

**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 2009 – December 2009**

Reported by  
 African Representation of the WCF  
 Director: Dr. Ilka Herbinger  
 Assistant to Director: Dervla Dowd  
 Education Program Officer: Dr. Zoro Bertin Goné Bi  
 Project Leader Guinea: Dr. Sebastien Regnaut  
 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**

In 2009, the awareness activities of the WCF aimed at obtaining 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), and in the mining concession of GAC in Guinea. Main activities included film and theatre campaigns, the school exchange and the Club P.A.N school program, the animation of the Banco museum and a bushmeat study. All planned activities could be carried successfully and had been well received by the participants.

**Overview of awareness activities:**

➤ **Film presentations**

The “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” has been presented in French or English in **over 30 villages** in front of **over 25.000 spectators in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea** during the year 2009.

The table below provides details of the respective villages and number of spectators for the films in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea (Table 1).

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

National Park/forest	Villages	Number of spectators
Taï ,Goin Débé , Cavally Côte d'Ivoire	Petit Guiglo, Paris Leona, Japon, Akékro, Zagné, Troya 2, Troya 1, Keibly, Ponan, Zouan, Djigbagui, Fotokouakoukro, Takoragui (2 times), Etiennekro = 14 villages (15 times)	10550
Banco Côte d'Ivoire	Agban village = 3 times During Banco Museum visits ca 34 visites	1650 3767

Sapo <b>Liberia</b>	Kabada, Gbalawein, Pynestown, Seagboken, Putuken, Kanweaken, Jalay's Town = <b>7 villages</b>	3930
Grebo <b>Liberia</b>	Fishtown, Palipo Jalipo, River Gbeh = <b>3 villages</b>	2650
Sangaredi <b>Guinea</b>	Tinguilinta, Mobhi, Diwé, Filobowal ndantari, Boulléré, Tchankoun-Tyoli = <b>6 villages</b>	2780
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31 villages plus 34 times in BNP</b>	<b>25327</b>

➤ **Newsletter 'Paroles de Forêt' or 'Forest Wisdom'**

The distribution network of the newsletter that is presenting general information on chimpanzee and habitat conservation (interest, past and present realisations, future projects) is well functioning. During the different education campaigns throughout 2009, all issues available at the time were handed out in French (Paroles de forêt) for Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and in English (Forest Wisdom) for Liberia. Additionally, the newsletters have been distributed during the two days' workshop on the transboundary initiative for a landscape corridor between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia organised in Abidjan. In late 2009, the issue number 10 was created and printed with a total of 10.000 exemplars in both English and French. The number of pages increased from 20 to 24 to include messages and reports about a theatre campaign carried out in Liberia and Guinea; Club P.A.N, an extra-curricular school activity; the Taï Chimpanzee project; and the conservation issues of the classified forests in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The Ivorian artistic team consisting of Mrs Dao N'Daw Koumba, Désiré Koffi and Ben Amara Sylla interpreted with much enthusiasm for their tenth time messages and texts into comic strips and drawings.

All newsletters are also available on the WCF-Website (<http://www.wildchimps.org>).

➤ **Theatre campaigns**

Various theatre plays addressing issues about chimpanzee/human co-existence and the protection of their forested habitat have been performed over **50 times** in front of **nearly 20.000 people** in villages and towns of **Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea**. Already created theatre pieces of both the professional group (Ymako Teatri) and various school groups have been rehearsed, improved and performed. School group performances have been carried out in close collaboration with the CPE (Cellule des Projets Environnementaux teachers association) and the WWF/WCF team based in Soubré. Additionally, a new play entitled 'Foret la, si c'est fini, ah!' was created by "Ymako Teatri" addressing forest protection and conservation issues, especially focusing on two Classified Forests (Goin Débé and Cavally) in the west of Côte d'Ivoire, neighbouring the Taï National Park. In Liberia, House of Freedom performed their second tour around the Sapo NP and the Grebo Forest. In Guinea, the theatre group Touchatout set up a play entitled 'SOS chimpanzés' adapted to the realities of chimpanzee/human co-existence in the mining concession of GAC and performed their new play in 10 villages in and around the concession. Firstly introduced in 2008, in 2009, several acrobats joined the theatre groups (House of Freedom and Touchatout) and their performances within and outside the play as animations to attract an even larger number of spectators were very well appreciated by the audience.

