

**Report on Education and Awareness Activities to improve the protection of wild chimpanzees and their habitat in West Africa, undertaken by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation during January 2008 – December 2008**

Reported by

African Representation of the WCF

**Director: Dr. Ilka Herbinger**

**Assistant to Director: Dervla Dowd**

**Education Program Officer: Dr. Zoro Bertin Goné Bi**

CSRS, 01 BP 1303, Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire

Tel: 00225-23519933

Cel: 00225-03488902

Mail: [herbinger@wildchimps.org](mailto:herbinger@wildchimps.org), [herbinger@aviso.ci](mailto:herbinger@aviso.ci)



**General remarks**

During the past year (2008), the WCF has continued to successfully carry out its education programme throughout West Africa, with the aim of enhancing awareness and promoting understanding in the local human populations, thereby ultimately leading to higher conservation efforts in favor of chimpanzees in the human populations living near wild populations of chimpanzees. This year, the programme mainly consisted of:

- several multi-media campaign tours in both the Côte d'Ivoire (CI) and Liberia
- An Ivorian/German school exchange program
- An extra-curricular school nature club "Club PAN", around the Taï National Park, CI
- and school and other types of visits to the Banco National Park, CI.

For all our activities, the overall general impression has been that they were well received by the participants and local communities and we are thus encouraged to continue this work into the next year.

**Specific Objective:**

To obtain through environmental education a more important support by the local populations for the protection of the chimpanzees and their habitat around the national parks in Côte d'Ivoire (Taï and Banco), as well as the national parks and forests in Liberia (Sapo and Grebo).

**Specific Objective Indicator 1**

An increasing number of villages tolerate the visits of chimpanzees and monkeys into their fields without killing or specifically trapping them. They abandoned some detrimental traditional habits about medical or magical value of chimpanzee products (hairs, bones...) and use alternative sources of meat, which reduce the use of bush-meat.

A full sociological study has been completed around the Taï National Park (TNP) in 2008. This has given some insight to the perceptions and changes in attitudes of the people targeted by our environmental education program in the Côte d'Ivoire. With regard Liberia, a similar study has also been implemented, however the post-evaluation part of the research has yet to take place and is planned for the beginning of 2009.

Results from the study carried out around the TNP are very promising. With the WCF having carried out education campaigns since 2002 in this area, the study provided an insight into the long-term impact of sensitization techniques. When compared with an initial study carried out in 2004, results showed that there has been a 49% decrease in people stating that they would kill crop-raiding chimps since the start of sensitization and a 33% increase in people declaring chimps as a 'totem' (sacred and not to be harmed or killed) and that they would simply chase away crop raiding chimps from their plantations.

As to whether people use alternative meat sources around the Tai National Park, the OIPR, with financial and technical support of the GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) has set up a program (CAM, 'Cellule d'Appui aux Mesures Riveraines') to support local initiatives of organized village associations. The objective of a significant number of these micro-projects that are conceived and set up by the villagers themselves is to raise livestock (pigs, chicken, rabbits, fish, frogs, cane rats etc). Since the program has only recently begun, impact studies have not yet been carried out to prove that the micro-projects enable villagers to produce sufficient protein on the long-term and that they refrain from consuming bushmeat. However, data from the biomonitoring in the TNP set up by the WCF and carried out by trained local villagers and park agents provide evidence of reduced hunting pressure and an increase in monkey and duiker population, which are the most preferred mammal species hunted within park borders. Around the Sapo National Park in Liberia, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) together with numerous partner organisations (FFI, CI, EU etc.) have started to restructure the management of this park, with micro-projects being an integral aspect of this strategy. Currently, the FDA is in discussion to initiate the first micro-projects around the park with alternative protein resources being an important component of the propositions put forward by the villages.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 2**

**For the Tai region: The number of villages deciding specific actions to protect the chimpanzees is increasing**

Around the Tai National Park, local surveillance and sensitization committees, consisting of villagers that are motivated to contribute to the sustainable conservation of the park have been active throughout 2008. They have organized sensitization activities, such as theatre and poem contests, football matches and film projections, converting poachers and discouraging bushmeat consumption and trade in the region. During these activities, the chimpanzee is often chosen as an exemplar animal that is protected by law and has to be respected and protected. The importance of these local committees has been recognized by the OIPR who intends to officially establish them in order to work collaboratively with the groups to improve the protection of the park.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 3**

**For the Sapo National Park/Grebo National Forest, Liberia, the national and local authorities as well as the village associations are in support of the developed WCF-awareness program.**

In Liberia, our relationship with the national and local authorities is relatively new, but so far the impact has been very positive. During the education campaign around the Sapo NP and the Grebo Forest, the Conservation and Education Officer of the FDA joined us for the whole tour and is now very eager to continue these environmental education techniques as well as implement other WCF education activities such as Club P.A.N. around Sapo NP and Grebo Forest.

