



BUSH TELEGRAPH

2006

Education~Protection Conservation

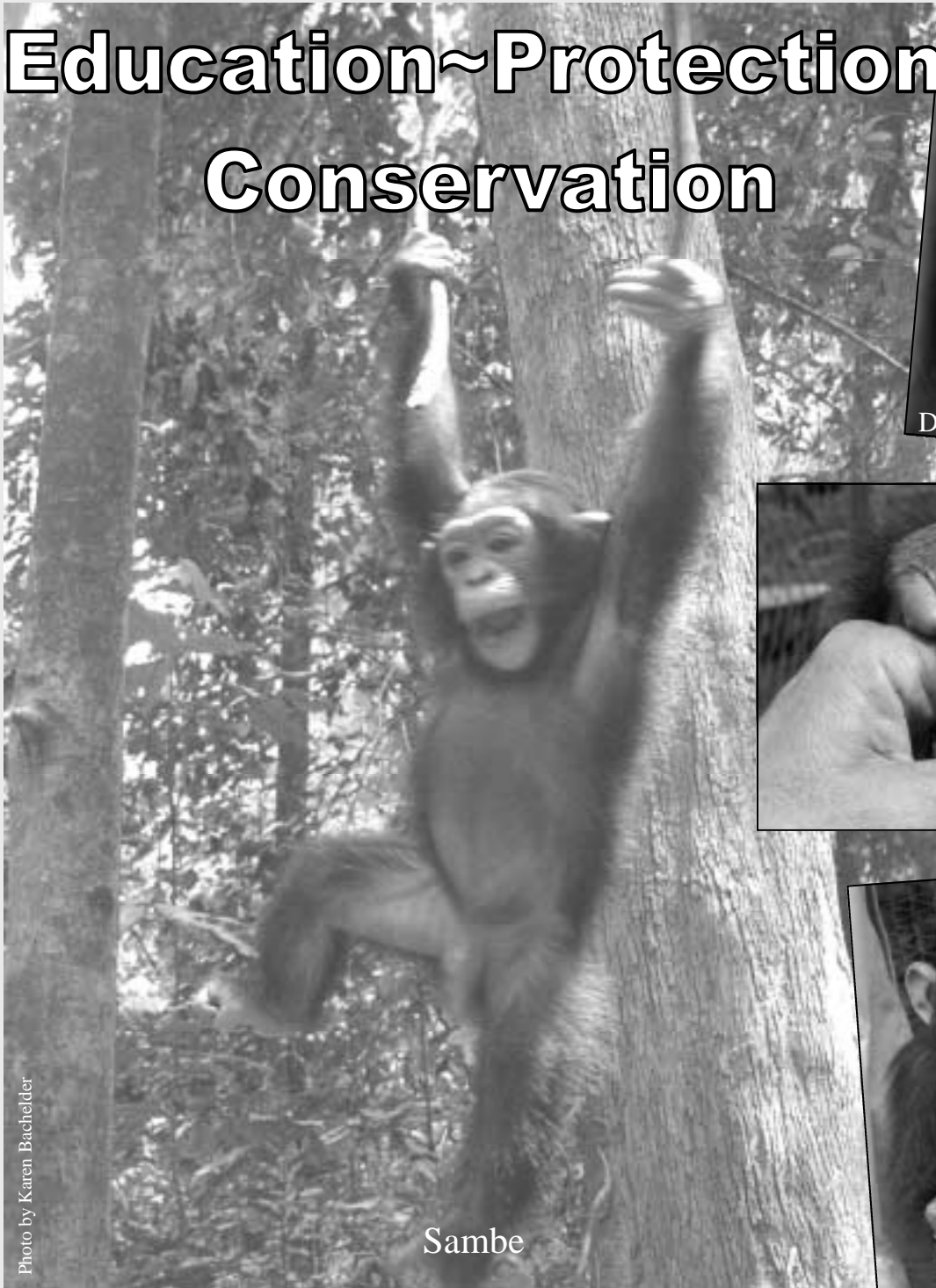


Photo by Karen Bachelder

Sambe



Dorothy

Photo by Kathryn Shutt



Photo by Karen Bachelder



Avery

Photo by Karen Bachelder



Zach
Baati
Yoko
Sambe
Muna
Gremlin

Across the Miles . . . From the Director

Since it opened in 1999, the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center has been in a constant state of development, often with multiple construction projects happening at the same time. We make all bricks and mix all concrete by hand, and we constantly struggle to overcome limitations in available materials and expertise. In spite of these difficulties, we've grown at a phenomenal rate in the context of rural West-Central Africa.

