



# CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION CENTER (CCC)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

[www.projetprimates.com/chimpanzee-conservation-center](http://www.projetprimates.com/chimpanzee-conservation-center)

### CCC Mission

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All of the CCC's objectives are part of a worldwide conservation effort to save great apes. The CCC hopes to continue improving the lives of the chimpanzees under its care, continue monitoring the first released group, release a second group of CCC chimpanzees into the wild if possible, protect the chimpanzee populations living in the Parc National du Haut Niger (the largest wild chimpanzee population in Guinea) and continue our education and awareness program.

### Acronyms

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CCC : Chimpanzee Conservation Center

PHNH : Parc National du Haut Niger

PPGui: Projet Primates Guinea

PPF: Projet Primates France

PPI: Project Primate, Inc.



*Lottie and Maybelle*



## Letter from the Director

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Dear Friends, Supporters, Colleagues,

This annual report is special. Not because it's even later than last year, but because this is the last time that I will be writing this letter; this year, Dr. Christelle Colin will be taking over as Director of the CCC. I will most likely still have a hand in the annual report though, so you'll probably still recognize my French touch (and bad humor).

It's been an amazing ride. Sometimes great, sometimes sad, sometimes frustrating or tiring but never dull and always worth all of the efforts and sacrifices, for them and their survival. The CCC and especially the chimpanzees have given purpose to my life. They'll forever be in my heart and I will continue to dedicate my life to helping them and the CCC.



Going forward, I will continue to visit the CCC, but for the health and sustainability of the project I will be taking on the new role of Development Director and general CCC Ambassador. So don't worry – you will still be getting reports and proposals from me!

Our 2014 report is lengthy, due to how much has happened in the past year. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Thanks to all of you for all of these years together, and your support, understanding and friendship.

All my best,

Estelle Raballand



## **Legal entities of the CCC:**

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**Project Primate, Inc. (PPI)** is a United States 501C (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of chimpanzees, primarily through the support of the CCC and outreach in the US. PPI is incorporated in the State of Florida (tax number: N12000005367) and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code (Employer Identification Number: 52-2146831). Since its creation PPI has raised enough funds to ensure the proper functioning of the CCC and to allow the center to expand its size and activities, thus improving its effectiveness in working to protect and conserve chimpanzees in Guinea.

**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 public education in Francophone countries in Europe. PPF is incorporated in Challes les Eaux. PPF raises funds for some of the CCC's running costs and for its education program through grants, a sponsor-a-chimp program and conferences. PPF also helps in recruiting expatriate volunteers to come and help the CCC in its daily activities.

### **The CCC's legal status in Guinea:**

Since the CCC was established in the PNHN, the Government of Guinea considered it to be part of the PNHN, although its management and the funding were always separate from the PNHN.

We founded Association Projet Primates Guinee (PPGui) in September 2012. Its headquarters are in Conakry, and we are currently working to make it a tax-exempt organization. PPGui is now the CCC's local legal entity. PPGui and the Government of Guinea have signed an agreement in 2013 for 5 years that recognizes the CCC's management and finances as independent from the PNHN and the Government. The PNHN has also signed an agreement with PPGui that defines the roles and responsibilities of each entity.



## **Boards of Directors & Staff**

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### **Project Primate Inc.**

President: Estelle Raballand

Secretary: Melissa Ongman

Treasurer: Patricia Gillett

Developer: Franny McGill

### **Projet Primates France**

President: DMV. Christelle Colin

Treasurer: DMV. Melanie Pignorel

### **Association Projet Primates Guinea**

President : Ousmane Balde

Secretary : Jordan Kimball

Treasurer : Estelle Raballand

PPI representative : Melissa Ongman

PPF representative : Tatyana Humle then Celine Danaud

### **CCC management**

Director: Estelle Raballand

Managers : Elise Neveu and Rodolphe Violleau

Protection Supervisor: Guillaume Banville

Keepers Trainer : Stuart Beaman





## The CCC Chimpanzees

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**Current population as of March 1, 2015 (ages are approximate):**

### *At the sanctuary (Somoria)*

- **Quarantine Babies:** 2 chimpanzees from 2 to 4 years old
- **Quarantine adults:** 1 chimpanzee of 10 years old
- **Nursery:** 8 chimpanzees from 3 to 7 years old
- **Youngsters group:** 9 chimpanzees from 5 to 9 years old
- **Teenagers group:** 11 chimpanzees from 9 to 13 years old
- **Adult groups:**
  - One male (separated) of 21 years old
  - 4 chimpanzees from 14 to 16 years old
  - 8 chimpanzees from 7 to 17 years old, and one 2 year old offspring
- **Other group:** Coco (male) 35 years old and Zoe (female) 16 years old.

### *Released chimpanzees:*

We're currently tracking two males (20 years old and 25 years old) and five females (15 years old to 24 years old) with five offspring (7 years old, 2.5 years old, 2 years old, 1 and ½ years old and a few months old baby born this year).

## This year in the CCC chimpanzees' world:

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### *New Arrivals*

We always have mixed feelings when new orphans arrive at the CCC: their arrival usually means that other chimpanzees died in the course of their capture, and they've suffered the trauma of losing their mother. However, it also means that we get the opportunity to give them a second chance at life. This year, four new orphans arrived at the CCC, as well as one at the beginning of 2015:

**Diaka** (female, approximately 2 years-old)

Diaka was being kept in captivity in a small town in Haute-Guinee when a staff member of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation spotted her. He successfully convinced the owner – a hunter who claimed that he did not kill the mother – to give Diaka to the CCC.

The WCF Director, Vincent Lapeyre, brought Diaka to us after a long drive. Although she wasn't too wild, she shied away from human interaction. She was eager to discover her surrounding, and we let her roam around, always under the supervision of a volunteer; however, she wouldn't let the volunteer pick her up.



