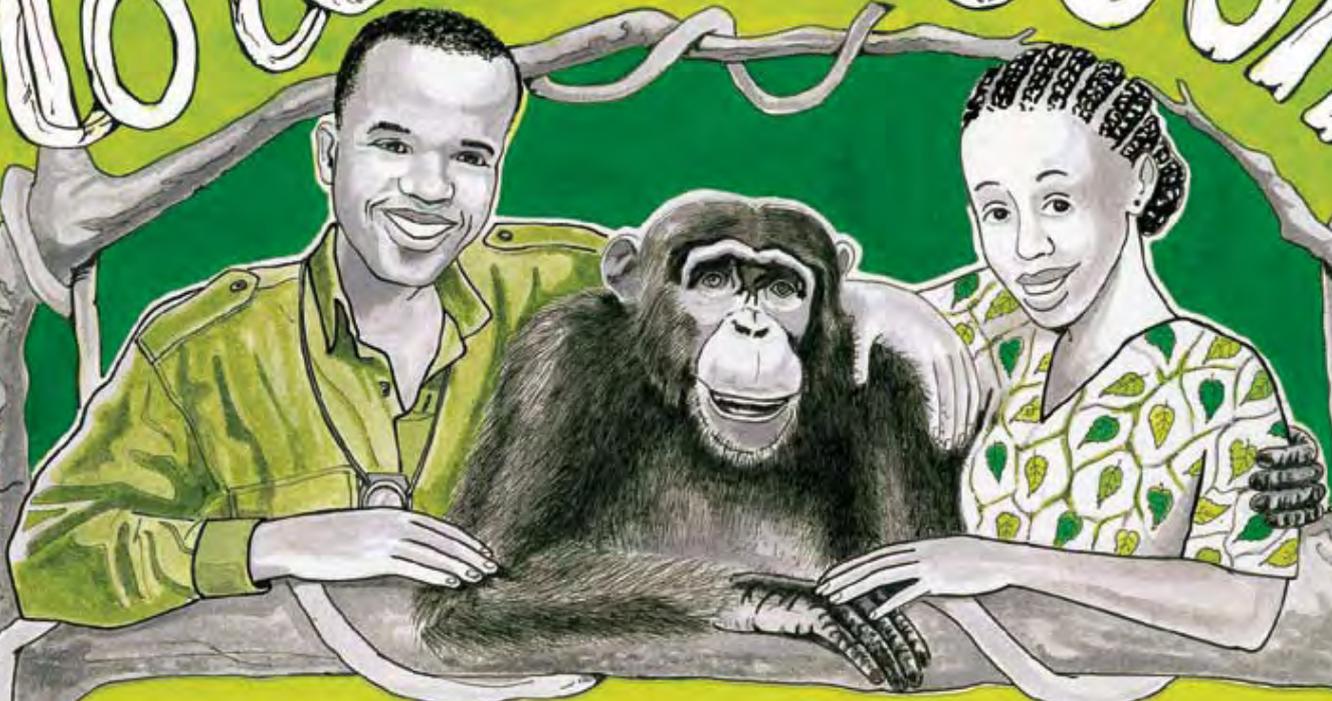
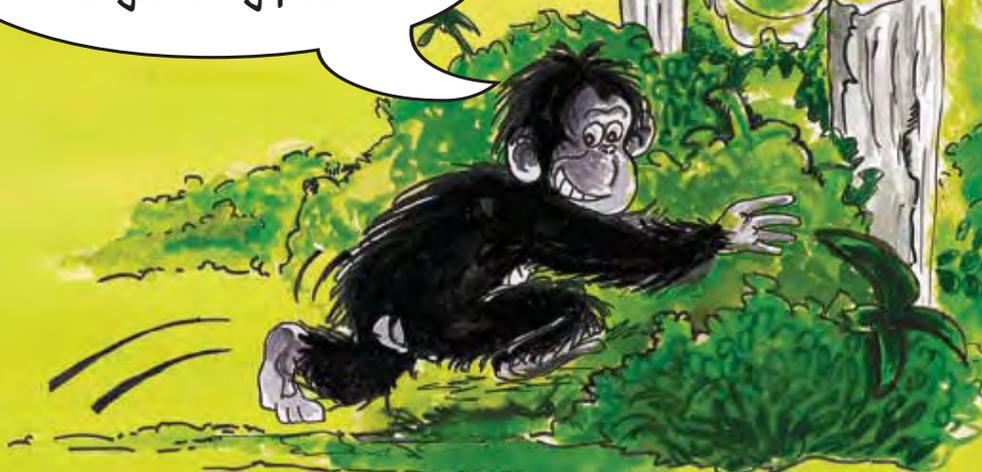


Forest Wisdom



Hello! I'm Marius! Come along,
I'll take you to my place ...