But even so, our development of infrastructure is barely keeping up with the arrival of chimpanzees orphaned by poachers. Since November 2005, we've taken in eight more, including six young babies. Without our generous supporters, we could not have opened our doors to these chimpanzees. They would have lived the remainder of their lives, however short or long, in loneliness and despair. Instead, at Sanaga-Yong they find happiness and dignity in bonding with other orphans and becoming valued family members again.

Sanaga-Yong chimpanzees, with their buoyancy of spirit and amazing capacity to recover, have filled me with deep admiration and respect. Knowing and loving them inspires me to work as hard as I can to keep other chimpanzees, and gorillas, living freely in the forests where they belong.

We collaborate with the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to encourage and enable enforcement of the laws protecting great apes. But we must also win the hearts and minds of average Cameroonians.

Through our media campaign, "SOS Chimpanzees and Gorillas", we raise awareness of the laws, and we aim to make it socially unacceptable to kill and eat chimpanzees and gorillas.



Dr. Sheri Speede with Tic

In our recent survey of Cameroonians

chosen randomly – on the streets, in restaurants, bus stations, and bars – 53% of the total 558 respondents said they have eaten chimpanzee and/or gorilla meat. Of these, 69% said their opinions about chimpanzees and gorillas were changed by hearing our radio spots during the survey. And of those who said their opinions changed, 54% had already heard the spots on the radio prior to the survey.

Our work to stop the killing of mothers and the influx of orphans will continue and expand. But it is crucial that we have funds available to care for those depending on us at Sanaga-Yong.

To give them the second chance they deserve is expensive. I hope and pray everyday that our chimpanzee sponsorship (adoption) program will grow to give them the base of support they need. If each and every one of you reading this letter will hear my appeal, and sponsor just one chimpanzee for \$15 per month, it could make all the difference to our dear friends at Sanaga-Yong.

Please read about the sponsorship program on pages 3-4, look into your heart, and help us if you can.

My deepest appreciation,

Primates Not Pets

Some of the chimpanzees at Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center (SYCRC) were kept as “pets” after their mothers were killed. Even with a family that tries to be caring, keeping a chimpanzee as a “pet” is damaging because it creates confusion and stress around the individual’s developing identity. Furthermore, when a cuddly baby chimpanzee becomes a toddler who can be stronger than an adult human, chains, cages and abuse become their reality.

Adolescents have an especially difficult time re-learning the essence of being a chimpanzee: coping with fear and anxiety caused by isolation and abuse, undoing the immeasurable affects of living directly with humans, acquiring the vaguely familiar language and lifestyle of chimpanzees, and most importantly, learning to be the individual they may have become had they never been stolen from the wild.

Tati, Amigo, Jimi and Chouki were kept as “pets” when they were taken from the forest. Today, at their own individual pace, they continue to learn about being chimpanzees and are enjoying life with their adopted families. Tati came to SYCRC in March 2006 and Amigo shortly thereafter, both as adolescents. Tati had been confined to a tree limb by a neck chain and Amigo was isolated in a backyard cage. Jimi, rescued in 2005, had been living with a human family and endured severe physical discipline leaving her right shoulder and arm permanently disabled. Chouki, because he did not know how to behave like a chimpanzee, was defenseless against attacks by chimpanzees at another sanctuary before he was brought to Sanaga-Yong in 2002 at the age of ten. Eye injuries have left him blind.



Amigo

Tati and Amigo have become good friends and live together in a newly built enclosure. Amigo is the madcap, high-energy adopted older brother while Tati, who is quiet, gentle and easy going, has become the dominant one of the pair.



Tati

Before his rescue, Tati developed the habit of plucking hair from his arms, common among captive chimpanzees. It has diminished since his arrival at Sanaga-Yong.



Jimi

Jimi lives with nine young juveniles in the nursery. She enjoys daily romps in the forest with her friends and spends a lot of time playing, grooming and socializing...just as she should be.



Chouki

Chouki lives with his family group of eight in an enclosure equipped with special accommodations to help him navigate. He loves to play with the younger chimpanzees and continues to climb high for quiet time in the trees. Kiki Jackson remains his loyal and devoted best friend.