The manager and the director were both caring for Oga, a chimpanzee in the teenagers group who had just undergone a big surgery. By the time, the director was informed of the situation, night was falling and Diaka had climbed a tree and wouldn't come down. We brought one of the nursery chimp to find her. N'dama found her and Diaka came down but instead of following N'dama she disappeared into the bush. We brought Tango, the oldest nursery chimp but he didn't find her. By then it was dark. We tried again very early in the morning with the whole nursery group but she wasn't found. We continue searching for her for days but she was never found or even seen. The chance that she survived are pretty slim.





**Missy** (female, about one and a half years old)

In May 2014, the owner of a young chimpanzee living in Liberia contacted us. She had the paperwork in place to send her to Chimpanzee Eden in South Africa, but the permits were canceled when the Ebola outbreak began. Due to fear and misinformation about primates and Ebola that circulated during the outbreak, Missy had to be hidden in expatriate apartments. After debating for a long time whether to take her (we have a policy that states that we only take chimpanzees confiscated by the authorities in Guinea) we finally agreed, due to the extraordinary circumstances.

The owner brought her to Faranah, and we took her to the CCC, where we put her in a special quarantine to ensure that she was Ebola-free: she spent three weeks across the river from the CCC with two volunteers, and then completed the standard three-month quarantine at camp.

At the end of her quarantine, we integrated Missy with Sanka (another new arrival this year, discussed below). They spent several months together before we decided to integrate Sanka with the nursery group. We introduced Missy to the nursery chimpanzees, but ultimately decided not to integrate her since she was much younger than the others. She's now living at camp with Noel, another baby who arrived at the end of December 2014. They go on bush walks together every morning and afternoon, and sleep in the same cage together at nap time and at night.



*Missy during her quarantine*



*Sanka and Missy in trees*

**Sanka** (female, about four years-old)

Sanka comes from Tokonou, an enclave in the Kouyah protected area of Haut Niger National Park. We heard about her from one of the Park guards who is posted in Tokonou, and, with the collaboration of the government of Guinea and the Guinean Application Lois Faunique (GALF), a mission was organized to confiscate and prosecute the owner, a well-known poacher who has been involved in wildlife trafficking. He was sentenced to 6-months jail time.

Sanka was very wild when she arrived at the CCC, and didn't trust humans. We kept her inside for the duration of her quarantine, as we were worried that she would disappear like Diaka, who was similarly distrustful of humans.



We introduced her to Missy at the end of her quarantine, and after a few weeks we began taking the two of them out on bush walks together. Sanka was attached to her surrogate mom by then, and didn't go far. She quickly gained confidence on the bush walks and after a few months we introduced her to the nursery group, where she is thriving, despite her small size!



*Sanka at confiscation, on arrival and 3 months later*

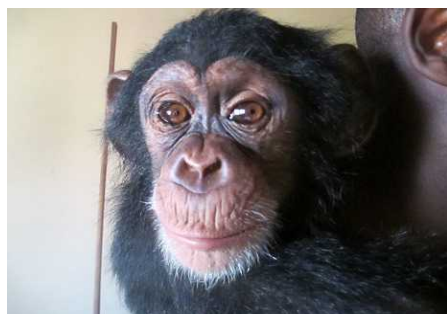


*Sanka with the nursery group on bush walk*

### **Noel** (male, about 2 years-old)

Noel is a hyperactive little boy! We gave him his name because he arrived at the CCC on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Noel means Christmas in French.

We first heard about Noel from a colleague working in Bossou, Guinea. She had received a disturbing email saying that there was a chimpanzee living in Conakry and asking her if she wanted to buy him for studies (we clearly still have a long way to go with our outreach work). When we received that email, we got in touch with GALF, who started investigating. They presented themselves as a potential buyer, and after a few days went to “purchase” the chimp with people from Interpol. The CCC director was on standby in Conakry, and as soon as the arrest was made, she came to take care of Noel. We brought him to the CCC the following day, and after his quarantine integrated him with Missy. Noel and Missy will probably not be integrated with the nursery group, as they are significantly younger than the others. They are doing very well together and have become inseparable!



*Noel with his dealer the day  
of his confiscation,  
in Conakry the next day  
and in March 2015 at the  
CCC*







**Moucky** (female, about 10 years-old)

We have known about Moucky for years and have tried to convince her owner to place her with us since they first got her. We also tried to have her confiscated by the authorities; however, the Ministry of Environment has refused as the owner, Mr. Albert Clapasson, is a French national who runs a DIWASI, a private park in Guinea in which he has invested all of his savings. Government employees have also clearly benefited privately from his investments. We had visited DIWASI as a potential release site in 2006 (we ended up dismissing it, as it was too populated), so we have known Mr. Clapasson for almost ten years now. Last year, we heard that he was trying to secure an export permit for Moucky; however, Guinea has been banned from CITES and can't issue permits. We offered again to take Moucky if Mr. Clapasson would pay the minimum \$1,000 fee that we request from expatriates. He refused. Instead, he asked Moucky's keeper to take her into the bush and abandon her by shooting slingshots at her. They left her over 35 kilometers from her home, but she managed to survive, probably by being fed by villagers. Several months later, a village 25 kilometers from the DIWASI headquarters contacted the Ministry of Environment to say that they had a chimp in their village and wanted them to come and retrieve her.

The local officials brought Moucky back to headquarters and contacted us. We felt that we didn't have a choice, but it was a difficult decision as we had no available facility for her for the quarantine and long-term facility. She is very humanized and displays quite a bit of autistic behavior, which means we will most likely not be able to integrate her with the other chimpanzees.

We sent a volunteer to stay with her at the park headquarters while we built a quarantine cage for her, which we constructed by extending the holding room in front of the vet that we built last year. She arrived at the CCC in February. She is a small female, who loves human contact. She was very scared when she first heard and saw the other chimpanzees at a distance, but has begun to relax and become more comfortable with her new surroundings. However, her future is uncertain. The government has not prosecuted her former owner or forced him to pay. We are considering undertaking an advocacy campaign on social media to publicly shame and pressure him.



*Moucky at the CCC in her quarantine cage in front of the CCC Veterinary room*





## *Who's where?*

### **Lily moves in with the teenagers**

You might remember that, last year, Lily was escaping from the youngsters' fence every day to join the nursery group in the bush. It would have been fine if she wasn't so difficult to get back in! She is also unfortunately at an age where the keepers can't tell her no if they don't want to be attacked.

Despite the repaired fence, she has started escaping again. In March 2014, we decided to move her and Ama with the teenagers.



*Lily with Oga*

Lily settled in quite quickly, but Ama had a harder time and we brought her back to the youngsters after only a few weeks. Lily, however, is happy in her new group and thanks to her strong personality the others are not bullying her. She actually starts most of the fights by trying to steal leaves, food, and enrichment, and then starts screaming until one of the males gets fed up and inserts himself into the fight to restore the peace.

### **Sanka moves in with the nursery**

After her three-months of quarantine and her two months with Missy, we decided to integrate Sanka with the nursery group. Despite her small stature, she's about the same age as the other chimps in the nursery. She's also pretty wild and knows her way around the forest very well. At first it was really tiring for Sanka, as every chimp we introduced to her wanted to play...a lot! We limited the contact to a few hours at a time and never more than three chimpanzees at once. After a few weeks, we stopped bringing Missy (she was too small and too scared of the nursery chimps). Without Missy, the meetings were easier. Sanka started going on bush walks with them and although we were worried that she would resist sleeping in the nursery cage, it took her only one day to adjust to the routine! She is now well settled with the group.



*Nursery group going on bush walks.  
Sanka is on the far right*



*Sanka and Missy with Labe during the introduction*



## **Nelson moves with the adults**

Some of you might remember the picture of Nelson when he arrived at the CCC as a skinny, hairless, scared baby chimp. He is completely unrecognizable now – in the best way possible – as an overgrown teenager with raging hormones. This year, he made it very clear that he wanted to be with the older group; not just for the males, but for the ladies. So, we moved him to Ced's group this winter. Ced wasn't too happy and the females just ignored him, and so we tried moving him next to Paco and Mocka. Since they were getting along well, we integrated them. It was tense at times because although Nelson is an imposing chimp in terms of his size, he doesn't quite know what to do with his body and alternates between attacking and being scared. We are planning on reintegrating all of the males that are currently separated from Ced's group together again so that they can enjoy the enclosure and a more natural group as soon as all the returns (over hangs) on top of the adults fence are installed.



*Nelson (left) playing with Ced (right)*

## ***Veterinary issues***

### **Oga:**

This year we had a few difficult months with Oga. It all started in March 2014 when, during a cage cleaning, Ced, one of the adult chimps was moved with a few females into the cage next to the teenagers. It wasn't the first time they had been moved there for a cleaning, but that day, Oga put his hands through the bars to grab Ced and Ced bit his hands. He bit the top of his left hand, severing tendons and removing the top part of the hand. Some fingers were also badly wounded.

We immediately separated him and brought him to the veterinary room. He was in shock. The rest of the group was overexcited and wanted to break through the cage to get to Ced, who realized what he did and wasn't proud of himself. The keepers put Ced and the females back in their cage and calmed the rest of the teenagers while we anesthetized Oga at the vet room. He came willingly into the transport cage, so we anesthetized him when the surgery table and equipment were ready. In the meantime, Estelle gave him dexamethasone since he was in shock and anesthetizing him in that state would have been dangerous for him.

The surgery lasted 3 hours and was challenging. Estelle had never done this kind of surgery. She called reference veterinarians for advice on sutures and wound treatment. She was assisted by a volunteer, Noemie, who is a veterinary assistant in France. We cleaned the wound then sutured the tendons back together. The thumb was the only untouched finger, and the middle finger and pinkie were broken. The tendons for all the fingers were cut in two places. At the end of the surgery, we had to dissect the wrist to find the last piece that had shrunk up. We managed to suture back all of the tendons with what were probably unconventional sutures! We couldn't close the wound since the skin and the flesh had been bitten off so we packed it instead. The manager, helped by another volunteer, amputated the index finger on his right hand and monitored him.





He was kept in the sick room cage in front of the vet room for weeks. The post-operation treatment was difficult and we had to anesthetize him every day for eight days to put him on a drip with his medicine and fluids since he didn't want to take his medicine orally or even drink. We managed his pain with strong painkillers that also made him drowsy, and changed his bandage every day and repacked the wound to facilitate skin regrowth. A few days after the initial surgery, we had to amputate the pinkie on his left hand. It had been broken in several places and wasn't healing.

After a few weeks, we removed the bandage. He had started eating and taking his medicine orally. With advice from a French hand surgeon, we started the long process of physical therapy, which included massages and routine finger movements. We eventually moved him next to his group in a separate, satellite cage, where he stayed until October, when he was reunited with his group. Oga was the dominant male when the attack happened and we were worried that he would have lost his position during his absence. He still wasn't 100% functional with his hand, but we wanted him to exercise it more, which he couldn't do in his small annex cage. We reintroduced him slowly with the other chimps over a few days and he quickly won his position back. However, the first few weeks were difficult, especially in the enclosure, as he tired quickly and was seen walking on his wrists, instead of his knuckles, after a few hours.

We are happy to report that Oga is now fully recovered and is once again the first one to cause mischief in his group; his two missing fingers don't seem to be hindering him in that regard! Our next challenge will be managing the tense relationship between Ced and Oga.



Day 1



Day 2



Week 4



Week 8



Week 12





Back in his group in December



Back in his group in February 2015

### **Strange diarrhea:**

Probably due to the strain from his injuries and the stressful recovery process, Oga became really sick with diarrhea in January 2015 and had to be brought to the vet room again to be put on a drip for several days. Since Guinea has been one of the countries hardest hit by the Ebola outbreak, we had to be extra cautious and separated all of the chimps who had diarrhea symptoms. During the time that Oga was sick, Veve and Charlotte also started having diarrhea. It passed after a few days of amoebic dysentery treatment.

