



ANNUAL REPORT

CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER

2011

Letter from the Director:

After looking at the 2010 annual report, I'm noticing that for the last couple of years, I've been writing it in March, so I guess I'm not "late" this year! I'm really sorry if you've been waiting for the report since January. The beginning of the year is always very hectic in Guinea with the bush fires, the roof changes, the Parc protection etc... that said, the CCC is always busy!

This year we've struggled a lot trying to keep the chimps in their fence... They seem to always be a step ahead of us. I hope that in the 2013 report I'll be able to tell you that the new fences are working like a charm and that they don't escape ALL the time.

I'm really glad that I hadn't had to write any tributes although we're saddened by the disappearance of two offspring: one from Mama in February 2011; and one from Lottie in March 2012, two of the released females.

In 2011, we've strengthen our ties with the government of Guinea. The new government seems really committed on making a difference and their donation of a vehicle in March shows their concern. We're hoping that our positive relationship will continue to grow.

You will notice in the financial report that we've spent (and raised) more funds than in previous years. Unfortunately, the oil price crisis has also hit Guinea and the price of fuel has nearly doubled, hence the cost of all goods has increased. We've had to raise CCC staff salaries so that they may keep up with the cost of living. In the meantime, the dollar and euro exchange rates have weakened, so we are getting less for our buck!

We're already working on a shoe string budget but unfortunately, with the arrival of three new orphans this year, cutting down the education or the protection program would be counterproductive.

Guinea is also under investigation by CITES for illegal export of chimpanzees to China. The investigation is on hold right now, but we may need to make room for returned chimpanzees in the near future. Guinea is working on cleaning up their house and hopefully, things will change.

With the arrival of a second manager, I've been able to spend more time in Conakry, making contacts and working with the Environment Minister. This new working relationship has been beneficial to conservation in Guinea in general and to the CCC in particular.

I'd like to end by thanking all of you for the trust you've placed in us and for your support. The CCC is open for visits if you wish. We'd love to show you how your grants are being spent and how beautiful and happy (and free) are our chimpanzees.



Executive Summary

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 (the largest wild chimpanzee population in Guinea) and continue our education and awareness program.

Legal entities of the CCC:

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 Inc.(PPI) 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 center to expand in 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 monitoring five of them via their VHF collars.

Projet Primates France (PPF) is a French association (loi 1901) dedicated to the protection and conservation of great apes, chiefly through the support and release of chimpanzees who have been orphaned, and through public education and sensitization in Francophone countries in Europe. PPF is incorporated in Challes les Eaux.

PPF managed to raise funds for some of the CCC's operating costs and for its education program thanks to grants, Sponsor a Chimp Program and conferences. PPF also helps in recruiting expatriate volunteers to come and help the CCC in its daily activities.

This year, PPF was been particularly involved in gathering donations and coordinating sending a shipping container full of supplies to Guinea.

Organizational chart

PPI Board of Directors:

President: Estelle Raballand

Secretary: Jill Perott

Treasurer: Tricia Gillett

Accountant: Tony Ruzicka

PPF Board of Directors:

President: DMV. Christelle Colin

Secretary: Isabelle Heuchamps

Treasurer: DMV. Melanie Pignorel

CCC mangement:

Director: Estelle Raballand

Manager: Mathieu Laurans

Junior Manager: Celine Danaud



The CCC is one of the most cost efficient sanctuaries in the world, averaging \$3,000 a year per chimp including release and less than 8% overhead cost.

The Chimpanzees

Present population (as of March 1st 2012)

At the sanctuary: (ages approximate)

Baby: 1 female less than a year old

TDT: 3 chimpanzees from 1 ½ years old to 4 years old

Nursery group: 8 chimpanzees from 5 years old to 7 years old

Youngster group: 8 chimpanzees from 5 years old to 9 years old

Older group: In integration: 3 chimpanzees from 8 to 10 years old

One male separate from the group, 18 years old

Two groups: 3 chimpanzees from 11 years old to 15 years old

11 chimpanzees from 4 years old to 16 years old

Other group: Coco (male) 32 years old and Zoe (female) 13 years old.



Nursery group near the water



Youngsters group in the bush

Released chimpanzees:

We're currently tracking two males (18 years old and 24 years old) and five females (13 years old to 21 years old) two with offspring (3 years old and 2 years old).

We had no sightings or reports on the four chimpanzees that were released and integrated with the wild chimpanzees' group (one female confirmed with the wild group in 2010).



Albert, the dominante male



Robert, Lola and Siala



Mama

In the chimpanzees' world this year at the sanctuary:

TDT (Tango-Demu-Tya):

With the arrivals of Tya in January 2011 and Demu in April, a new baby quarantine group was created. Tango had been integrated with the nursery group in 2010, and then moved with Demu and Tya in May 2011. In the nursery group, he had been “adopted” by Hakim but as Tango grew, it became harder and harder for Hakim to carry him. Other chimps tried to take on the role of surrogate mother, but Hakim was really possessive. Tango became insecure and we decided to move him to a group of chimpanzees closer to him in age.

