

ANNUAL REPORT

CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER
(GUINEA)

2012

Letter from the director:



Another year has passed. We're back with new adventures, happy news and sad news...and once again I'm late in sending you this report!

As you'll read, the beginning of the year 2013 was a bit hectic at the CCC so I was unable to take the time to write. But here it is, finally... I'd like to thank all the funders who, once again, trusted the CCC and showed us that they believe in our work by funding our activities, some of you for many years. We are proud to be your grantees.

I want to thank the two managers Mathieu Laurans and Céline Danaud (and volunteers) who are the hands and feet of the CCC. The PPI, PPF and PPGui volunteers who take time in their lives to make sure the CCC can keep running, even when things are difficult on the ground. I want to give a special thanks to Christelle Colin, without her, we would be lost!

Thank you to the Guinean government for their patience with our demands and trying to resolve our endless problems. Although Guinea doesn't currently have a good international image because of the imposed CITES trade sanction following the last Conference of Parties meeting in Bangkok, the government has always been collaborative and supportive of the CCC. I regret that China was not punished and I think Guinea will do anything it can to clean up the trade in Guinea. The CCC will help the government as much as possible to accomplish its goals.

And of course, my thoughts (and thanks, in a way) go to the chimps who are the soul of the CCC and even if sometimes they can make you so mad and can be so annoying, are also so amazing and precious that you remember why you're have made this choice of life and career. All of us are better persons by protecting and knowing them.

Thank you again and I'll try my hardest to be "on time" next year!

Happy reading.

Estelle Raballand

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 a second group of CCC chimpanzees into the wild, protect the chimpanzee populations 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 is working to secure the future of the Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC), a chimpanzee rehabilitation sanctuary, which is currently home to 42 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 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. Another three females were released. To this date, the CCC is monitoring seven of them via their VHF collars and Argos ballast for the males.

Projet Primates France 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 running costs and for its education program thanks to grants, a sponsor a chimp program and conferences. PPI also helps in recruiting expatriate volunteers to come and help the CCC in its daily activities.

Association Projet Primates Guinee was created in September 2012. Its headquarters are in Conakry. PPGui hasn't been granted tax exemption yet but we're working on it. PPGui will be the CCC legal entity locally. A new agreement will be signed between PPGui and the Government of Guinea for the management of the CCC.

Organizational chart

PPI board of Director:

President: Estelle Raballand
Secretary: Lisa Ongman
Treasurer: Tricia Gillett
Accountant: Tony Ruzicka

PPF board of Directors:

President: DMV. Christelle Colin
Secretary: Isabelle Heuchamps
Treasurer: DMV. Melanie Pignorel

PPGui Board of Directors:

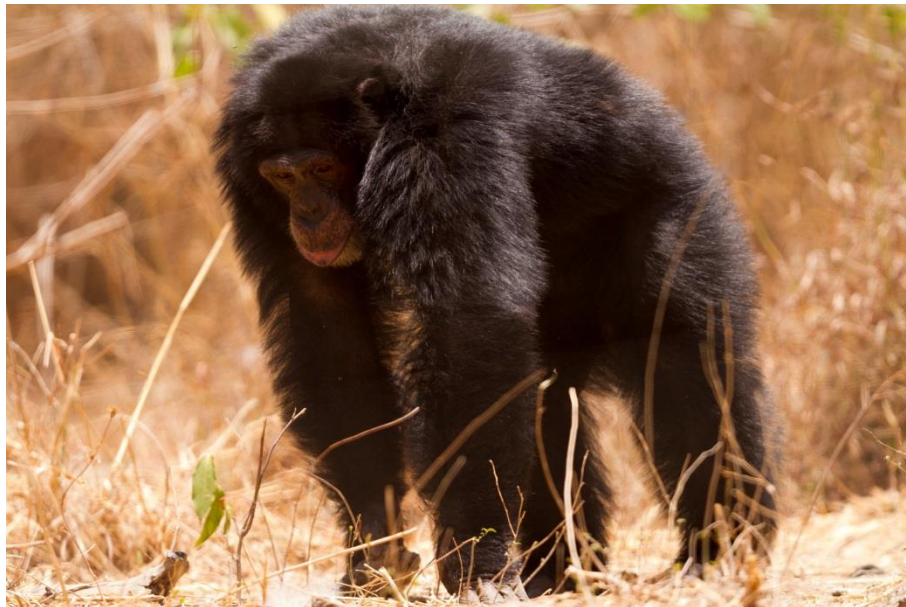
President : Ousmane Balde
Secretary : Ousmane Toure
Treasurer : Estelle Raballand

CCC management:

Director: Estelle Raballand
Managers : Mathieu Laurans and Celine Danaud
Protection Supervisor: Pierre-Jean Le Coz



The CCC is one of the most cost efficient sanctuaries in the world with an average of \$3,000 per chimps per year including the release and with less than 8% overhead costs.



