

JGI IN AFRICA:

Ensuring a Future for

Great Apes

the Jane Goodall Institute's

AFRICA PROGRAMS



the Jane Goodall Institute



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Great Apes in Africa are on the verge of extinction. This makes the Jane Goodall Institute's mission, unique history and community-centered approach to conservation more urgent than ever before. The deep-rooted, pervasive problems that give rise to habitat destruction and the illegal commercial bushmeat trade require a comprehensive response involving local communities and other stakeholders as true partners.

The five-year strategy we present in this document recognizes that we can't save the Great Apes unless we save the forests they live in, and we can't save the forests unless we improve the lives of local people and give them a stake in the survival of Great Apes. The only approach that will succeed in the long run is a partnership among communities, NGOs, governments, and businesses. While chimpanzees are the focus of our programs, these wonderful beings are actually symbols for a much larger challenge: saving the wild forests of Equatorial Africa from total destruction.

The problems facing Great Apes have captured the attention of the conservation world. This document is a declaration of hope that a viable, even robust future for Great Apes can be secured – a reflection of Jane Goodall's own reasoned, contagious faith in the power of collective and individual action, and a better future for us all.

Bill Johnston
President
the Jane Goodall Institute





ABOUT JANE GOODALL

Jane Goodall began her landmark study of chimpanzees in Tanzania in June 1960, under the mentorship of anthropologist and paleontologist Dr. Louis Leakey. Her work at Gombe National Park would become the foundation of future primatological research and redefine the relationship between humans and animals.

One of Dr. Goodall's most significant discoveries came in her first year at Gombe, when she saw chimps stripping leaves off stems to make the stems useful for fishing termites out of nearby mounds. This and subsequent observations of Gombe chimps making and using tools would force science to rethink the definition that separated man from other animals: "Man the toolmaker." Jane also observed chimps hunting and eating bushpigs and other animals, disproving the widely held belief that chimpanzees were primarily vegetarians.

Dr. Goodall defied scientific convention by giving the Gombe chimpanzees names instead of numbers, and insisted on the validity of her observations that the chimps had distinct personalities, minds and emotions. She wrote of lasting chimpanzee family bonds. Through the years her work yielded surprising insights such as the discovery that chimpanzees engage in a primitive kind of warfare.

Dr. Goodall established the Gombe Stream Research Center in 1964. Under the stewardship of Tanzanian field staff and other researchers, it continues Dr. Goodall's work today, making it one of the longest uninterrupted wildlife studies in existence.

Dr. Goodall travels an average 300 days per year, speaking about the threats facing chimpanzees, other environmental crises, and her reasons for hope that humankind will solve the problems it has imposed on the earth. She continually urges her audiences to recognize their personal responsibility and ability to effect change through consumer choices, lifestyle change and activism.

Dr. Goodall's scores of honors include her designation as a United Nations "Messenger of Peace" (2002). In 2003, Dr. Goodall was named a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, the equivalent of a knighthood. In 2006, she received France's most prestigious award, the Legion of Honor.

Her list of publications is extensive, including two overviews of her work at Gombe – *In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window* – as well as two autobiographies in letters, the spiritual autobiography *Reason for Hope* and many children's books. *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior* is recognized as the definitive work on chimpanzees and is the culmination of Jane Goodall's scientific career.

ABOUT US

The Jane Goodall Institute's mission is to empower individuals to take informed and compassionate action on behalf of all living things. Founded in 1977, the Institute continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior – research which transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. The Institute is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa, and the Roots & Shoots education program, which seeks to encourage children around the world to help people, animals and the environment.

Chimpanzee Research – Our chimpanzee research at *Gombe National Park*, Tanzania, begun by Jane Goodall in 1960, helps us understand our closest living relatives and, ultimately, ourselves. Current research focuses on aggression and territoriality, the relationship between mothers and infants, chimpanzee culture and more. Gombe scientific staff members also helped pioneer a non-invasive DNA collection method as part of a significant ongoing research effort to understand the origins of HIV. JGI's *ChimpanZoo* program helps zoos design optimal environments for captive chimpanzees. JGI's *Center for Primate Studies*, based at the University of Minnesota, houses and analyzes all the research data from Gombe, continually shedding new light on the behavior patterns of wild chimpanzees.