Demu, who was capture at an “older” age is a “real” chimpanzee and a great professor. She's helping Tya and Tango get to know the forest. They go on bush walks every day, for at least 7 hours a day.



Nursery:

At the end of 2011, the nursery group was composed of Habou, Hakim, Panza, Kirikou, Douma, Flo, Lily, and Ama. At the beginning of the year, Tango was also in this group until he was moved to the TDT. Habou, now a teenager, was becoming increasingly difficult to handle during bush walks. He was moved with Oga in January 2012 next to Rocky's group. This year, we're planning on expanding and reinforcing the youngsters' annex cage so we can move him next to the youngsters and try to integrate him with a group closer to him in age.

They're going on bush walks with a volunteer and one or two keepers, but the return is usually epic! They're staying more and more in their fence to limit our contact with them, but it doesn't always work! This year, Ama and Douma are imitating the youngsters by using sticks and branches that they put between the lines. Then they pull on the fence to create a passage. (It's a two persons' job but they're great at that!). Hence we had to stay around the fence to prevent them from escaping. Thanks to the Arcus Foundation this fence will be rebuilt this year.



Ama and Douma who carries Tango



Hakim and Panza

Youngsters:

The "youngsters" group is composed of 8 chimpanzees. Three females (Veve, Kindie and Kumba) and one male (Oga) were moved to the big guys group this year. It was clear that they wanted to be with the older chimps and escaped all the time from their fence or during the bush walks.

So we were hoping that with 4 less chimps, they would be easier to maintain in their fence (they have the same technique as the nursery group!) but no. We can't wait to have the new, more solid fence. We go on bush walks with them a couple of times a week, but actually, we basically just following them! They spend most of their time in the trees! Once again in this group the dominant is a female, Louna. It seems to be common in this group, but there are 5 males waiting to take her place!



Louna



Vévé



Oga



Koumba and Kindy

Adult Groups

Adult groups

There are currently 2 groups of adults: We introduced Veve, Kindie, Kumba, and Oga (when he hasn't gone through the fence to visit next door!) to create the largest group. It has 4 males and 5 females (not counting the new chimps) with one offspring. The baby is now 2 years old and was born from the wild chimpanzee who "adopted" this group as her own in 2009.

The second group has 3 chimps (2 males and one female). We keep moving chimps from one group to the next and in the hope that we'll eventually be able to create one big group. But Rocky, the dominant male of this group is very scared of Ced, the dominant male of the other group.

Bobo, a male, is by himself in a different cage, but next to the others because is an escape artist and refuses to stay in either group. He was part of the release program in 2011, but he was chased away by the females and we had to bring him back to the sanctuary.



Mike and Ced



Bobo



Moka, Rocky and Nimba

Coco and Zoe:

Coco lives by himself, but next to Zoe. He doesn't have access to his fence anymore because he likes to live at camp with the staff. He often escapes to spend time at the camp and we couldn't just bring him back. He's our oldest chimp and before coming to the CCC was held alone in captivity for nearly 20 years. This year, he was attacked by bees and stung at least 1000 times. He became really sick and it's a miracle that he managed to survive. We had to put him on an IV more than once. Luckily, Coco is very patient with the humans that he likes, although he lost his cool a couple of times because we were forcing him to drink, eat and take his meds. He's now eating and drinking normally. He's lost a lot of weight and is allergic to bees, which is problematic because he still eats them when he can catch one!



Coco a few days after the attack



Coco, now

We have a proposal pending with Sea World and Bush Gardens to expend his living quarters and creating a safe “play area” where he could meet with Zoe for play time!

Zoe was really sweet with Coco during his ordeal and their relationship has evolved a little bit. They play together sometimes, but she likes to be on her own a lot as well since she also lived alone for over 1 year. With the new cage, we're hoping they'll become closer. It would be good for Zoe since in the near future we've been thinking of introducing her to the other chimps. She has had good contact with the youngsters and the nursery when they pop in to say hello during their escapes!



Zoé in her enclosure

New Arrivals

Tya

Tya arrived at the CCC in January. She was living with a Russian expatriate in Conakry. A friend of the project convinced the “owner” to give her up to the CCC, without our knowledge. Unfortunately once we heard about it, it was too late to prosecute the owner.



Tya upon her arrival

When she arrived she was in fairly good condition. She has a very strong personality and despite the fact that she's the youngest one in the TDT group, she holds her ground very well. If she doesn't get her way, she starts crying and Demu and/or Tango rush towards her.