#### Specific Objective Indicator 4

For the Banco NP, the interest in chimpanzee and the Banco forest is increasing in local schools and in the private sector/governmental bodies.

A large majority of primary and secondary schools around Banco National Park have been contacted to encourage them to visit the park and the attractions the WCF and partners have put in place. During 2008, 6902 individual visitors and 5771 people in organized groups (either school children or other institutions), hence a total of 12.673 people, visited the eco-museum and the Banco National Park. Additionally, the WCF, the OIPR and other partners are now encouraging visits from embassies and other international bodies as well as from the private sector.

#### ❖ Project Result 1

The life of chimpanzees is brought closer to villagers of park/forest peripheries through film presentations (a “BBC-Wildlife on One” feature on the behaviour of the chimpanzees of the Taï forest “Too close for comfort?” and a film produced by the WCF on “Taï chimpanzees and WCF activities”). Films are produced with a specially adapted text in French or English for easy understanding.

#### ➤ Result 1: Indicator

The 2 films in French or English have been shown to a minimum of 15 villages around forests in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia.

#### Activities achieved:

The BBC and the WCF films have been presented on large screens during the following events:

- Multimedia campaigns covering multiple villages, including theatre and film performances as well as journal distribution
- Sensitization days in Abidjan in collaboration with the OIPR

The table below summarises the villages and number of spectators for the films in both the Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia (Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of villages and spectators for the two documentary films**

<b>National Park/forest</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>Number of spectators</b>
Taï	Djapadji, Dagadji, Port-Gentil (2), Keibly, Gahably, Gagny, Mahino, Petit-Grabo, Poutou, Djidoubaye, Zro, Ipoukro <b>= 13 villages</b>	11,600
Banco	Anonkoi-Kouté, <b>= 1 village</b> During Banco Museum visits ca <b>45 visites</b>	600 9,000
Sapo	Juarzon, Jalay'sTown, Chebioh Town, Korayee 2, Mile 48, Putu Jarwodee <b>= 6 villages</b>	2,710
Grebo	Freetown <b>= 1 village</b>	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20 villages plus 45 times in BNP</b>	<b>23,560</b>

## ❖ **Project Result 2**

A newsletter presenting general information on chimpanzee and habitat conservation (interest, past and present realisations, future projects) is communicated to villagers.

### ➤ **Result 2: Indicator 1**

The distribution network for the newsletter is functioning and the number distributed increases.

#### **Activities achieved:**

During the different education campaigns throughout 2008, all issues available at the time were handed out in French (Paroles de forêt) for the Côte d'Ivoire and in English (Forest Wisdom) for Liberia. Additionally, distribution of the newsletters has continued in Guinea, due to the new WCF-Guinea Office having been recently opened. 700 issues have also been given to the STEWARD office of USAID, who will distribute these during their own sensitization initiatives. All newsletters are also available on the WCF-Website (<http://www.wildchimps.org>). During an international primatological conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland, issues in English and French were distributed to an audience of researchers and conservationists coming from all over the world.

### ➤ **Result 2: Indicator 2**

The Newsletter is produced bi-annually in both French and English.

#### **Activities achieved:**

In late 2008, the issue number 8/9 was created and printed with a total of 10.000 exemplars in both English and French. We have continued our working relationship with the Ivorian artistic team consisting of Mrs Dao N'Daw Koumba, Désiré Koffi and Ben Amara Sylla who are responsible for interpreting messages and texts into comic strips and drawings.

### ➤ **Result 2: Indicator 3**

The number of messages addressed to the reader tribune of the Newsletter is constantly increasing.

#### **Activities achieved:**

Messages addressed to the reader tribune are found under different sections of the newsletter, such as the editorial written by Prof. Dr. Christophe Boesch, the President of the WCF, Hotch-Potch (a games section), WCF and its projects, and the Tam-Tam. In the last edition, messages included reports about a theatre campaign carried out in Sierra Leone; Club P.A.N, an extra-curricular school activity group; the Taï Chimpanzee project; and the conservation issues of the classified forests in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

## ❖ **Project Result 3**

A theatre play addressing issues about chimpanzee/human co-existence is performed in the villages.

