



About the Jane Goodall Institute's African Programme

Since the early 1990s, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) has recognized that protecting the environment and species can no longer remain separate from the task of improving the human condition. Rapidly increasing destruction of forests and the pressures of growing populations mean that reaching individual farmers and villagers is key to conservation success. That's why, in African chimpanzee range countries, JGI works to build the capacity of rural communities to be self-sustaining in ways that enable them to prosper economically and culturally, while protecting the natural resources on which their long-term prosperity depends.

JGI's work is distinguished by its participatory, systems-based approach, successfully mobilizing people to adopt new behaviors and practices to serve themselves and the broader landscape they rely on to survive. We apply this approach across multiple sectors, from agriculture and health to education and micro-credit.

Tanzania

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) works in western Tanzania to reduce human population pressures and protect chimpanzees and their forest habitat. In 1994, JGI's community-centered conservation approach was developed through the implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Catchment, Reforestation and Education (TACARE) program in the area in and around Gombe National Park. Since then, the TACARE model has been expanded from Gombe National Park to larger and more pristine chimpanzee habitat to the south.

Uganda

In Uganda, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) increases the capacity of local ecoguards and government employees to manage protected areas; engages local communities in land-use and natural resource-use planning; promotes sustainable livelihoods; and educates students about wildlife and the importance of healthy ecosystems. Uganda is estimated to contain about 5,000 chimpanzees. Habitat loss for agriculture and logging; hunting as a result of human-wildlife conflicts; the spread of disease between apes and humans; and a lack of income generating opportunities for humans pose the greatest threats to chimpanzees in the country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

As part of the Congo Basin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) contains the world's second largest rainforest. There are estimated to be roughly 70,000 to 100,000 chimpanzees in the DRC. Threats to the great apes in the country include hunting for the illegal, commercial bushmeat trade, mining, deforestation and civil strife. In response to these threats, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is leading a conservation action plan (CAP) in the eastern DRC. The CAP will target more than 66 million acres, which contain approximately 15,000 chimpanzees and somewhere between 3,000-5,000 gorillas.

Republic of the Congo

Congo is one of the most densely forested countries in Africa. There are estimated to be around 10,000 chimpanzees in the Republic of Congo. Great apes in the country are threatened by human conflict, logging, the spread of disease, and hunting for the commercial, illegal bushmeat trade.

In the country, JGI's chimpanzee sanctuary cares for chimpanzee orphans of the commercial, illegal bushmeat

trade. JGI has worked to increase the area of protected habitat for chimpanzees and create comprehensive management plans for protected areas. JGI also improves local ability to enforce rules protecting these areas and raises awareness within local communities about the importance of great apes and wildlife laws.

Republic of Guinea

JGI began implementing integrated conservation and development activities in Guinea in 2005 with a significant education and awareness-raising campaign focused on chimpanzees and environmental conservation.

Rural populations in Guinea are suffering significant economic hardships, and therefore must have direct incentives to conserve their wildlife and habitat. Threats like deforestation, poaching, and the pet and illegal, commercial bushmeat trades are made worse by a lack of alternative income generating activities. In addition, there is a lack of information and awareness about conservation benefits and wildlife laws.

Tchimpounga

Since 1992, JGI has worked tirelessly to look after the welfare of the orphaned chimpanzees residing at this chimpanzee sanctuary. Most of the orphaned chimps living there were confiscated by Congolese authorities as part of their efforts to stop the illegal commercial bushmeat and pet trades. The rescued chimps are cared for at JGI's TCRC, which is currently the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in Africa. Originally designed to care for 30 chimpanzees, today the TCRC provides sanctuary for more than 140 orphan chimps who can live as long as 60 years. The TCRC staff also cares for eight adult mandrills.

The Institute is committed to expanding its facilities to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of the animals under its care, as well as the safety of JGI's dedicated staff. With the cooperation and assistance of the Congolese government and other partners, JGI will relocate 60 of the largest and strongest chimpanzees from the existing TCRC site to Tchindzoulou Island, one of the three islands in the Kouilou River.

JGI will begin by designing a master architectural plan for the entire site, as well as constructing a dormitory for chimpanzees to stay overnight, whether for integration with other chimps or for medical care. In addition, several ecoguard posts, accommodation for 10 staff members, and additional support buildings for food storage and preparation will be constructed. Finally, JGI will purchase equipment such as boats, a welding generator and a solar electric system.

Gombe Stream Research Center

The Gombe Stream Research Center was founded in 1965 to advance Jane Goodall's revolutionary findings about chimpanzee tool-making and other behaviors.

It also is a living laboratory, home to the world's most studied group of wild chimpanzees. The Center's mission is to operate a world-class research station in which the best available methods are used to continue and further develop the long-term primate research projects begun by Dr. Jane Goodall, and to advance basic science, support conservation, and train Tanzanian scientists.

The Center also hosts a regular stream of visiting researchers who conduct both basic and applied research, exploring areas such as relationships between fathers and offspring or female social status and range use. One of the critical studies currently underway is led by Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama. Dr. Hahn seeks to understand the natural history of HIV by looking at the factors causing transmission of the closely related simian immunodeficiency virus.

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