Tya, now

Demu

Demu is an amazing little girl. She was confiscated by the authorities in the Fouta Djallon from a woman who was dealing in baby chimps. The woman was arrested and spent a week in prison. When Demu arrived she had many “collars” around her neck and wouldn't let anyone touch them. It took weeks for her to let us take them off. She was captured at a later age and she knows the forest very well. It took her a while to adjust to the sanctuary, coming to peoples' arms and to other chimps, but she's not well adjusted. She's still very cautious of humans and we haven't been able to get her to take medicine. We're “training” her to accept taking medicine.



Demu upon her arrival



Demu, now

Leonie

Leonie arrived at the CCC mid-December. She comes from Sierra Leone (hence her name!) and is about 9-10 months old. She was confiscated at the border by a Guinean military officer from a Leonian military officer, then the wildlife authorities from Kindia, confiscated her. The Guinean military officer was arrested.

When she arrived she had wounds on her head and couldn't move her right leg and arm. She was really weak as well. Two weeks after her arrival, an abscess on her head was pierced and she recovered almost 100% mobility of her arm. She had started using her leg when she became stronger. She has started to climb (up to 1 meter!). She continues under 24-hour care, but we're confident that she's on her way to full recovery. She's a tenacious, lively girl and will probably grow into a very tough female.



Veterinary issues:

Max's eye

In August, one afternoon during feeding time, we found Max with a huge wound on his left eye. We think that another chimp scratched it and removed part of his cornea. It was really painful but he let us treat him. We had to put eye ointment, drops etc... every hour for many days. Eventually the swelling went down and a scar formed on his eye. The scar is still there and won't disappear. It's impairing his vision but it doesn't stop him from escaping from the fence, at any time of the day and night and going into volunteers' beds!



Kumba amputation

Mid-January, some adults escaped after a tree fell on the fence. One of them, Mike jumped into the youngsters' fence. Kumba, at the time was still in this group, attacked him (she's 5 years old!). Mike attacked her back and wounded her on her left arm and hand. Kindie, her surrogate mom, took her out of the fence and they were found in the middle of night (once everybody was back in) sleeping in a volunteer bed. The next day, Carole Geernaert, took care of her wounds but unfortunately, had to amputate 2 fingers. She recovered very well and very quickly. She's not fully healed, but can use her hand and climb trees without problem.



Just after the amputation

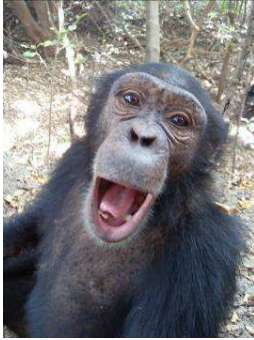


Just 3 weeks after



Cold and Flu

This year we had a massive outbreak of cold and flu again at the beginning of the dry season (November to January) due to very cold nights and hot days! All the chimps were sick. In the nursery group, Panza and Kirikou were the most sick; in the youngsters group Shelley and Dan; and in the adults group Charlotte and Sita. We had to separate them to monitor them and force them to drink and take their medicines. It was a little hectic and thankfully Dan is still small, because he was the worst and had to be forced. It was a really close call for Dan and Shelley. They're now fully recovered but we were very worried for a couple of weeks.



Dan



Shelley

Bees attack on Coco

In July, a thousand bees attacked Coco. After weeks of trying everything to get him to drink and eat, at least a little bit, and putting him on an IV drip. One day, his veins were bursting and we couldn't find access anymore. We thought it was the end. But after he agreed to take an antacid, he agreed to drink a little. We stayed with him in the cage or outside the cage for weeks. One evening while he was recovering, but still very sick, we went to check on him and found a sea of Magnan ants in his cage. These ants are very dangerous, they bite really hard and eat flesh (usually small insects but they can attack and eat squirrels and mice as well). We opened the door to get him out and brought him to our camp. We had to carry him as he was too weak to walk. It was quite funny since he gave his hands to the director and a volunteer and would put his feet up so we were not dragging him!. Then we changed technique and each person would hold one arm and one leg, so coco was lying flat on his back quite happily! We made him an outdoor pen with leaves and blankets. He stayed for 2 weeks. It gave him time to fully recover as well. He loved living so close to us. It was also a great deterrent for our escape artists who are in the habit of coming to the camp! They stayed away for as long as Coco was at camp.



Coco plays



Coco eats in his tree

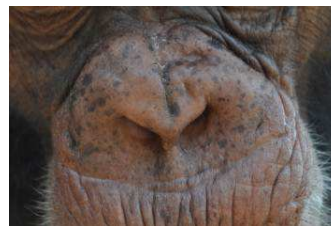
Ama and Nursery group

At the beginning of 2011, we had started to treat for Gundun, a syphilis-like disease that creates a growth on the side of the nose in gorillas. The treatment seems to have worked with all the chimps, except Ama. For her, the growths are still growing although not as fast. We repeated the treatment twice this year. It consists of a single dose of penicillin or a 10 days course of Doxycycline.



