

Africa Programs Bulletin



In cooperation with African governments, JGI is ensuring that illegally held chimpanzees are confiscated from poachers or market vendors and placed in sanctuaries across Africa. This bulletin discusses the role of sanctuaries in addressing regional conservation and development needs. In our "Voice" section, Debby Cox, JGI-Uganda Executive Director, discusses her sense of mission.



THE ISSUE:

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: THE EXPANDED ROLE OF SANCTUARIES IN CONSERVATION

Complex issues such as human population growth, socio-economic inequality, political instability and resource exploitation place enormous pressure upon African wildlife. Threaded among these factors is the ever present and growing illegal bushmeat trade, targeting all African wildlife yet particularly devastating to primates. Chimpanzees, faced with increasing threats to their survival in a continually degraded habitat, coupled with low reproductive rates and long life spans¹, have been in decline throughout Africa over the last century.

Created as a safe haven for victims of bushmeat, sanctuaries have reached out to join conservationists and communities in the struggle to protect great apes in Africa.

The evolution of sanctuaries, created in response to the immediate needs of chimps orphaned through the illegal bushmeat trade, offers a clear indication of the conservation challenges ahead. At or severely above capacity, sanctuaries have recognized that in order to halt the trade and thus the influx of chimpanzees, efforts must be coordinated among all stakeholders. Sanctuaries are beginning to take on an expanded role in conservation initiatives², particularly focusing on community involvement. Comprehensive education and awareness programs have helped people understand the long-term importance of a healthy intact environment and sustainable practices. Through their facilities and various outreach initiatives, sanctuaries have the opportunity to teach local school groups about the importance of chimp survival, carry out field research to assist conservation efforts, and support local development in health care and infrastructure. Through eco-

tourism, they can realize sustainable financial security. Benefits realized through these initiatives go beyond the ultimate goal of resource conservation. A shared recognition of the value of natural resources has been shown to generate national pride within communities. The initiatives also provide income opportunities such as ecoguard and caregiver positions.



Through a community-centered approach sanctuaries can assist conservation efforts to halt the illegal commercial bushmeat trade.



The Jane Goodall Institute's Africa programs work to ensure the long-term protection of ape populations, while preserving biodiversity and human cultural traditions and livelihoods through research, education and community-centered conservation activities.

¹Eves, H., and Bakarr, M.I. (2001). Impacts of bushmeat hunting on wildlife populations in West Africa's upper Guinea forest ecosystem. In M.I. Bakarr, G.A.B. da Fonseca, R. Mittermeier, A.B. Rylands, and K.W. Painemilla (Eds.), *Hunting and bushmeat utilization in the African rain forest: Perspectives towards a blueprint for conservation action* (pp. 39-57). Washington, D.C.: Conservation International.

²Farmer, K.H. (2002). Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance: Status and range of activities for great ape conservation. *American Journal of Primatology*, 58: 117-132.



**THE JGI PROJECT:
JGI-UGANDA (SANCTUARY, COMMUNITY OUTREACH
AND EDUCATION, FIELD PROJECTS)**

JGI has created and currently operates three sanctuaries³ in Africa, housing almost 200 orphaned chimps. JGI-Uganda is a partner in the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust. In addition to caring for orphaned chimps⁴ its Ngamba and Nsadzi island sanctuaries help conserve wild chimpanzee populations through initiatives that address root issues involved in the commercial bushmeat trade. Projects include community education, snare removal programs, and participation in a wild chimpanzee survey within 22 forests of western Uganda⁵.



Snare traps removed from areas surrounding Ngamba Island are used to sensitize local communities to the need for protection of their forests and wildlife.

**THE JGI VOICE FROM THE FIELD
DEBBY COX, JGI - UGANDA**

As a sanctuary manager in Africa, I am faced with a significant dilemma. For me, a chimpanzee belongs in the forests of Africa, not in captivity. Yet, I have established a sanctuary for confiscated orphaned chimpanzees in Uganda, knowing they



will spend the rest of their lives in captivity. While some sanctuaries can explore the option of releasing these orphans back into the wild, here in Uganda we know this is not an option; there simply is no forest suitable to release them back into. The longer I spend with these chimps, the more determined I am to work to keep them where they belong, in the forests.



Walking bridge and look-out point at JGI-Uganda's Ngamba Island Sanctuary.

I wear a fine silver chain around my neck; attached to it is a small key with the letter 'A' stamped on it. Many people ask me what the key is for, thinking it is the key to my heart and expecting some romantic story. I suppose the key does unlock my heart, but not in the manner you would think. The key belonged to a young chimpanzee called 'Amizero'. Amizero in Kirundi means 'hope'. She was given this name by the staff at the sanctuary there, as they hoped she would survive. You see, Amizero was very ill when she was rescued and only the efforts of Dr. Susanne Anderson and the staff at the sanctuary saved her. The key opened the lock to a chain that was around Amizero's neck. She like so many other orphaned chimpanzees in Africa had been enslaved by humans. She lived a life devoid of love, physical contact and freedom. This key reminds me each day why I am here. When things seem to be too tough and I feel too tired to continue, when the obstacles appear too enormous...I just have to touch the key and it reminds me of Amizero's past and why I have to remain focused, to continue to fight for the lives of these innocent victims of man's cruelty.

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³Congo-Brazzaville, Uganda, and Kenya

⁴For more information on JGI's efforts please see our web site, www.janegoodall.org

⁵Census finds 5000 chimpanzees in Uganda. (2003, January 21). Independent Online, January 23, 2003.