

# Ngamba News

• | ISSUE 20 • | JAN - JULY 2009

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## Parenting Skills Among Chimpanzees



Kikyo sharing a moment with his surrogate mother

Chimpanzees are 98.7% human. For this reason, they often display human-like qualities. One area where the similarities are evident is in parenting.

Pregnancy in chimpanzees lasts for eight and a half months. Newborn chimpanzees are breast-fed, groomed and protected by their mother. The community also plays an active role in raising the infants, providing guidance and discipline when

necessary.

A mother will carry her baby for up to five years, gradually weaning it off milk and on to solid foods. During the weaning period she encourages the infant to become self-sufficient. The infant learns to build its own nest (rather than sleeping with her) and starts to spend more time with other chimps.

Even after weaning, the relationship between mother and infant remains strong. The mother will continue to watch over her infant - protecting it from danger - and the infant will still return to its mother when it feels threatened.

Ngamba Island provides sanctuary to rescued and orphaned chimpanzees. These infants - whose parents have often fallen victims to the illegal bushmeat trade - arrive at the sanctuary when they are very young, scared and in need of maternal care. Once on the island, they are gradually integrated into the group and are often adopted by the older female chimpanzees. Under the care of these females, the infants thrive. They learn how to interact with other chimps, how to defend themselves and they gradually begin to recover from the trauma of their early life.

When Kikyo arrived at the sanctuary in 2006, Becky took an instant shine to him. She was a natural mother - protective but firm - and even began producing milk to breast feed Kikyo, something the other adoptive mums never managed. Becky has helped Kikyo grow from a small, scared chimpanzee to a strong-willed and brave young chimp that now ranks above two other orphans introduced at the same time.

Thanks to Becky and the other adoptive mums, orphaned chimps at the sanctuary learn many of the skills they would have learnt in their natural habitat. These skills will be essential if - as we hope - they are one day returned to the wild.

## CHIMP HEALTH CHECKS



Health checks in progress

It's time for the annual health checks, each year the chimpanzees receive a check-up. Blood, urine and stool samples are taken, vaccinations topped up and each chimp is tested for Tuberculosis.

The health checks this year is to be carried out in three phases with the first group done in March, the second in July and the final group in September.

So far all the chimpanzees have been given a clean bill of health. The growth rate of the chimps (measured each year) has provided a useful insight into future competition between the males. With Baluku and Okech both having gained weight, they could be contenders for the top spot with in the next 5 years.

The health checks are also used to renew the contraceptive implants in the mature females. Connie and Megan received new implants in July and Kyewunyo was given her first implant. It is necessary to prevent chimps in the sanctuary from breeding, because this would reduce our capacity to care for newly rescued and orphaned chimpanzees.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY:

### Community school receives scholastic donations

In March 2009, Myende community school received a donation of 72 text books and 50 back packs. The donation-from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands-was organised by Mrs. Mary Dotman through a long stay volunteer, Ms. Kim Helkema.

## Dr. Jane Goodall's Visit



Dr. Jane Goodall, Lilly Ajarova Executive Director CSWCT and staff at head office at Entebbe

Dr. Jane Goodall, founding member and long standing Trustee of Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary visited Uganda in February to speak at the Service Summit Africa (SSA). Before the summit, Jane found time to visit staff at our head office in Entebbe. "It was great to meet her, encouraged us to keep up the good work" said Stany Nyandwi, a head keeper at the sanctuary.

The SSA, held at Bonita Community Centre in Kampala aims to empower young people through the provision of life skills, leadership training and issued specific training (covering everything from environment to human rights). The Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) was

represented at the summit by Executive Director, Lilly Ajarova Education Officer, Silver Birungi and volunteer, Innocent Ampeire.



Myende community school Children admire their newly acquired Back packs



Monkey suits a big hit for kids

### Monkey suits

CSWCT runs an education outreach programme targeting schools and community groups and thanks to the generosity of supporters Simon Duffy and Simon Brown, the staff uniform has received a makeover. As opposed to the usual CSWCT t-shirts, education staff can now be seen 'monkeying' around in three brand new chimpanzee suits.

## Other Education activities

We had a Wildlife conservation sensitization day at Myende Island where primary schools from neighbouring Islands joined and participated through Music, Dance and Drama. We are positive that communities on Myende Island and beyond learnt about environment and wildlife conservation.

The Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA) also donated copies of The Baby Chimpanzee Story Book which tells story of how a young chimpanzee came to live in a sanctuary. The book, written in English, has helped the children to improve their reading skills.

## HOIMA FIELD ACTIVITIES



Above some of the scenes of what transpired at different towns in Hoima District, during the exhibitions.



Above left; the best acting pupil from Koome Church of Uganda Primary School

The Kyamalera Wildlife Education Centre (KWEC)- Hoima opened in 2008 and thanks to ideas and expertise from staff and volunteers, plans are in place to develop a series of interactive activities for the centre.

In 2009, (CSWCT) received funds from WWF EARPO- Project to "Promoting Community awareness for forest conservation of Albertine rift forests of Uganda" as part of this programme, we established field projects, working with forest adjacent communities in Hoima district.

During May and June this year, our field staff in partnership with Wildlife Clubs

of Uganda hosted a series of exhibitions and school workshops in Kyabigambire, Kizirafumbi, Kitoba and Kabwoya. The activities focused on threats to local forest and wetland habitats and the impact of habitat destruction on the local communities.

More than 2,000 children and local community members attended the exhibitions and school workshops and almost all pledged to report people seen illegally clearing forests in the future. By the end of this program we reached out to 10 school and 2300 people in four sub counties.



Myende Community School Choir.

## CHIMP BRIEFS

### • Mac dead...

Mac died on 7th March 2009 after terrible fights in the group from the holding facility. Efforts to save him were futile as he had sustained deep injuries all over his body.

### • Ikuru leaves no stone unturned...

The only chimp who struggled the most to fit into the group recently stepped up her

ego, challenging Connie and Maisko some of the highest ranking individuals.

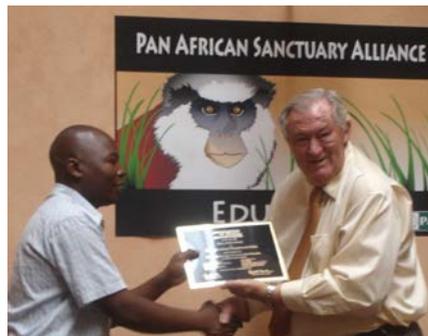
### • Accelerating appetite becomes a liability...

Kalema's big appetite has finally earned him a beating from the alpha male. As Kalema continues to grow in size, he poses an increasing threat to the alpha male, and Mika obviously felt its time to put him in his place.

## Education Award

March 2009 Ngamba Island chimpanzee Sanctuary together with other PASA, member sanctuaries received an education award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, for the continued legacy of conservation education in sanctuaries.

This award is an annual event which has been won by PASA for the last four years



Silver Birungi receives Education Award from Richard Leakey- Wildlife Direct President



PASA members & participants pose for a photo at the workshop that was held in Nairobi

# Our Staff

## BRUCE AINEBYONA, CARE GIVER



Bruce, who previously volunteered at Uganda Wild life Education Centre (UWEC), joined CSWCT in 2007. He has a Diploma in Tourism Management from Crested Crane Tourism & Hotel Training Institute in Jinja and has attended workshops for advanced educators,

both of which are useful in his role guiding visitors around the sanctuary.

As part of the CSWCT exchange programme, Bruce spent time at the Sweetwater Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Kenya, learning about animal welfare. He is particularly passionate about the need for education: "I have a feeling if all people are taught about wildlife; they can appreciate its importance and the need for its conservation".

### STAFF UPDATES:

#### Innocent Ampeire

Innocent is spending a year at Disney Animal Kingdom in the USA. Whilst there, he will be trained in visitor guiding and interpretation. We wish him a fruitful stay, enjoyable time and look forward to his return in March 2010.



Above; Innocent Ampeire, second from left with colleagues in USA.

#### Dr. Lawrence Mugisha

The Operations Director, Dr. Lawrence Mugisha is currently in Germany, pursuing his PHD in molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases in apes. He will be away for three months, returning in September 2009.

## FRIENDS OF THE SANCTUARY AND SUPPORTERS LIST (NEW MEMBERS FROM JANUARY 2009)

### Friends of the Sanctuary

- Bill and Cynthia Weller
- De Winter Katleen
- Tim Jos Rita Struyf
- Louis & Candy Brad
- Rubene & Mark Mahoney
- Thomas B Elchhorn
- Jenny Houghton
- Gerhard Rader
- Gillian Raine
- Suzanne & Robert Gale
- Jim & Jenny Kurtz
- Patricia & Barry Brown
- Joel S. Winnik
- Laurie Lemrise
- Hogan and Hartson
- Barbara Hollweg
- Ashley Hollweg
- Lewis Hollweg

- Mrs. Jill George
- Fiona Martins
- Cynthia Cassano
- Eugene R. Jabbour & Melanie
- Carol Bobo

### Volunteers and Supporters

- Barbara & Lewis Hollweg
- Kim Halkema
- Vannesa Brown
- Patrick Foley
- Gwendolien Reyes
- Rebecca Jeanne Walter
- Natasha Ratter
- Foley Patrick
- Rebecca Jeane Walter
- Paula Hay

- Simon Duffy
- Atalia Reznik
- Nicholas Atchison
- Ainhoa Manezcurrena
- Callewier Else
- Heather Cohen
- Simon Brown
- Hannah Chisholm
- David Polishook
- Talia Jacob
- Fechner Rebekka
- Robbert Van Eerd
- Jannis Leeddert Visser
- Eelke Pieter Kraak
- Mary Dotman
- Vicki Felgate

### Corporate Supporters

- City Tyres
- OnCourse Uganda Ltd
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Seaworld & Bush Gardens
- Chester Zoo
- Rufford Foundation
- WWF
- UNDP- Small Grants Programme
- The Great Ape Handshake
- National Environment Management Authority
- Nature Harness Initiatives
- Starbucks

We are grateful for all your generous contributions towards conservation of Chimpanzees.

For more information on how to support Ngamba Island and other projects, please contact us through. [www.ngambaisland.org](http://www.ngambaisland.org) or [info@ngambaisland.org](mailto:info@ngambaisland.org)



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