N° 1 - January 2002



FOREST WISDOM

Your own paper, for all of you:

- Villagers living near a park
- Animators
- Trainers
- Project heads
- Teachers
- All those who work to conserve forests

Forest Wisdom

- Tells the story of certain forest inhabitants: the chimpanzees
- Describes problems and threats to the forest
- Supplies information
- Answers your questions
- Invites you to protect the great forest, this national heritage which is also yours

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THE CHIMPANZEES, STUDENTS IN LEIPZIG

In the Leipzig Zoo, the chimpanzees' little grey cells never sleep!

In the Leipzig Zoo, in Germany, the anthropology research institute of the Max-Planck Society has built the largest open space in Europe for housing great apes. Of course, it is not a tropical forest, but the 12,000 square meters of open ground, as well as the very spacious indoor enclosures, give approximately thirty chimpanzees a very nice place in which to spend their lives. Researchers avail themselves of these animals, so close to man, to try to test their intelligence.

For instance, look at the experiment shown in the picture below: during the chimpanzee's absence, Josep Call, the specialist in this study, puts ten white and ten black goblets upside down on the ground. Under each white goblet, there is a piece of fruit, with nothing under the black ones. The chimpanzee, in this case the female Dorin

pictured here, comes into the room when she's ready; she looks at the set-up, lifts up a black goblet and finds nothing. Then she lifts up a white goblet and sees and eats the fruit. Then, one after the other, she quickly lifts all the white goblets to eat all the fruits, and then leaves.

This means that she's understood immediately, with just one check, that only white goblets were of interest to her. It's impressive! How can we still kill, in the wild, such intelligent animals? The Leipzig Zoo does not believe we should. That is why the Zoo contributes to the survival of wild chimpanzees by making annual gifts for the publication of this newsletter, because the management realizes that even the most beautiful enclosure can never replace the forest with its animals roaming free.



THE LIFE OF OUR CHIMPANZEES: TOSCA AND HER FAMILY

Tosca is a female chimpanzee that we were lucky enough to see and follow since the 18th of December 1982. She is very handsome in a serious way. Within her group, she has dominant status. She has three children: Sandra, Tina and Tarzan. She is a good mother who shares her food with the little ones.

We should tell you that the Tai forest chimpanzees have a unique behaviour in the way they share food; in particular foods that are only accessible through tools, such as nuts (which are hard to break), honey and insects. The young are dependent on their mother for breaking nuts until the age of four or five years. During that time, mothers usually give them up to 20 % of the nuts they break open.

Tosca is a generous mother. Often, when she is cracking nuts, you can see the young ones running around her, climbing onto her back and – realizing that they are hungry – throwing themselves onto the nuts between two games. Tosca, all the while, carries on cracking nuts. Tarzan, the most enthusiastic, is also the most spoiled by his mother, while Tina is the quietest.

In a few years time, Sandra will become adolescent and will move away from her family to settle with a neighbouring group.

With chimpanzees, females move away while males stay in the group where they were born. That is why unknown young females are often found in groups being studied by researchers. These new arrivals prefer to go with the dominant males.

Life seemed so happy and peaceful for this family. Then Tina, unfortunately, fell into an awful trap. It was terrible. Tina was already handicapped in her hands and unable to climb trees and break nuts. Now her wrist was tightly gripped by a metal wire. Panicking, screaming with pain, she jerked madly in all directions around this cruel trap. She was in such pain that she would not even allow her mother Tosca to go near her.

What will happen to Tina? To find out, read the next edition of “**Forest Wisdom**”.



Sandra has become a beautiful adolescent. Soon she will leave her family to join another community

Mum! I think it's sad that Sandra's leaving.

If only I was as strong as this Brutus, I could have this beautiful female all to myself.

How handsome and strong that one is! He will be my first love.



Poor Tina, how she must be suffering!

Life seems so peaceful when suddenly something dramatic happens: Tina is caught in a trap.

What can I do for you, my poor daughter?

That's enough! Yet another victim because of these wicked men and their traps.



TAÏ: THE LARGEST FOREST PARK IN WEST AFRICA

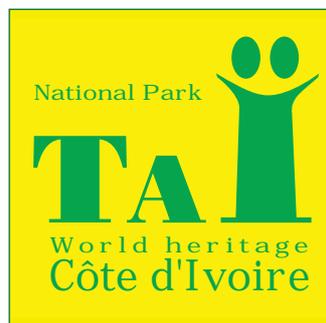
The Taï forest is situated in the southwest of Cote d'Ivoire, between the Cavally and Sassandra rivers. Its surface area is 455,000 ha. In 1972, the Taï National Park (TNP) was created by decree. In 1978, UNESCO (the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture) decided to include it in the international grouping of **Biosphere Reserves**. In 1982, UNESCO classified it as a **World Heritage Site**.

The TNP is one of the last remaining parts of West Africa's original primary forest block. Its age explains its enormous biological wealth and the presence of many endemic species (species of plants and animals found only in very limited areas and often under threat of extinction: the Pygmy Hippopotamus, the Jentink's Duiker and the Chimpanzee). Thanks to its size, it is the only protected area able to provide a long-term guarantee of the conservation of all the interdependent elements living in this unique environment.

The Taï Park has very accurately defined boundaries, marked by signs and a wide perimeter track. All plants and animals inside are protected by law (decree number 72-544, August 1972) which says that all the following activities are forbidden:

- hunting, chasing, capturing, and provocation of the animals;
- fishing;
- changes to the environment (cutting down or mutilation of trees, bush fires, ground clearing, earthworks)
- gathering honey, wax, medicinal or food plants.

The park cannot be exploited in any way, so that it may serve as a refuge for animals and plants, as a genetic pool and as a climate regulator. Since 1993, it has been managed by the **Autonomous Project for the Conservation of the Taï National Park** from its office in San Pedro. This



German-Ivorian cooperation project supports the park's long-term development and conservation, with the help of the people living around the park. The project is also responsible for putting to good use this protected forest's biological diversity (ecotourism, scientific research, etc).

The Autonomous Project is funded and run by a group of national and international organizations (the Department for the Protection of Nature, the Centre for Ecological Research, the German National Development Bank – KfW, the German Cooperation Agency – GTZ, and the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research).

GREGOIRE'S LIFE

Gregoire Nohon is a young man from Ponan, a village just outside the TNP. When Christophe and Hedwige Boesch arrived in the region in 1979, that village was surrounded by forest. Today trees are few in number there, the forest has receded to the limits of the Taï Park, and lorries (including many timber transporters) throw dust over all the houses.

Gregoire's father was a great hunter. He killed many animals, but today he complains about the disappearance of the forest and the large animals which used to live there. The village medicine man also complains that he is unable to find the plants he

needs to treat the sick. Even palm fronds needed to make roofs for the houses are becoming rarer.

Gregoire is not surprised. Through his job as research assistant in the chimpanzee project, he knows how his village ended up in this catastrophic situation. In future editions of "Forest Wisdom", we will tell you the story of this boy from Ponan who became a specialist in nature protection and a friend of the chimpanzees.





Tosca, the beautiful young female, is much admired and desired. All the males are attracted to her.

It's so nice to be beautiful! All these males who look only at me.

Look how Tosca exaggerates. She shows off because all the males only have eyes for her.

Tosca, you're so lovely! Do you want to come with me?

Tosca's all mine! Beware anyone who goes near her.

I bet it's that Brutus who will be the first to be successful with Tosca.



After a few years, Tosca is mother to three lovely little ones: Sandra, Tina and Tarzan.

It's always Tosca's children who fight together

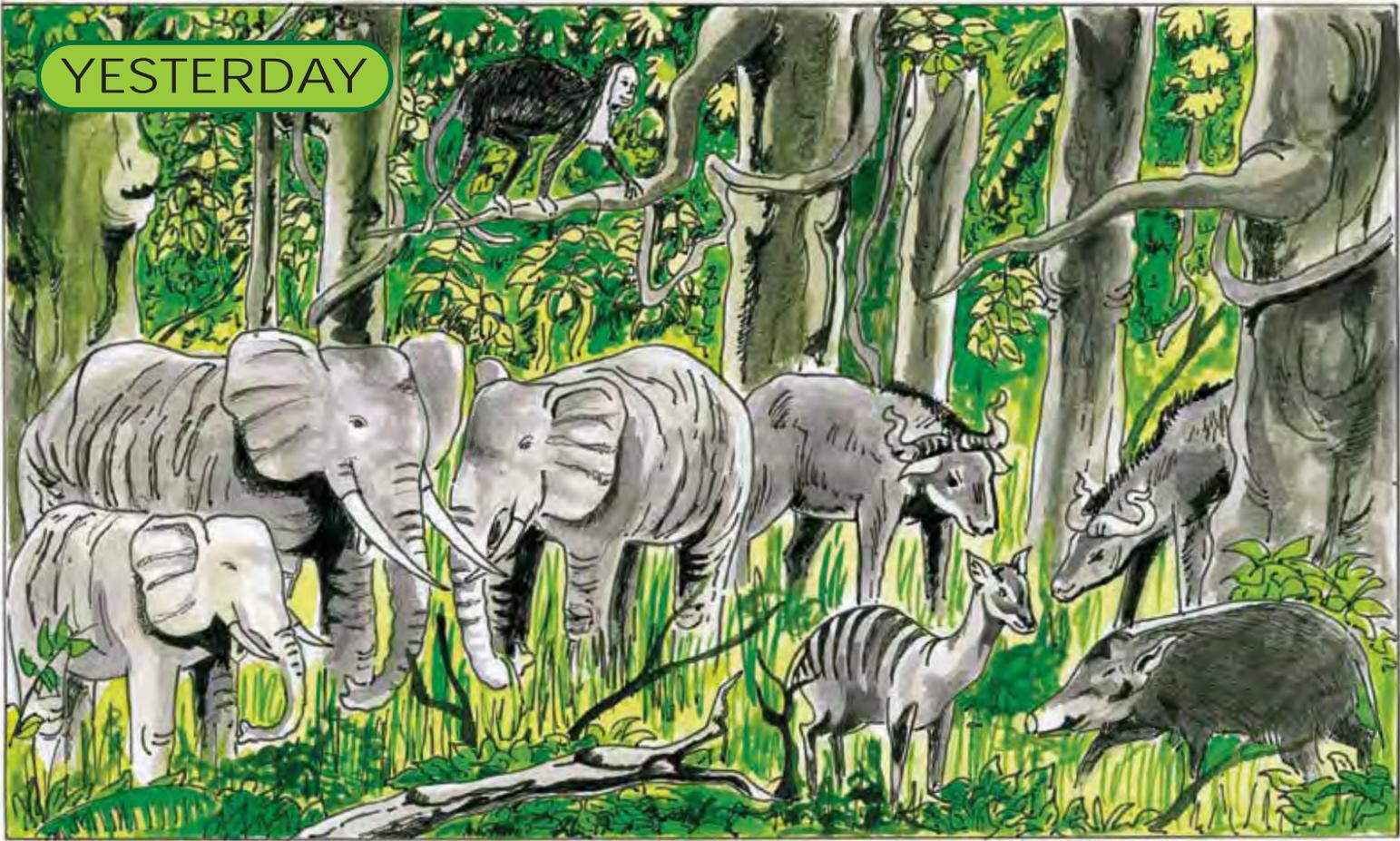
What about me, mummy. You're giving everything to Tina.

Here Tina, take the nuts.

It's lucky my mother Tosca is here, otherwise what might have happened to me with my mutilated fingers?

Tarzan, can't you see that Tina is handicapped. Do you expect mummy to look after only you?

YESTERDAY



TODAY



Good morning, brother, I see that you had a good hunt.

You're right, we've killed a lot of animals.

We have to cut down at least six trees today.

EDITORIAL

What happened to the green tunnel?

Hello and good health to you all!

When I first arrived in the Tai forest in 1976, we had driven for many hours in our overloaded Peugeot 504. From Guiglo, the track was a tunnel through the forest, like a long red snake shaded by great majestic trees. Going round a bend, I put on the brake. Hedwige, my wife, and I saw a female chimpanzee crossing the track followed by her baby. She stopped, waited for a moment, and a smaller female ran to join her. We had come to the Tai forest to study some chimpanzees which are unique in the world, and even before arriving we had met a mother and her young.

When I come back to Tai now, twenty six years later, the track from Guiglo glares under the sun, the heat is suffocating, all is dry with never an animal nearby. All along the track there are plantations, villages flooded with sunlight, tight bush and red bare earth, terribly bare. Over the years, like the elders of the village, we have seen this great change; the disappearance of the forest, fire wood that must be found at several hours' walking distance and which costs more and more, plus the disappearance of the birds and of the calls of the forest animals.

We have created the "Wild Chimpanzee Foundation" (WCF) and started this newsletter "**Forest Wisdom**" to discuss this situation with you. The elders say "*The Chimpanzee is Man*", and we will show you how right they are through the story of Tosca. Tosca is a large female chimpanzee that we met in the forest in 1979 and with whom we shared unique and rewarding moments. We shall also talk about Gregoire, a young person like some of you, from the village of Ponan. He will tell us about his life and explain how someone like you was able to become an expert concerning the chimpanzees of your forest.

Twice a year, "**Forest Wisdom**" will continue these stories, and members of the WCF team will come to talk about them with you.

Marius, our mascot, would be glad to know what you think of the chimpanzees which are there in the forest. He would also like to know what you think of this great forest which he calls "*my home*". We have reserved a space in this newsletter, "the Palaver Tree", to print your comments, and Marius will tell you what he thinks of them. The newsletter team hopes you enjoy reading it.

See you soon.

Christophe BOESCH

Today, I hope to kill a chimpanzee ...



But where can they be hiding?



I'm too tired ...
We'll see later!



Yawn!
I slept well!



Ha! Ha! Ha! Did you think for one moment that you could be boss thanks to your gun.