THE CHIMPANZEES

Present population (as of March 2013)

At the sanctuary :(ages approximate)

- **Babies:** 2 females of two years old
- **Nursery:** 5 chimpanzees from 2 years old to 5 years old
- **Youngsters group:** 9 chimpanzees from 4 years old to 8 years old
- **Teenagers group:** 11 chimpanzees from 8 years old to 12 years old
- **Adult groups :**
 - ✓ One male separated of 19 years old
 - ✓ 3 chimpanzees from 12 years old to 14 years old
 - ✓ 10 chimpanzees from 5 years old to 15 years old
- **Other group:** Coco (male) 33 years old and Zoe (female) 14 years old.

Released chimpanzees:

We're currently tracking two males (19 years old and 25 years old) and five females (from 14 years old to 22 years old) with three offspring (5 years, 1.5 year old and about 6 months old).

In the chimpanzees' world this year (at the sanctuary):

There were many changes in groups, especially in the adult group. We had to move teenagers to adults, youngsters to teenagers and one teenager back to the youngsters. In short, we can say that we're trying to stabilize groups but with the teenagers' fence under construction, the youngsters cage in shambles and many escapes from the adults...we struggled a bit.

One of the changes in group constitution was that Chloe, a 8 year old female, was moved to the youngsters. She was the youngest chimp in the teenagers' group and since Kindy (her surrogate mum, a 12 year old female) had been moved to the adults, she didn't have many supports. We couldn't move Chloe with Kindy because she's not mature enough and Kindy was moved with Kumba, her last "adoptive baby". It was already stressful for Kindy to take care of Kumba, a 5 year old female, and we didn't want to add any more stress to her.

Habou, a 9 year old male, who was the oldest in the youngsters' group was moved with Oga, a young adult who had trouble fitting in the adults (every time there were conflicts, he escaped) but he also always escaped from the teenagers to go see the adults! Habou and Oga get along really well.

Vévé, a 10 year old female, enjoyed her "loft" so much that despite our constant trial she would only stay with the adult group for a day or two before she would pick up a fight with the females and escape from the fence, with the risk of taking males with her... So she stayed in her side cage that got transformed into a loft thanks to a huge hammock.

Charlotte, the smallest but not the youngest (12 years old), adult female, kept escaping the adult fence every time she was in heat to go mate with the youngsters. She triggered many males escapes this past year.

So, now that we have the new teenagers' fence, we've (re)introduced into the teenager group, Oga, Habou, Charlotte and Vévé. At this date things are going pretty well and they seem to have settled down.

Demu, a 5 year old female, who was in nursery, was moved to the youngsters group. She's doing really well. She was really advance for her age because she was rescued by the CCC very soon after her

capture in the wild and we think she'll do as well as Annie who got released after only 4 years at the CCC (a record!)

Coco has been struggling with his stomach aches on and off all year. We're giving him regular treatment but since the bees attack in 2010, it's a recurrent problem. Especially since he likes to eat bees everytime he can catch them but he doesn't understand that he's allergic to them!

New Arrivals

Labe- female (Approx. DOB beginning of 2011)

Labe was confiscated in Conakry, on a beach, by Ms. Charlotte Houpline, the Guinee Application de la Loi Faunique (GALF) manager, which is an antenna of LAGA, created by Ofir Drori, in May 2012. Labe's owner was a drug trafficker. He got some jail time and a fine but he wasn't convicted to the full extent of the law. She stayed in Conakry for a week, until we could take her and while we were waiting for the trial.

She did her quarantine separately and was introduced to the nursery group in August. She's well integrated and she's a very lovable chimp. She LOVES kisses with chimps and humans alike!



