PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center

Ensuring the Welfare of Captive Chimpanzees

Chimpanzees rescued by the Jane Goodall Institute find a new home at our Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center in the Republic of Congo. Many orphaned by the international commercial wild meat and pet trades, these chimpanzees receive expert care and rehabilitation by Tchimpounga's staff and are adopted into new chimpanzee families. Tchimpounga also stands as a beacon against wildlife crime through support for law enforcement and enriches local communities by supporting sustainable livelihoods, public awareness, and environmental education.

Founded in 1992, Tchimpounga is one of Africa's largest chimpanzee sanctuaries, providing care to more than 150 individuals. Located within the Tchimpounga Nature Reserve, Tchimpounga's chimpanzees are cared for at a main sanctuary site as well as three forested island sanctuary sites by Dr. Rebeca Atencia, JGI-Congo's executive director and Tchimpounga's head veterinarian as well as a dedicated team of expert caregivers.

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Tchimpounga's staff provides individualized care plans for chimpanzees while supporting and ensuring their welfare as they are integrated into communities of other chimpanzees, many of whom are unrelated. Connected with local communities, the work at Tchimpounga extends beyond the sanctuary through purchases of locally grown fruits for the chimpanzees, supporting law enforcement agency confiscations of endangered wildlife, and offering school-based educational programs for youth.

We build on the work of our model facility at Tchimpounga, as well as on Dr. Goodall's authoritative writings and advocacy to improve non-human animal welfare.

Through innovations in captive care, advocacy and cross-sectoral partnerships, JGI makes sure that every chimpanzee is provided the respect and quality of life they deserve.

Through our care model and evaluation system known as the Chimpanzee Welfare Index we are proud that every chimpanzee in Tchimpounga is at or above 95% for positive welfare.

Our model is one we share to improve standards and well-being of captive apes around the world.

Photos by Fernando Turmo

Jane Goodall Institute

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THE TRIANGLE APPROACH

The illegal wild meat and pet trade threatens chimpanzee populations across Republic of the Congo. To address these, JGI has adopted a dynamic, mindful strategy we call the "Triangle Approach" which relies on developing cooperation between three distinct entities: law enforcement, environmental education programs, and Tchimpounga. Thanks to this work and other in-country and cross-border partnerships, our ability to ensure rescued chimpanzees' confiscation and proper placement is growing. Law enforcement in the region increasingly notify JGI about issues with illegal trade knowing that Tchimpounga is a best-in-class facility that will be able to care for rescued animals appropriately. In parallel with this, education and public awareness efforts diminish the behaviors that fuel the trade in the first place.

RESCUE & REHABILITATION

No two chimpanzee stories are the same. Each chimpanzee rescued by the Tchimpounga staff requires individualized care plans. JGI's staff carefully assesses and monitors the health of each chimpanzee while learning about their patterns of behavior and personalities. All of this information is critical to ensuring their individual health and ensuring their life can be enriched by social groupings with other chimpanzees who are compatible with their temperament and demeanor. This work takes specialized know-how, incredible attention to detail, and great compassion and altruism from JGI's caregivers and veterinary teams. Our expertise in wildlife medical care has resulted in groundbreaking practices and procedures, including what is known to be the first two chimpanzee-to-chimpanzee blood transfusions in Africa.

MULTI-SPECIES CARE

With such an excellent reputation for animal care, Tchimpounga has become not only home for rescued chimpanzees but also other species, including a baby gorilla, mandrills, small monkeys, pangolins, and a variety of birds and reptiles. The successful reintroduction of many of these rescues and subsequent wild births, especially with endangered mandrills, is a testament to our staff's dedication and skills.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

In the Republic of the Congo, poverty is a primary driver of the illegal wild meat and pet trade as people turn to poaching for income. To reduce this threat, in tandem with our 'Triangle Approach' of environmental education, public awareness andwork with law enforcement, we also provide staffing within the sanctuary and investment in local livelihoods. Tchimpounga employs nearly 100 local Congolese and annually generates nearly $300,000 of income for local farmers through sustainable agriculture and other products sourced to feed and care for the rescued chimpanzees.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Broad lack of education, in addition to a lack of awareness of local laws protecting wildlife, also contribute to the perpetuation of illegal trade in Congo. In addition to promoting and growing Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots in the country, JGI's public awareness and environmental education efforts include billboards that teach about how killing or trafficking great apes is a crime, television programs that discuss the forest and the wildlife that rely on it, and community outreach with student groups and women's groups.

One very special program, Super Kodo, is a children's television show that follows the heroics of a young boy named Kodo. He is given superpowers, which he uses to protect his beloved forests. Super Kodo explores wildlife conservation issues and has increased the environmental awareness of both kids and adults. Produced initially in Monokutuba, the show has been translated into French to expand its reach to other central African countries.

156
chimpanzees are in JGI's care at the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center

In addition to chimpanzees, JGI staff provided personalized care to:

31
Mandrills and other monkeys

45
Gray parrots

11
Turtles and tortoises

9
Dwarf alligators

2
Red river hogs

2
Blue duikers

2
Baby jackals.

**Based on JGI USA's 2023 Annual Report*

Jane Goodall Institute

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