### **Chloe (and her friends...):**

Unfortunately, Chloe has not outgrown her phase of wrapping wire around her fingers, and this year, despite all of our efforts to remove pieces of wire that are used to attach locks on the cages, she managed to bind her fingers at least six times this year (we've stopped counting...). We have never been able to remove it without separating and tranquilizing her, which she hates. And yet, she does it again...and again...and again! She's not the smartest chimp at the CCC but we are wondering about her sanity. She unfortunately has a few followers: Flo, Demu who has just started (but only once and removed it herself! Smart girl...) and Lily, who has now passed the trend on to her new group; Max was the first male to do it. Fortunately, he allowed us to remove it and we did not need to anaesthetize him.

### **Cats!**

We rent a small apartment for the volunteers, managers and director so that they have a place to stay when they are in Conakry. A stray female cat realized that our apartment was empty for weeks on end and came to the apartment to give birth to five kittens. After caring for them for several months, we brought two females back to Somoria (Lepto and Spirose) and one male to Bakaria (Farafi). The two other cats were adopted in Conakry.



Contrary to the two resident cats in Somoria, the new kittens were unfortunately not afraid of the chimpanzees. In November, Charlotte escaped from the enclosure and although she is a very gentle chimp, when she saw Spirose she grabbed her and bit her on the back.





The manager thought Spirose was dead, and left her in the vet room while she took care of Charlotte. Once Charlotte was safely back in the group, the volunteer vet who was at the CCC for a month looked at Spirose, saw she was still alive and decided to operate on her. After 4 operations and a lot of care, Spirose is still with us. She's lost her tail and has a limp but is a very loving cat; unfortunately, though, she's still not scared of chimpanzees!

### ***Losses***

We are very happy to report that the CCC didn't suffer any deaths in 2014.



## Dealing with the unexpected....

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### *Electric fence problems & repairs*

Last year, thanks to the Arcus Foundation, we were able to rebuild our teenagers' enclosure entirely with metal posts. Unfortunately, the chimps have found other ways to get out. They are great at working together; one of their favorite strategies is to collect huge branches to lay on the fence, so that while a few put pressure on the branch, the others can slide out. Consequently we have to survey the enclosure constantly, despite all of our reinforcements. We have added lots of enrichment (fire hoses, tires, etc.) inside the enclosure and cut paths so they could stay in the middle of the enclosure instead of on the edge, but they just love to make us react! We're hoping it's just a difficult teenage phase...

Despite all the work that was done last year on the youngsters' enclosure, that fence continues to fall apart. The termites eat out the posts as fast as we can replace them. As with the teenagers, we have to keep watch and only a keeper can do it. If it's a volunteer (especially a girl, who they don't fear as much) it's a free for all: let's destroy the fence!

The adult enclosure, built in 2000, was also in dire need of repairs. This year, thanks to a funding from La Fondation du PAL and la Fondation Brigitte Bardot, we were able to hire an electrical engineer for three months to help us rebuild all of our solar and fence systems and work on the adult fence.

We moved all the electrical system to a new control room with a very good earthing system. We purchased new batteries, new solar panels and new energizers (thanks to the Abraham foundation). We hadn't planned on purchasing all of this new equipment, but a lighting storm burned out all of our energizers (discussed below). Repairing the adult fence was a long and extensive project since the fence has wire through the posts and is quite big (over 1 kilometer of fence line). We started the project at the beginning of 2014 by changing the cracked posts, reinforcing the ones that could be fixed and tightening the wire along the fence.

We then had metal overhangs, to add to the top of the posts, made in Faranah using corner bars that were bent to 120 degrees, with 8 holes along the bars and openings to attach the bars to the top of the posts. The returns are 1m20 inside the fence and 80 cm along the posts. We used round isolators where the wire will pass through. We didn't have enough wire to finish the job, but all the returns are finished. We now need special electrical wire that we have to order in France; we plan to have it sent to Guinea by boat this April.



*Fixing the isolators in the metal returns (while supervising the teenagers!)*



### *Tree troubles*

Thanks to the Arcus Foundation grant, we finally had a good working fence for the teenagers...at least, until destiny decided otherwise! The rainy season begins in June and lasts until October. Rain is usually mixed with heavy wind and storms. One night in July, around midnight, the biggest tree in front of the teenagers' enclosure (they are called "fromager" in French) fell on the enclosure. Luckily, no chimps were in the enclosure that night. It took weeks to clear out the tree – whose trunk was about three meters wide – and we had to hire a chain saw operator to cut it into pieces. There was still two trees standing, but we decided to preemptively cut the branches in order to avoid a catastrophe, as one of the standing trees would hit one of the cages if it fell. One of the local villagers is really good at climbing trees, so we hired him to climb up and use an ax to chop down all the branches that we were worried about. We then had to rebuild the entire side of the enclosure. The teenagers were happy with their new enrichment: a huge piece of tree, which we left in their enclosure.



*The 2 remaining trees after trimming*



*The cut out branches*



*Fixing the fence...again!*





### ***Lighting storm burns all the energizers***

It is well known that problems come in waves. A week after the tree fell on the fence, a lighting storm fried two of our three energizers. It also burned our solar controllers and batteries.

We were lucky that Ray, the electrical engineer, was still at the CCC, as he was able to help us use our spare energizer to power the adult fence. Thanks to an emergency donation from the Abraham Foundation, we were able to purchase the necessary equipment and by the beginning of August our system was functional again. We added two lighting protections for each energizer this time instead of one!



*Ray is checking the burned equipment*



*The new control room.*



*Estelle is setting up the new energizer*

### ***Ebola outbreak in West Africa***

Ebola... the name inspires fear in everyone, and the recent outbreak in Guinea has concerned our volunteers' families and our funders. And they have a right to be concerned: the symptoms are scary, and once you have been infected, it is mostly fatal. Sick people and sick bush animals (except for some species of fruit bats who are among the known hosts) transmit Ebola to other people (or animals) who might then, even after death, contaminate someone else.

Although the local population has become scared of primates during this Ebola outbreak, they seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area; they were more concerned for the chimpanzees' wellbeing than scared.