In Cameroon it is illegal to kill, capture, buy, sell, eat or possess Great Apes. In the U.S. just 14 states have outlawed the keeping of primates as pets and approximately 15,000 primates are in private hands. Many are sold on the internet or through exotic animal dealers. To learn more about the federal “Primate Protection Act” and what you can do to ensure its passage, visit our website at www.ida-africa.org

Sponsor a Chimpanzee Today . . .

IDA-Africa continues its popular Sponsor-a-Chimpanzee Program. We are introducing one more wonderful individual for sponsorship in this publication.

Every chimpanzee resident at Sanaga-Yong is a unique and special "person." Your contribution helps to guarantee that your sponsored chimpanzee receives food and medical care essential to his/her well being.

All donations support the Chimpanzee Rescue Center and are tax deductible.

For a monthly donation of at least \$15 for six months or longer, you will receive:

- an 8x10 photograph of your sponsored chimpanzee
- a biography
- periodic updates and photos
- a handwritten Certificate of Sponsorship
- the satisfaction of knowing you make a real difference!

Corporate and school sponsorships are also available.

Please fill out the form on the enclosed envelope to sponsor the chimpanzee of your choice or go to www.ida-africa.org to sponsor on-line.

Wel come Baati



BAATI (male)

Estimated birth month August 2005

Tiny Baati was confiscated in December 2005, in a village near the town of Nanga Eboko. He had been kept in a wooden box, deprived of all physical contact. During his early days at Sanaga-Yong, he couldn't tolerate being touched. Whenever anyone would touch him, he would scream as if the touch were painful. For the first few weeks, he lived in a cardboard box, frequently pulling himself up to look over the top, but then ducking down quickly if anyone looked his way. With lots of patient attention from manager Agnes Souchal, volunteers and staff, Baati gradually opened up. Today, he is loved and welcomes embraces by both humans and chimpanzees. He sleeps, plays and learns with two other infants, Sambe and Gremlin. They are taken into the forest every morning and afternoon by their adoring caregiver Henriette.

Mintak (male)

*Est. birth month
June 2003*

When beautiful Mintak arrived at Sanaga-Yong in February 2005, he was sad, suspicious of humans and still very

stressed about being captive. Unfortunately, he couldn't have survived in the forest without his mother. Now Mintak has formed strong bonds with eight young juveniles – Jimi, Sendji, Issah, Jantan, Akiba, Tic, Johnny and Avery – in the nursery. The name Mintak means "proud" in the local language, and also "joy".



Foe (male)

*Est. birth month
January 2002*

When he reached Sanaga-Yong in August 2003, Foe was very thin and small for his age. Months of malnutrition and

immobility had left him weak and uncoordinated. He manifested emotional trauma in painful self-injurious behaviors. But Foe soon stopped hurting himself and became strong and self-confident. He is now an important member of a family that includes adults Kiki and Chouki and juveniles Berchi, Mika, Massamba, Jack and Rob.



And Help Secure Their Tomorrows



Cindy (female)
Est. birth month Feb. 2001

In August 2001, Cindy was rescued from a truck-driver. With a severe respiratory infection and diarrhea, Cindy almost died. Today, she is strong and independent, spending most of her days in the trees, playing and laughing with her friends. But she still likes to spend time around grandmother Dorothy.



Gabby (male)
Est. birth month Sept. 1999

Gabby was only four months old when he arrived at the Center in January 2000, severely wounded from the shotgun blast that killed his mother. Gabby is small for his age and has always enjoyed a sort of social immunity. No one ever challenges him and all the adults, including alpha male Jacky, love him.

Dorothy (female)
Est. birth year 1968

Dorothy was tethered by a neck chain for 25 years before her rescue in May 2000. At Sanaga-Yong, Dorothy struggled to find her place beside younger, stronger adults. In 2002, she adopted baby orphan Bouboule and gained status and respect. Today Dorothy, who frequently uses tools for grooming, is a grandmother figure.



Moabi (male)
Est. birth year 1999

Moabi arrived at Sanaga-Yong in March 2000 with extensive head injuries from a hunter's machete. After three surgeries, Moabi survived. For his strong spirit, he is named after the Moabi tree, one of the strongest trees in Cameroon, but he has a soft and gentle nature. As he approaches puberty, he's getting quite big.



