoro, she did two sensitization days about hygiene and reproductive health. She followed 6 pregnancies and we had to take one woman to the hospital in Faranah because she was hemorrhaging after having delivered her baby.

The CCC has also been implicated in all the sad and happy moments of the villagers' life. As usual we also provide financial help whenever the villagers need it the most (health problems, etc.) and they reimburse the center either in bags of food for the chimpanzees, in cash or in labor at the sanctuary.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year we haven't received funding for our education and sensitization program. Despite the lack of funding, we continued our work in easily accessible villages during our food runs. In June a sensitization day at the school in Sidakoro was organized using a board game created by volunteers (Anthony and Marion). This game, adapted from the game of the goose, was a hit. If we get funding, we'd like to make several copies of it so whole class rooms can use it.

Dr. Geernaert has created a little movie entitled "Nelson's story". It portrays one of the CCC's chimpanzees as an example of what is happening to chimpanzees in Guinea and to create compassion and understanding. It was well perceived and understood. Some changes are being made before we use it more broadly.



In December, Ibro, our education officer, and a volunteer went to a small village about 80 kilometers west of Faranah for a week. We had received reports that a chimpanzee was regularly visiting their village. The manager and keepers went to this village three times and finally assessed that it was a wild chimpanzee who occasionally came to raid crops. The educator spent a week in this village and in all the villages around to explain why it was important to conserve chimpanzees and their environment. The educator felt well understood and the villagers really appreciated the efforts the CCC made to come and explain how to act when seeing chimpanzees and why chimpanzees crop raid since the forest around the village has recently been affected by illegal logging and chimpanzees consequently have less access to wild foods during certain periods of the year. We haven't heard any problems with this chimpanzee since.

PROTECTION OF THE PARK NATIONAL DU HAUT NIGER

The presence of CCC staff at the release site and the instauration of dissuasive measures, such as road blocks at the beginning of the year and patrols by park and military personnel, have effectively reduced illegal hunting in the core area of the Mafou.

In May, a very well-known poacher was arrested by military patrols assisted by a park guard while he was leaving the core area with two bags of buffalo meat. He had two automatic rifles and a hunting gun. We believe he wasn't alone but the military never managed to find the others who probably left the area and went in hiding.

This poacher was sent to jail, first in Faranah. He then went to court in Kankan on April 1st where he was sentenced to 1 year in jail and was issued a 500,000 GF fine (about \$100) at the time.

It is the first time that the whole process was achieved and that a poacher actually did jail time. We are hoping that his example will deter poachers from entering the Mafou core area to hunt.

We removed the road block at the entrance of Faranah in May due to lack of funding but we had to put it up again in June when we realized that trucks full of wood had started again to come out of the area. The road block was then reinstalled in secrecy and the same day, a truck was confiscated. The illegal wood and the truck went to the military camp. The owner had to pay a very heavy fine to get his truck back and the wood wasn't given back. Unfortunately, we have no knowledge to whom the fine was paid and who benefitted from it. We had talked about sharing the fine among the military, the park and the CCC but that didn't happen. In the future we're planning on producing a written agreement among all parties on how fines and expenses will be shared.

In 2010, there was a fishing ban in the Park. Despite the fact that the core area of Mafou is fully protected, every year it was customary that the Ministry of Fisheries issued fishing permits that would allow some fishermen to fish along the Niger and the Mafou Rivers. More and more permits were issued since the EU grant ended in 2005. The CCC has been trying to control the situation but due to lack of funds and logistical support it was really difficult. The director made a case in Conakry that fishing should be banned in the park. It was finally agreed that there should be a one year moratorium on fishing along the stretches of river running along the Mafou

core are. This ban facilitated protection efforts since it is a well-known fact that the fishermen help poachers enter the core area with their boats (pirogues). Without boat transport, poachers are forced to use “passes” that are just crossable by foot during the dry season. Military patrol teams were posted beside the mostly used passes and would patrol the others every day.



Despite this ban, a fishing camp settled by the sanctuary in May. Military personnel went to talk to them a couple of times to explain that they had to leave the core area. They refused to cooperate. The CCC manager informed the governor who then asked the Colonel in Faranah in charge of all military personnel in the area to send 15 soldiers in their vehicle to Somoria to arrest them. They arrested the leader and sent him to Faranah. It was decided that he would be released only after the other fishermen had left. Some fishing nets were also confiscated and returned to them after they had left.

