



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

# Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center

## Ensuring the Welfare of Captive Chimpanzees

Chimpanzees rescued by the Jane Goodall Institute find a new home at our Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center in Republic of the Congo. Many orphaned by the international commercial bushmeat and pet trades, these chimpanzees receive expert care and rehabilitation by Tchimpounga's staff and are adopted into new chimpanzee families. Tchimpounga also stands as a beacon against wildlife crime through support for law enforcement and enriches local communities through supporting sustainable livelihoods, public awareness and environmental education.

Founded in 1992, Tchimpounga is one of the largest chimpanzee sanctuaries in Africa having provided care to more than 200 individuals. Located within the Tchimpounga Nature Reserve, Tchimpounga's chimpanzees are cared for at a main sanctuary site as well as three forested island sanctuary sites by Dr. Rebeca Atencia, JGI-Congo's executive director and Tchimpounga's head veterinarian as well as a dedicated team of expert caregivers.

Tchimpounga's staff provide individualized care plans for individual chimpanzees while supporting and ensuring their welfare as they are integrated into communities of other chimpanzees, many of whom are unrelated to one another. Connected with local communities, the work at Tchimpounga extends beyond the sanctuary through purchases of locally grown fruits for the chimpanzees, supporting law enforcement agency confiscations of endangered wildlife and offering school-based educational programs for youth..

We build on the work of our model facility at Tchimpounga, as well as on Dr. Goodall's authoritative writings and advocacy to improve non-human animal welfare.

Through innovations in captive care, advocacy and cross-sectoral partnerships, JGI makes sure that every chimpanzee is provided the respect and quality of life they deserve.

Through our care model and evaluation system known as the Chimpanzee Welfare Index we are proud that every chimpanzee in Tchimpounga is at or above 95% for positive welfare.

Our model is one we share to improve standards and well-being of captive apes around the world.



## THE TRIANGLE APPROACH

The illegal bushmeat and pet trade is the top threat to chimpanzee populations across Congo. To address these, JGI has adopted a dynamic, mindful strategy we call the “Triangle Approach” which relies on developing cooperation between three distinct entities: law enforcement, environmental education programs, and Tchimpounga. Thanks to this work and other in-country and cross-border partnerships our ability to ensure confiscation and proper placement of rescued chimpanzees is growing. Law enforcement in the region increasingly notify JGI about issues with illegal trade knowing that Tchimpounga is a best-in-class facility that will be able to appropriately care for rescued animals. In parallel with this, education and public awareness efforts end the behaviors which fuel the trade in the first place.

## RESCUE & REHABILITATION

No two chimpanzee stories are the same. Each chimpanzee rescued by the Tchimpounga staff require individualized care plans. JGI’s staff carefully assess and monitor the health of each chimpanzee, while also learning their patterns of behavior and their personalities. All of this information is critical to ensuring their individual health, as well as ensuring their life can be enriched by social groupings with other chimpanzees who are compatible with their temperament and demeanor. All of this work takes specialized know how, incredible attention to detail as well as a great deal of compassion and altruism from JGI’s caregivers and veterinary teams. Our expertise in wildlife medical care has resulted in groundbreaking practices and procedures, including what is known to be the first two chimpanzee- to-chimpanzee blood transfusions in Africa.

## MULTI-SPECIES CARE

With such a great reputation for animal care, Tchimpounga has not only become home for rescued chimpanzees but other species including mandrills, small monkeys, pangolin and a variety of birds and reptiles. Successful reintroduction of many of these rescues, as well as subsequent wild births, especially with endangered mandrills, is a testament to our staff’s dedication and skills.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

In Republic of the Congo, poverty is a primary driver of the illegal bushmeat and pet trade as people turn to poaching for income. In order to reduce this threat, in tandem with our ‘Triangle Approach’ of environmental education, public awareness and work with law enforcement, we also provide staffing within the sanctuary as well as investment in local livelihoods. Tchimpounga. Employs nearly 100 local Congolese and annually generates nearly \$300,000 of income for local farmers through sustainable agriculture and other products sourced to feed and care for the rescued chimpanzees.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Broad lack of education, in addition to lack awareness of local laws protecting wildlife also contribute to the perpetuation of illegal trade in Congo. JGI’s public awareness and environmental education efforts include billboards that teach about how killing

or trafficking great apes is a crime, television programs that discuss the forest and the wildlife that rely on it, and community outreach with both student groups as well as women’s groups. One very special program, Super Kodo, a children’s television show follows the heroics of a young boy named Kodo, who is given superpowers which he uses to protect his beloved forests. Super Kodo explores issues of wildlife conservation and has increased the environmental awareness of both kids and adults. Originally produced in Monokutuba, the show has been translated into French in order to expand its reach to other central African countries.

**201,480+**

hours of care provided to the chimpanzees and other animals at Tchimpounga each year

**100**

individuals relocated to JGI’s forested island sanctuary sites where the chimpanzees roam in a semi-wild environment

**25,000+**

kilograms of food purchased for the chimpanzees from local farmers