

Ngamba News



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Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT)

...Partners in the welfare of wildlife

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary Marks 10 years of existence!

Established in 1998 with a mission to; “promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats in particular and wildlife in general” The sanctuary has registered an enormous increase in chimpanzee confiscation and rescue from 19 individuals to 45, over the last 10 years.

Critical threats to the survival of chimpanzees; habitat loss due to agriculture and human settlement, commercial bush meat trade, infectious diseases and trade in infants are still the factors driving the chimps from their natural habitat. As part of the 10 years anniversary, several events were organized to raise more public awareness and attract commitment to the conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats.

A chimpanzee workshop under the theme, “Preserving our heritage and protecting our closest relatives”, was officially opened by Honourable Nelson Gagawala Wambuzi, the Minister of Trade, and a key note address that centered on the plight of chimpanzees, given by Dr. Jane Goodall, who also launched the 5 year Strategic Plan (2008-2012) that was supported by UNDP Small Grants program. She also held a special session with the children and stressed the need to inspire the young people to care for the environment, people and the animals. Lilly Ajarova, the Executive Director CSWCT appealed for government support towards the sanctuary operations.



Dr. Jane Goodall launching CSWCT Strategic Plan

The Director JGI Uganda, Ms. Debby Cox noted that; the existence of chimpanzees in sanctuaries is a reflection of human failure to co-exist with other creatures with whom we share this planet. Local and international academicians, researchers, conservationists, media and private sector attended the workshop that discussed the issues of habitat protection, eco-tourism, disease, research and capacity building. The major outcome of the discussions is calling on Ugandan government to harmonise policies and regulations that support the protection of forests on private land among others.

2 Increasing rescued chimpanzees stretches Ngamba facilities

With 45 orphaned chimpanzees under our care, the situation seems to be getting out of hand, as the number of infants rescued continue to increase, and brought to the Sanctuary, over the last few years! Read on

In 1998, the sanctuary cared for only 19 chimpanzees that had been rescued from bushmeat, pet trade among other threats. Since then, the number has increased to 45 individuals, beyond the original caring capacity estimates of what the Island could accommodate. The increased rescues have had an enormous strain on the forest as we have many individuals living in the same place, and we have had to subsequently increase on the holding facilities den and outside enclosures so as to be able to accommodate the newly rescued individuals without compromising on their welfare needs.

In the last three years (2006- 2008) six (6) more infants were rescued with the help of the Uganda Police and Wildlife Authorities in Uganda. The 3 infants; Rutoto, Rambo and Kityo rescued in 2007 have been successfully integrated to the Ngamba community. The new arrivals of 2008 are Leo and Mac (rescued in Hoima district) and Afrika (rescued near Queen Elizabeth National Park).



Leo (at the site of rescue)

As we were getting settled with Afrika and Mac we got Leo rescued from Kyangwali village in Hoima district. He had been confined in a wooden cage for about a year. On arrival, Leo looked abnormal with a dry coat and discolored, alopecia and distended abdomen. And he has one missing finger on the right hand.

The current situation at the island is that Mawa and Asega have not contended to being part of the big group hence, are spending time in the holding facility than the forest. With the new infants in a separate den, this pauses space limitations, and further complicates our commitment to ensuring that everybody has access to the forest everyday. The plan is to immediately expand the holding facility. We need help!

CHIMP BRIEFS

○ | SURPRISE ESTROUS!

Kyewunyo had a premature estrous, drawing Eddy and Kalema closer to her, than any other males in the group!

○ | KITE GET TOUGHER As

Nkumwa and Pasa got to two nesting black kites, the kites attached them, and could not let go despite the chimp approach.

○ | ROBBIE VS MEGAN

Robbie does not like Megan to play with the juveniles, and attacks her when sighted.

○ | RUTOTO AND RAMBO

Rutoto and Rambo who had been adopted by Natasha and Nagoti respectively, have reduced their dependence on the mothers.

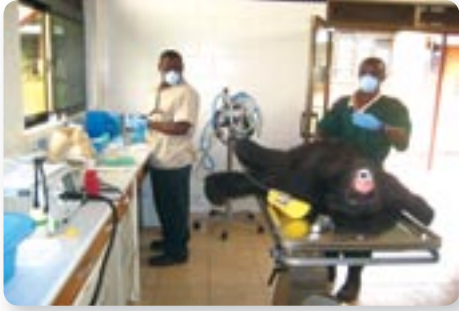


Afrika (left) and Mac (right) in Quarantine at Entebbe

We integrated Afrika and Mac from the quarantine prior to transferring them to the sanctuary on 18th June, 2008. They have been quick at adjusting to the island setting, diet and the interaction with the adults through the bars.

Umutama challenges adult male chimpanzees in the group! Two years ago, no juveniles could dare challenge Robbie, Eddy and Mika, except Umutama. Although he is a reserved individual, he boldly went into an alliance with Tumbo, helping him maintain his position as alpha male for nearly six months. In the absence of Mika and Robbie. Umutama is a darling to most females and the juveniles. He has successfully capitalized on his strength and kept his thirst for dominance among the group, even after Mika and Eddy's integration in 2006. At the moment, Umutama has become strong, capable of launching and successfully defeating the big boys. Eddy and Robbie can never dare to challenge him, which has automatically lead him to enjoy the "Fourth" position in the hierarchy. Umatama has grown very big and dark. Literally, he same size like Mika. Nobody dares to challenge him; over food and porridge, although nice to the infants and other low ranking females!