### ➤ **Result 3: Indicator 1**

The system of professional and schoolchildren or village theatre performances and discussion rounds is operational in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

#### **Activities achieved:**

In 2008, the already created theatre pieces of both the professional group (Ymako Teatri) and various school and village groups continued. Additionally, a new performance was created in Liberia with the group "House of Freedom". The table below summarises the villages and number of spectators for the theatre performance by both professional and school theatre groups in both the Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia (Table 2).

**Table 2. Number of villages and people for the theatre performances**

National Park	Group	Villages	Number of spectators	Remarks
<b>School theatre groups</b>				
Tai	EPP Wonséaly	Tapéguhé, Bertinkro, ADK, Djapadji, Dagadji <b>=5 villages</b>	5750	In collaboration with the CPE and the WWF-Tai.
	College Tai	Port-Gentil, Keibly, Gahably <b>= 3 villages</b>		
<b>Professional theatre groups</b>				
Tai	Ymako	V4, Gagny, Mahino, Petit-Grabo, Poutou, Port-Gentil, Djidoubaye, Zro, Ipoukro <b>= 9 villages</b>	6500	Many specific questions concerning chimpanzee behaviour.
Banco		Anonkoi-Kouté, Andokoi <b>= 2 villages + BNP</b> (Environmental week)	1000  250	Could not finish the play in Andokoi because of internal problems in the village (dispute of chiefdom)
Sapo	House of Freedom	Juarzon, Jalay's Town, Chebioh Town, Korayee 2, Mile 48, Keh's Town, Putu Jarwodee <b>=7 villages</b>	1687	Main questions from the public were related to crop raiding and how to deal with it.
Grebo	House of Freedom	Freetown, Yugbor <b>= 2 villages</b>	370	Public were extremely receptive and joined in the performance
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29 villages</b>	<b>15,557</b>	

➤ **Result 3: Indicator 2**

At least 50 % of the representatives of the active population of the villages have assisted a performance.

**Activities achieved:**

The attendance numbers varied greatly in different areas. The smallest number of people who assisted a performance was 57 in Keh's town next to the Sapo National Park, the highest attendance number was 1500 people in Keibly next to the Tai National Park. However, this was a very small village, which was targeted especially as it is a well known

mining town, but it was very clear that nearly the whole if not the whole village was present for this performance. At all performances, an important person of the community, chiefs of villages, presidents of woman, youth-, and elder associations, Imams, other religious and administrative representatives, were present. The minister of the Environment was also able to attend a performance in the Banco National Park during the OIPR's week for the environment and a representative of the European Union was present at the performance in Anonkoi-Kouté in December 2008.

➤ **Result 3: Indicator 3**

Reports by the supervision mission of the competent services and sociological surveys are available.

**Activities achieved:**

Activity reports on all sensitization campaigns are available as well as the sociological studies carried out before and after the multimedia campaigns.

➤ **Result 3: Indicator 4**

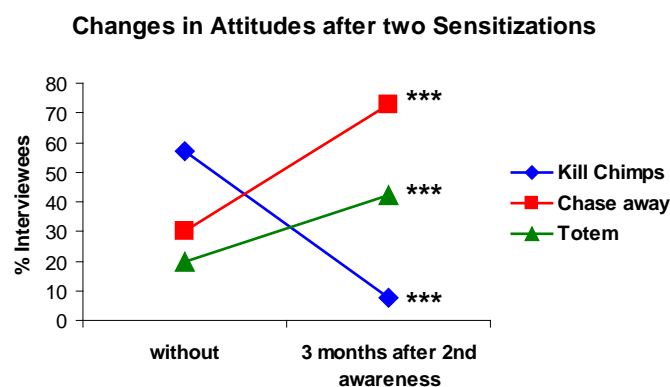
The conclusions of the final audit of the project are favourable.

**Activities achieved:**

As previously mentioned, a study on the long-term impact of the education campaigns of the WCF around the Tai NP has been carried out. Data collected between 2002 and 2004 before the start of any sensitization by the WCF has been compared with data following the second awareness in some of the villages around the Tai NP. In each study a representative sample of the population was interviewed.

When the results were compared, it was found that there was a significant difference between the knowledge, perception and attitudes of the villagers since the study in 2004 when villagers had received no sensitization. As already stated, results showed a decrease in people stating that they would kill crop raiding chimps since the start of sensitization and an increase in people declaring chimps as a 'totem', and that they would no longer kill but chase away a crop-raiding chimpanzee from their fields (Figure 1).