Louna's nose

In January, Louna in the youngsters group had a growth on the side of her nostril. We waited a couple of days, thinking maybe she got stung. The growth didn't go down and actually kept growing. We had a similar situation with Fatim, who developed a growth on her neck two years ago, so we decided to start anti-fungal medication as soon as possible. The volunteers and the veterinarians did a great job on sending the Fluconazole to the CCC quickly. We started her treatment at the beginning of March. The treatment lasted for 3 months. She's fully recovered. Fatim's death had been very sad for us but it makes us happy to know that she had not died in vain. Louna, who was her best friend, was saved thanks to Fatim.



Luna's nose

Wire around fingers

After the game "let's put a hard nut up my nose" (and have my human slaves anesthetize me to take it out) which was a hit in 2010; they're now playing "let's tie my finger with a metal wire" (and can't take it off so my finger gets swollen and painful and my human caretakers must anesthetize me to take it off). We had 3 winners this year: Louna, Chloe (who did it twice!) and Shelley. Who said chimps were smart? Let's hope this game will not be replaced by something even less smart and more dangerous!

What's new at the CCC:

Infrastructure:

New sliding doors for Coco and Zoe

Coco and Zoe are sharing a cage. Each has a side of the cage. Zoe occupies the right side because it has a sliding door that opens into the electrical fence. When we clean the cage, Zoe stay outside, and Coco goes to Zoe's cage. Up to this point, no problem. It gets more complicated when Coco doesn't want to go back to his side...and no amount of bribery or supplication will make him move. So Zoe is stuck outside. She gets impatient and throws sticks at the fence, creating shorts etc...

So this year, in order for Coco (and Zoe) to have what they both want, we've made a sliding door in the left cage, so Coco can chose where he wants to stay and Zoe can still come in the cage! Everybody wins including us!

New bedrooms and office

All the CCC's staff infrastructure is made with local materials. The new administrative building is finished! The roof leaked for months because the sides were raised and we also had to put a tarp under the roof. The new office and the two bedrooms are all set and we appreciate having this extra space as well.



New roofs

Every year we have to either reinforce or replace the matted roofs of the huts at camp. This year we hired five 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). This year, we've tried a new technique that was more expensive and takes longer, but is supposed to last 5 years! Instead of just putting the straw on the roof, they weave it. We've tried this with 2 huts and if it works, next dry season we'll replace most of the roofs.



VHF radio

Since the creation of the release camp in Bakaria, we've been communicating between both camps via VHF radios. This year, the radios have had serious problems. We bought new radios, since the old ones were 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. We would like to re-establish the radio link since there is none. Instead, we have had to use the satellite phones to communicate at fixed hours. The lack of radios explains the high satellite phone bills that we've had this year. We're doing our very best to fix the communication problem as quickly as possible, but every time there's an issue, we have had to bring the broken devices to Conakry (15 hours away). We bought new batteries, new controllers, we attached the antenna higher and changed it in Somoria... Still we're struggling and it isn't reliable. The specialists in Conakry are telling us that we should buy a radio relay but that is an expense we can't afford.

Fire break

The dry season is a very busy time of the year. For protection against bushfires, we have to cut fire breaks all around camp, fences, and solar pump... We hired local villagers from the closest village (Sambouyah). In order to accomplish the work quickly, we usually hire about 10 people. We started the fire break in December but it's a big job that goes on until February. Unfortunately fire breaks weren't enough and again this year we had to make counter fire to fight the fire more than once to protect Somoria camp and Bakaria camp. At the release site, a bush fire went through the release area (and very close to our camp as well). The fire burned for a week and destroyed a lot. So in January 2012, we burned the biggest savanna at the release site earlier in the season, so that when a bush fire comes later in the season it won't spread as far. The dry season is always a hard time for animals but bush fires make it worse. It's really sad to see everything burned and despite all the fire breaks, every dry season, we have to stop bushfires ignited by poachers along our firebreaks. Unfortunately, so far we haven't won the

battle against bush fire. It is one of the major concerns of the Environment Ministry, so hopefully things will change, otherwise, Guinea will basically go up in flames.



Electrical fence

We have only made repairs this year, but this coming year we'll be able to rebuild the youngsters and the nursery fences. All the materials were bought in France and shipped to Guinea in the shipping container, thanks to a grant from the Arcus Foundation. The transport was provided by la Fondation le PAL.

We have bought metal posts this time so that termites can't eat them...termites are not so tough! The work is starting as I'm writing this report and we're expecting that it'll take 3 months.