CHIMP HEALTH



Under the Chimpanzee Veterinary Preventive Health Care Program, annual health check for all the chimpanzees at Ngamba was undertaken, from February to March 2008. All chimpanzees underwent complete physical examinations including specialised procedures like implant insertion for contraception, endoscopy examination, dental scaling and tooth extraction from some individuals. Specialised kits were also used for diagnostic screening like Prima TB STAT-PAK Assay for Tuberculosis Screening a new tool for screening of TB using whole blood. Becky, Peace and Ikuru underwent tooth extraction while Asega's canines that are growing abnormally (Mal-occlusion and mal-positioning of canine teeth) were filled. 17 female chimpanzees received new implants. The new portable X-ray Machine was used on Rambo who had a fracture sometime back to assess the level of healing and on Asega who was limping. Laboratory diagnostics for all parameters revealed good health for the chimpanzees on the island including results generated from in-house Ngamba Lab where we had a privilege of using a portable incubator for bacteria culturing. As part of capacity building, the health check program attracted several participants from various countries with different experience namely;

Dr Christmas Dismas, Uganda,
Dr Jean Felix Kinani, Rwanda
Dr Sherwin Shinn, Dentist, USA
Dr Schalk, Gastroenterologist, South Africa
Dr Bruce, Veterinaria, South Africa
Ms Alter, Medical Nurse, South Africa
Ms Adele Lloyd, Veterinarian, Australia
Ms Maria Schober, Vet student, Germany
Mr. Matt Lloyd, Voluteer, Australia
Ms Jenny Houghton, Long Stay visitor
10 Canadian vet students and their two professors.
Ms. Jamila Nazziwa, student of Biomedical Laboratory, Makerere University, Uganda.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

THE GREAT APE EXHIBITION LAUNCHED AT NATIONAL MUSEUM

On the 4th July, 2008, the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Service, the Right Honourable Henry Kajura, launched the Great Apes Exhibition at The Uganda Museum organized by CSWCT. The exhibition is aimed at creating awareness about great apes, to the general public. The event is in commemoration of 10 years of Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, set to run from July to October, 2008. Entrance to the exhibition is free.



Hon. Henry Kajura launching the Great Apes Exhibition

EFFECTS OF FOREST CLEARANCE IN HOIMA

19 chimpanzees forage on the small patch of forest in Kyabigambire sub county, which often results in resource competition and fierce fights with baboons in the area. This has resulted in human chimpanzee conflicts as well as injuries and hatred. Forest patches on private and communal land are the only habitats left in the area, requiring immediate interventions to save and restore the forest corridor and habitats.

3

MYENDE IMPROVES SANITATION!



Honourable Janat Mukwaya, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry commissioning the facilities at Myende.

The Born Free Foundation through the Global Friends program supported our community program with a donation of \$ 1,000. The funds were merged with CSWCT kiosk proceeds to construct a three stance ecosan toilet worth \$2,120 benefitting over 120 young people .

DR. GOODALL INSPIRES STUDENTS

On the 4th July, 2008 over 700 students gathered to listen to an inspirational talk by Dr. Jane Goodall at St. Marks College- Namagoma, Kampala. Miss Ngamba 2008, the Wildlife Clubs of Uganda and CSWCT helped to organise the event to celebrate 10 years of the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary.



OUR STAFF

CONNIE BIRUNGI WEDS!

Our Office Administrator, Connie Birungi walked down the aisle with her fiancée, Mr. Douglas Mukwaya at St. Johns' Church Entebbe on 7th June 2008. At CSWCT, we congratulate Mr. & Mrs Mukwaya.



CONSERVATION HERO 2008



Stany Nyandwi, our Head Caregiver was named a Disney Conservation Hero for 2008. Stany is among the most knowledgeable captive chimpanzee welfare people in Africa. Nyandwi received a plaque and a \$ 500 cash prize for being named a Disney Conservation Hero 2008. At a dinner with Dr. Jane Goodall in Kampala Uganda. The award was handed over by Dr. Tamara Bettinger from Disney Animal Kingdom. At

CSWCT, we are extremely proud of Stany Nyandwi for his achievement and working with him to care for the chimpanzees at Ngamba Island.

OTHER STAFF UPDATES

We have one new staff, Hatanga Paul. Paul is our Conservation Officer, who is taking lead in the implementation of our Field Program, where we are working with communities and schools.

Silver James Birungi, our Assistant Education Officer attended the International Primatological Society (IPS) Keepers' Training in Scotland in July, 2008. We would like to acknowledge the support and service of the different volunteers, and all those that have helped us out in the different programs. Thanks for your help!

FRIENDS OF THE SANCTUARY

Our biggest "Thank You" to all our new supporters (from January 2008).

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- Uganda Wildlife Authority
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- Fresh Diary Products

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- Rebecca Jeanne Walter

Special Support from

- Seaworld & Busch Gardens
- Chestor Zoo
- Rufford Foundation

We are very grateful for all your generous contributions towards improving the welfare of the orphaned chimps of ngamba island.

For more information on how to support Ngamba Island and other projects, please visit our website www.ngambaisland.org or write to: info@ngambaisland.org



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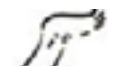
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