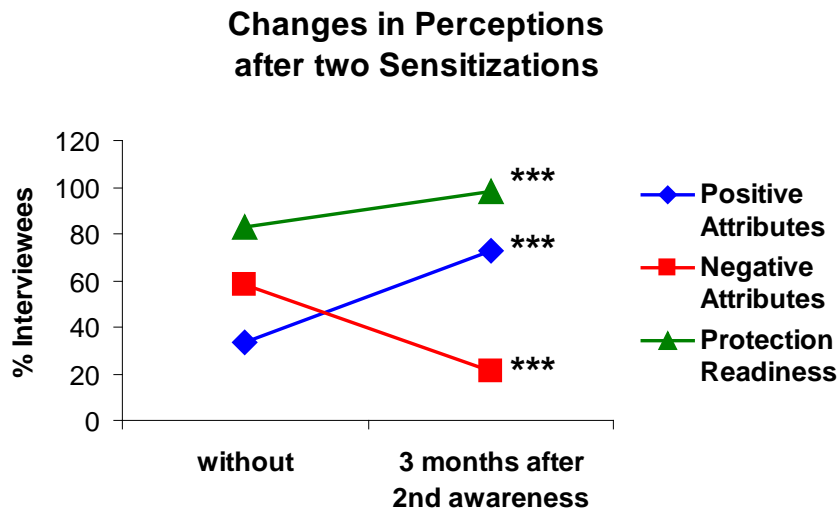
**Figure 1.** Graph showing the change in attitudes towards killing chimpanzees between 2004 and 2008



Fisher's Exact Tests \*\*\*=p<0.001, all corrected for multiple testing

In the same study, the changes in positive and negative perceptions were analysed (chimpanzees are intelligent, useful instead of ugly, of no use etc.). Results show that there was a 28% increase in positive perceptions and 37% decrease in negative perceptions over the last four years (Figure 2).

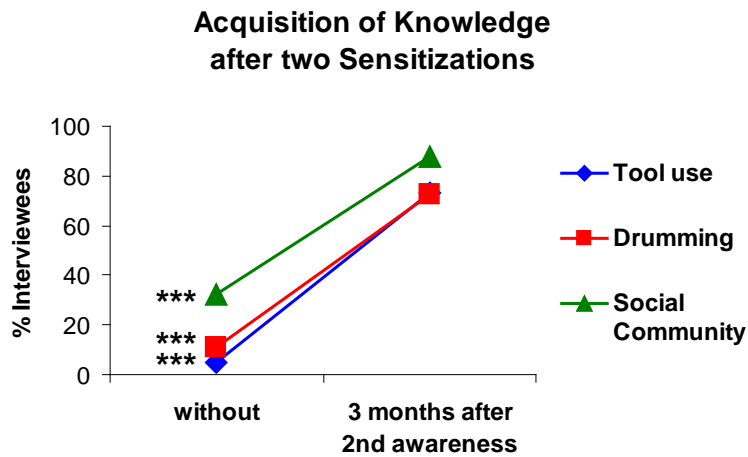
**Figure 2.** Graph showing the changes in perceptions of chimpanzees between 2004 and 2008



Fisher's Exact Tests \*\*\*= $p < 0.001$ , all corrected for multiple testing

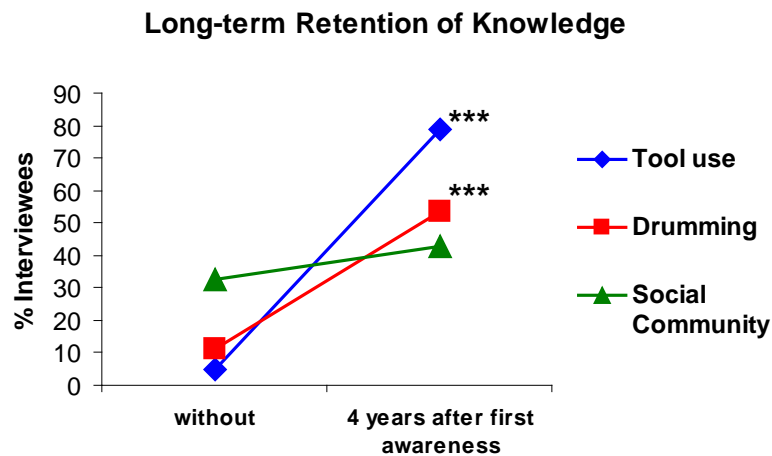
The results also prove a very positive and significant impact of the sensitization -compare for example increase of knowledge on chimpanzee behaviour, such as tool use, drumming, their social structure; Figure 3 - and confirm that even after 4 years of no sensitization the increased level of knowledge, positive perception and constructive attitude is very high (Figure 4; Herbinger et al. 2008).

**Figure 3.** Graph showing the changes in knowledge about aspects of chimpanzee behaviour (tool use, drumming behaviour, social life) at times when people had received no sensitization and following two sensitization campaigns during the course of 4 years



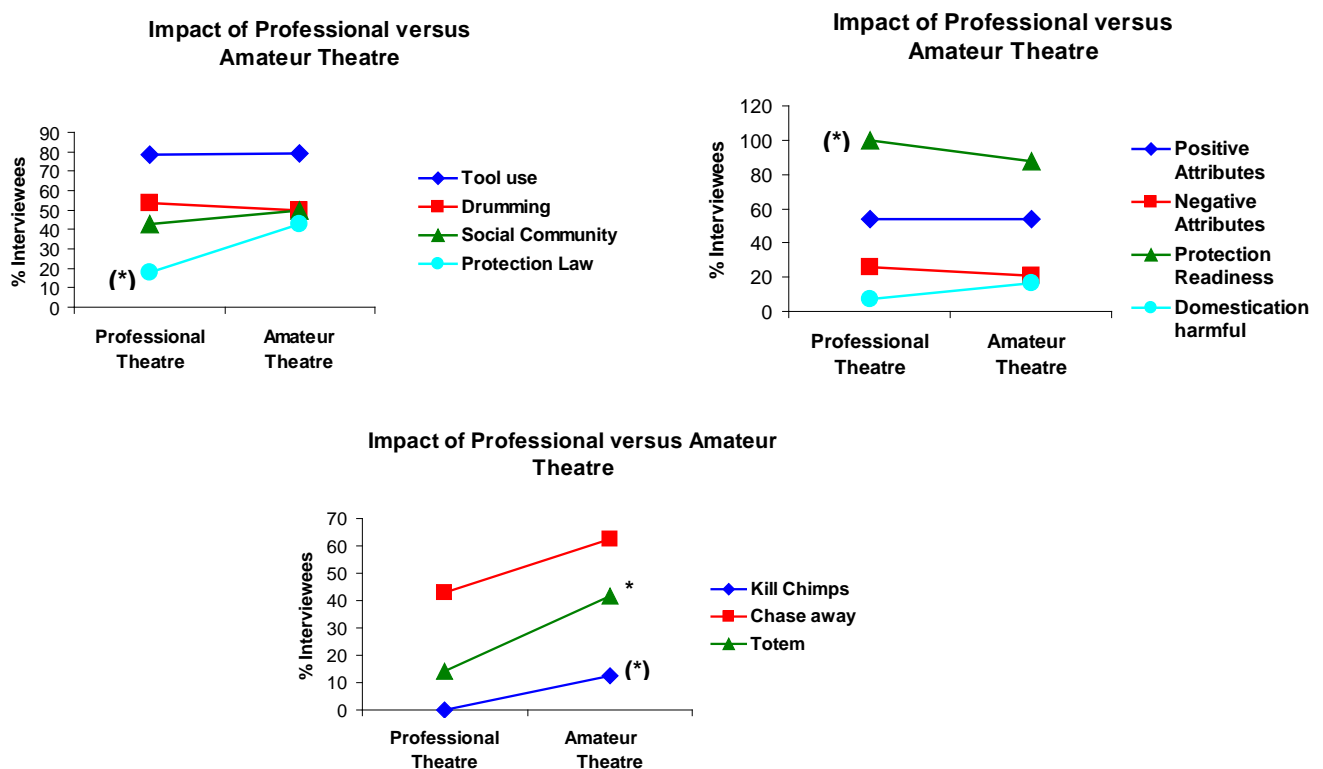
Results show an increase of 60% more knowledge since the start of sensitization activities by the WCF over a period of 4 years and 2 implemented awareness campaigns.

**Figure 4.** Graph showing the retention of knowledge about aspects of chimpanzee behaviour (tool use, drumming behaviour, social life) 4 years after a sensitization campaign



Results prove a 40% increase and retention of acquired knowledge by the people 4 years after sensitization activities by the WCF. Moreover, we studied whether sensitization by the professional group Ymako Teatri has a different impact compared to sensitization by the school children or amateur groups. Although some differences in impact appear between the professional and the amateur groups, overall no significant difference exists (Wilcoxon Test: T+46, N=11, p=0.28). School theatre groups have the same positive impact on knowledge gain and increase in positive perceptions and constructive attitudes towards chimpanzees and their conservation (Figure 5).