We took extra measures at the CCC to protect the chimps and the staff. All the food products are bleached; the staff has to take bleach with them when they go on leave; if a chimpanzee or human exhibits symptoms similar to Ebola, the individual is isolated. Faranah hasn't had many cases but we have been especially cautious with sick villagers. We continue to treat them but we limit our physical contact with them and we wear gloves.

The biggest impact on the CCC has been the lack of volunteers this year. We went from fifteen to six. As a result, it became very difficult to do more than just the basics. We had to hire many more local staff, but didn't have enough time to train them adequately. Thanks to Stuart, the keeper trainer who came to the CCC over the summer, we had three keepers that we could count on.

However, the lack of volunteers has put the construction projects on hold. We also had additional volunteers needs with all of the babies that arrived this year. Every time a new chimpanzee arrives at the CCC, he or she is paired with a surrogate mom for at least the first three weeks (our Ebola quarantine time).





After this three week period, the chimpanzee is still in quarantine for up to three months and he/she has only two or three surrogate moms who alternate taking care of them. In addition, we need a volunteer with each group (which means at least four), plus at least 2 volunteers at Bakaria, the release site. Given the significantly reduced number of volunteers this year, the managers have had to do work normally assigned to volunteers and keepers, and have had to stay longer than the four months they usually do. Additionally, Estelle had to spend over seven months on site in 2014.

One of the indirect consequences of the lack of manpower, is the lost income. The volunteers contribute 50 euros per month. This contribution helps pay for their transport and food, but also for the rent in Faranah and in Conakry. These expenses aren't dependent on the number of volunteers.

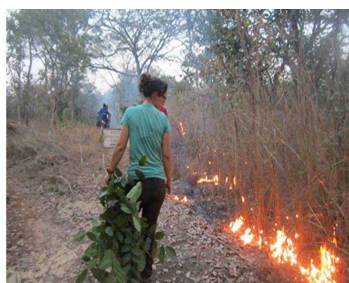
We are hoping that because Ebola cases have decreased significantly in the past few months, we will be able to get our volunteer numbers back up this year.

Another impact of the Ebola outbreak was the scarcity and the increased price of imported goods that we use for the chimpanzees (milk, cerelac, medicine, etc.). Since the Ebola outbreak was officially announced, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone have closed their border to Guinea. Guinea doesn't manufacture any of the milk products we need for the chimps; they are all imported goods. With the border closed, milk, for example, had to come through Mali. There were shortages on a regular basis and it almost doubled in price.

Lastly, there was a shortage of fuel since boats were not willing to come to Guinea. Consequently, we had to buy the diesel for the car on the black market (which is at least 20% more expensive). Fortunately, the price of fuel decreased last month in Guinea (as it did everywhere in the world) so our budget (if we can get fuel at gas stations) should be lower in 2015 than it was in 2014.

We are attentive and in touch with the organizations who are in Guinea to fight Ebola. If any suspicious case were to arise, we would inform the authorities and take the appropriate measures.

### ***Bush fires***



Although every year we create firewalls around the CCC, every year we have to fight fire at the beginning of the dry season. This year the fires arrived earlier than usual. A huge fire spread through the Park in mid-December 2014, and another came through the villages in mid-January 2015. We are well protected now since everything around the CCC has been burned. We continue to educate the local villages about the fires, but hunters continue to set them in order to chase animals out of the bush.



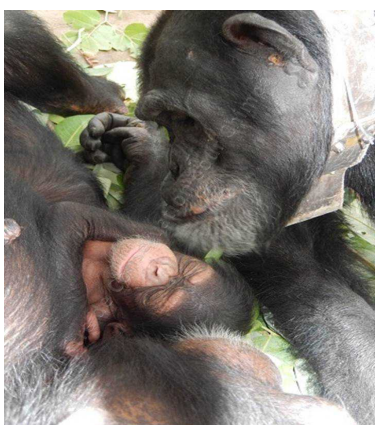
## Release Project (up to March 2015)

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The release group has been very stable this year. They now have a well-established home range of about 50km<sup>2</sup>. Annie is the only chimpanzee in the group who roams a little farther.

### *The females and their babies*

The release group is beginning to look like a nursery! There are currently five offspring (four females, one male) in the group of seven adults (two males, five females). The three older females who were part of the first release in 2008 – Lottie, Mama and Nanou – all have babies. Mama's baby, Niama, is almost three, Nanou's baby, Dinie (the only male), is almost two, and Lotti's baby, Maybelle was born last year. Additionally, in April 2014, Annie gave birth to her first baby, a female. Annie had been released in 2010 with Lola. She's the youngest chimpanzee of the group and often spend time near the group of wild chimpanzees. Unfortunately, in September we saw that she was without her infant. Infant mortality rate in the wild is 50%. So far there's been 7 births and 5 are still alive.



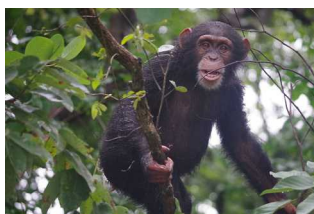
*Albert is grooming Annie's baby*



We're also happy to report that Lola has a new, few months-old baby girl. Siala, her oldest daughter, seems to be accepting of her new baby sister. She cries occasionally to be carried, but at 8 years-old, her mom is not as patient with her as she used to be. Siala is a small chimpanzee who doesn't seem to be growing much – we have observed that she is about the same size this year as she was last year. She has not hit puberty yet, either. We are looking forward to following her and seeing what she does when she starts going into heat (whether she leaves her birth group to join the wild chimpanzees or stays with her mother).



*Lola and her infant daughter*



*Siala*



*Maybelle*



*The females and their babies in September 2014*

### ***The males***

The males are well settled at the release site. They are not in the habit of wandering off anymore, and have been doing an impressive job protecting the females and their babies. They seem to have established a co-dominance. Co-dominance is pretty common in West African chimpanzees.

They are still fitted with GPS/Argos collars that we change every year. We are currently considering adding males to this group to lower the stress on the two males, as there are many groups of wild chimpanzees around as well as baboon troops and other potential threats.