Bikol (male)
Est. birth month June 1998

Bikol, "the king" in the local dialect, was rescued in December 1999 from a village where he was tied by wire to a chair. He had deep wounds around his waist and almost died. Like Nama, Bikol has lighter hair than most chimpanzees. He is the "thinker" in his family group of 26 chimpanzees.



Nama (female)
Est. birth year 1981

Nama was pinned to the ground by a short neck chain for 16 years before her rescue in May 2000. She is the smallest adult at the Center, but her courage and wisdom are unsurpassed. Diplomat and peacemaker, she is the alpha female of her family of 26.

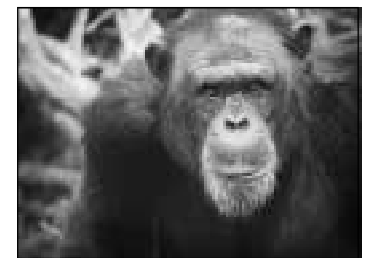
Kiki Jackson (male)
Est. birth year 1983

Kiki endured at least 15 years in a dark, concrete cell and came very close to starving to death before his rescue in June 2000. He has struggled socially, but finally found his place as head of a small social group of eight. He loves, protects and keeps the peace among his family members, including adult male Chouki, who is blind.



Jacky (male)
Est. birth year 1963

Jacky is the respected and beloved alpha male of his family of 26 chimpanzees. Kept alone in a small cage at a hotel for three decades before his rescue in 1999, Jacky has shown an amazing innate capacity for leadership. He lost his vision to cataracts during 2002 and 2003 and had it restored by surgery in January 2004.



In Brief from Cameroon

GOVERNMENT SHOWS SUPPORT

May 30th, 2006, was an important day for IDA-Africa. The Senior Divisional Officer (SDO), accompanied by the Divisional Officer (DO), of the Cameroon Government visited Sanaga-Yong to emphasize the support of the national government for our work. In a meeting with seven chiefs from surrounding villages, the SDO spoke eloquently about the importance of saving endangered great apes and about how the government values the role of the Sanaga-Yong Center. Afterward, four of the chiefs stood to praise our contributions in the local community.



Photo: Lynn Clifford



Photo: Karen Bachelder

From right: Retired Mayor (background), Senior Divisional Officer, Dr. Sheri Speede, Divisional Officer, Commandant of Company of the Military Police

La Fete des Chimpanzés in Mbinang

On November 26th, 2005, the village of Mbinang hosted our second annual “fete des chimpanzés”, which is a celebration of the Sanaga-Yong Center and a means by which the village community shows support for our mission to save chimpanzees from extinction. People from more than seven villages and collaborators from the towns of Minta and Belabo listened to Sanaga-Yong employees and the Divisional Officer of Minta speak about the urgency of our mission to change attitudes and behavior pertaining to chimpanzees and gorillas. After the speeches lots of food, drink and dancing assured that everyone had a good time.

Labor Day March in Belabo

International Labor Day (May 1st) is a popular holiday in Cameroon, and this year's celebration in Belabo was no exception. Twenty Sanaga-Yong Center staff members and volunteers, proudly sporting project t-shirts with the new IDA-Africa logo, joined some 100 other local businesses and organizations and their employees in a parade presided over by district dignitaries. Staff carried a Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center Banner and French language posters that read:



To kill, capture, sell or to buy Chimpanzees and Gorillas is illegal. You risk a fine of 3,000,000-10,000,000 CFA (\$5,500-\$18,500) and a prison sentence of 1-3 years.

New Government Brigade Enforces Forestry and Wildlife Laws

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, under the strong direction of Minister Egbe Hilman Echu, has established a special « Brigade Nationale de Contrôle » specifically mandated to enforce Cameroon's important forestry and wildlife protection regulations.

This innovative enforcement arm of The Ministry is being internationally recognized and praised as an important step forward for the government of Cameroon.

The Chief of the Brigade, Mr. Eben Ebai, often works in close collaboration with the non-profit group Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), which works exclusively to assist with wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon. IDA-Africa collaborates with both the Brigade and LAGA.