Vehicle

At the beginning of 2011, both cars broke down. We tried repairing the Pajero but it was beyond repair. The pick-up needed extensive work so we had to rent a vehicle for a couple of weeks. It was really expensive and not safe not to go without a vehicle at camp. The director went to Conakry, to the Minister's office, and begged for help. He decided to buy us a used Mitsubishi pick-up truck and saved the project!

He delivered it on March 6th with about 50 people including a TV crew! It was a great day for all of us and great recognition of our work. The truck needed some repairs, but it's still going strong! The chimpanzees mostly behaved well, except for Bobo who threw feces, but luckily the person targeted

thought it was bananas and Zoe who kept calling people from her tree by throwing kisses and clapping her hands. She was a great hit on national TV.



Veterinary room

Our vet room is now absolutely amazing! Thanks to a volunteer's dad, Mr. Ravaux, who built pharmacy cabinets. Everything arrived in the container and Dr. Geernaert and Ms. Danaud (the manager) spent days cleaning up the old trunks and setting up the new furniture. It's very easy to access all the meds now and it looks great.



New boat motor

This summer one of our boat motors died. We took it to Conakry to get it fixed but the repair guy showed us that too many bad repairs had made it unusable. He bought it back from us for parts and had to buy a new one. It's a used Evinrude 25-HP. It had a couple of cracks at the beginning from the oil quality (although we had bought it from a specialized dealer!) but it's fine now. We need a good working motor because during the rainy season the only way to go from Somoria to Bakaria is by boat.

Shipping container

The shipping container was one of our biggest accomplishments in France and in Guinea. It took months for returned volunteers to find and store all the donations, equipment, clothes etc... Then a truck was rented and all the donations were collected and dropped off at the Le PAL. Le PAL is a zoo that has been a partner to the CCC for 3 years now. The shipping container was loaded at the end of October. Arrival in Guinea was delayed by three weeks. The additional three week delay made it possible to get

most of the paper work done in Conakry on time. Getting a container out of the port, tax-free, is almost impossible and you have to be a master of patience. We've counted a total of 52 stamps and signatures on our file! So many hoops to jump through, but thanks to a letter from the Environment Ministry, we managed to get the shipment out, fully exempt of all taxes and fees. We only had to pay port fees and offloading. The transport and the fuel needed for the truck were paid for by Hyperdynamics, a company based in Guinea, and Transco, a transport company working in Guinea. It took over three days to reach the CCC and it was a 10 person job, cutting branches and bamboo to clear the road. We had to spend one night in the bush next to the truck. The driver wasn't really happy about that but there was no way around it! When we safely reached Somoria, on December 18th it was a relief for everyone!



Community development

In the shipping container there were tons of donated clothing, about 50 boxes of school books and a lot of medical equipment. All of the donations were distributed in villages around the Parc. An official donation was made to the hospital in Faranah, two emergency machines.

This year we continued to provide medical care. We had two emergencies, two young girls were burned falling into a pot of hot water two months apart.

We also provided a week of reproductive health and hygiene education sessions to two villages. The education sessions were made by one our volunteer who is a certified nurse. We are always willing to help women who wish to start using birth control.

Also, we continue to provide loans and support in times of personal crises (funeral, fire, drought...).

This year, we're hoping that the two schools will be ready; however it depends on getting a teacher that was promised by the Education Ministry.

Education program

Thanks to a grant from la Fondation Nature et Decouverte, we've reprinted stickers.

Using these materials, our educator traveled to villages around the Parc to sensitize local population regarding protecting not only chimpanzees but also all wildlife and the forest as well. We've also started to sensitize about human-animal conflicts. A lot more still needs to be done on this subject. As more and more mining companies appear, animal habitats are shrinking tremendously. The Parc is one of the last vestiges of the Guinean's forest.



Ibbo, the CCC educator



Protection of the Park National du Haut Niger

This year the Bataillon Autonome de Faranah, dispatched 8 military soldiers for the Parc protection. They've spent over 4 months in the bush, going on patrols and checking the boundaries. Unfortunately in 2011, commercial fishing was permitted. It was allowed under strict rules, but the military personnel couldn't control everyone and their nets. The situation got out of control and in the end, the fishing season was cut short by a month. Also, the fishermen tried to sneak into a protected area in the middle of the Parc where the chimps are released and the soldiers had to sleep by the river bank to keep watch. The soldiers made a couple of warning arrests for carrying guns. We know that the fishermen are the biggest poachers as well and responsible for setting bush fires. This year they almost burned down our release camp. It wasn't intentional but they set fire to all unburned areas. This year, we purposely kept an area close to us unburned and thanks to the fire break, we managed to contain the blaze, but everything close to the camp was burned to the ground.



A poacher with his guns arrested by the military

Scientific research

Survey Transects

Every year since 2007, we conduct transects in the release area for 2-3 months. This year they were done by two volunteers, Mr. Alex Dupeyras and Ms. Lucie Ravaux. All the data are being processed by our scientific adviser, Dr. Tatyana Humle, Lecturer at the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology, School of Anthropology, University of Kent (UK). These data are used to evaluate the release program's impact on wildlife, especially big mammals and chimpanzees. It seems from the observation and the first data set that big game have come back to the area. We had sightings of Oribis (*Oribis Oribis*) which we had thought to have disappeared five years ago. We also saw a troop of 10-15 buffalo, a rare sight in Guinea. Usually, when they are spotted, there are only one or two. The data will be used in a scientific article.



Training course

The CCC received Mr. Henry Camara, field assistant at Bossou, the field site study of wild chimpanzees in southern Guinea. He has been studying at the Forestry School of Mamou for two years and he had to go on a training course. As he knows Dr. Humle, with whom he has been working for several years in Bossou, he asked to make his course with us. He conducted a short study of natural plants consumed by the babies group and made a herbarium of wild plants consumed by the CCC chimpanzees, with the help of the CCC keepers. Both Mr. Camara and the CCC keepers enjoyed this experience and benefited from knowledge sharing.



French Vet Students

The CCC agreed to welcome 3 French vet students from the National Veterinary School of Maisons-Alfort, in Paris, for a training course in June and July. The 3 young women conducted coprology study of all the chimpanzees in the sanctuary and even on the group of released chimpanzees. This work helped us a lot, especially for the preparation of the 2nd release group. Nothing abnormal was found, but some chimpanzees were dewormed and the students made control coprology study afterwards. They also discovered sanctuary life and helped us with a lot of daily activities. They especially enjoyed going on walks with the babies group! As this partnership was a complete success, we have decided to renew the experience for June and July 2012.



The students working

Bush meat survey

In order to evaluate our protection program, a bush meat survey was started in 2011 with a Guinean student, Mr. Alexandre Konate. Mr. Konate came to us to conduct surveys on wildlife in the Parc for his Master's. We found him to be very motivated and efficient. We've decided to sponsor him to collect information on bush meat. He goes to three villages market and monitors the bush meat market in Faranah. He records the specie as well as the quantity. He's conducting the study in both seasons so we can compare season variability. We'll compare his data to the data we have from previous studies conducted in 1999 and 2002 by Ziegler and Brugiere. Hopefully, the study will show that there has been a decrease in bush meat, especially in chimpanzees, due to our education and our protection programs.

Workshops

PASA manager workshop in Port Lympe, England

The annual PASA Manager workshop was held the first week of May. We were hosted by the Aspinall Foundation which has PASA sanctuaries for gorillas in Congo and Gabon.

Estelle Raballand, the director, represented the CCC. It was an intense 4 day workshop, as usual with a different format and more closed sessions. Ms. Raballand gave a talk on the release program and its challenges. Ms. Raballand is also an advisory member of PASA.

It was an opportunity to share experiences among managers but also to talk and meet funders. Ms. Annett Landjoun from the Arcus foundation gave a very interesting speech on what funders need and want. Thanks to the meeting, Ms. Raballand got back in touch with Ing-Marie Piersen from the Swedish Chimpanzees Trust. The SCT had helped in the past and in 2011, they gave the CCC a grant of 10,000 Swedish kronas.

We were also introduced to a new concept, Rivus TV as a mean to fundraise using our videos by making viewer pay a small amount 1\$-2\$ to watch our chimps video. We've set up a Rivus TV link and video player on the PPF website. We're planning on extending this concept.

During the workshop all sanctuaries were honored and accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuary.



PASA veterinary workshop in Uganda

The 2011 Veterinary Healthcare Workshop was hosted by the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust, in Entebbe, Uganda, from the 14th to the 17th of November 2011.

Christelle Colin, one of the CCC vet advisors, represented the sanctuary and was scientific program coordinator of the workshop along with Steve Unwin.

For the first time, all the PASA sanctuaries were represented and other attendees come from Universities and zoos in Europe, Canada and USA joined other partners from African conservation NGOs to make this workshop a success!

Three days were dedicated to theoretical sessions: experts made presentations about disease risk analysis and outbreak, primate contraception, quarantine procedure and record keeping, viral pathogen screening, sample collection and preservation, parasite imaging to review parasite identification, field diagnostic, etc. Some time was spent as well discussing the PASA Vet Strategy.

A whole morning was dedicated to primate pathology with particular reference to gorilla and other apes, thanks to specialists John and Margaret Cooper.

Different case studies sessions allowed the sanctuaries' vets to present clinical cases they faced: a lot of practical and constructive discussions followed, allowing everybody to share their experience and knowledge.

Christelle Colin presented an update on the CCC release.

As usual in a PASA Vet Workshop, a day was dedicated to practical sessions: all the attendees spent a day at N'Gamba Island Sanctuary. They visited the sanctuary, met the team and the chimpanzees!

Despite the workshop being shorter than usual, it was a great success.

Every year, all the vets appreciate meeting and speaking with their colleagues about their daily work!



Media:

This year we had two reports done by two different TV stations. The first one was from the national television, RTG and the second one was from a private TV called TV evasion.

Both reports were aired and we had a very good feedback.

Visits:

In March, the Jane Goodall Institute- Spain, representative came to the project with a Spanish researcher working in Senegal. She brought 3 trackers with her so they could see chimpanzees and understand them better. It was a very productive visit as she made a list of plants eaten by chimpanzees in the different study sites, including in Senegal so we can compare our chimpanzees feeding habits to others.

Mid-March, Christophe Boesch with Sebastien Renaud from the Wild Chimpanzee Fund, came to visit the CCC. They got lost in the Parc and walked all the way to the release site. Hopefully they found us. They were assessing the possibility of opening a study site in the PNHN. We had advised them to go to the east side of the PNHN, where we don't have many activities so it would protect the area better. The director and Dr. Boesch talked a lot about the necessity for collaboration.

A team of two people from Google earth came to take the GPS coordinates for the project and the PNHN. They've also created a link to our web site.

We had about 150 visitors this year, which is more than previously. It might be due to the political stability of Guinea. The visitors pay a small fee to see the chimpanzees but it's stressful for the chimpanzees and we sometimes have to refuse visitor access for safety reasons.

Staff

Local Staff

Currently we have 13 local staff for both sites. We have 8 keepers, 1 educator/keeper, 1 boat driver, 2 drivers (cars) and 1 camp assistant in Bakaria.

This year we hired three new keepers, Sekou, Amadou and Kemo. Kemo and Amadou come from Faranah, the closest city to the CCC and Sekou comes from Sambouyah , the closest village.

Sekou has a strong personality and the chimps like him a lot. Amadou is more gentle, as well as Kemo. Kemo is working hard and progressing really well with the chimpanzees.

We rehired Issa this year as well. He had been let go for bad behavior. His time away from the project (over a year) has been very beneficial. His attitude has changed a lot and he's really glad to be back.



Amadou



Sekou



Kemo

To help us during the release, we took another keeper back on contract for 3 months. Thierno was a keeper for 5 years. He left and he's now a taxi driver in Conakry. He had wanted to come back for a while and since we needed the extra help, we took him back for this period. He helped the other keepers

a lot and the chimps, who hadn't seen him for over a year, were really happy to see him back. He got loads of grooming sessions!

Expatriate Staff and volunteers

The management staff has grown. We now have two managers and a director. Both managers are French, Mr. Matthieu Laurans who's been a manager now for 2 years, after volunteering for 6 months and Ms. Celine Danaud, who has volunteered twice and returned to be a manager. The end of 2011 was her first round and she did very well.

Having two managers allows the director to handle more of the administrative duties, government relation and fundraising.

This year we've also hired a protection manager for Bakaria. Mr. Raphael Casta has been a volunteer three times and has come back in December for another 6 months as a manager.



Ms. Raballand



Mr. Laurans



Ms. Danaud



Mr. Casta

In total we had over 25 expatriate volunteers in 2011. We're very grateful for their help. We've had very good volunteers who really embraced the project and gave it their all. Volunteering tends to be a life changing experience and a lot of volunteers come back. Their contributions compensate our volunteer expenses.

We would like to lower the number of volunteers in the future and increase the number of local staff.



RELEASE PROJECT (up to March 2012)

We had quite a year during the release project. At the beginning of the year we were sad to find Mama without her infant female, Angie. Mama had wounds all over her body that could have been due to an attack by baboons. As this report is written we've seen that Lottie has also lost her son, Jackson, and has sustained the same kind of injuries as Mama. On a more positive note, Mama is now with another baby girl. We named her Niama. In the wild there is a 40% mortality rate of offspring. We're hoping that

Mama will be able to raise this little girl safely, but unfortunately it's all part of the release experience. It's not easy on the chimpanzees, no matter how well they were prepared. With the extensive protection of the Parc, other wildlife has also boomed and the chimps are living in an area where there is a lot of wildlife.

This summer, we changed the collars of five individuals who were part of the first release thanks to a grant from the TUSK trust. We added four new chimps to the five we continue to track from the first release in 2008. We wanted to reinforce the group since it was too small and we only had two adult males. The males were Bobo and Rappa. As for the females, we added Annie, Lola and her daughter Siala who is 4 years old.

Four males and Annie were fitted with Argos/GPS/VHF collars. Three females from the first release were fitted with VHF collars and Lola was fitted with a GPS store on board/VHF collars.



We introduced the four new chimps to the five in the cage at the release site. They hadn't seen each other for 3 years and Annie didn't know the first group. They stayed side by side at first then we integrated them all together. They were released together on August 5th. This year we had decided not to have any contact with them, but they decided otherwise!

After the release, a couple of days later, the four males left the females to go check on their territory. Something must have happened, maybe a wild chimp group attack, but they all split. The Argos system wasn't really working due to the weather condition (rainy season) so we had to walk all over the Parc with our antenna to find them. Robert was the easiest to find, since he went back towards the river. We brought him back with the females. Then we found Bobo, who actually stayed exactly where they had split!. When we brought him back to the females and Robert, the females chased him away. We tried a couple of times but it didn't work. Robert was quite happy to have him but the three females from the first release weren't.

Albert and Rappa weren't together but they both went to the east side of the Parc, like they did in 2008. We brought Albert first, who had no problem rejoining his group. When we brought Rappa, we were counting on a male coalition...but no, the females chased Rappa away. Both Bobo and Rappa stayed in the vicinity of the group.

We waited and hoped for their integration but after 1 month or running after them, each time they were chased, we decided to bring them back to the sanctuary. Bobo was brought back to Somoria on August 25th and Rappa on September 17th.

We were really disappointed but we're not giving up. We're not planning on adding chimps this year but we will add more males in 2013.



Rappa, released

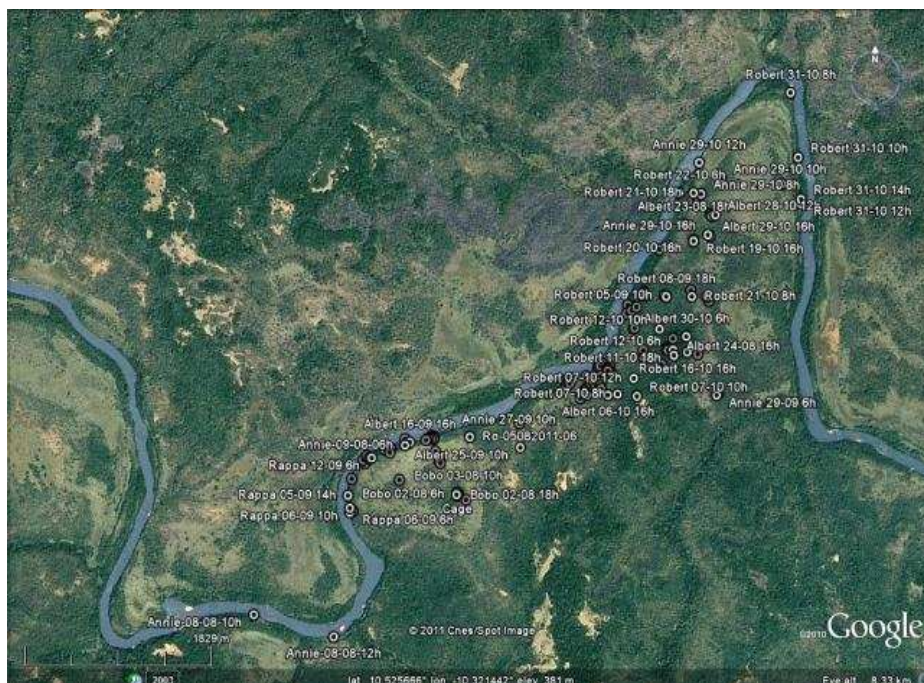


Rappa's return

The new females struggled a little to fit in. Annie was only accepted after the males were back with the three females (Lottie, Mama and Nanou). She doesn't stay with the group all the time, but the males like her a lot. She's a young female (about 12 years old), hence very attractive sexually! She left the group in November and got lost. Thanks to her Argos collar, we managed to find her over 30 kilometers from the release site on the west side of the Parc. She had left the full protected area and was close to a village. Thanks to the sensitization education we have provided over the years, the villagers were very nice and helpful. It took 3 days to bring her back. We couldn't make her walk the whole trip so once we got her close to the car; we anesthetized her lightly and put her in a transport cage. Once she got close to the release area and she recognized the forest, she ran towards the other chimps. She hasn't left again since then. She's in great shape and knows how to feed herself very well. We were hoping that she would integrate with a group of wild chimps but she seems to have settled with this group now. It's a good booster for the release chimps since she's the most "wild" of the group and she's probably teaching them what to eat and where to find it.



Lola spends a lot of time on her own with her daughter Siala. She comes and goes with the others. Although she has good interaction with Lottie, who had Jackson, she doesn't seem to want to have too much interaction with the others and is quite happy on her own. She and her daughter are both healthy.



Satellite map with GPS points of the chimpanzees followed with Argos system



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