*Robert*



*Albert*

### ***The dry season***

In 2014 and now in 2015, as in every year since the release, the chimps crossed the river during the dry season as wild chimps do. Albert and Robert usually cross first (sometimes together, sometimes not) and are sometimes followed by one or more of the group's females. They then usually return to the core protected area by themselves. Unfortunately, due to lack of protection, bush fires, hunters, and fishermen, we can't let them go back and forth.

This year, as soon as they crossed, we prepared the release structure and called them to it, and they entered it by themselves. Last year, Lola and Annie went in several days later; this year, Lola came in with the group (probably because she had her infant) and Annie arrived a few days later again.

We use the few months they have in this enclosure to feed them well, run health checks and change their collars. As soon as the river rises, we reopen the door. We're hoping that this routine will end with the second generation, as they are not used to humans and will not be at risk of initiating contact with them. Additionally, Bakaria village is almost empty now, so in the future, with a sufficient number of guards, we could let them roam on both sides of the river while following them at a distance.





## New Equipment

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### *Our vehicles*



The old pickup truck that was donated to us in 2011 still runs...barely. We are at the garage nearly every weekend. This year we re-segmented the motor, which is now running smoothly; however, everything else is falling apart. We had to rent vehicles to be able to bring food and equipment to the CCC.

The director has been searching for a vehicle donation in Conakry, and was promised a pickup truck by Total and MTN; unfortunately, the Ebola outbreak put everything on hold.

Thanks to a friend of the project, Mr Sekou Cisse, we managed to survive! He lent us a vehicle until we could get a new one. Eight months later we still haven't gotten a new vehicle and will purchase his vehicle for a very competitive price. We are very grateful to Mr. Cisse, who truly came to the CCC's rescue in a time of need.

We are still searching for funding for a vehicle or a donation of a vehicle. It is a priority, as the CCC is located 82 kilometers from Faranah, the closest town, and 19 kilometers from the nearest village. The roads are bush tracks and we need a good sturdy vehicle to function. The L200 will not last another rainy season, so we need another vehicle by May or June this year.

### ***Truck***

Unfortunately, the truck that we purchased last year is still sitting in Conakry. We haven't been able to sell it and we can't use it on our road. We rented it once to the Park for transporting bicycles for the guards from Conakry. We are considering exchanging that truck for a good vehicle. We will lose money, but our need for a vehicle is critical.

### ***Handheld Radio***

Thanks to the grant from US Fish and Wildlife, we were able to purchase new handheld radios. Handheld radios help us communicate between different teams while tracking the released chimps. We were also able to purchase new batteries for our older walkie-talkies.





## New Infrastructure

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### *New bedroom at the keepers' camp*

Because we were short on volunteers this year, we hired many new keepers. They go through a trial period for three months, and we generally keep about a third of the new recruits. The keepers' camp can sleep thirteen people, but with the new keepers, the construction workers and temporary workers, it became really crowded at their camp. Thus, we built a new room that can sleep four and we reconstructed their toilet.



### *Veterinary sick room and quarantine area*



As soon as we agreed to take Moucky, the ten-year old chimp, we started the extension of the holding cage in front of the vet room. A welder made the metal panels and doors in Faranah, and then brought them to the CCC in a rented truck and put them together on site. A mason then came a week later to do the floor and make the small walls. The mason had a lot of patience, as Dan was in the front cage after he escaped and was removing cement as fast as the mason was putting it in! It took three weeks to finish it, right on time for Moucky's arrival.

### *New rooms and new roofing at camp*



Every year, we have to make new roofs or at least add thatch to ensure that the huts will be rainproof during the rainy season. This year, we built a new hut for Elise, the manager; completely rebuilt one of the huts that was eaten by termites; and demolished the old office (and secure room) that was falling apart, which we're currently rebuilding. This time, we used compressed mud bricks and cement to make the walls. It should be significantly stronger.



## Community Aid

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### *Medical Assistance*

As always, we have provided a lot of medical help, advice and transport to villagers in need this year. Most villages are very isolated and their inhabitants don't have the means to get to a health center or a hospital when they are in need of care. We provide treatment when the case is not life threatening, and provide transport to the hospital when the case is more severe. Due to Ebola, we were especially cautious this year and did a lot of outreach work in the villages about Ebola transmission and symptoms.

### *School in Massenesambouya*

The family of our senior manager, Mathieu Laurans, came to visit the project in 2012 and decided that they wanted to help the village closest to the CCC. Mathieu's stepfather organized fundraising events in France, and after several months there were enough funds to build a school. We got approval from the Park and the local government to build this school, which is now finished and furnished. Unfortunately, all schools were closed this year due to Ebola, but it is expected to open soon.



## Parc National du Haut Niger

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The CCC is strategically located in the PNHN, which harbors over 500 wild chimpanzees. It is a great location for the protection of the park and for the rehabilitation process

### *Protection*

Since 2005, when the European Union's financial support for the PNHN ended, the Guinean Government authorities have been logistically, technically and financially unable to enforce its protection. The park protection resumed in 2007 when the CCC started to fund protection activities and increased its collaboration with local and park authorities.

In 2013, USFW provided another grant that allowed the CCC to logistically support and supervise the newly appointed eco-guards during the 2014 and 2015 dry season. We mostly work in the northern part of the Mafou core area. The CCC is responsible for providing general logistical support and training for the eco-guards who are dispatched to areas within the CCC's activities (Somoria, Bakaria and Confluence). Last year, there were officially 22 appointed guards and this year 30. However, despite our constant efforts, logistical, financial support and advocacy efforts, we never had more than ten guards divided between the three sites on the ground. Due to the lack of eco guards, the level of commitment from the guards who were present, and virtually no government involvement, in 2014, the protection of the PNHN has been totally ineffective. Additionally, since there were eco-guards appointed to the Park, the military personnel with whom we used to work couldn't be dispatched to the Park, and we noticed a huge difference between the competence of the eco-guards and the military.

Over the years, the fishing groups from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban in the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand, they have gone against the eco guards and the law. This past year and last month again, they entered the protected area en mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to expel them from the protected area. The lack of political will and involvement by the EU-funded project run by UNOPS is destroying years of protection work.





For years, fishing hasn't been allowed in the core area, Mafou. The illegal fishermen are using any kind of pressure and force they can to pass the river blocks. The eco guards lack training, will and supervision. We have realized that we can't count on them if we are not with them at all times.

Thanks to Guillaume, the CCC protection supervisor, the guards did confiscate fishing nets in 2014 and at the beginning of 2015, and sunk 10 pirogues. Unfortunately, no arrests were made.

We are currently advocating with the government to add military personnel to each team. We also managed to institute log-in sheets for the guards, and now if they are absent from their post, they will not be paid. We are hoping that these new measures will help ensure a more robust presence on the ground and more efficient work.

### ***Stakeholder meeting***



In January, a big stakeholder meeting was organized and funded by the CCC in Sidakoro, the park headquarters. Government officials from the Ministry of fishery and the Ministry of environment as well as governors and prefet in addition to fishery groups, hunting groups and representatives of all the villages around the Park's core area were present. It was a success and we managed to relay messages regarding illegal fishing, hunting, bush fire etc...to all the people involved.

Unfortunately, the fishery group from Kouroussa (the same one as last year) didn't want to listen and attacked the guards a few days later when we posted them at the Eastern river blockage. The guards blocked them for a month and a half, but we just received news that they were able to pass. An official government mission is currently underway to expel them.



## Other Activities

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### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

#### *Behavioral study in collaboration with the University of Kent – Dr. Humle and Jeanne Legras*

We continue to gather data in order to improve our rehabilitation procedures, monitor the development of our chimpanzees and identify key variables influencing this process. This data will also be useful to other sanctuaries and facilities caring for captive chimpanzees and will help to improve chimpanzee welfare and identify future release candidates.

#### *Wild chimpanzee survey at release site*

In June 2014, Dr Tatyana Humle came to the release site for 10 days to perform transect surveys. She will compare data gathered in 2007, 2009 and 2012 to see if the wild chimpanzee population has increased. She will also assess big mammal presence.



#### *Special visit*



At the beginning of the year, we had a special visit from the US ambassador and a USAID representative, who traveled all the way to Somoria. It was a pleasure to host him and his team. He only stayed a day, and luckily the chimps behaved themselves!

#### *Keeper's trainer*



In 2014, we started a keeper training program. Stuart Beaman, who was a chimpanzee keeper for years and came as a volunteer in 2013, returned to offer his expertise for three months. He facilitated group trainings as well as individual mentorships. We immediately began to see a difference in the keepers' work: the cage cleanings were significantly more calm and the bush walks became less stressful for the chimps, as Stuart emphasizes positive reinforcement to promote good behavior. Thanks to funding from IPPL and the Arcus Foundation, Stuart will be able to come to the CCC for five months in 2015 and continue the program with the old and new keepers.

#### *PASA meeting in Portland*

In November 2014, Estelle attended a PASA meeting in Portland to help resolve structural issues within the association. She helped to set up the timeline of the history and creation of PASA. By the end of the meeting, everyone felt confident that the Board of Directors and the PASA sanctuary members would be able to work together efficiently going forward.





## STAFF

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### *Local Staff*

We currently have five keepers who aren't on trial, one keeper/technician, one camp manager and three keepers on trial in Somoria. They are the heart of the CCC and we're very glad that they are part of our team. Their courage and willpower to help the chimps and their love for the chimps allows us to keep moving forward even when everything seems to go wrong!

In Bakaria, we have two trackers/boat drivers and one camp manager. In addition we have two drivers. One of them is a mechanic and he is the reason why the L200 is still running! Thank you Jean!



*Sekou, Faya and Kourouma with Labe!*

### *Expatriate Staff and volunteers*

This year we trained a new manager, Rodolphe Violleau. He spent ten months in Guinea in 2014. He was trained by Mathieu Laurans, the ex senior manager, Elise Neveu, the new senior manager, and Estelle Raballand, the Director.



*Elise Neveu*



Elise and Rodolphe share the year, doing each eight months per year in two rotations. Due to the lack of volunteers, they both extended their time on site in 2014. They are both very hard working and motivated and we're lucky and grateful to have them!

As for higher management, the CCC's director, Estelle Raballand, has set up a Board of Directors for the CCC which includes the PPGui president, one representative of PPI, one representative of PPF and one external person in addition to herself. Terms of reference were created for the director position and we started advertising for this position at the end of 2014. Dr. Christelle Colin, PPF ex-president and CCC ex-manager (she left in 2007) was selected for the CCC director position. She's currently in training. Estelle will be fundraising for the CCC, will stay on the Board of Directors and act as an ambassador to the CCC while remaining PPI president.

Thanks to a USFW grant we were able to hire a protection supervisor for the second year, Guillaume Banville, which allowed us to rely on an experienced person and freed the managers to focus on other activities. He spent his time working to ensure that guards were at their posts and supervising their activities.

This year we received twenty-one volunteers in total – fewer than usual. They also came for shorter periods of time. We were very grateful to host a volunteer veterinarian with a lot of experience (she saved the cat's life!), and are very grateful for the volunteers' help in general, including all the past volunteers who came back to give us a much needed help during the Ebola outbreak.

### ***Project Primate, Inc. (PPI)***

This year PPI created an event on social media to raise funds to help us during the Ebola outbreak.

Unfortunately, Tricia Gillett, the PPI treasurer, resigned and we have struggled to find a replacement. PPI made Lily Tote bags that are selling very easily at events.

The web site CCC/PPI/PPF/PPGui has received over 78,000 visits which is a 6% increase.

PPI is currently raising over 70% of the CCC's funds. We are planning on increasing PPI's visibility in the US and hope to start a successful "adopt-a-chimp" program. We are currently looking for additional volunteers to help us fundraise.

### ***Projet Primates France (PPF)***

Thanks to social medias, PPF have 56 members and 124 chimpanzee's sponsors. The calendar created by PPF at the beginning of the year, was really successful and the Lily t-shirts are still very popular.

PPF recruited most of the twenty-one volunteers (including some volunteers who have come in previous years) who came to help at the CCC this year, and thus PPF received over 4,000 euros in volunteer contributions. The returned volunteers have organized eight conferences and expositions throughout the year. New posters were created for these events and they are a great support to promote the CCC activities.

Thanks to all of these activities, PPF's financial support of the CCC has stayed constant this year with over 45,000 euros in support to the CCC.

### ***Association Projet Primates Guinea (PPGui)***

This new local association has been set up as the CCC Board of Directors. We had many conference calls to change the incorporation articles and the by-laws in order to legally be able to serve as the CCC BOD. PPGui hasn't fundraised in Guinea yet, but it is on the agenda for 2015. PPGui is also planning to set up an office in Conakry and the new director's activities will include fundraising in Guinea to support the CCC's activities on the ground.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

The CCC is one of the most cost efficient sanctuaries in the world with an average of less than \$3,000 spent on each chimpanzees per year, including the released chimpanzees.

1 euro = 1.3 USD ; 1 USD=6830GF			
CCC 2014 Expenses			
	In Guinea in US \$	paid by PPI in US\$	paid by PPF in euros
<b>Animals</b>			
Food	\$26 847,96		
Milk	\$3 059,15		
Veterinary	\$1 152,78	\$1 697,44	861,15 €
Equipment, bags	\$1 862,37		
Cleaning supplies	\$138,36	\$152,74	
Confiscation	\$857,47		
<b>EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL</b>			
Director		\$8 750,00	
Managers (3 persons)		\$11 550,00	
Protection supervisor stipend		\$3 000,00	
Scientific advisor		\$1 515,00	
Keepers Trainer			1 205,00 €
Electrical fencing expert			800,00 €
volunteers expenses	\$1 555,12		
management expenses	\$316,54		
Plane tickets	\$65,45	\$2 360,42	
<b>Personnel Somoria</b>			
CCC Salaries	\$14 035,87		
Other salaries	\$634,99		
Equipment, Other	\$521,01		
Medical	\$141,14		
CNSS	\$475,70		
<b>Personnel Bakaria</b>			
CCC Salaries	\$4 895,29		
Equipment, Other	\$150,59		
Medical	\$16,11		





### **Administration Somoria**

feeding expenses	\$1 156,43		
camp Groceries	\$3 499,69		
Telecommunication	\$709,08		
Fuel	\$9 111,93		
Car repairs	\$10 223,28		
Vehicle maintenance	\$1 623,57		
Transport, taxi	\$1 802,49		
Hotel, house rent	\$3 362,37		
Legal/immigration	\$719,62		
Utilities	\$325,55		
Camp supplies	\$365,27		
Office supplies	\$228,26		
Telephone satellite credit		\$7 947,34	

### **Administration Bakaria**

feeding expenses	\$2 081,33		
Motorcycle/bicycle repairs	\$484,26		
Fuel	\$2 242,02		
Car repairs	\$11,71		
Boat repairs	\$983,38	\$33,45	269,05 €
Transport/taxi	\$69,33		
Generator	\$582,14		
Camp supplies	\$50,37		
Satellite phone bakaria credit		\$708,34	

### **Subtotal Construction**

Materials	\$2 805,34		
Salaries	\$1 558,93		
feeding expenses	\$564,13		
Transport, taxi	\$1 493,78		
Tools/equipment	\$530,97		
Infrastructure maintenance	\$754,76		
Energizer	\$0,00	\$2 068,00	391,75 €
Fencing Equipment	\$3 596,32	\$642,07	91,50 €

### **Conservation/dvpt**

Tracking collars		\$6 072,76	202,45 €
Tracking system (CLS)		\$1 243,32	
Materials	\$353,59		
Tools/equipment	\$532,94		
Infrastructure maintenance bakaria	\$509,66		

### **Community Dvpt**

\$736,38



<b>Protection</b>			
Salaries	\$51,24		
Bonus	\$8,78		
Equipment	\$128,40		
feeding expenses	\$766,40		
transport,fuel	\$1 194,14		
legal, administration	\$60,03		
Satellite phone bakaria		\$1 201,64	
Moto/walkies		\$982,43	
VHF Radio Som/Bak	\$139,09	\$114,74	
Education	\$52,05		
<b>TRUCK</b>	\$6 062,59		
<b>Overhead PPI</b>		\$3 368,41	
<b>Bank fees</b>	\$351,37	\$1 430,38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118 608,90</b>	<b>\$54 838,48</b>	<b>3 820,90 €</b>
<b>Grand Total 2014 (in US \$)</b>	<b>\$178 414,55</b>		<b>\$4 967,17</b>
<b>Grand Total 2014 (in EUROS)</b>	<b>137 241,96 €</b>		

<b>Income for CCC 2014</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Euros</b>	<b>FG</b>
<b>Wire transfer From PPI</b>	\$62 000,00		
<b>Cash from PPI</b>	\$5 800,00		
<b>Wire transfer From PPF</b>		38 100,00 €	
<b>Paid by PPI in the USA</b>	\$54 838,48		
<b>Paid by PPF in France</b>		3 820,90 €	
<b>IN GUINEA</b>			
donation volunteers			1 136 300
suzanne mondoux		2 100,00 €	
touristes		50,00 €	
loan from Elise			4550000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$122 638,48</b>	<b>44 070,90 €</b>	<b>5686300</b>
<b>Total Income in US \$</b>	<b>\$180 763,20</b>		

**YEARLY BALANCE for CCC Total**

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	\$10 499,63
Total income (for the CCC)	\$180 763,20
Total spent (at and for CCC)	\$178 414,55
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$12 848,28</b>

**Fund allocation Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2014**

PPG account in FG	17222243	
PPGui account in euros	1 542,94 €	
PPG account in \$	\$1 131,80	
in cash in FG	11859500	
in cash in euros	2 100,00 €	
in cash in US\$	\$2 720,00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12 845,56</b>	<b>-\$2,71 difference</b>





Thank you to the following supporters and funders :