The table below summarises the villages and number of spectators for the theatre performance by both professional and school theatre groups in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea (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>				
Taï	EPP Wonséaly	Djoulabougou, Kouadiokro, Remikro, Tanodjokro, Djigbagui, Fotokouakoukro, Takoragui, Etiennekro <b>=8 villages</b>	5300	In collaboration with the CPE and the WWF-Taï.
	College Taï	Keibly, Konankro, Sakré <b>= 3 villages</b>		
	EPP Grabo	Gbapé, Gnato, Grabo, Sotho <b>= 4 villages</b>		
	EPP Djouroutou	Béhoué, Karié, Para, Youkou <b>= 4 villages</b>		
Banco	EPP Agban Attié	<b>3</b>	1150	
<b>Professional theatre groups</b>				
Taï	Ymako	Petit Guiglo, Paris Leona, Japon, Akékro, Zagné, Troya 2, Troya 1, Keibly, Ponan, Zouan <b>= 10 villages</b>	6300	
Banco		Agban village, Kossipo BNP <b>= 2 times + SODEFOR (Siège Abidjan)</b>	1050 50	
Sapo	House of Freedom	Tubmanville, Kabada, Gbalawein, Pynestown, Seagboken, Putuken, Kanweaken <b>=7 villages</b>	3800	
Grebo	House of Freedom	Fishtown, Palipo Jalipo, River Gbeh <b>= 3 villages</b>		
Sangaredi GAC	Touchatout	Tinguilinta, Mobhi, Diwé, Filobowal ndantari, Boulléré, Tchankoun-Tyoli <b>= 6 villages</b>	2055	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>51 times</b>	<b>19,705</b>	

All performances were organised in close collaboration with local communities so most of the important members of those communities (chiefs of villages, presidents of woman, youth-, and elder associations, Imams, other religious and administrative representatives) were present. In 2009, various Ambassadors, representatives of international and national institutions and other important personalities have attended performances in the Banco National Park and also in the Headquarter of the SODEFOR during the presentation of Ymako's new play.

➤ **Banco museum, 'Maison de la Nature' in Abidjan**

In 2009, the Banco National Park has been animated by the previously trained guides from the local NGOs Vision Verte, Environnement Sain-Santé pour Tous and Le Gardien. In addition, since early 2009, a private tour operator, "Randonnées Tours" is in charge of the management of the park entries and the development of new tourist attractions inside the park. Four new guides working for that private operator have been trained and encourage together with the already existing guides class outings and other tourist visits. In addition to the already existing tourist attractions and the animation program, Randonnées Tours installed several play grounds for children and possibilities to play table tennis, trampoline, baby-foot, ride bicycles and horse riding is foreseen for the near future. The already full functioning tourist circuit 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; the "Parcours de l'explorateur" (the "Explorer's trail") whereby they have to find traces of chimpanzees and poachers; presentations of the two documentary films about the chimpanzees of the Taï Forest, distribution of the Newsletter and a guide through the exhibition ("Carnet de l'explorateur"); a visit to the over 500 year old tree "Kossipo" and the rehabilitated "Piscine naturelle" ("Natural pool").

Only including organised groups (incited to visit the parc by the aforementioned NGOs and the WCF), during 2009, for a total of 73 visit days, 4052 people visited the Eco-museum and the Banco National Park, among them, 3767 school children from 34 schools. 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. During the course of the year, several embassies (Norwegian, United States and Swiss) have organised their end of year outing in the National Park.

➤ **Club PAN and school exchange program**

The second year of Club P.A.N. activities started in October 2008 and continued throughout 2009 in the 10 schools around the Taï National Park, in collaboration with the Cellule des Projets Environnementaux and under the supervision of the PhD student and teacher Claudia Borchers. In total, 651 school children that live around the Taï National Park were enrolled and attended Club P.A.N. lessons in its second year. 10 lessons dealing with e.g. the flora and fauna of the region's ecosystems, biodiversity, animal-human conflicts, endangered species, protected areas are taught in an interactive way with pictures, videos, songs, games, experiments, nature excursions etc. The detailed Club P.A.N book with activities and information for the children to learn during classes but also at home has been greatly reduced and improved for better understanding and use. Capacity building workshops have been held for the teachers at the beginning and at the end of this school year, as well as a parents days in each of the villages where the

children present to their parents and other village members what they have learned over the course of the year. Evaluations over the first 2 school years provide evidence of an average knowledge gain of 50% in the first year and of 28% in the second year (half of the pupils assisted Club Pan for their second time). Additionally from the second year onwards, attitude measures have been incorporated in evaluations and a 20% increase in positive conservation attitudes (from being in favour towards bushmeat consumption to refusing to consume bushmeat) has been noted. An article has been published on the successful program in the journal 'Revue de primatologie', Nr 1 (2009): Deux programmes d'éducation environnementale pour la conservation des grands singes africains: Club Ebobo et Club P.A.N. by Claudia Borchers, Julia Riedel, Christophe Boesch et Thomas Breuer.

This years' school exchange program "Amitié Sans Frontière" took place in all 10 Club P.A.N schools. German schools from the towns of Werdau, Zwickau and Leipzig exchanged with Ivorian pupils by letters and posters and treated various cultural and ecological subjects.

The four 'voluntary' teachers in the primary schools of the villages Paule-Oula, Djero-Oula, Ziriglo and Sakré in the west of the Taï NP received continued support from the WCF and continued to animate the Club PAN program as well as being active members of surveillance and sensitization committees in the region. Thanks to their year long endurance and faithfulness to the region and its schools, the state has agreed to integrate them as full-time teachers during the course of 2010.

#### ➤ **Sociological impact assessments**

During the year 2009, sociological studies have been carried out around the Taï National Park in Côte d'Ivoire, around the Sapo National Park and Grebo Forest in Liberia and around the mining concession in Guinea.

Around the Taï National Park a pre-study to assess the knowledge, perception and attitude of the local population living around the Goin Debe and Cavally Classified Forests and the Taï National Park concerning chimpanzee and forest conservation has been carried out. A total of 211 people from 10 villages, the majority from the Gueré ethnic group, aged between 25 and 65, with over a third having had no formal education and two thirds being farmers were interviewed during the survey. Data collected suggest that chimpanzees are present in the Park and the Classified Forests. However, due to increasing anthropogenic pressure in the area, both chimpanzees and their habitat have undergone drastic declines in recent years (70% stated to no longer see chimps close to their village). It was also noted that the local communities have a reasonable level of knowledge regarding chimpanzees, both morphological and behavioural (e.g. 45% cited tool use), with the interviewees clearly being able to distinguish between a chimpanzee and other primate species. Regarding the perceptions of chimpanzees, the population had both negative and positive perceptions of these animals. While the chimpanzee is commonly seen a close relative of man (local names mean e.g. "parent in the forest", or "animal that looks like man") and/or a totem, it is still considered aggressive and also destructive to the communities' crops and therefore livelihoods. In contrast however; the majority of the respondents did express their readiness to contribute to the protection of chimpanzees, but only if the authorities provided financial and technical support. Data further revealed that with regard the classified forests, the natural habitat of chimpanzees is

highly threatened, with respondents admitting to having farms within these forests and/or also carrying out other illegal and destructive activities such as mining, logging and poaching (20% admitted having killed and eaten chimpanzee). In view of the main results of this study, it seems that populations of chimpanzees in the classified forests of the Taï zone are still viable, especially as regards the Classified Forest of Cavally, which is still considered as relatively untouched. However, specific actions such as law enforcement, sustainable management schemes and outreach programs must be undertaken to preserve these primates in this region.

In and around the mining concession of Global Alumina in the region of Boké, Sangaredi, a pre-study was likewise carried out to assess the knowledge, perception and attitude of the local population living around this concession. 200 persons from 11 villages largely aged between 17 and 50, mainly farmers with low education level from the Peuhle ethnic group with muslimic beliefs, have been interviewed. Data suggest that chimpanzees are very present in the study area and often encountered by the local population. However, the local population largely lacks specific knowledge about their behaviour. Although chimpanzees are in general neither hunted nor consumed, they nevertheless are captured for domestication purposes, trade and because they crop raid. Only about a quarter of the local population attributed qualities to chimpanzees. The existing law protecting chimpanzees is little known by the population. The study recommends amongst others the necessity of sufficient protection of their habitat, sustainable agriculture and elevation techniques to reduce pressure on chimpanzee habitat, strict law applications and awareness raising targeted especially at the young generation, students and pupils as well as teachers.

Like in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, a pre-study was also carried out in Liberia in 10 towns around the Sapo National Park and the Grebo Forest. 118 persons from the Sapo, Krahn, Mano, Glaro and Grebo ethnic groups, from 20 years of age up to 90, mostly farmers and associated with the Christian faith have been interviewed. Chimpanzees around Sapo and Grebo are largely perceived negative, spoiling food crops and aggressing people, specifically woman. This high level of human-chimpanzee conflicts might be related to relatively high frequencies of occurrence in this area as 85% cite seeing chimpanzees regularly. Although the population seems to have some knowledge about chimpanzees, their description of behaviours is often limited or sometimes wrong. Chimpanzees are consumed by a minority of people who mostly eat their meat for medicinal and mystic reasons (makes them strong etc). For quite a significant number of people, the chimpanzee is a totem (38%) and some families and groups altogether consider them their ancestors. An important number of respondents (58%) indicated that they still use the Sapo Park and Grebo forest as a source of livelihood; they admitted farming, hunting, fishing and mining within its borders. The study recommends amongst others to raise awareness about and enforce the laws that govern these protected areas, as illegal activities threaten the survival of its chimpanzees.

For all three studies in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia, the impact of the theatre campaigns will be measured with the comparative after-studies, taking place in the beginning of 2010.

➤ **Bushmeat study**

Claudia Borchers, a PhD student from the Max Planck Institute and coordinator of the Club PAN program in 2008/2009 and Joseph Anoh, a Master student from the University of Abidjan started to carry out a bushmeat survey around the Taï National Park in a total of 6 villages (Zagné, Djodoubaye, Djere-Oula, Petit Tiéme, Amaragui, Dioulabougou) and 3 towns (Guiglo, Soubré, Yabayo) east and west of the park to better understand the bushmeat trade in this region. In each village, meat consumption in 4 families is controlled on daily basis. To study whether meat consumption of the local population in the region had been influenced by year long awareness raising activities or not, half of the families participating have assisted sensitization activities, half not. Further, check sheets about meat consumption and preferences, origin and prices of the meat and conservation attitudes are applied to all families participating, 45 restaurants ('maquis') and about 200 clients in these restaurants. The 45 restaurant owners also note on a daily basis what kind of meat is offered in their restaurant. Additionally, a bushmeat market in the town of Guiglo is controlled during 1 week every month and close to the village Daobly, at the transboundary river Cavally, a bushmeat market is controlled weekly.

### **Conclusion:**

Since 2002 nearly 185,000 people in around 300 villages in four countries have now been reached by the multi-media education campaigns. Detailed activity reports on all sensitization campaigns are available as well as the sociological studies carried out before and after the multimedia campaigns that allow for quantification of impacts. First analysis to correlate biomonitoring results with sensitization activities to directly measure the impact of awareness raising on the evolution of chimpanzee and other mammal populations have been proven difficult and more fine grained approaches are necessary. An ongoing bushmeat study which looks at daily consumption habits of villagers around the Taï National Park in families that have been participating in sensitization activities in the past years and others that have not might reveal better insight on whether and how much not only perception and knowledge, but also attitudes and behaviour changes in the local population that undergo continued sensitization.

### **To be considered for 2010**

Results of the various sociological studies that have not yet been subject to publications should be statistically analysed and submitted to respective journals. Likewise the Club Pan booklet should be made public to allow other conservation organizations to apply similar approaches in environmental education. WCF should consider being part of a volunteer program, so more support is available to work on different projects in different countries at the same time. Increased project load demands for a professional accounting system.

### **The WCF Education Projects in 2009 were financially supported by:**

- Arcus Foundation
- Amersfoort Zoo
- Brevard Zoo
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondiale (FFEM)
- Great Ape Conservation Fund (USFWS)

- Great Ape Trust of Iowa
- Guinea Alumina Project
- Leipzig Zoo
- Minnesota Zoo
- Oregon Zoo
- Paul Schiller Stiftung
- Rufford Small Grants Foundation
- STEWARD
- Sweden Chimpanzee Trust
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Zoo am Meer e.V.
- Zürcher Tierschutz, and by many
- Private donors

**The WCF kindly thanks all the partner organisations and institutions from 2009 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, Banco)  
 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)  
 Conservation International (CI)  
 Afrique Nature International  
 Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)  
 Cellule des Projets Environnementaux (CPE)  
 KFW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)  
 Randonnées Tours  
 ONG Environnement 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

Guinea  
 Guinea Alumina Corporation  
 Société de Mines de Fer de Guinée  
 Guinée Ecologie

Compagnie Touchatout  
Jane Goodall Institut

Germany: Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology