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Photo by Catalin Mitrache

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting few months. Since the move of JGI's national headquarters to Toronto in May, we have been busy putting down roots and making connections with donors and like-minded organizations in the Toronto area, and exploring further the potential of our exciting new partnership with the Centre for Environment at the University of Toronto.

The highlight, however, was Dr. Goodall's September visit to Canada. Busy spreading her messages of hope in Spain, France, South Africa, Tanzania, the US and Costa Rica during 2007, this was Dr. Goodall's first visit to Canada this year. We had the honour of welcoming her to both Toronto and Saskatoon as part of the celebrations of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Jane Goodall Institute.

It was an action-packed week, with two public lectures, three youth events, a special 30th anniversary celebration and two private dinners. This was my first experience of a lecture tour with Dr. Jane and I have to say that I was in awe at her air of serenity and peace, combined with the blistering pace at which she moves through all the events that have been planned for her. The overriding impression she left everywhere was one of energy, hope and optimism, particularly among the young people that she had an opportunity to connect with.

I hope many of you had an opportunity to hear Dr. Goodall speak or to read some of the media coverage of her visit. Since the last time I wrote to you, many more Canadians have joined the Institute as supporters and we are excited about our growing ability to contribute to community-centred conservation projects in Africa and to reach out to more young Canadians with opportunities to become engaged in taking action in their communities.

Don't forget to check out our new website often for updates on all that is going on.

Thank you for your support!

Jane Lawton
Executive Director



News from the Field

Great Apes Continue to Face Threat of Extinction



Photo by
Michael Neugabauer

Wild chimpanzee populations have been reduced significantly in the last 20 to 30 years, and face considerable threat ahead, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, released in late September with little good news.

The chimpanzee continues to be listed as "endangered", which has been its classification since 1996. Chief threats include poaching, disease and habitat destruction through logging, mining and other resource exploitation. There was even worse news about other great apes, particularly the Western Gorilla, which is now listed as "critically endangered", suffering declines due to the commercial bushmeat trade and Ebola virus. Its population has declined by more than 60 percent in the last 20 to 25 years, according to the List. Sumatran Orangutans are also critically endangered.

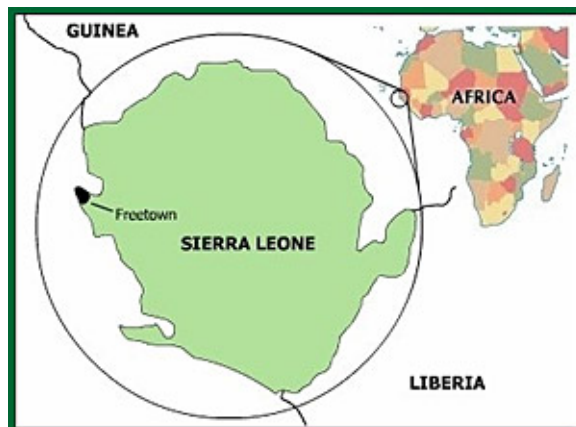
Sierra Leone Bans Chimpanzee Trade

Thanks to the work of JGI and its partners in Sierra Leone, it is now illegal to capture and kill chimpanzees in Sierra Leone. JGI is engaged in a two-year awareness and sensitization project in the country that is designed to benefit wild chimpanzee populations and support sustainable economic development in local communities.

The multi-year project, funded by the US Agency for International Development, focuses on public awareness education, legal protection and law enforcement activities, and community-centred conservation and development efforts in Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Earlier this year, as part of the project, the two organizations produced a review of Sierra Leone's wildlife laws, and recommended that the government provide urgently needed protection to its endangered chimpanzee population.

The population of chimpanzees in Sierra Leone has been in decline since the 1960s and 1970s, when the country was a major exporter of chimpanzees, mostly for biomedical research. Current threats to chimpanzees in both Sierra Leone and Guinea, which share an important border zone that provides crucial habitat for the animals, come from hunting for bushmeat and the pet trade, and the destruction of habitat primarily through deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture.





Changing Lives in Tanzania

At one time, Gefruda Damian's only income came from the tomatoes she sold out of a bucket in the central square of her village, Mukigo, high in the mountains of Tanzania's Kigoma region, bordering Burundi.

But in 2000 she received a visit from staff at JGI's TACARE (Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and Education) program that would change her life. Their offer to join a micro credit program has allowed Gefruda to pool her savings with other village residents. The villagers receive funds to match their savings from JGI, and have created a fund from which small individual loans are issued.



Photo courtesy of JGI US

In March 2001, with a loan in Tanzanian Shillings equal to around \$50, Gefruda bought tomatoes wholesale. Within 12 months, she had increased her income two-fold. With subsequent loans, she expanded her inventory and now has a small shop from which she sells flour, sugar and clothes. Three of her children can now attend Secondary School and she says she is better able to care for her family's clothing, dietary and health needs as well.



Gefruda Damian, Chair of the Mukigo Microcredit Group

Photo courtesy of JGI US

Uganda Team Rescues Chimp

In April of this year the JGI team in Uganda received a call from Masindi township in the north of the country alerting them to the fact that a young chimp had been found in a "mantrap". When the team arrived they found that the chimp was still alive although his wrist had been crushed by the vicious trap.

"Although these traps are illegal, farmers still use them to protect their crops from crop raiding wildlife, mainly baboons and pigs," says JGI Uganda Executive Director Debby Cox. "The traps are deadly, so far we know of two chimps that have died in them."

Thanks to the quick thinking of the local people, this chimp escaped that fate. Vets working with JGI and a partner organization managed to tranquilize the chimp, remove the trap and send him on his way with a dose of antibiotics in the hope that his wounds would heal. The incident highlights the ongoing conflicts that occur between human populations and wild chimpanzees and other animals, which continue to be trapped and sold as bushmeat in markets across Africa and around the world. At the same time, however, it demonstrates the growing commitment of villagers in the areas where JGI is active to protection of chimpanzees.



Photo by Debby Cox



More than a Safe Haven: The Role of Tchimpounga in JGI's Conservation Work



Photo courtesy of JGI Congo

When Jane Goodall opened the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre in 1992 she knew she was embarking on an enormous undertaking. The orphaned chimps whose mothers had been killed would need to be cared for for the rest of their lives – and with a life expectancy of approximately 60 years, this represents a significant and long-term financial obligation for the Institute.

Many of her colleagues urged her not to get involved with these young chimpanzees. But for Jane, abandoning these animals was never an option. Her response, "How could I turn my back on their outstretched hands, their pleading eyes, and their pathetic, malnourished bodies?"

Located within the JGI-managed Tchimpounga Natural Reserve in the Republic of Congo, Tchimpounga is currently the largest refuge for orphaned chimpanzees on the African continent. Inside its protected borders, and under the watchful eye of JGI's caregivers, over 130 chimpanzees are being given a second chance at life. They thrive within the sanctuary's forest habitats, socializing with other chimpanzees, overcoming the injuries and trauma they've suffered.

Effects of Gombe Research Far-Reaching

A recent paper highlights the critical contribution that the ongoing research projects at Gombe National Park are making to the long-term conservation of wild chimpanzee populations. The research project, pioneered by Dr. Goodall in 1960, represents the world's longest-running study of a wild species.

- Jane Goodall's groundbreaking discoveries in what was then a game reserve drew attention to the area and created support for upgrading Gombe to national park status in 1968
- The highly publicized research findings have earned Gombe and Tanzania the attention of a worldwide public that includes tourists and donors that provide financial support for Gombe, other parks in Tanzania, and chimpanzee conservation in general
- The information on chimpanzee social structure and habitat use that has been gathered is essential for effective conservation at Gombe and elsewhere
- The picture of Gombe's chimp population that has been developed has helped identify the greatest threats to the viability of this population, namely disease and habitat loss outside the park



Photo by Michael Neugabauer

The paper concludes that saving the famous chimps in Gombe will take an integrated effort on the part of park managers, researchers and the local community, with financial help from international donors. This paper was authored by Anne Pusey, Lilian Pintea, Michael Wilson, Shadrack Kamenya and Jane Goodall.



Get Involved

Jane's Peak Society

In our last newsletter we told you about a new opportunity for our donors – membership in Jane's Peak Society (JPS). Named after the peak at Gombe National Park that gave Jane her best vantage point from which to view wild chimpanzees, the society offers donors who make an annual commitment of \$1,000 or more a chance to become more involved with JGI through trips to Africa, and to receive invitations to special events, in addition to updates from Dr. Jane and our Africa field staff. By making an annual commitment, JPS members help us to plan ahead and to advance our efforts to protect chimpanzees, invest in community-centred conservation throughout Africa, and support leading-edge environmental and humanitarian education programs in Canada.



Photo courtesy of JGI



We're thrilled to announce that we have secured eight Founding Members of JPS in Canada to date, each with donations of \$10,000 or more.

Visit www.janegoodall.ca/help-peak-society.php for more information about Jane's Peak Society and how you can become part of this special group of people.

Christmas Gifts from JGI

We know it's only October, but Christmas really is just around the corner! JGI offers a wonderful range of conscience-free Christmas gifts that will enchant even the most difficult to buy for, and make a difference to people, animals and the environment worldwide. Books, DVDs, stuffed toys and jewellery and cards made through micro-credit programs in Uganda are just part of the selection. Visit www.janegoodall.ca/store to visit our convenient online store.



JGI Canada

Monthly Giving Helps Even More!

If you are not already a monthly donor to JGI or a monthly Chimp Guardian, we'd like to ask you to consider making regular monthly donations. Monthly giving is a very convenient way to manage your donations, and it helps us even more by cutting down on our administrative costs. You can now sign up as a monthly donor online – just visit www.janegoodall.ca/help-give-monthly.php!

Not Yet a Supporter?



Photo by Debbie Cox

Growing numbers of Canadians are showing their concern for the future of the world's Great Apes, and for the future of the planet by making a financial contribution to the work of JGI Canada. If you are not yet a part of the JGI family, please consider making a gift to the Institute or becoming a Chimp Guardian today: www.janegoodall.ca/how-to-help.php