Fishing was permitted again in 2011 under stricter conditions. The director has advised the Minister of Fisheries to ban fishing once and for all along areas of the Mafou and Niger Rivers that border the core area of the Mafou.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Dr. Tatyana Humle has been coordinating research at the CCC and advising the release program. Dr. Humle belongs to the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. She has been studying wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa since 1995. She has served as the scientific advisor to the CCC since 2007. She is a member of the Primate Specialist Group of the IUCN (The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) focused on Great Ape Conservation and a member of GRASP's (The Great Apes Survival Partnership) scientific committee.

At the beginning of the year, an ex-volunteer, Helene le Berre came to the CCC to collect data for her masters thesis focused on the rehabilitation process. She specifically studied the learning process and behavior in the youngsters and nursery groups. Her report will be the starting point for more long term studies on these two groups.

Dr. Humle with Ms. Raballand, Mr. Laurans and Dr. Colin, published an article which appeared in the International Journal of Primatology (DOI 10.1007/s10764-010-9482-7) on the release and lessons learnt so far based primarily on analysis of the GPS-store-on-board data gathered from the collars. Another paper is in prep concerning the different collar systems we used during the release, their advantages and disadvantages. These data will be useful to other sanctuary who plan to release chimpanzees.

WORKSHOPS

PASA manager workshop in Yaounde, Cameroon

In May, Matthieu Laurans, the CCC manager, Estelle Raballand, the CCC director and Mr. Kenda Diallo (CCC senior keeper) went to Cameroon to attend the 11th PASA managers meeting. At the end of the 3 day meeting we visited Mefou, Ape Alliance sanctuary.

Since Ms. Raballand is one of PASA's board members, Mr. Laurans represented the CCC in her place. Mr. Laurans gave an update of the CCC' activities while Ms. Raballand gave a presentation update on the release. As usual it was an intense workshop with many work groups. The issue of legacy was discussed in particular which was useful for many participating sanctuaries.

PASA veterinary workshop in South Africa



This workshop was held in November in South Africa at the JGI Chimp Eden sanctuary and Nelspruit. Dr Geernaert represented the CCC for the first time and Dr Colin, the CCC veterinarian advisor, was also present as a PASA delegate. This workshop included many presentations on tuberculosis, parasitology, risk disease analysis, and several practical workshops allowed PASA delegates to improve their knowledge and skills on reanimation, parasitology techniques, surgery and necropsy procedures. An important discussion with experts allowed PASA to put in place a protocol for disease screening for arrival quarantines and pre-release quarantines. The PASA delegates also had the chance to visit and spend a day at the Chimp Eden sanctuary. This workshop was a great opportunity for Dr Geernaert to meet other veterinarians working in PASA sanctuaries and to bring back to the sanctuary important updates on veterinary aspects.

PASA education workshop in South Africa

For the first time, the CCC sent its educator, Mr. Ibrahima (Ibro) Balde, to a PASA education workshop. The director had always feared that he wouldn't get much out of it, since a lot of it is in English and Ibro doesn't speak any English! In addition, Ibro has never traveled outside of Guinea and sending him by himself to a remote place was a bit scary for him. This year since it was in South Africa and participants were being picked up at the airport, it was decided that it would be a good opportunity for him to go. He should have traveled for less than two days with one plane change in Abidjan. Unfortunately, he got off in Lome, Togo and we "lost" him. It took four days to get him to and back South Africa and he only





enjoyed 2 days instead of 4! It was nevertheless a good experience for him and he came back with renewed energy and new ideas to improve the CCC education program.

'Etats generaux' 17/18/19 May in Sereidou

Right after the PASA managers' workshop, the CCC manager attended a conference organized by the Ministry of the Environment to establish a long term plan and activities of the Ministry. The Park National du Haut Niger was discussed at length since Sereidou is only 50 kilometers or so from the park. The CCC's role and its legal and constitutional description were also redefined. The park conservator now must, as an additional role, support and help the CCC's in its activities.

STAFF

Local Staff

Kenda Diallo

2010 was a great year for the CCC local staff! Mr. Kenda Diallo, as head keeper, was recognized twice for his dedicated work for chimpanzees' conservation. It might have been his name on the award; it was also a way to recognize the whole team. He received the Disney Conservation Hero and the PASA Siddle-Mardsen award. We are really proud of him. It also gave him the opportunity to travel to Cameroon where he received his award from Mr. Doug Cress, PASA secretary. Dr. Geernaert received the award from Disney in his name at the PASA veterinary conference and Kenda received it at the CCC in December.



Moktar Diallo

Mr. Diallo was hired a year ago as a trainee. Unfortunately, he failed to prove himself as a reliable keeper for the future so we had to let him go. We're still in the process of finding new keepers to train but the living conditions and the average salary makes it difficult. The other keepers are working even harder now and have risen up to the occasion.

"La vie" – cartoon:

There is a French cartoon that explains life and how the human body functions to children. We have been showing it episode by episode to the keepers in the evening. It stimulates debate and we can explain in more detail what they haven't understood, such as the biology of reproduction, what is an infection, why is hygiene important etc. Most of the keepers are illiterate. However, some volunteers occasionally take the time to teach them how to read and write.

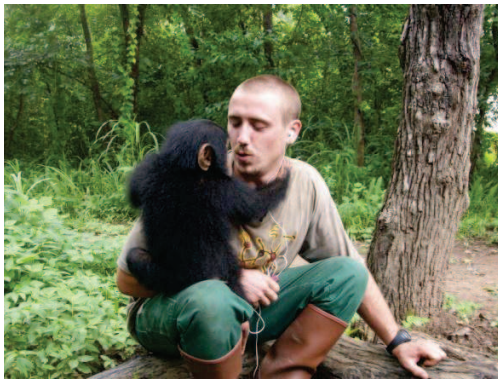


New equipment:

Thanks to the generosity of the ex-volunteers who responded kindly to an appeal, we have repaired the staffs' housing, bought new mosquito nets, new sheets and blankets and we will also buy them new mattresses. The local staff are the pillars of the CCC and without them, the welfare and wellbeing of the chimpanzees wouldn't be what it is today.

Expatriate Staff and volunteers

Matthieu Laurans was acting manager from March 1st to June 20th and again from September 10th until January 16th 2011. Estelle Raballand acted as manager when M. Laurans wasn't in Guinea and there was each time a week's overlap.



Matthieu and Tango



Estelle with staff & volunteers

Celine Danaud came back for her second time in October. She will probably be the next second manager. She has proven herself again and again in her decision making process and her stamina!

Dr. Christelle Colin who was acting manager for 7 years and still comes regularly to Guinea came from June to the beginning of September

Dr. Tatyana Humle, the CCC scientific advisor was present in June and July as well.

Dr. Carole Geernaert, one of the CCC's veterinarians came twice this year, from April to June and again in November-December.

Dr. Melanie Pignorel, another veterinarian came for 3 months to help change the collars on the released chimpanzees and for the re-release.

Isabelle Heuchamps came back for her 4th time. She is also heavily involved with the documentary that the CCC's is doing.

Alex Dupeyras came back for the second time in April and for the third time in January, specifically for the re-release, tracking and as a protection supervisor.

Sebastien Barrera came back in December to supervise all construction and to provide expertise with the enclosures and train the CCC's keepers and repairing fences when and where needed.



There were many volunteers again this year, too many to name individually. We are grateful for their help and we know that many of them will stay involved and that if possible, many will also return.

RELEASE PROJECT (up to March 2011)

At the beginning of the year 2010, we were worried for months about Mama's swollen stomach. We did a pregnancy test and it was negative and she was still cycling! So we started to treat her for different conditions such as worms. At the beginning of March Dr. Geernaert and the director went to see her and assess if we needed to anesthetize her to bring her back to Somoria. While palpating her stomach, we felt a baby moving! The baby was born on March 10th. It was a baby female that we named Angie.

In May 2010, Zira's collar, the female who has integrated a group of wild chimpanzees, came into mortality (the collar was no longer moving); she had lost the collar which fell off after nearly two years of wear and tear. Matthieu, the manager went to find it. All the GPS data were downloaded and used to follow her during these 20 months since she has been released. It has also given us great indications of the ranging patterns of her new wild community. These data are being analyzed by Dr. Humle.

The dry season is always the most difficult time for the released chimpanzees. There is a lack of food, bush fires and poaching, even if the latter is limited thanks to the protection and doesn't target chimpanzees.

The Niger River level drops dramatically and the pass that poachers use can also be used by the chimpanzees. In March 2010, Robert crossed the river and went to a military camp that was set up to protect the Kouroussani pass. He was walked back across but crossed again with Albert the next day and reached the monitoring camp. Since we had planned to expand the release cage in preparation to reinforce this release group of 5 adults, it was decided to put them back in the release cage. We used that time they were back in captivity to refit collars, expand the release cage and fatten them up! They were released in July after we refit them with new collars.



We didn't go to see the chimpanzees from August to October, although we monitored them daily via VHF. All the chimpanzees were fine. The males separated from the females for several days at the end of January 2011. We decided at this time to check up on them to potentially reunite them if necessary. This time Mama was alone and was wounded on her toes, hands and her ears, where she had clear straight cut marks. We believe she was attacked by baboons. A couple of days before we saw her there had been a huge bush fire that went on for 5 days in their area. We



don't know if that bush fire pushed the baboons in the chimpanzees' territory and that is when Mama's infant died or if Angie died prior to the attack. It is a great loss for conservation since females are the future. We are hoping that Mama will conceive again soon and have another daughter who will survive until adulthood.

Next release group:

In 2011 six additional chimpanzees will be added to the current five adults that are being monitored. There will be three adult males and three adult females. Two of the females are cycling while the other one has a 3 year old female offspring.

Out of the tree males, Rappa was part of the first release and was brought back to the center after being wounded while in the cage after the reunification of the three released males in 2009. Now that he is older and has grown some more, we believe that he is fit to reintegrate the group. The second male, Bobo is 16 years old. He was judged unfit to be released 3 years ago since he was too humanized. He has changed and had grown more independent. He is the biggest chimpanzee of the CCC and having such a big male as a backup for Robert and Albert will definitely improve their confidence in expanding their territories. Bobo was rehabilitated with these males, so they are very familiar with each other. The third male, Mike is 13 years old. At the CCC we joke he is "Swiss" since he is a very neutral chimpanzee but he also knows how to gain the respect of others and has a fairly good rank in his group. The three new males have a good cohesion and get along well together. Mike is the only one who has never lived with Robert and two of the females but he was part of Albert's group years ago. We believe that it shouldn't be a problem for him to integrate the group.

2011 will be a challenging year and we all hope this new release will bring more cohesion and strength to the actual group and that the presence of our monitoring teams will help again to protect the core area of the National Park.

PROJET PRIMATES FRANCE – CCC COLLABORATION IN 2010

- Financially, PPF managed to raise funds for some of the CCC's running costs and for its education program thanks to :
 - **Support from several foundations in France.** **Fondation Brigitte Bardot** renewed its trust in PPF and CCC's activities; **Fondation Le Pal Nature** decided to become a permanent partner of PPF and CCC;
 - **PPF** also raised funds for the CCC during conferences, talks and exhibitions in France and Belgium. The PPF team additionally put in place an adoption scheme of the chimpanzees cared for at the sanctuary.
- **PPF** helped the CCC find and select about 15 expatriate volunteers to go and help the CCC in its daily activities.
- **PPF** helped the CCC secure equipment and veterinarian supplies for the chimpanzees through donations or purchases.
- **PPF** also helped promote CCC's activities through the CCC's Facebook page.



CCC, PPI and PPF funders:

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

- ✓ The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)
- ✓ US Fish and Wildlife services
- ✓ Edith J. Goode Trust
- ✓ ARCUS Foundation
- ✓ IPPL USA
- ✓ Tusk Trust
- ✓ IFAW
- ✓ Wildlife Direct
- ✓ Fondation Le Pal Nature
- ✓ Fondation Brigitte Bardot
- ✓ IPPL UK
- ✓ Private donors in the USA, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Australia, UK, etc.

We warmly thank all of you and we hope you will be by our side for the coming years.