Sam, Bailo, and N'dama:



Sam and Bailo in their cage at the Chinese compound

N'dama at the CCC

These three chimpanzees were also confiscated by GALF representative (Ms. Charlotte Houpline) in Koundara, a town by the National Park of Badiar, at the beginning of July. They were kept in captivity by Chinese nationals. Their owners were convicted to pay for their upkeep before we could take them. Once they were ready to get to trial, they escaped to Senegal. The chimps were kept in Koundara at the Park headquarters for three months. The Jane Goodall Institute- Spain, especially Ms. Liliana Pachenco, working in Senegal, helped a lot with their care. She was part of the team that brought them, along with Ms Charlotte Houpline. They were in good conditions. Volunteers were assigned to them right away. Sam and Bailo were kept together at night in a quarantine cage next to a volunteer room while N'dama slept alone in a transport cage by the volunteer's bed.

They all went on forest walks every day, all day long. They got stronger and healthier. In December we started the integration of Sam and Bailo with the nursery group (Tango, Tya and Labe) and the integration of N'dama with Leonie.

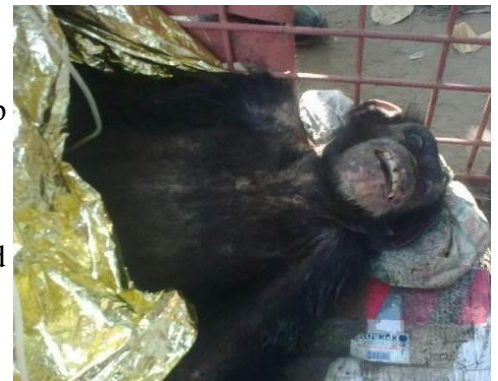
To date, all is well and we're planning on integrating Leonie and N'dama with the newly formed nursery group as soon as Leonie's head is healed fully.

Wild chimpanzees- Human conflict

Due to deforestation and human population growth, chimpanzees encounter humans more frequently and also tend to depend more often on human grown food resources available near human settlements. During some seasons, the chimpanzees also feed on mango trees that are also harvested by humans. Unfortunately, such instances of resource competition will become more and more frequent unless natural habitat loss is curtailed. In the meantime it is more crucial than ever before to educate local people on how to react and behave when encountering chimpanzees to prevent encounters from escalating into conflict situations resulting in injuries (e.g. Hockings & Humle 2010).

Boffa – adult female

In January, we were called by someone working with an NGO in the area of Boffa and the water and forestry department that a wild chimp had been captured and almost killed. As soon as we heard, the veterinarian (Dr. Carole Geernaert) that was present at the time at the CCC left with a keeper and the CCC vehicle to try to help this chimp that was in a terrible state. She had been so heavily beaten to the head that she was unconscious. When Dr. Geernaert arrived she tried everything she could to save that wild female but sadly, she didn't survive her injuries.



Kissi – young adult female



In April, the Eaux et Forêts director of Kissidougou informed their colleagues in Faranah that a wild female chimpanzee had been captured and almost beaten to death. Thanks to our sensitization programs, military personnel and some of the local people had stopped the mob that was trying to kill her and the chimp was brought to the Eaux et Forêt office.

The CCC director was in Faranah so she left with the vehicle that was at the garage as soon as it was fixed with a keeper that was on break and the education officer. They spent hours to get Kissi in a transport cage since they didn't have any darting equipment. She was injured but conscious and really scared. Her hands were bound. Her legs had been bound but she had chewed her ropes. She had a concussion and one of her hands was broken. We successfully managed to put her into a transport cage. We finally reached the CCC in the middle of the night and Kissi was then operated on by our veterinarian Dr. Ann de Graef. She was kept at the CCC in a transport cage, behind the vet room for months until she recovered. She was given mostly wild foods and leaves and we kept our distance from her as much as possible. We then moved her to the youngsters' cage by herself until we got her blood results back. In July 2012 she was released back into the Parc National du Haut Niger.