**Figure 5.** Comparison of impact of professional versus amateur (school theatre) on changes in knowledge, perception and attitudes towards chimpanzees and conservation issues



Additionally, an evaluation study on the impact of Club P.A.N. activities was carried out for the school year 2007/2008. Results have shown that so far this nature club has reached over 500 children (Figure 6) and that a high attendance rate of over 80% is maintained throughout the year (Figure 7).

Evaluation results confirm that children successfully acquired knowledge through Club P.A.N. lessons. For the 12 questions about different biodiversity aspects (Table 3), we can observe an average gain in knowledge of 54% when comparing the results of the pre- and after evaluation in the children who participated in Club Pan (Wilcoxon Exact test,  $T^+=78$ ,  $N=12$ ,  $P<0.001$ , 2-tailed). For example, whereas only 5% of the children knew what an endangered species was before the Club P.A.N. (questions 2), 70% could correctly explain having followed Club P.A.N. lessons, hence a 65% increase.

**Table 3:** Knowledge gain in children who participated in Club Pan lessons

#	Questions (Answer)	Pre-Evaluation right answers (%)	After-Evaluation right answers (%)	Increase in knowledge (%)
1	Closest living relative? (Chimpanzee)	72	97	25
2	What is an endangered species? (facing extinction)	5	71	66
3.1	Characteristic of mammals? (lactation)	5	69	64
3.2	Characteristic of mammals? (hair)	6	42	36
4.1	Important biosphere element? (Air)	5	80	75
4.2	Important biosphere element? (Water)	29	81	53
5.1	Part of a tree? (Crown)	54	79	24
5.2	Part of a tree? (Trunk)	6	70	64
5.3	Part of a tree? (Root)	61	80	19
6	All plants? (Flora)	8	77	69
7	All animals? (Fauna)	8	76	68
8	Animals with highest number of species? (Insects)	7	86	79

These results confirm that without specific environmental education, school children have very limited knowledge about nature and conservation issues. Through the proposed Club P.A.N. program, we were able to significantly increase their knowledge about the environment and modify their attitude towards conservation; a pre-condition for all successful conservation programs.

#### ❖ **Project Result 4**

In the city of Abidjan, in the Banco National Park, the Nature Centre is functioning.

##### ➤ **Result 4: Indicator 1**

Local trained guides are responsible for attracting and animating visits to the Banco National Park.

##### **Activities achieved:**

Throughout 2008, the previously trained guides at the Banco NP, including representatives of the WCF and their collaborating NGOs such as Vision Verte, Environnement Sain-Santé pour Tous and Le Gardien, have visited schools to encourage class outings and enticed other tourists to visit the park and its nature center. During these visits, the guides are responsible for providing a full tour of the tourist attractions

within the park. This includes a tour around the arboretum, the eco-museum which houses interactive displays such as a nut-cracking workshop to show that chimpanzees, just like humans, have culture, a “Guess which footprint belongs to which animal” display and an audio/visual guessing game. Additionally, both children and adults are taken around the “Parcours de l’explorateur” (the “Explorer’s trail”) whereby they have to find traces of chimpanzees and poachers in the BNP. All visitors are also welcome to watch the two documentary films about the chimpanzees of the Taï Forest and are given a copy of the Newsletter and a guide through the exhibition (“Carnet de l’explorateur”). Besides the museum, the visit to the over 500 year old tree “Kossipo” and newly rehabilitated “Piscine naturelle” (“Natural pool”) are an integrative part of the guided visits. At the end of the visit the guides present all the children with a certificate to show that they have participated in all these activities.

### ❖ **Project Result 5**

Local African schools as well as schools from developing countries take part in the education program.

#### ➤ **Result 5: Indicator 1**

Benevolent teachers in Côte d’Ivoire around the Taï NP support the education program of the WCF.

##### **Activities achieved:**

The WCF has continued to financially support four teachers in primary schools in several villages west of the Taï NP (Paule-Oula, Djero-Oula, Ziriglo, Sakré) who have become integral to different surveillance committees and sensitization activities in this region.

#### ➤ **Result 5: Indicator 2**

A school exchange program provides pupils from Africa and the developed world with the possibility to exchange about their culture and environment.

##### **Activities achieved:**

This year the “Amitié Sans Frontière” collaborated with Club P.A.N to increase both project’s impacts for the cultural exchange between Ivorian and German schools. For this, over 600 Ivorian Club P.A.N. children received a binder with a drawing, photo and write-up from a German pupil and created a response with photo, letter and drawing. Three German teachers have also started to exchange letters with three Ivorian teachers. Money raised by the schools in Germany also meant that 5 Tam-Tams could be bought for the Club P.A.N schools, and two were also sent to Germany to strengthen the cultural exchange. Also during the year, the German children sent hand-made games to the Ivorian children. Additionally, at the end of the year, for a cultural exchange on Christmas, the German pupils sent informative folders about these holiday traditions as well as hand-made decorations. Lastly, laminated pictures of wildlife as well as informative posters about conservation and the environment were received by the Ivorian children.

#### ➤ **Result 5: Indicator 3**

The Club PAN (Personnes, Animaux, Nature), an extra-curricular environmental education school activity is continued in 10 schools around the Taï NP during 2008.

##### **Activities achieved:**

In 2008, Club P.A.N. activities continued in the 10 schools around the Taï National Park, in collaboration with the Cellule des Projets Environnementaux. In total, 617 school

children that live around the Taï National Park were enrolled and attended Club P.A.N. lessons about the flora and fauna of the region's ecosystems. In all of these lessons, local flora and fauna were presented with pictures and detailed descriptions. Games were also used to explain, for example, the interactions between plants and animals, the different parts of a tree and the different levels of a tropical rainforest. Each child is also given a Club P.A.N book with activities and information for the children to learn about both during Club P.A.N. lessons but also at home.

An educational day was held in February 2008 for the coordinators and the teachers to get together to discuss the future of Club P.A.N. and to exchange on different methods of teaching used to obtain the best results. Additionally, two parent days were held (one in Taï and one in Soubré) as a means in which the children creatively and actively teach their own parents all about what they had learnt during the year at Club P.A.N., thereby sensitizing their older generation about conservation, chimpanzees and protected areas.

Lastly, in October 2008, the second year of Club P.A.N. started, with Claudia Borchers, a Phd Student at the Max Planck Institute and a professional school teacher, acting as the new head coordinator of the activities. So far, activities are being carried out on the east side of the park. More than 300 children are participating each week in the classes, and we envisage the response in the west side of the park, where activities will start at the beginning of 2009.

#### ❖ **Project Result 6**

Regular evaluations of the project are available.

##### ➤ **Result 6: Indicator 1**

The sociological surveys are available.

##### **Activities achieved:**

As usual, for all large education campaigns carried out by the WCF, sociological studies are carried out to assess the impact of these campaigns on the participants. In Côte d'Ivoire, one such study was carried out around the Taï NP and in Liberia a similar study is currently being carried out around Sapo NP and Grebo National Forest. Local sociologists conduct the interviews, using questions that are collaboratively prepared by the respective sociologist (D. Goh in the Côte d'Ivoire and D. Woods in Liberia) and C. Boesch and I. Herbinger from the WCF. A representative sample of the population, including both sexes, different ethnicities, age classes and educational levels, are interviewed for the surveys.

As has been described above, the results from the study carried out in the Côte d'Ivoire around the Taï NP are very promising. Before the sensitization campaigns, there was a general opinion held by most local communities that chimpanzees are a nuisance due to their crop-raiding behaviour and were therefore not seen as beneficial. It appeared common practice to kill a chimpanzee if one was found on a plantation, which would then either be consumed or sold for its meat. However, four years later and after two full multi-media sensitization campaigns, the attitudes of the people living near wild chimpanzee communities is changing, with farmers tending to prefer simply chasing away crop-raiding chimpanzees rather than do them any harm. Furthermore, conservation actions are encouraged in this region, with the local communities enthusiastic about getting involved with conservation activities. All this data was statistically analysed and was presented at the International Primatological Society Conference this year (Herbinger, I., Gone Bi, Z.B. and Boesch, C. (2008). Short and

long-term effects of professional theatre and school play aimed at sensitizing the human population to chimpanzee and rainforest conservation around the Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire. Abstract, 21st International Primatological Society Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, Primate Eye 96, Special issue). Other publications this year from the sociological studies included: Boesch et al 2008: Chimpanzee Conservation and Theatre: A Case Study of an Awareness Project Around Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire. In: Conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Stoinski, TS, Steklis HD, Mehlmann PT eds), Springer, New York and b) Boesch et al. 2008, The contribution of long-term research by the Taï Chimpanzee Project to conservation, In: Long-term research leads to conservation: examples from African forests, (Wrangham R, Ross, E eds), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

With regard Liberia, not much can be concluded yet about the sociological impact of the campaigns. The post-evaluation part of the study is set to be carried out at the beginning of 2009, if road conditions improve. Research has already shown that there is general belief that dead chimpanzees are beneficial for local medicinal practices. In contrast, however, in many villages however, chimpanzees are regarded as a totem, with some people believing that chimpanzees are their forefathers. These results are promising in that it may ease the sensitization campaign's message, with conservation being supported. Nonetheless, there was also a general feeling from the campaign that the people expect to benefit in monetary values from supporting conservation. Results from the post-evaluation will only be able to confirm these primary ideas.