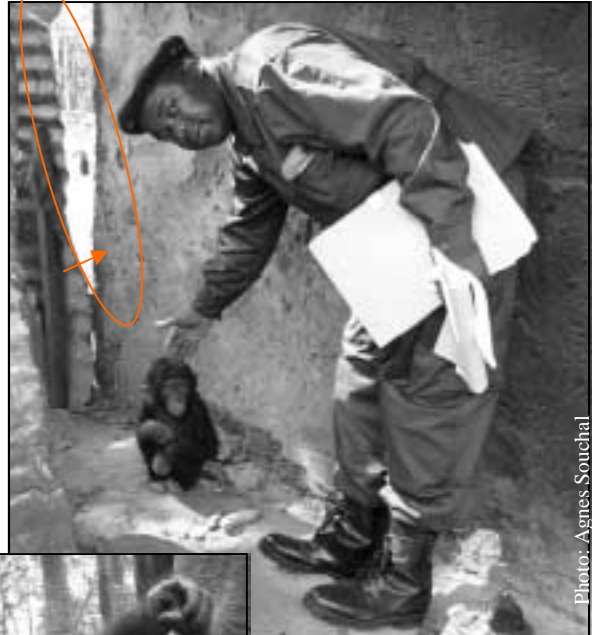


Photo: Agnes Souchal

Officer Aboubakar of the Brigade with Yoko at the time of his confiscation, just before he was brought to Sanaga-Yong. Notice the tether tied to Yoko's neck.

At left, Yoko (R) and his friend Zach (L) spend time in the forest under the supervision of their human caregivers.



Photo: Karen Bachelder

Caught on Film

Animal Planet will air a 13-episode series early next year highlighting Cameroon's three great ape sanctuaries: IDA-Africa's Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center, Mefou National Park, and Limbe Wildlife Center. This is a tremendous opportunity to bring to millions of viewers the plight of great apes in Cameroon and the need for drastic efforts to save them from extinction.

IDA-Africa is featured in many of the 13 episodes with highlights that include: the rescue of Tati and his integration with Amigo; Dr. Sheri Speede performing surgeries on two critically injured baby apes, a chimpanzee and a gorilla, at Mefou National Park; the creation of our radio ad campaign; Agnes Souchal, Sanaga-Yong Center manager, caring for chimpanzees; and many other aspects of work and daily life in Cameroon.

Watch our website for updates and details!



Photo: Karen Bachelder

Dr. Sheri Speede with filmmaker Aidan Woodward, caregiver Henriette, and chimpanzees Baati and Sambe



In Defense of Animals-Africa has a new logo! We extend a heartfelt thank you for all of the wonderful submissions we received in our quest for a new logo. In the end we chose a logo that was inspired directly from photos of two chimpanzees at Sanaga-Yong Center, Bikol and Akiba. The artist, Emily Pritchard, brought together two individual photos to create a tender image that truly reflects our mission.

The amazing apes for whom we struggle are in Africa, but without the commitment of our US staff, we could do nothing. Working in the US office are:

Edmund Stone

*Liaison Officer/
Development Director*

Andrea Kozil

*Outreach Coordinator/
Program Manager*

Emily AhYou

Program Assistant

WITH GRATITUDE

In Defense of Animals-Africa is fortunate to have so many caring, generous supporters. Every individual's participation in the movement to save great apes is critical ~ thank you so much for joining the fight! Our projects have also benefited from a number of grants. We are extremely grateful to the following for their confidence in us:

- Ahimsa Foundation*
- Arcus Foundation*
- Avrum Katz Foundation*
- Brigitte Bardot Foundation*
- Foundation In Memory of Louise H. Foley*
- Isis Foundation*
- Meg & Jon Ratner Philanthropic Fund*
- Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance*
- US Embassy, Cameroon*

A special thank you goes to

Steve Bernheim for his very generous support, and for hosting an event in his home in 2006. We send our loving appreciation to IDA-Africa's advisory board for their tireless work in support of our mission. Whether volunteering at the Sanaga-Yong Center, organizing our Seattle fundraiser or helping with strategic planning...our advisory board members have made an invaluable contribution to our success. Thank you Jessica Martinson, Claudine Erlandson, Mary Perin, Heather Murch, Karen Bachelder, Stan Jones Umberger, Cindy Umberger-Jones and Erica Knauf.

Finally, thank you to Sanaga-Yong Center manager Agnes Souchal for her amazing work with the chimpanzees in Cameroon.

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