Primate Protection – At *Ngamba Island* in Uganda and the *Tchimpounga Sanctuary* in the Republic of Congo, JGI chimpanzee sanctuaries provide safe and loving habitats for nearly 160 orphan chimpanzees who are virtually all victims of the illegal commercial bushmeat and pet trades. The sanctuaries also create local jobs and serve as centers of conservation, environmental education and development activities in local communities.

Community-Centered Conservation – The JGI *TACARE* (Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and Education) community-centered conservation activities preserve and restore the environment while giving hope to thousands of families through initiatives that improve health care, promote economic growth and support sustainable livelihoods. TACARE's participatory approach makes local involvement and control integral. The *Greater Gombe Ecosystem Program* launched in 2005 is an outgrowth of TACARE's success. In this ambitious undertaking, JGI and partners use sophisticated Geographic Information System (GIS) and satellite imagery mapping to plan land use with local communities, including earmarking deforested areas for regeneration. In 2004, JGI expanded the TACARE model to underserved areas of the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, working with Conservation International and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. JGI has also branched out to west Africa. In critical parts of *Guinea and Sierra Leone*, we are undertaking an awareness campaign about the plight of chimpanzees and working to strengthen the capacity of communities and local and regional governments to conserve chimpanzees and habitat.

Roots & Shoots – Based on the principle that knowledge leads to compassion which inspires action, JGI's Roots & Shoots program engages youth of all ages through service learning. R&S groups create hope in more than 95 countries. They are cleaning up riverbeds, teaching peers about endangered species, volunteering at shelters, organizing events that celebrate different cultures – the list is as varied as their members' imaginations. They also carry the voice of youth to global arenas such as the 2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg. Roots & Shoots has groups in rural, suburban and inner-city neighborhoods in the U.S. and other countries, in villages from Ecuador to China and in refugee camps in Africa.





THE STATE OF THE AFRICAN GREAT APE

We stand on the threshold of a future without Great Apes in the wild. The widely-referenced IUCN/World Conservation Union *Red List of Threatened Species* categorizes each of the species of African Great Apes – chimpanzees, gorillas, and bonobos – as endangered. African apes are largely confined to the relatively intact forests of Equatorial Africa as their last remaining stronghold. Chimpanzees are now extinct in four of their 25 range countries (Gambia, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin). Where they numbered perhaps 1 million at the turn of the 20th century, today it's estimated there are fewer than 150,000 chimpanzees remaining in the wild. If current trends continue unchecked, African ape populations will decline by an additional 80 percent in the next 30 to 40 years. We have only a few decades to halt the decline.



WHY SAVE GREAT APES?

Conservation-minded people hardly need a justification for saving species from extinction. But when it comes to Great Apes, the rationales are particularly compelling. One of the main reasons Dr. Louis Leakey asked Jane Goodall to study chimpanzees was the prospect of gaining greater insight into our evolutionary past. Decades of research have demonstrated how close Great Apes are to human beings biologically and socially; they give us a new lens through which to view ourselves, and they increase our understanding of our own behavioral problems and diseases. For example, noninvasive research at JGI's Gombe Stream Research Centre supports studies of the natural history of HIV.

Great Apes play important roles in a variety of other practical ways. They have been shown to be crucial to forest ecosystems by dispersing seeds and fruit, creating gaps in the forest canopy that allow seedlings to grow, and serving as predator and prey. And, as beings to which humans are greatly attracted, Great Apes play key roles as "poster" species in conservation efforts. In addition, local Great Ape populations have proven to be great assets to local economies through eco-tourism projects that provide sustainable income streams.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

The threats to Great Apes in the natural world are many. *Habitat loss* is a result of the conversion of land for agriculture and competition for limited natural resources such as firewood, as well as commercial logging and mining, often in the heart of once pristine forests. The *commercial bushmeat and illegal exotic pet trades* give poachers incentives to kill even nursing mothers. *Infectious diseases* such as Ebola Fever, polio and pneumonia are a serious, growing threat as Great Apes come into more frequent contact with human populations. *Armed conflict* often leads to environmental destruction and species decline as soldiers move through the forest or thousands of people are forced to relocate.

And there are exacerbating factors – lack of awareness and information about Great Apes and the laws in place to protect them, and weak enforcement where laws do exist. Nor is the general public aware of the potential economic benefits of protecting Great Apes.

All of these problems have deep roots, including human population growth, the staggering scale of poverty and disease, lack of economic opportunity, political indifference and corruption, conflict, and limited community involvement in managing natural resources. To begin to make a difference in the face of such fundamental challenges requires a holistic, multi-pronged response.



GOAL

JGI has an unprecedented opportunity to help save African Great Apes. This opportunity is grounded in the legacy of Dr. Goodall's 45 years of chimpanzee research and advocacy, as well as her global vision and influence; interest of many donor nations in conserving the biodiversity of sub-Saharan Africa; and the existing network of experienced donor agencies and conservation organizations willing to develop and fund major conservation efforts.

Recognizing these opportunities, JGI's goal is to preserve Great Apes and their habitats, with an emphasis on chimpanzees.

PROGRAM FOCUS

The initial phase of JGI's strategy will be implemented over five years, 2005-2009.

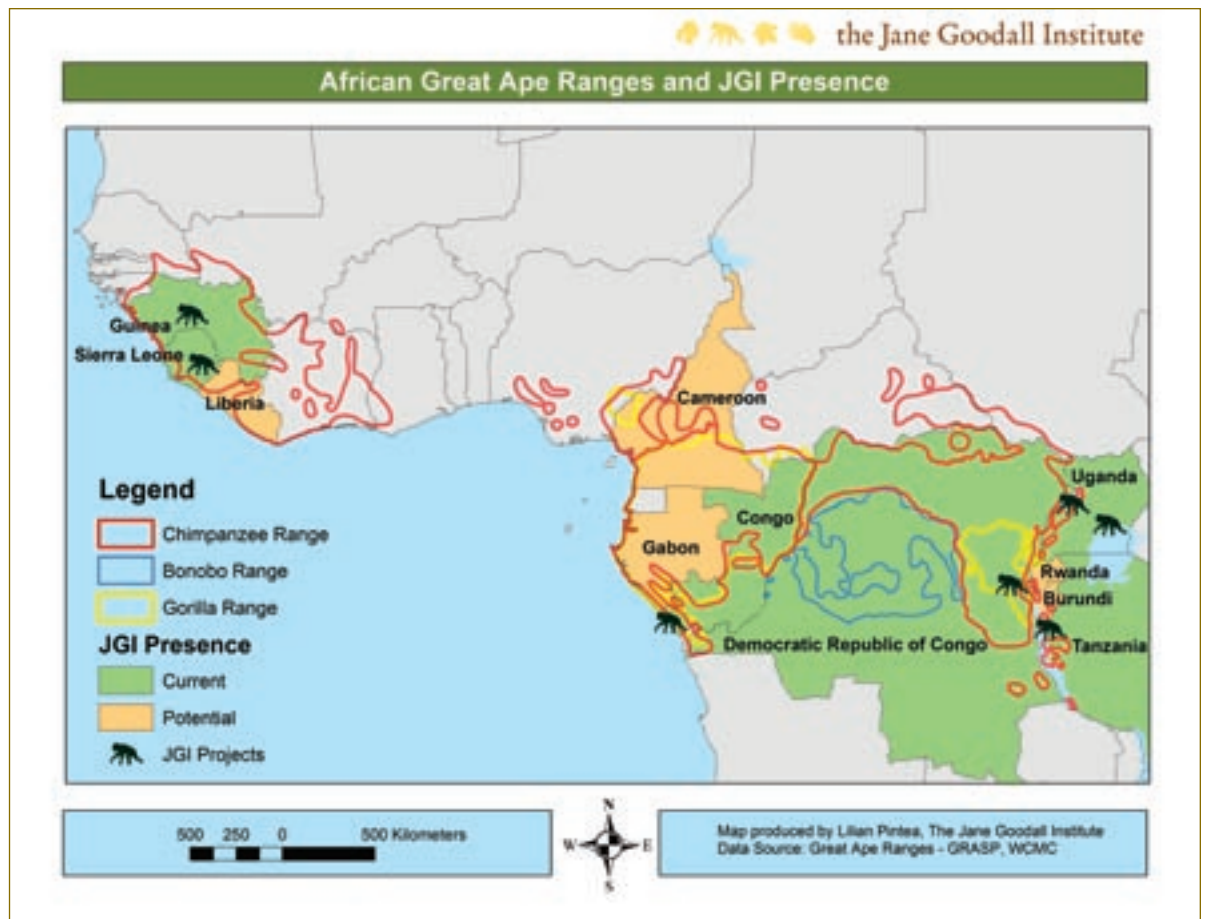
To leverage limited resources, JGI is funding and implementing this strategy in partnership with other conservation organizations, universities, institutes, and donors.

JGI is focusing its strategy in the following areas:

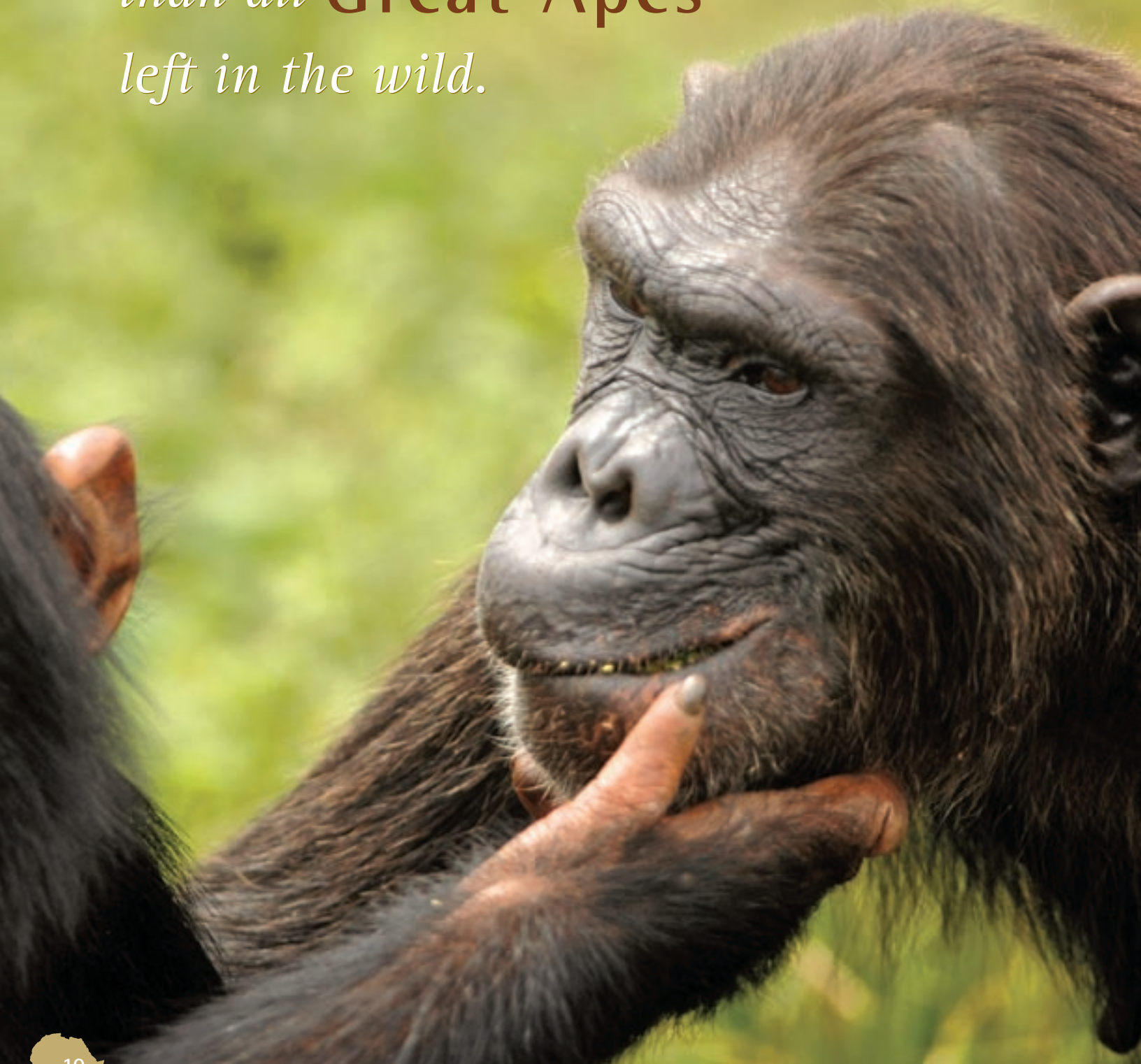
- ▶ regions where the threats to biodiversity are the greatest and we can maximize biodiversity conservation results and impact. These areas include the Congo Basin and the Albertine Rift.
- ▶ locations where JGI has operations and active programs with the opportunity to scale up and build sustainability
- ▶ regions that overlap with the interests of international donor agencies and other biodiversity conservation organizations and that present opportunities for developing partnerships

Given these criteria, JGI has targeted the following countries for the implementation of this strategy:

- Republic of Burundi
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of the Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Gabonese Republic
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Rwanda
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Republic of Uganda



*There are more human
beings born every day
than all **Great Apes**
left in the wild.*





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To achieve the goal of preserving Great Apes and their habitats, JGI has developed four strategic objectives. We are pursuing these in partnership with a variety of local, regional, national and international private and public partners.

- Work in partnership with **LOCAL COMMUNITIES** to establish sustainable livelihoods and help save Great Apes and their habitat
- Advance the global understanding of Great Apes through **RESEARCH**
- Provide excellent **CARE** to orphan chimpanzees in sanctuaries, while **EDUCATING** sanctuary visitors about the plight of Great Apes
- Increase **PUBLIC AWARENESS** and education regarding habitat destruction and the plight of Great Apes

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Work in partnership with local communities to establish sustainable livelihoods and help save Great Apes and their habitat

To be effective, conservation actions must eliminate or minimize the most critical threats to specific Great Ape populations. First it's necessary to identify regions known to host viable Great Ape populations – which we call “Great Ape Landscapes.” Once critical landscapes are identified it's necessary to use a proven, scientifically-based planning process to assess threats, prioritize conservation actions and measure conservation success in those landscapes. This process provides an objective, consistent and transparent accounting of conservation actions and their intended and actual outcomes.

This strategic objective is designed to reduce the threats to the African Great Ape populations and measure conservation success at the landscape scale. Our conservation strategies are integrated with community-led land use planning and socio-economic development strategies as a means of engaging communities in the conservation process and ensuring that conservation actions are realistically planned and implemented.

Due to its actual and symbolic importance for JGI, the Greater Gombe Ecosystem Landscape is our first priority.





What we're doing:

- ▶ **PARTNERING** with conservation organizations, universities and other research institutions to help shape Great Ape conservation strategies at the regional and landscape levels.
- ▶ **DEVELOPING** methodologies using satellite remote sensing and Geographic Information System technologies to map and monitor Great Ape habitats and threats. Results determine conservation actions and help us measure conservation success.
- ▶ **SETTING** priorities for Great Ape conservation using ecoregional and species-focused planning at two geographical scales: range-wide Great Apes Geographic Regions and population-specific Great Apes Landscapes.
- ▶ **TAKING** direct conservation action to **ELIMINATE** or **REDUCE** the human threats to specific Great Ape populations.
- ▶ **USING** the TACARE Project as a model, **DESIGNING** community-centered conservation efforts and **INTEGRATING** them with conservation planning.

What we hope to achieve:

- ▶ The protection and preservation of Great Apes and their habitats within Great Ape Landscapes.
- ▶ Improved livelihoods in communities living in proximity to Great Ape Landscapes.
- ▶ Synergies between JGI Great Ape Landscapes and international NGO landscape conservation models that reinforce success and make it sustainable.
- ▶ Increased knowledge of Great Apes, their plight and their value.

Advance the global understanding of Great Apes through research

Dr. Goodall began her pioneering research in 1960 at what would become Gombe National Park in Tanzania. An endeavor that many predicted would last only a few months would become the longest-running field study of a wild animal group – still going more than 45 years later. Much of the research data collection at the Gombe Stream Research Center (GSRC) is undertaken by a trained team of Tanzanians. This pioneering study, and research performed by others, continuously reveals the complexity and sophistication of chimpanzee minds and societies, challenging our ideas about what separates “human” from “nonhuman.”

The research derived from the data collected by GSRC yields the information about natural behavior, ecology and demography that conservationists need to design effective conservation strategies. Behavioral and ecological research also sustains and enlarges the constituency for Great Ape conservation through the publication of popular books, films and other media.

A great deal about the behavior and biology of Great Apes remains to be discovered. This strategic objective is designed to improve and expand JGI’s research to help us increase our understanding of Great Apes, develop conservation measures and broaden the constituency for Great Ape conservation.





What we're doing:

- **DEVELOPING** a new, three-year primate field research strategy for implementation at the Gombe Stream Research Center and JGI-affiliated chimpanzee sanctuaries.
- **IMPLEMENTING** high-priority research projects to support the new research agenda, using new technologies and noninvasive research techniques and establishing baseline data that will inform conservation actions and evaluation of progress and success.
- **INSTITUTING** staffing and management structures and training programs for field research assistants supportive of the new research agenda.
- **IDENTIFYING** and **RECRUITING** the best and brightest sub-Saharan African researchers in primatology.
- **INCREASING** the number and frequency of research studies published and increasing JGI's active participation in conferences, meetings and presentations.

What we hope to achieve:

- Strengthened research agenda and improved quality of research.
- New and expanded research partnerships.
- Enhanced sub-Saharan African capacity to conduct Great Ape research.
- Wide dissemination of research results.

Provide excellent care to orphan chimpanzees in sanctuaries, while educating sanctuary visitors about the plight of Great Apes

Great Ape sanctuaries in Africa care for the youngest victims of the illegal commercial bushmeat trade – orphans whose families have been killed by poachers. The continual influx of Great Apes into sanctuaries is a clear indication that habitat protection and enforcement activities are not providing adequate protection for endangered species. Unfortunately, virtually all sanctuaries are under-funded, understaffed and under-resourced, even as they continuously receive new arrivals.

This strategic objective is designed to help sanctuaries provide the best possible care for great apes while working with communities to promote sustainable development and to reduce bushmeat hunting through law enforcement and education. It also seeks to help sanctuaries serve as Great Ape cognitive and behavioral research centers.





What we're doing:

- ▶ **EXPANDING** and **IMPROVING** facilities to accommodate expected increase in Great Ape sanctuary populations.
- ▶ **STANDARDIZING** operating procedures and **PROVIDING** training to improve management and technical competencies.
- ▶ In partnership with local communities, **ESTABLISHING** eco-tourism schemes and other financing mechanisms, such as trusts, to improve sanctuaries' financial sustainability.
- ▶ **DEVELOPING** conservation education strategy and programs, including Roots & Shoots programs, to help area communities understand the importance of a healthy, intact environment and sustainable practices.
- ▶ **DESIGNING** and **IMPLEMENTING** Great Ape release and reintroduction programs, and conducting related research.
- ▶ **UNDERTAKING** law enforcement training and awareness programs in cooperation with governments to strengthen habitat protection.

What we hope to achieve:

- ▶ Increased capacity to protect and care for Great Apes in sanctuaries.
- ▶ Enhanced financial viability and sustainability in sanctuaries.
- ▶ Expansion of Great Ape conservation and awareness programs at the sanctuary level.
- ▶ Strengthened government capacity to protect and manage Great Ape habitat and enforce wildlife protection laws.

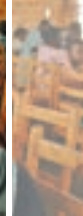
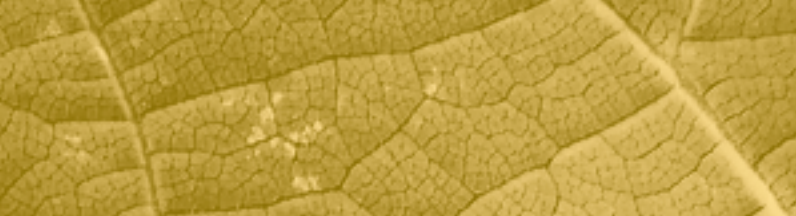
PUBLIC AWARENESS

Increase public awareness and education regarding habitat destruction and the plight of Great Apes

The threats to Great Apes are exacerbated by a lack of information and awareness about Great Apes, and by inadequate laws in place to protect them. Only as local communities understand Great Apes and their critical role within ecosystems will they work for Great Ape survival. We must ensure communities receive accurate, reliable information that is communicated in a culturally sensitive manner. We must craft messages that are engaging and interesting, to capture the widest possible audience. We believe that the international stature of Dr. Goodall as well as JGI's network of global Roots & Shoots groups offer us tremendous advantages in generating global awareness and concern on behalf of Great Apes.

This strategic objective is designed to create models and methodologies that change attitudes and behavior through information and increased knowledge.





What we're doing:

- **DEVELOPING** with partners a map server on the Internet to map, **MONITOR** and **DISSEMINATE** information on the status of the most important Great Ape populations in Africa.
- **INTRODUCING** conservation education into selected school systems, with a focus on Great Apes.
- **PROMOTING** the use of Roots & Shoots, JGI's environmental and humanitarian education program for youth.
- **LAUNCHING** national and targeted local public awareness campaigns in selected countries to disseminate culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate messages.
- **LAUNCHING** international public awareness campaigns using mass media.
- **BUILDING** the capacity of community-based organizations to become advocates for Great Ape conservation.

What we hope to achieve:

- Detailed, objective and current information on Great Ape distribution and threats disseminated to governments, media and conservationists to inform decision-making and policy formulation.
- Effective, sustainable public awareness programs delivering targeted information on the plight of Great Apes.
- Conservation education programs developed and adopted by local community-based organizations, educational institutions and governments.



Conclusion

The ambitious undertaking to save the endangered Great Apes is something no one group of people or one organization, however far-sighted, can tackle alone. It requires steadfast commitment to progress and effective collaboration in the face of daunting challenges. It also requires a dedication to addressing conservation problems at their roots, working with local human populations in a spirit of true partnership, pragmatism and innovation. Despite the challenges, we know based on conservation successes throughout the world that it is possible to bring species back from the very brink. This plan represents JGI's strong commitment to ensuring a future in which our grandchildren and great grandchildren can go to Africa and find expanding populations of gorillas, bonobos and chimpanzees thriving in the wild.



For more information

To learn more about the Jane Goodall Institute and JGI in Africa, please visit www.janegoodall.org or contact Keith E. Brown, Executive Vice President, Africa Programs at (703) 682-9220.

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Baby chimp – Bill Wallauer

Chimp hand – Andy Nelson

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