In the youngsters cage



In her transport cage right before her release

Our Loss

Balo- female (December 2009- October 8th 2012)

This year again the CCC was hit with a flu epidemic. We usually treat chimps with antibiotics and cough syrup when they fall ill. Some are hit harder than others. Although we have a strict preventive policy (masks, hand disinfection, food disinfection...), we usually have cases during each season change (especially when it starts to get colder at night). Balo was Loundan's daughter. Loundan is a wild chimpanzee who “integrated” the adult group after repeatedly jumping into the enclosure refused to leave the enclosure. Loundan took really good care of Balo and the other chimps were also very gentle with her. Unfortunately since Loundan is not used to humans, when her daughter fell sick she didn't let us near her to treat her. She was coughing and was sick for 2 days and one morning Loundan came to the feeding with Balo's body. She kept her for a few days. We tried to find her body in the fence but we didn't so we couldn't do an autopsy.



Veterinary issues:

Cold and Flu

Unfortunately, as every year at each season changes, we had outbreak of flu and cold. We managed, once a chimp got sick in a group, to keep the disease in that group only by using masks, hand sanitizer and keeping volunteers and keepers specifically to one group only.

Leonie's surgery

Leonie's surgery is the major achievement of the year. Leonie arrived at the CCC in December 2011 with, what we thought was, a wound on top of her head. She also had some paralysis but we thought that it was due to pressure on the brain due to that wound. We treated her with antibiotics and pus came out and she recovered her mobility partially. After a couple of months she became worse. We started antibiotics again, increased the dose but overall she wasn't improving only keeping up. We did X rays of her head in Kissidougou in May and in Faranah in September, unusual for everyone involved, and saw a

hole in her head. The director got in touch with veterinarians but no one felt comfortable (or had the time) to come to Guinea to operate on her. We then started to branch out and asked human neurosurgeon. Leonie's condition was worsening when finally we had a positive response from a French neurosurgeon, Dr. Charles Champeaux who agreed to come pro bono. We only paid for his ticket, visa and feeding expenses. He came to Guinea at the end of September and Leonie's surgery took place on October 2nd. It took two and an half hour and was a success. We realized that a bullet had broken her cranium bone and broke the duramater. He repaired it with the epicrane. The bullet that she had in her cheekbone is probably the bullet that had hit her when her mother was killed. Luckily for her it had bounced back, under the skin, but didn't enter the brain itself.

She's doing really well and although she still has some paralysis on her right arm, she's fully recovered from her surgery. The hole that was made in her head (5 cm²) has shrunk to 1cm². The neurosurgeon trip and surgery were filmed by a french TV crew. For more details, please read the "media" section.



Repairing the dura mater



The vet room changed into a "surgery room"



Ms. Raballand and Dr. Champeaux



X-rays taken prior surgery



Leonie chilling in December

Wire around fingers

Last year we had reported a few cases of chimps who put wire around their finger and tightened it so hard that we had to anesthetize them to remove it...well this year, the winners are Flo and Chloe, again! Don't they ever learn? We really don't know how to stop that behavior. Female volunteers aren't allowed to wear rings anymore when they are with the chimps! Maybe next year this paragraph will disappear and there be nothing to report... Let's hope so.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE C.C.C:

Infrastructure:



Electrical fences:

Our electrical fence for the teenagers funded by the Arcus Foundation is done! We've reopened it after months of work in December. The screaming and the happiness was a joy to see.

We had many delays due to the metal posts that had to be bought one by one. Since they were 4 meters long, they had to be cut then re-welded to 3 meters posts. We welded a bar on each posts to pass the isolators through. We couldn't work when the teenagers were out in their fence hence we were behind schedule. Although the teenagers' fence is complete, we still have to watch them

when they are out since we have a couple of escape artists. We've reinforced the original design and added a bigger overhang. We've also attached the first line to the ground. Unfortunately so far, they always seem to find a way either with sticks between the lines or by putting a huge log on it. Thanks to the new fence, we've integrated the teenagers who were separated in annex cages. The integration is on-going but so far, it's working well. The teenagers' group has 11 chimpanzees now.



The repairs on the adults and youngsters are on-going since the adult original fence that was built by Sanyati in 2001, was built with the lines going through the posts. Hence we can only reinforce posts. We've strengthened the tension in the lines as much as possible and we've attached the first line to the ground to prevent escapes under the fence.

The youngsters' fence will have to be rebuilt fully since all the wooden posts are eaten by termites. We've added supports and attached the bottom wire but we can't straighten lines due to post status. The youngsters' fence is 6 years old and isn't fit for chimpanzees their age since it was made for 3 to 5 years old chimpanzees but the chimpanzees using it are currently between 5 to 9 years old. We still go on bush walks with this group so they are not stuck in the cage all day. Rebuilding this fence is our next project. We're planning on using metal posts again but thanks to lessons learned with the teenagers' fence, we'll be quicker and more efficient!

Energizer and electrical system

During the rainy season, a huge storm struck the fence and burned the energizer, despite our lightning arrestors. Thanks to PASA emergency fund, we replaced the system a month later. We had an old energizer (not very powerful) but it allowed us to let the adult out in the afternoon if no other fences were on.

New roofs

Every year we have to either reinforce or replace the matted roofs of the huts at camp. Last year we tried a new technique that is more expensive and takes longer to do, but is supposed to last 5 years! Well it didn't... for 2 huts out of 4. We decided to hire a new team and try again. If this year our huts are turned into swimming pool again, we'll go back to the original way of doing it, which has the same "success" rate but is half the price! The photo shows our "office building". It's a huge roof that is really difficult to keep water proof. With the new technique let's hope we can get rid of the plastic tarp that we have to put on and that is a great hiding place for snakes and rodents alike.



VHF radio:

We explained you last year how much we struggled with our VHF radio system between our two camps Bakaria/release camp – Somoria/sanctuary. We had the same problems again all year long (explaining again the high satellite phones bills) but we decided to hire a specialist to fix the problem after we received a small grant. At the end of the year, a specialist came from Conakry and fixed all our system. We bought new batteries, new controllers, new radios, we fixed the antenna higher and changed it in Somoria. It's a success as we're now able to communicate all day long between Somoria and Bakaria. For this dry season we even set up a new radio post at one of the protection camp, Nyankanfing. That radio post can communicate directly with Somoria as well.

New apartment in Conakry

In May 2012, we moved from a shared house to an individual apartment. After year of co-renting and living basically like in the bush in Conakry, we now have a safe and more agreeable place for the volunteers and the management team to go to. The director spends more time in Conakry than before in order to raise funds from companies working in Guinea. So far, due to Guinea instabilities, she hasn't been really successful. Being in Conakry more often has help with communication between the Government and the CCC. It also helped in the creation of Projet Primates Guinee, the local NGO that will become the CCC's legal entity in Guinea.

Vehicle:

In October, for Tabaski holiday, the driver took the keepers who were going for the day in Faranah. On his way, he hit a hole and the pick-up left the road. It turned on its side then on its roof. Fortunately no one was hurt but the vehicle suffered a lot of body and structural damage.

It took months of repairs, on the car body, wind shield, tires and direction to have it run again. Months later (and a lot of funds later), it's now working but it's not the most reliable vehicle. We still haven't replaced the driver side window but we'll have to do it before the rainy season.



COMMUNITY HELP

Distribution of School furniture, medical supplies and clothes

Thanks to the container that we received in December 2011, we have distributed, at the beginning of 2012, in villages and in town around the park, hundreds of school books, bags and bags of clothes (for children, adults and housing) as well as very expensive medical materials to the Faranah hospital. We also donated medical supplies such as syringes, bandages, sutures etc. to health centers around the park.



Medical help

As always, we have provided countless medical help and advices or transport to villagers in need. Most villages are really isolated and they don't have means to get to a health center or a hospital. We provide treatment when the case is not life threatening and transport to the hospital when the case is more severe.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year we continued our education program without external funding. We took advantage of the school book distribution sessions we organized (books that were donated last year and came to us via the container) to sensitize children across several villages.

Clubs called “friends of the Parc” were created in three schools. We keep contact with them and help them organize activities. We are planning to help them develop a partnership with a French school. We are looking for funds to carry on our sensitization program around the park and urban areas.



PROTECTION OF THE “PARC NATIONAL DU HAUT NIGER”

This year the “Bataillon Autonome de Faranah” dispatched 6 military staff and the battalion of Kankan dispatched 4 for the park protection. They spent over 4 months in the bush, going on patrols and checking the core area boundaries. Unfortunately despite a ban on commercial fishing, commercial fishermen forced their way through the river blockade put in place by military staff. We only managed to prevent fishing along the area of the Niger which borders the Mafou core area, where the released chimps are present. The military staff had to sleep by the river bank because the fishermen tried to sneak by at night.

The military personnel destroyed some poachers’ camps and confiscated guns and trophies (like hippopotamus teeth, worth \$6000), a hippo head, etc. These are clearly showing the presence of professional poachers in the area.

We also know that the fishermen poach as well and set bush fires to hunt prey. This year they almost burned our release camp. It wasn't intentional but if they see some place unburned, they light it up! This time it was an area that we had kept unburned on purpose and it was really close to us. Thanks to the fire breaks we managed to contain it but everything was burned to the ground around our camp.



Destruction of a poacher camp



confiscated trophies



hippopotamus head

Meeting in Sidakoro

On December 20th, a meeting was organized in Sidakoro, at the park headquarters for the local and regional officials.

This meeting explained the reality of the park destruction. The bushmeat survey results were presented and the impact of illegal fishing was also explained. In addition, copies of the minister decree forbidding wood cutting and illegal fishing were passed around.

Wildlife, fishery and environment officials came from Faranah, Dabola, Kissidougou and Kouroussa. The Faranah governor and the Prefet were also present. We're waiting to the end of the 2012-2013 dry season to see if it had an impact on the ground.



Part of the funding for this workshop came from the ministry of environment.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Behavioral study in collaboration with the University of Kent – Dr. Humle and Lissa Ongman

During three months, Melissa Ongman, who had been a volunteer three times already, came back to gather data on our rehabilitation process under the supervision of Dr. Tatyana Humle. Ms. Ongman collected these data in the context of her Masters by Research diploma at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent. Some of the data were compile to produce an article, “The “Super Chimpanzee”: The Ecological Dimensions of Rehabilitation of Orphan Chimpanzees in Guinea, West Africa”, aimed at examining behavioral indicators of rehabilitation success among orphaned chimpanzees. The article is available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/3/1/109>.

We keep gathering data to improve our rehabilitation procedures, to monitor the development of our residents and to identify key variables influencing this process. These data will also be useful to other sanctuaries and facilities caring for captive chimpanzees and will assist in improving chimpanzee welfare and in identifying future release candidates.

French Vet Students

As last year, two veterinarian students came from the veterinary school of Paris, France (Maison-Alfort) for their internship. They stayed two months during the summer break. During their stay they tested all the chimps, including the released ones.

Unfortunately, we won't have a team coming this year from Maison-Alfort because the School administration cancelled the internship due to the war in Mali.

Bush meat survey with Dr. Tatyana Humle and PPF

Mr. Alexandre Konaté started the second phase of the bushmeat study initiated in 2011. He worked from March until the end of June, gathering more data on bushmeat sold in the weekly markets of 4 villages of the Park, i.e. Sidakoro, Mansiramoribaya, Koumady, Foya as well as the daily market of Faranah, the nearest city to the CCC. This study is revealing very interesting results and a clear shift in hunting patterns and bushmeat trade compared with the mid 1990s when similar data were also gathered across some of these localities. These data are currently being analyzed and will be compiled for publication and reports to be disseminated to the local and national authorities.

WORKSHOPS

PASA manager workshop in Nairobi, Kenya

In May 2012, the director Estelle Raballand attended the yearly PASA managers workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The director is a board member of PASA. During this workshop we discussed the direction that PASA must take. The new director, Julie Sherman, was there. We also had the visit of Doug Cress, the ex PASA director who's now GRASP director.



MEDIA:

French TV

The CCC has never been mediatized. We've decided to start and Leonie's surgery was the best excuse to start "getting out there". In order to have the most impact, we contacted French TVs in August to invite one of them to come and film Leonie's surgery as well as the CCC's activities. TF1 responded within a day. They came for 10 days and they looked at most of the CCC's activities linked to the chimpanzees. The report was aired on French TV on February 2nd 2013. Thanks to this 33 minutes documentary we raised about 7,000 euros on top of what the production paid for their lodging and feeding expenses.



TOURISM:

This year we had more visitors (about 200) than 2011. That might be explained by the Guinean political stability and the increase of foreign companies in the country, especially mining companies. This is a good way to sensitize this people as they often take part on the illegal pet trade.

Unfortunately most visitors don't give any warning and the CCC is not really set up for visitors. We will have to change this by advertising the fact that the CCC is not really open for tourists and advance warning is strongly recommended for security reasons (as chimpanzees go on bush walks).

STAFF

Local Staff

All year long the local staff worked well and seemed committed. They helped in all aspects of the CCC's activities including following Annie who wasn't stable at the release site. Since we created the local NGO Projet Primates Guinea, we had decided to professionalise our staff by registering them at the social security office. We prepared new contracts with a lawyer in Conakry. They had plenty of advance warning that they needed to sign the new contracts. We had the meeting with them on December 26th to show them the new contracts as well as the new code of conduct and a qualification scale. They refused to sign if their salaries were not raised. We discussed for two days. Due to financial constrain and in order to not continue to cave to their black mail (they had been raised in 2011 using the same technique from GNF 800,000 to GNF 1,200,000), the director stayed strong. Their current salaries were more than competitive. As an example, the governor of Faranah is paid 1,500,000 GF per month (there is only 5 in the country); the bank director in Faranah is paid 1,300,000 GF.

In addition we offer complete medical coverage for themselves and their families. They also had opportunities to travel to PASA workshops and one of them was supposed to go to France in the summer 2013 to Le PAL zoo, one of our strong partner (as part of a keeper exchange program).

On December 28th, they all left. The director, manager and volunteers were left alone. The two drivers stayed. The director went to Faranah and hired new keepers. A week later, she was summoned to the work inspector for wrongful termination. After over a month of bureaucratic battle, they lost.

We now have 6 new keepers who are really happy with their job and learning really fast. Their current salaries are half what the others were but they should raise very quickly.

It was a little strange for the chimps at first but they got used to the new faces easily. Since we've trained the new keepers, the youngsters are going and coming back from bushwalks very calmly, without escaping. There is less abnormal behaviour and everyone, the staff and the chimps are calmer.

Here are some pictures of the new keepers (Francois Millimono, Alexis Millimono and Kouyate) and the two drivers (Jean Tolno and Mamadou Barry):



The Release site keepers signed their new contract gladly. We've opened a bank account for one of them and he's now registered. We're hoping to be able to do the same with all of them once they'll have proven themselves and have a year long contract.

Here are the two "Bakaria" workers (Mamadi Camara and Ibrahima Keita)



Expatriate Staff and volunteers

This year, we had 27 volunteers including a few veterinarians. As usual the minimum stay is 6 months but some of them stay longer (or shorter, although it's rare!)

As for management, the director was in Conakry a lot so she also spent weeks at the CCC every month. The managers (Mathieu Laurans and Celine Danaud) shared the year as scheduled. Thanks to the USFW grant we hired a protection supervisor which allowed to not rely on volunteers and freed the managers with their activities. Also we had the visit of Christelle Colin (ex-manager and PPF president) from the end of June to the end of July.



Mathieu



Céline and Labé



Some volunteers

RELEASE PROJECT (up to Mars 2013)

The release chimpanzees group has been more stable this year. They now have a well-established home range of about 50km² (*Humle and al, in prep.*)

The two females that were released in 2011 spend quite a lot of time separate from the group, especially Annie. Lola and Siala (Lola's daughter) often stay on the edge of the group but Robert and Albert do spend time with them sometimes as well.

During the last direct sighting of the chimps (with binoculars) in November 2012, Mama still had her infant baby and Nanou was seen with an infant as well (sex unknown).

Annie has been traveling a lot south east of the release site, very close to an area where wild chimpanzees are known to occur. She stayed there about 10 times this year for between a few days to over a week but always came back to the core group (Robert-Albert-Mama-Lottie).

Nanou's collar ran out of battery in September 2012 so we have been unable to track her since then.

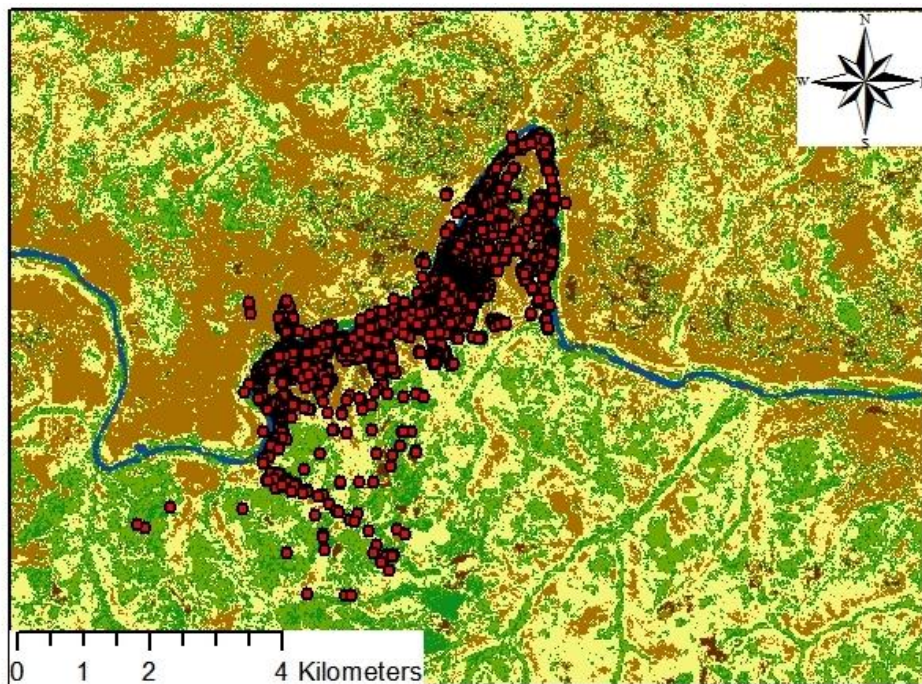
Considering the previous year pattern, we believe that she stays with Mama and Lottie. Nanou's collar was the only one that wasn't changed in June since she appeared to be pregnant at the time of collar change. The director decided not to anesthetize her and risk a miscarriage (especially since over the years she had lost two babies already because of miscarriage).

Unfortunately, this past year again, the chimps crossed the river again during the dry season. The Argos points indicated that Annie crossed once and returned to the core area the following day; however, this elicited Albert and Robert to cross that same day possibly to look for Annie. Both Albert and Robert finally both visited the camp after failing to locate Annie. Mama and Lottie then also crossed to join possibly the males. Nanou never crossed. We let them stay in our empty camp (everything had been locked up etc.). The staff monitored them from a distance of a few kilometers in an umbrella formation facing the Niger river to ensure they would not venture further afield into the buffer zone of the park. The closest village, Bakaria, was 7 kilometers away; we were worried that if they wandered too far from our camp in the buffer zone, there was a real risk of them encountering a poacher or an illegal fisherman (with a gun).

So it was decided after a week of monitoring them in the buffer zone to call them back to the release cage. We used the time they spent in the cage to assess their health and change their collars. We waited until the river was no longer crossable to release them back out.

Bakaria village is now almost empty (only one family left) since the passing away of their chief and the resulting dissolution of the village's social structure.

GPS locations of released chimps in 2011





The temporary camp for the dry season

PROJECT PRIMATES INC.(PPI):

This year PPI was more active thanks to the help of Melissa Ongman who's helping PPI treasurer, Tricia Gillett, since she came back from Guinea. We found a matching grant appeal thanks to Eco gear, run by Mr. Robert Hii, that raised over \$2500 for the CCC. Lindsay Hamrick run once again a marathon for the CCC and raised over \$1000. This coming year we will develop the “sponsor a chimp” program as well as the selling of merchandise. We're taking more English speaking volunteers at the CCC in order to increase our help in the USA.

PROJET PRIMATES FRANCE:

After 3 years of activities growing exponentially, 2012 saw a normal slowing down in PPF activities. But still, the team of volunteers managed to raise as many funds as in 2011 and kept on helping successfully the CCC with volunteer recruitment, and the shipment of equipment and medicine to Guinea.

One of the major events of 2012 was the creation by a team of PPF volunteers of a new website bringing together PPI, PPF, PPGui and CCC both in French and English. The new website was launched in November 2012: www.projprimates.com

The website presents each organization and provides news updates. Internet users can help us through donations, the sponsorship program, the online shop, the volunteering program, etc. We have received excellent feedback since the website was launched and we hope to develop the fundraising opportunities even further thanks to our new site.

PPF also produced a very nice T-shirt with the portrait of one of the CCC chimps, Lili. This T-shirt made of eco-certified cotton is very popular!

PPF aims to increase its activities in 2013 and its fundraising efforts to help the CCC.