#### ➤ **Result 6: Indicator 2**

**Yearly evaluations of the activities are produced and results of the evaluations are integrated in the education program**

In the last four years nearly 135,000 people in around 200 villages have now been reached by the multi-media education campaigns. Yearly reports as well as progress and final reports for different donors are prepared by the WCF director and other WCF staff members. This has proved efficient in allowing for a close examination and evaluation of the work being carried out, with the sociological studies providing quantitative results with which the impacts of the activities can be measured. Sensitization activities decreased over the past three years due to the establishment of the Bio-monitoring program within the WCF. The Biomonitoring program has proved to be a very useful tool to verify and correlate the results of the sociological studies. By locating the areas in the park which harbor a high abundance of chimpanzees, we can check whether the nearby villages correspond to those that declare the chimpanzee as sacred and who say that they support conservation and the work that the WCF carries out. Moreover, the biomonitoring program has allowed targeting populations that cause the most threat to the parks, chimpanzees and other wildlife. For example, results from the biomonitoring program in the Banco National Park have shown that the populations east of the park (in the area of Abobo) destroy the vegetation either for medicinal uses or to cut wood for fires. In contrast, the population west of the park (in the area of Yopougon) threatens the fauna of the park due to the presence of poaching activities. From this, we can then set up the conservation message of the theatre campaigns that are carried out around the Banco National Park to correspond to the targeted audience.

#### **To be considered for 2009**

Results from the long-term studies demonstrated that although the local communities have a preference for professional theatre group performances over amateur theatre group performances, the impact of both remain relatively the same. For this reason, we

would envisage concentrating on working in collaboration with the amateur theatre groups here in the Côte d'Ivoire and forming two such groups in Liberia. In this way expenses will be cut in our education programme but the impact will remain the same.

With the increase in different projects and workload for the WCF, planning of the different activities needs to be carefully taken into account. A general meeting with all WCF staff members is planned for the beginning of 2009 to be able to allocate the work for the year and to schedule the different activities of both the education programme and the biomonitoring program. Weekly meetings will also continue next year in which work can be delegated for the respective week and to keep track of the work that is being done and the work that needs to be done.

### **Conclusion:**

The collaborative approach of the education programme and the biomonitoring program has been extremely beneficial in improving the conservation status of the chimpanzee in the targeted areas. The long-term sociological study carried around the Taï National Park has confirmed that sensitization activities are effective work but that continued input from the WCF education program needs to be carried out to keep up the support from the local communities for the continued survival of chimpanzees and their forest habitats.

### **The WCF Education Projects in 2008 were financially supported:**

- Arcus Foundation
- Amersfoort Zoo
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- Great Ape Conservation Fund (USFWS)
- Great Ape Trust of Iowa
- Leipzig Zoo
- Minnesota Zoo
- Paul Schiller Stiftung
- Rufford Small Grants Foundation
- Sweden Chimpanzee Trust
- Züricher Tierschutz
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Private donors

### **The WCF kindly thanks all the partner organisations and institutions from 2008 for their technical, material and individual support:**

Côte d'Ivoire : Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêt  
Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique  
Ministère de l'Education National  
Ministère de Tourisme  
L'Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)  
National Parc Directions (Taï, Marahoué, Banco, Azagny)  
Société pour le Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)  
Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS)  
Fondation Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-WARPO)

Conservation International (CI)  
Afrique Nature International  
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)  
Cellule des Projets Environnementaux (CPE)  
KFW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)  
ONG Enironnement Sain-Santé pour tous  
Vision Verte  
Le Gardien  
SOS Forêts  
Ymako Teatri  
Troupes scolaires et villageoises  
Imprisud, Graphicolor  
Universités de Cocody, Abobo-Adjame  
Comité Comics, Texte Journal Paroles de Forêt

Liberia:  
Forestry Development Authority  
Conservation International  
Fauna & Flora International  
Theatre Group House of Freedom  
Forest Cry Liberia  
University Monrovia

Germany:  
Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology