

**Report on Education and Awareness Activities to improve the protection of  
wild chimpanzees in West Africa, undertaken by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation  
during January 2006 – December 2006**

**Reported by the WCF African Director (Dr. I. Herbinger)**

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**General remarks**

During the year 2006, the West African office of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation successfully carried out the planned activities to enhance chimpanzee conservation, including multi-media education campaigns, consisting of film and theatre performances as well as journal distribution. The WCF successfully enlarged its multi-media education campaigns to the neighbouring countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Further, the Nature Centre in Banco National Park, Côte d'Ivoire, has been enriched by an exposition and interactive ateliers for animation. The school exchange program between several German and Ivorian schools is very active.

**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 Taï, Marahoue and Banco National Parks (Côte d'Ivoire), the Gola Forest (Sierra Leone), Grebo Forest (Liberia) and the Fouta Djallon and Guinée Forestière region (Guinea).

**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.

Sociological studies conducted in Côte d'Ivoire around the Taï and Marahoué NP, in the Fouta Djallon region, Guinea, and around the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone, provide evidence that significantly more people interviewed after the education campaign will choose to chase chimpanzees away or inform the park wardens when they raid crops instead of killing them (compare attachment: Key Socio-results, page 3).

### **Specific Objective Indicator 2**

**An increasing number of villagers abandoned some detrimental traditional habits about medical or magical value of chimpanzee products (hairs, bones,...).**

Sociological studies conducted in Côte d'Ivoire around the Taï and Marahoué NP and in the Fouta Djallon region, Guinea, provide evidence that significantly more people interviewed after the education campaign are in favour of increased protection of chimpanzees (compare Key Socio-results, page 2-3). For example in Côte d'Ivoire, following our activities, in the village of Guiroutou (Taï NP) and Gobazra (Marahoué NP), the chiefs of the villages in accordance with the whole population declared the chimpanzee as sacred for their village which implies that nobody is allowed to harm, kill or eat chimpanzees anymore. Traditional totems like this are usually very well respected. Although also in Sierra Leone more people are in favour of increased chimpanzee protection after the education campaign, the impact is less pronounced than in Côte d'Ivoire.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 3**

**An increasing number of villagers use alternative sources of meat, which reduce the use of bush-meat.**

Sociological studies in Côte d'Ivoire around the Taï and Marahoué NP revealed that chimpanzee meat represented the most preferred meat source in 70% of the population interviewed before the campaign, compared to 1% who still cited chimpanzees as their preferred meat after the campaign. Moreover, the people depriving themselves completely from consuming chimpanzees more than doubled in the population interviewed (compare Key Socio-results, page 4). Concerning meat consumption we still await the results for Sierra Leone.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 4**

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

In contrary to isolated initiatives of some villages in 2004, in the year 2005 and 2006, 20 villages in the western periphery of the Taï NP set up surveillance committees and are active in the region. In 2006, Committees organised several sensitization activities, confiscated bush-meat, discouraged restaurants that sell bush-meat and regrouped villagers to initiate micro-projects. Several local NGO's, some of them created recently, approached the WCF to support them in sensitization activities. Moreover, in 2006, villages at the eastern park periphery expressed their interest in also setting up surveillance committees.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 5**

**For the Fouta Djallon and Guinée Forestière region, the Gola Forest and Grebo Forest: The national and local authorities as well as the village associations of the concerned regions show an interest in developing an IEC program (information education communication program).**

During the years 2005 and 2006, multi-media campaigns have been carried out successfully in the Fouta Djallon region and in Guinée Forestière in Guinea as well as around the Gola Forest in Sierra Leone. In Liberia collaboration has been established with Conservation International Liberia and educational activities, including Newsletter distribution, have been carried out around Grebo Forest, a Classified Forest neighbouring Sapo and Taï NP.

### **Specific Objective Indicator 6**

**For the Banco NP near Abidjan: The interest in chimpanzee and the Banco forest is increasing in the media and the schools of the capital Abidjan.**

Whereas the number of visitors in the Banco NP never trespassed 11.000 visitors since 1998, a record number of 19.574 people visited Banco in 2004. The number of visitors more than doubled from the year 2003 (9.043) to 2004 (19.574). During the year 2005, the record number of over 19.000 visitors (20.773) could be hold despite political instability that periodically affected the city of Abidjan. Banco NP was subject of numerous press articles, radio emissions and TV reports. Unfortunately, during 2006 the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire did not get to a halt since elections foreseen in October were postponed again. Further, several unrests affected again directly the city of Abidjan and the parliament has been dissolved during some time. Moreover, a serious scandal of toxic waste affected Abidjan - the health of hundreds of people was affected and several people died - and two deposits of toxical waste have been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood of Banco National Park. The insecure political as well as the catastrophic environmental situation had a devastating negative impact on visitor numbers in Banco and resulted in only 8.159 visitors in 2006 - a low not known since more than 5 years.

### **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 1**

**For Côte d'Ivoire: The 2 films in French have been shown to a minimum of 5 villages around the Taï, Marahoué and Banco National park.**

### **Activities achieved:**

#### Taï National Park

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,
- formations of new school theatre groups
- during sensitizations carried out by one of the benevolent teachers that the WCF is supporting around Taï NP and who received a DVD player and copies of the two films
- at a village manifestation where the WCF was invited to animate

Villages and towns targeted:

#### Western and eastern side of Taï NP

Grabo, Taï, Guiroutou, Petit Guiglo, Zagne Hevea factory, Konankro, Amerique, various campements around Ziriglo and Sakré, V5

**During 2006 the films have been shown 12 times with an estimated public of 4300 people, totalling 40 presentations and a public of 23.060 persons during the last two years (compare Table 1).**

Besides Tai NP, the films have also been presented around the **Marahoué NP** during a theatre tour with the trained village group (Club Zangue) **in 6 villages with a public of 6000 people** and during a bio-monitoring formation as well as in various quarters around **Banco NP** on **7 occasions and a public of 2850 people, totalling 46 events in villages or towns with an estimated public of 27.400 people during the last two years (compare Table 1).**

Villages and quarters targeted:

Banco NP

Andokoi, Agban Attie, Maca, Yopougon

Marahoué NP

Gonaté, Lopoifla, Bohitafla, Bogopinfla, Djahakro, Zoola

**Result 1: Indicator 2**

**For the Guinée Forestière, Gola and Grebo regions: In Guinea and Sierra Leone the films have been shown during campaigns in the concerned region and in Liberia national authorities and NGO's show an interest for the IEC program.**

Guinea

In Guinea, films have been presented in **15 villages in front of 14100 people** during the theatre-film-journal campaign in the **Guinée Forestière region, totalling 34 villages and an estimated public of around 22.100 people during the last two years of activities in that country (compare Table 1).**

Guinée Forestière (around Diéké, Bossou and Ziama Classified Forests and Mont Nimba Reserve)

Nonah, Diéké, Yossonou, N'Zérékoré, Doromou, N'Zo, Kéoulenta, Gbakoré, Bossou, Boo, Nobrotounou, Boda, Sérédou, Dopamai, Massadou

Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, films have been presented during a village theatre group formation in the village of Gorahun around Gola Forest. Together with the presentations in 2005, films have been shown in **21 villages, totalling an estimated public of around 18.150 people (compare Table 1).**

**For Liberia,** the films have been copied and provided to Conservation International Liberia staff that carry out educational activities around Sapo NP and Grebo Forest.

All the film presentations and also theatre performances are followed by discussion rounds, led mainly by local animators (e.g. Grégoire Nohon, senior assistant of the Tai Chimpanzee Research Project and school teachers for Côte d'Ivoire), as well as the WCF African director. Because film presentations attract so many people we mostly present the films at night with a beamer and a very large sheet which functions as a screen. This allows several thousand people assisting the film shows. Debates are lively and passionate and people need to be stopped from asking questions.

**In total during the year 2006, the films have been presented 41 times, with an estimated public of 27.400 people, totalling 139 film presentations and a public of 90.110 people for the years 2005 and 2006.**

## **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.

#### **Activities achieved:**

Edition No 5 has been printed at the beginning of 2006. During the year, all issues available at the time of the respective education campaigns have been distributed in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire in the villages close to the concerned forests and in the capitals (ministries, national authorities, local NGO's). Moreover, all editions have been distributed during the 21<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Primatology in Entebbe, Uganda, in June 2006, where numerous agents of governments, institutions and NGO's, as well as scientists from all over the world were present. A combined issue of No 6 and 7 is currently in preparation.

The different issues have been produced in close collaboration with an Ivorian artistic team in Abidjan, directed by Mrs Dao N'Daw Koumba. Text and messages are transcribed into comics, all drawings are done by Désiré Koffi and Ben Amara Sylla. Messages and feed-back to the WCF-activities from villagers and external contributions are increasing and we therefore reserved a whole page entitled TamTam...in the last issues. All newsletters are also available on the WCF-Website (<http://www.wildchimps.org>).

Although the newsletter ranks no.3 in the list of preferred means of awareness raising behind the theatre and the film presentations, there is a very high demand for more copies in all the villages where we carry out campaigns. The Newsletter is particularly appreciated by teachers who use it for their French or English and science classes.

### **Result 2: Indicator 2**

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

#### **Activities achieved:**

7'500 copies in French resp. 2'500 in English of issue no 5 have been printed in December 2005. A combined edition of No 6 and 7 is currently in preparation to be printed shortly.

### **Result 2: Indicator 3**

The number of newsletters distributed is increasing in all regions of the 4 countries.

#### **Activities achieved:**

During each education campaign the demand for more copies of the Newsletter is evident. Despite printing 7'500 instead of 5'000 French copies, we ran out of stock. During the year 2006, in Côte d'Ivoire, distribution has been concentrated around Taï, Marahoué and Banco NP and was extended to the neighbouring Classified Forests Goin Debe, Cavally and Haute Dodo of the Taï NP, and Azagny NP. In Guinea, the newsletters were distributed around three Classified Forests and one Reserve in Guinée Forestière (Diéké, Bossou, Zياما Classified Forests and Mont Nimba Reserve). In Sierra Leone, distribution covered the whole surroundings of the Gola Forest and all editions were distributed among numerous NGO's and scientists active in West Africa during a workshop of the donor organisation CEPF. In Liberia, the distribution was done by Conservation International Liberia around Sapo NP and Grebo Forest.

## **Result 2: Indicator 4**

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

### **Activities achieved:**

Messages addressed to the reader tribune in the last editions included poems, funding prospects for micro-projects and articles about the school exchange project, school theatre, conservation initiatives of the hunters around Tai NP, a conservation prize won by Gregoire Nohon, the main local WCF animator, as well as bio-monitoring and education activities of the WCF in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone 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 theatre performances / discussion rounds is operational.

### **Activities achieved:**

During the year 2006, new theatre pieces have been created in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone with professional theatre groups as well as trained school and village groups. In Côte d’Ivoire, around Banco NP, one school group and around Tai NP, four school groups have been trained. In Sierra Leone, one village theatre group was trained in the village of Gorahun around Gola Forest.

**During 2006, the theatre pieces have been performed 61 times with an estimated public of 38.280 persons, totalling 140 theatre performances and a public of 88.150 people in the last two years (compare Table 2).**

### **Professional theatre group**

#### **Côte d’Ivoire**

##### ***Tai National Park***

Around Tai National Park, the professional company “Ymako Teatri” has only performed in **6 villages** around the Classified Forests of Goin Debe and Cavally during the year 2006, with an **estimated public of 3500 people** (compare Table 3a).

### **School and village theatre groups**

#### ***Tai National Park***

Most of the theatre performances around Tai National Park have been executed by the four trained school theatre groups (compare Table 4a).

The **school theatre Group EPP Wonséaly** in the east of the Tai National Park toured with their play ‘Nous sommes si proche d’eux’ on their own initiative and with the support of the WCF. Moreover, since the group was trained by Ymako Teatri and the WCF in **collaboration with Conservation International** on a theatre piece about elephant conservation, during tours, the **chimpanzee as well as the elephant plays** were presented in some of the villages and discussions afterwards included the protection of both species. In **August 06** the group Wonséaly was trained to perform a second play on chimpanzees. This formation was the initiative of the group itself and training has been achieved by the coordinator of the Cellule

des Projets Environnementaux (CPE), a teacher initiative supervising the activities of the group and Gregoire Nohon, the main local WCF animator. **The group of Wonsealy performed their plays at 12 occasions with a public of around 7.550 people in 2006, totalling 20 performances and an audience of 12.550 people for the last two years (compare Table 2, Table 3a).**

The school theatre group ('Un pour Tous') of the **Tai College** in the west of the Tai National Park has not been active in 2005 mainly due to difficulties of the College to function at all (insufficient teacher staff). The WCF initiated a support campaign and managed to collect enough money to support five voluntary teachers to assure the minimal functioning of the school during the year 2005. In **Mai 2006** the group has been trained anew and toured in **5 villages** west of the park with **an estimated public of 3500 persons (compare Table 2, Table 3a).**

Due to the persistent demand of the village Grabo in the southwest of the Tai NP to either come back with the theatre or to form a school group, the WCF in collaboration with Ymako Teatri decided to set up a third school theatre group in this village. This school group in the southwest of the Tai NP nicely complements the other two groups which are situated in the northwest and in the east of the park. During the first two weeks of February the group '**Le Conseils des Enfants de l'EPP Grabo II**' was formed. 15 pupils set up the piece 'Les chimpanzes et nous'. So far, they presented their piece in their **own village and in two neighbouring villages with an estimated public of 1500 persons (compare Table 2, Table 3a).**

In collaboration with the **WWF** a fourth school group '**EPP Guiroutou**' was formed in the mid-west of the park in the village of Guiroutou in **June 06**. A theatre piece has been created that treats in a more general way the conservation of the fauna and flora and is named '**Protégeons la forêt**'. Following their formation, this group toured in **4 villages with an estimated public of 2500 persons (compare Table 2, Table 3a).**

The various theatre plays of the different school groups have been performed during the following events:

- theatre-film-journal campaigns
- school events of neighbouring villages
- village manifestations

### **Result 3: Indicator 2**

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

#### **Activities achieved:**

The public for theatre performances ranged from under 100 up to more than 3'000 people per presentation. Important representatives of villages (chiefs of villages, presidents of woman, youth-, and elder associations, Imams, other religious and administrative representatives) have nearly always been present. Also all age and sex classes of the population were assisting performances. For theatre pieces in Guinea and Sierra Leone the personality of an Imam was always included in the pieces since the large majority of the population is Muslim and religious believes play a much stronger role in daily life compared to Côte d'Ivoire. In all three countries, discussions with the public after theatre performances were mainly led by local animators (in local languages) and the African Director or Program Officers (Local Animators: Côte d'Ivoire: Grégoire Nohon; Guinea: Kadjatou Diallo, Bami Fampé; Sierra

Leone: Suna Bunda). Debates were always very lively and people usually had to be stopped from asking more questions. When staying in the villages overnight, people often passed by again to ask more questions that had not been answered during the open discussion. Generally, the conservation message of the various theatre pieces seemed to be well received: when given the choice of the outcome at the end of the performance to either opt for solutions in favour, respectively to the disadvantage of the chimpanzees, in 80-90% of the times the public opted in favour of the chimpanzees. The solutions varied: in Côte d'Ivoire either to give the killed chimpanzee to the family which considers chimpanzees as sacred to organise a burial or to give it to the Forestry Wardens and NOT to the family who would prepare its meat for a funeral; in Guinea to give the orphan chimpanzee to the forester to bring it to a sanctuary and NOT to a family who wants to heal their sick child with its bones; in Sierra Leone to give the killed chimpanzee and the orphan baby to the forester and NOT to a woman who wants to prepare the dead mother for medical use and keep the orphan as a pet or for consumption.

### **Result 3: Indicator 3**

Theatre performances take place in other regions; in Côte d'Ivoire near the Banco national park and the Marahoué national park; in Sierra Leone in the Gola Forest; in Guinea in the Guinée Forestière region

#### **Activities achieved:**

##### **Professional theatre groups**

###### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Ymako Téatri performed their piece in **3 quarters** around **Banco National Park** in front of **1.650 people** (compare Table 2, Table 3a).

###### **Guinea**

###### ***Guinée Forestiere***

In **March/April 06** the 'Compagnie Taïbou' created a second theatre piece, following the one created for the Fouta Djallon region in 2005, adapted to the situation in Guinée Forestière. The piece 'S.O.S. Chimpanzés' was played in **15 villages** around three Classified Forests (**Diéké, Bossou and Ziama**) and the **Mont Nimba Reserve** with an estimated **public of around 6980 people** (compare Table 2, Table 3b).

For activities in Guinea we established collaboration with the local NGO 'Guinée Ecologie' which facilitates our activities and represents the WCF in the country.

###### **Sierra Leone**

###### ***Gola Forest:***

In **December 06** a village group was formed by Tabule theatre in the village of Gorahun around the Gola Forest. The 'Gorahun Conservation Youth Group' with its 20 members toured so far in 5 villages with an estimated public of 4500 people (compare Table 2, Table 4d).

##### **School and village theatre groups**

###### **Côte d'Ivoire**

###### ***Marahoué National Park***

The village theatre group ('**Club Zangué**') performed their adapted version of the play 'Les chimpanzés sont nos cousins' in **6 villages with a public of 6000 people** in 2006. During the last two years they performed their play with much success in a total of **23 villages in front of 20.500 people (compare Table 2, Table 4b)**.

#### ***Banco National Park***

End of **March 06** we started to form a school theatre group around Banco NP with 16 children from the **EPP Agban-Attié**. Since this formation was carried out in **collaboration with Conservation International**, the children were not only trained to perform a **theatre piece about chimpanzees**, but also one about **elephants**. In 2006, the group presented their pieces on **two occasions** in their own village **with a public of 600 persons (compare Table 2, Table 4c)**.

For Liberia, in collaboration with Conservation International Liberia, it is foreseen to set up educational activities around Sapo NP and Grebo Forest.

#### **Result 3: Indicator 4**

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

#### **Activities achieved:**

Activity reports on all theatre tours and formations by "Ymako Teatri" or other supervising staff are available. **Sociological evaluations before and after** the theatre tours have been conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone and are available (the **after study** for Guinée Forestière is still outstanding, the report for the **after study** for Sierra Leone is in preparation). For details see below under project output 5.

#### **Result 3: Indicator 5**

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

#### **Activities achieved:**

Sociological studies which are described below provide quantitative evidence of the improved awareness and protection of chimpanzees through the multi-media education campaign. Here we describe some qualitative successes.

The most encouraging activity following educational campaigns is the initiative of the villagers around Tai NP to set up surveillance committees. The WCF regularly supports these committees in sensitization activities. During this process, over 100 poachers were formally identified and are willing to restrain from hunting. Moreover, they control illegal activities in their villages, such as bush-meat trade, intrusions in the park etc. Projects that encourage this initiative are currently developed and followed up by different partner organisations around the Tai NP. In 2006, the WCF has supported a group of ex-hunters who set up a Hevea-project in their region. Villages at the eastern side of the park also expressed their interest in forming surveillance committees.

Around Banco NP, the Association of Youngsters of the Banco NP, initiated on several occasions sensitization activities. Moreover, they submitted a project to the OIPR (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Reserves) and the WCF to create village committees like around Tai NP to help reduce hunting in Banco and to sensitize the quarters neighbouring the parc. Also, the local NGO Environnement Sain Sante pour tous submitted a project to the WCF to produce a film documentary on the value and the threats of Banco NP.

Throughout 2006, the WCF was approached by villagers, associations and schools to animate local manifestations and sensitize about the conservation of the forest and the chimpanzees.

Existent and some new Micro-projects that have been developed in the Taï region through a cooperation of various NGO's (including the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation) under the umbrella of 'AVS (Actions à haute valeur symbolique)' have been continuously supported through the year 2006. Projects include pig, chicken and rabbit farms and planting of new variants of manioc, rice. These projects provide alternative revenues for poachers and are an incitation to stop hunting.

In Cote d'Ivoire, specific actions of villages or local organisations around the various parcs not only increased significantly over the past years, but activities and projects also became much more organised and therefore will have a higher impact on the protection of the concerned areas.

#### **Project Result 4**

In the city of Abidjan in the Banco forest, the basis of an education Nature Centre is established and the status of the chimpanzee population is known.

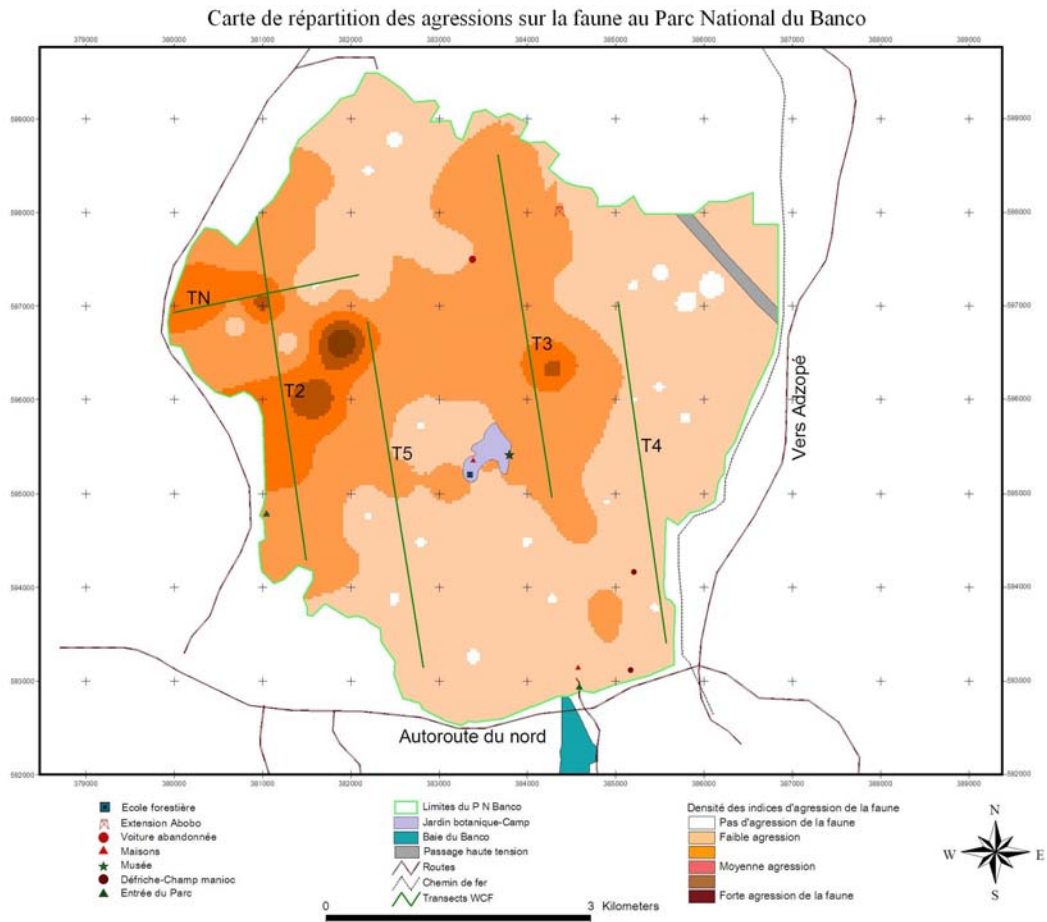
#### **Result 4: Indicator 1**

Four animator/guides are trained to perform regular awareness activities and to follow the chimpanzee population.

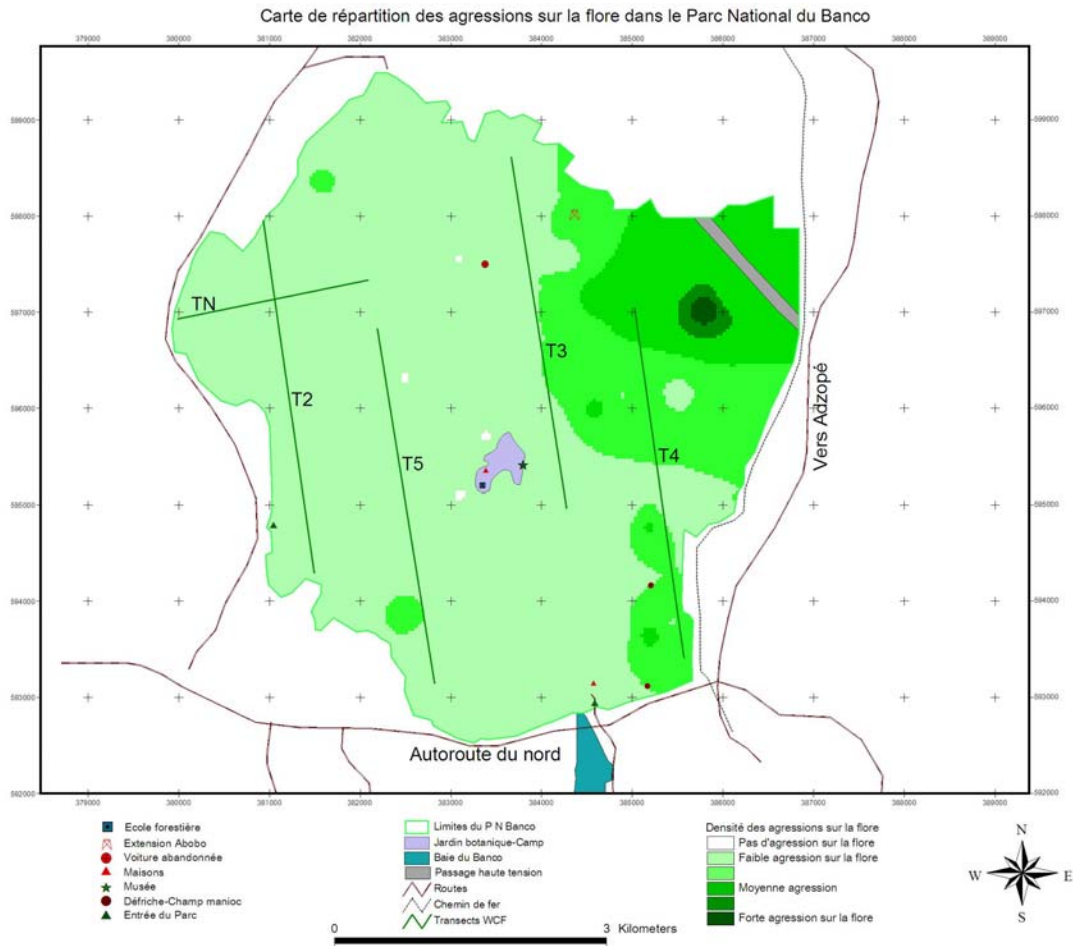
#### **Activities achieved:**

Since the start of educational activities in Banco NP, the WCF films have been shown over 20 times in and around the park with a public of nearly 5000 people (compare Table 1). Film projections were partly accompanied by theatre performances. Guides always help animating such events and regularly follow the chimpanzee community in Banco by conducting transect surveys during two weeks a months, as well as searching for direct signs of chimpanzees. In the year 2006, several direct observations of chimpanzees have been achieved.

In April 2006, a student from the University of Abidjan under the supervision of the WCF started a study on threats on the Banco NP. By surveying over 70 km of transects systematically covering the whole park, he examined which are the threats on flora and fauna. His results reveal the spatial distribution as well as quantitative data on the various threats. This information is most useful for the park management and the planning of future awareness activities, since results indicate which quarters around the park are posing which kind of threat on the park (compare figures below).



**Figure 1** Spatial distribution of aggression on fauna in Banco National Park.



**Figure 1** Spatial distribution of aggression on flora in Banco National Park

#### **Result 4: Indicator 2**

**A Nature Centre is functioning.**

#### **Activities achieved:**

At the beginning of 2005, discussions for the reanimation of the Nature Centre and all actions described below were undertaken with the Park direction, other scientists, and the NGOs “Afrique Nature” and “Environnement Sain”, also active in the NP. All activities described in the following were conducted in collaboration with all other partners.

During the months of September to November 2005, the WCF employed a biologist/pedagogue that assisted in the development and set up of the exhibition for the Nature Centre. Currently, 17 posters (1,20 m x 0,90 m and 0,60 m x 0,90 m) on various subjects have been printed; several scientists who formerly worked in Côte d'Ivoire contributed to their realisation (Subjects: Mammals, Elephants, Primates, Chimpanzees, Bats, Birds, Amphibians and Reptiles, National Parks in Côte d'Ivoire, Banco NP, Threats on Banco NP, Bush-meat and its dangers, Trees, WCF, OIPR (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Reserves), NGO “Environnement Sain - Sante pour Tous”, Answers to Questionnaire on Posters, Acknowledgements). Further, leaflets on the Banco NP and the OIPR have been produced. Besides posters, interactive ateliers have been developed where visitors can mimic nut cracking (West African chimpanzee behaviour) and termite fishing (East African chimpanzee behaviour). Further, an audio point was created where visitors can identify animal noises (elephant, lion, leopard, hippo, chimpanzee, several primate species, bat,

hornbill, guinea fowl, mosquito, human sneezing) and a TV station where films on great apes and nature conservation can be watched. Lastly, a 'researcher trail' was installed in the forest, where visitors have to find and identify a chimpanzee nut cracking site, nest groups, chimpanzee dung, wire traps and cartridges to get an insight in field research methods. To be able to judge if the public learns something from the exhibition, there is a hand-out leaflet, with questions on all posters and including some more plays (environmental cross word puzzles etc.). To supervise and guide through the exhibition and the interactive ateliers several education animators have been trained. The 'Maison de la Nature' which will host the exhibition has been renovated. The official opening ceremony needs still to be organised. For the opening, it is planned to invite the Ministers of Environment, Education and Tourism, as well as over ten embassies, several national and international NGO's, private institutions and schools.

#### **Result 4: Indicator 3**

Awareness material of the WCF is distributed to the public and the media within the Nature Centre.

#### **Activities achieved:**

Information on the Banco NP, tropical forests and the activities of the WCF have been distributed and communicated to the press during educational events around and in the Banco NP throughout 2006.

#### **Result 4: Indicator 4**

Report on the chimpanzees of the Banco is available.

#### **Activities achieved:**

The guides hired to follow the chimpanzees of Banco NP have continuously carried out their work in 2006. The third estimation from the 'Marked Nest Count Study' confirms the small chimpanzee population in Banco. In 2006 similar to 2005, 26 fresh nests were found along transects, 5 off transects. Single nests and groups up to a maximum of 5 nests have been found together. The updated density estimation with 0.22 chimpanzees per sqkm and an average of 8 chimpanzees, varying from 3 to 19, is slightly higher than in the year 2005 (0.19 chimpanzees per sqkm), but still a bit lower than the one in 2004 (0.24 chimpanzees per sqkm). Faeces have been sampled and transferred to the MPI Leipzig for genetic analysis. In 2006, assistants succeeded several times to directly observe chimpanzees in groups of over ten individuals. To finally identify chimpanzees and have more precise information about the population, we think it would be ideal to install cameras at fruiting trees where we know chimpanzees to come along. The study on threats in the Banco NP revealed an encounter rate of 7,4 aggression per km on the flora and 1,5 aggressions per km on the fauna. Poacher trails are encountered 3,5 times per km.

#### **Project Output 5**

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

#### **Output 5: Indicator 1**

Benevolent teachers in Côte d'Ivoire around the Tai NP support the education program of the WCF.

The WCF continued to financially support three teachers in primary schools in three villages west of the Tai NP (Paule-Oula, Djero-Oula, Ziriglo). During 2006, two more teachers were

recruited (GNONKONTE MODESTE from Sakré and GBAHOUE K. MADELEINE from Glogui-Boué). Throughout the year, the teachers were all active in the surveillance committees and organised several sensitization events, such as theatre and poem contests, football matches and film projections.

### **Output 5: Indicator 2**

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

The school exchange program between several Ivorian schools at the east side of the Taï NP (three schools in Soubré, one in Petit Tieme, one in Wonsealy, about 120 school children involved) and the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium in Werdau, Saxony (about 80 school children involved), has been continued in 2006.

Pupils continue to exchange letters and presents. In November 2006, the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium in Werdau, who took part in a contest 'Schools together for Africa' won the first prize among 200 schools for their produced post-carte and information about the problems and potentialities in Africa.

During the year 2006, a second German school, the 'Geschwister-Scholl-Mittelschule' from the village of Liebertwolkwitz in Saxony, also spend a whole week working on the subject 'Côte d'Ivoire'. Like the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium, pupils from the 'Geschwister-Scholl-Mittelschule' produced a magnificent variety of materials that were sent to Côte d'Ivoire.

- Documents and posters on:
  - HIV and malaria,
  - Zoo Leipzig
  - Pets in Germany
  - German trees, seeds and flowers
  - the village and school in Liebertwolkwitz
  - a school day in Germany
  - German Mode compared to African
  - Carneval in Germany
- Plays:
  - Numerous animal and other self-made puzzles
  - Crosswords etc.
  - Memories
- Self-made Objects:
  - Carneval Masks
  - Batiks and woven material used in the household
  - Jewelry
- German cosmetic articles
- Presence such as:
  - Painting materials
  - Footballs,
  - Plays
  - Stickers, painting books
  - Mosquito nets

End of November all the material was officially handed over to the Ivorian pupils in the presence of authorities from the National Park, the schools and the town of Soubre. During that day, the Ivorian pupils produced their material that will be send back to Germany, such as paintings and posters about Sida, Conservation of the forest and chimpanzees, African hair styles and mode and a video about plays that Ivorian kids invented and routinely play.

More about the exchange program can be read under [www.schulemachtzukunft2005-096.de](http://www.schulemachtzukunft2005-096.de) and in German newspaper articles available at the WCF.

### **Project Output 6**

Regular evaluations of the project are available.

### **Output 6: Indicator 1**

The preliminary sociological survey is available.

### **Activities achieved:**

Before and after awareness campaigns including theatre and film presentations and the distribution of the journals, a sociological study has been conducted in the various sites. Reports 'before' and 'after' campaigns are available for the Tai and Marahoué National Park, Côte d'Ivoire, and for the Fouta Djallon region, Guinea. For the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone, the 'before' study is available, the 'after' study is completed and the report is in preparation. For Guinée Forestière, the 'before' study has been carried out and the field data is currently analyzed. All the evaluations have been conducted by local Ivorian, Guinean or Sierra Leonean sociologists, active at the local universities of Abidjan, Conakry and Freetown. The questionnaires have been developed collaboratively by the Sociologists (C. Acka, D. Goh, B. Tlevel, T. Winnebah) and WCF members (C. Boesch, I. Herbinger). A minimum of 100 and a maximum of 170 people comprising different age/sex classes and educational levels as well as ethnic groups were questioned during a given study.

### **Conclusions drawn from these reports are very encouraging:**

The general opinion of the people before an awareness campaign is that people have seen chimpanzees alive very rarely, they have little, false or no knowledge about the species. The chimpanzee is considered violent, dangerous and ugly, although some consider the chimpanzees as "totem", most do not hesitate to kill them if they destroy their crop and for medical use. In Côte d'Ivoire, chimpanzees are also killed for the consumption and the bushmeat trade. In the Fouta Djallon region, Guinea, chimpanzees are not consumed, mainly due to religious beliefs (Islam forbids the consumption of monkeys in general). Domestication of chimpanzees (which is in fact the result of killing chimpanzee mothers and keeping their youngsters) is practised in both countries. However, generally the people are in favour of increased protection of the species if there is to be some kind of material profit in their favour. Only a tiny fraction of the people can see any sense in protecting chimpanzees for future generations.

After the campaigns, the sociological studies provide evidence that the population is in favour of increased chimpanzee protection: they increased their knowledge of the species, altered their negative to a more positive perception, changed their destructive attitudes towards chimpanzees and adapted an increased concern about nature conservation in general. For details **PLEASE COMPARE THE KEY RESULTS OF SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES FOR COTE D'IVOIRE AND GUINEA ATTACHED:**

## **Guinea**

In 2006, a sociological study was carried out in Guinée Forestière around the three Classified Forests Diecke, Bossou, Ziama and the Mont Nimba Reserve before the onset of the education campaign in that region. Knowledge and perception of chimpanzees and the threats they face resemble more the Ivorian reality than what was observed in the Fouta Djallon. Since the majority of the population is Christian or Animist and not Muslim, there are no religious beliefs protecting chimpanzees and they are exposed to hunting and the consumption of their meat. Information from the study served to set up the theatre piece for this region. Analyses and the report are in preparation and an after study is planned.

## **Sierra Leone**

In Sierra Leone around the Gola Forest, the Sierra Leonean sociologist Thomas Winnebah from the Njala University, Freetown, conducted a sociological evaluation before the theatre-film-journal campaign. His study and other supports from the WCF served likewise as the baseline information for the theatre group 'Tabule Theatre' to develop their theatre piece 'Nuvui Ke Ngolei Ndengasiamia' (We and the Chimpanzees, Our Brothers). Main results of the sociological study before the education campaign showed that the local population has some limited knowledge about chimpanzees but mostly considers them a pest because of crop raiding. Moreover, people believe that chimpanzees are very aggressive animals and attack and rape woman. People generally would not hesitate to kill chimpanzees but disarmament deprived them of their weapons. Not many people are in favour of an increased protection for chimpanzees and the large majority knows nothing about laws protecting chimpanzees. The study concluded that an awareness campaign that provides the local population with more knowledge on chimpanzees and their value and status is urgently needed around the Gola Forest. The report of the sociological study after the education campaign is in preparation; preliminary results show a positive impact like in the studies conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

Reports of all sociological studies are available.

## **Output 6: Indicator 2**

### **Yearly evaluations of the activities are produced.**

During the years 2005 and 2006 around 90.000 people have been reached by the film shows and the theatre performances. Yearly reports by the WCF African Director examine the progress of each activity throughout the year. Sociological studies measure quantitatively the impact of the education campaigns. In June 2006 sociological studies were also analysed statistically for the significance of results (compare attached key results). Following the confirmation of highly significant results, a scientific talk was prepared and presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Primatological Society Conference in Entebbe, Uganda, end of June under the title 'Interactive theatre plays as an effective sensitization tool for the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa'. The abstract has been published in the International Journal of Primatology, Vol 27, Supplement 1, February 2006. We plan to prepare a full publication to submit either as a book chapter or an article in a journal relevant to Conservation.

Comparing the impact of the various activities amongst themselves, it is difficult to tear apart whether it is the theatre, the film or journal that has a better educational impact. We think that the film after the theatre confirms to the public what we showed them in the theatre. Villagers see with their own eyes how chimpanzees really live in the forest and that what they see in the theatre performances is actually true. The journal allows the population to consult for details and over a prolonged time period. There is however a very high preference for the theatre as opposed to the film and lastly the journal to raise awareness in the villages.

### Banco NP

Whereas the number of visitors in the Banco NP never trespassed 11.000 visitors since 1998, a record number of 19.574 people visited Banco in 2004. From 2003 to 2004, the number of visitors more than doubled (from 9.043 to 19.574), due to the united efforts of the OIPR (Office des Parks et Reserves) with the Sector Banco, the local ONG “Environnement Sain-Santé pour Tous” and the WCF. During the year 2005, the record number of over 19.000 visitors could be hold despite political instability in 2005 that also affected the city of Abidjan. The number of visitors in 2005 raised slightly compared to the year 2004 (20.773 and 19.574, respectively). As explained in more detail above, in 2006, political and environmental insecurity had a devastating effect on visitor numbers in Banco, resulting in a low of only around 8.000 visitors.

The study undertaken by an Ivorian student on the threats on the Banco NP reveals that some plant species are highly threatened since they are overexploited by the local population for medical use, construction purposes etc. On about 70 km of transects, about 450 aggressions on plants, 95 aggressions on animals, 95 hunting trails and over 100 items of rubbish have been identified. The spatial distribution of the various signs of illegal activities indicates that it is the high density of human population around Banco NP which is directly threatening the park (Quarters of Yopougon and Abobo). These communities need to be specially targeted in future awareness activities.

### **Output 6: Indicator 3**

**Results of the evaluations are integrated in the education program.**

Results of the sociological studies before campaigns guide the set up of education campaigns in a given region by revealing the peoples’ knowledge and perception of chimpanzees and their conservation and the threats they face. Results of the sociological studies after campaigns indicate in which areas sensitization still needs to be improved. Successes but also mistakes become visible and guide future approaches.

In Côte d’Ivoire for example, sociological studies pointed out that the message of strong resemblance between humans and chimpanzees created in some people a positive attitude for domestication of chimpanzees. For theatre activities in Côte d’Ivoire we added therefore a scene to the Ivorian pieces which stresses that raising chimpanzees in village surroundings is not at all helping to protect them but is in fact driving them closer to extinction. Herewith, we aimed to counteract the wrong perception of the public that since chimpanzees are so similar to humans, raising them at home is contributing to the protection of chimpanzees. Likewise in Guinea, sociological studies pointed out that the education campaign in the Fouta Djallon did not fully eradicate the ignorance about laws protecting chimpanzees. We therefore stressed the scenes which explain the existing laws in the play created for Guinée Forestière.

### **To be considered for 2007**

With increasing activities and programs in different countries as well as increasing WCF staff, a more thorough and sophisticated planning for the year might be useful. A workshop in the beginning of the year that draws conclusions of the successes and defaults of the past year, sets expected results of the coming year and schedules all activities and the persons intervening when, where and why might be helpful for a better planning. One might also consider inviting at least all Ivorian partner organisations for that workshop to have their input and their disponibility throughout the year.

## **Conclusion:**

External and internal evaluations show that the program successfully obtained an important support by the local population for the protection of the chimpanzees and their habitat. The positive outcomes of the various education campaigns, conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and the neighbouring countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, proved that the multi-media campaigns of the WCF (including film, interactive theatre, and comic-based journals) can be successfully adapted to different sociological, economic, environmental and political circumstances. Although the knowledge and perception of and the behaviour towards chimpanzees is quite different from one country to another, sociological evaluations provide evidence that the human population in all these countries is adapting a more positive attitude towards chimpanzees and the protection of their habitat following the sensitization campaigns. In 2005 compared to 2004, theatre activities increased significantly and film presentations and the number of people assisting performances nearly doubled. Activities in 2006 stayed partly at that high level and showed the same positive trend towards a significant impact of the WCF program.

Please also consult the webpage for more information on WCF activities <http://www.wildchimps.org>

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