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2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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# LES AMIS DES BONOBOS DU CONGO



**A.B.C.**  
Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo

## *Letter from the President*

*What a year! There were so many important events throughout the world this year! Just to mention a few: the death of Bin Laden and Gaddafi, the Jasmine Revolution, the Arab Spring, the tsunami that devastated Japan and the Fukushima nuclear plant, the tragic murderers in Norway and Liège in Belgium... On a lighter note, there were several elegant royal weddings, Belgium ended the year with a government (finally!)... and the DRC with two Presidents of the Republic! What a year!*

*ABC also had its own share of good and bad news: The year 2011 was particularly rich in victories and encouragement, but at the same time marred by some extremely sad and stressful events!*

*At LOLA YA BONOBO, not a single bonobo died this year and only 4 new bonobos were confiscated and brought to the sanctuary.*

*On March 30, "Bonobos", the feature film by Alain Tixier, was released in movie theaters in France and Belgium, and received 4.5 public popularity stars out of 5! (Source: Écran large). The movie then came out on DVD right in time for Christmas.*

*The second bonobo release also took place as planned in the first semester.*



*But alas, at EKOLO YA BONOBO, we were badly affected by the unexplained disappearance of three of our bonobos: Tembo (the star of the film!), Nioki and her baby. Following that, there were two very serious incidents between the bonobos and the trackers that were equally inexplicable.*

*In early 2012, Victor and David, the most seriously injured, were waiting to go to Paris where Professor Laurent Lantieri will take charge of rebuilding their faces. I do not have enough words to thank Anna for so helpfully connecting us with the Professor, nor to recognize the courage of these two men, real heroes of nature!*

*To conclude on a lighter note, I must also tell you that I proudly received the 2011 award for "Woman of Gold for the Environment" in Nice in September. What a year!*

*As always, my thanks go to all of you who all contribute in one way or another to our fight for the protection of the last bonobos of Congo!*

*"BANSO PONA BONOBO!" (Together for the bonobos!)*

*Claudine André  
President and Founder*



# LES AMIS DES BONOBOS DU CONGO (ABC)

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**ABC's overarching long-term goal** is the improved protection of in-situ bonobo populations.

The long-term protection of bonobos in their natural habitat can only be achieved with a comprehensive, integrated approach to bonobo conservation, which includes education, law enforcement, rehabilitation, and reintroduction efforts in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

**ABC works to achieve this overarching goal by facilitating the effective implementation of wildlife trade and detention laws, rehabilitating rescued bonobo orphans, reintroducing rehabilitated bonobos into the wild when feasible, and educating Congolese youth and other stakeholders on bonobos and the importance of their protection.**

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At the end of 2011, ABC was responsible for the care of **76 bonobos**. Of these, 61 bonobos (23 males and 38 females) were cared for at LOLA YA BONOBO sanctuary, with another 15 bonobos (7 males and 8 females) released or born at EKOLO YA BONOBO release site.



# LOLA YA BONOBO: THE SANCTUARY

*The primary objective of ABC is to combat the illegal traffic in bushmeat and orphan bonobos by facilitating the application, by the appropriate authorities, of the laws regulating the trade or detention of endangered species.*

## The Arrival of New Orphans

While orphaned bonobos confiscated by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT) in the DRC are a reflection of the ongoing and tragic massacre of bonobos within the forests of Congo, every orphan that makes it to the sanctuary also represents a chance to save the last of these too little known great apes in the world. These orphan bonobos would be doomed to die without their mothers; however at LOLA YA BONOBO they are able to find new hope to live. In 2011, **4 orphans** were received at the sanctuary: Oshwe II, Kindu II, Kasai and Kole. For the past 3 years, the number of new arrivals to the sanctuary has been relatively stable (there were 6 arrivals in 2010). Given years of on the ground presence by educators and other conservation partners within the bonobos' habitat, can we hope for a lull in illegal hunting?

### ❖ Oshwe (II)

*Male, 3 years old. Arrived at the sanctuary in April*

A trafficker from the town of Oshwe in the province of Bandundu tried to offer Oshwe for sale to ABC's Education Director, Pierrot Mbonzo. The owner, who was unaware of the law or the bonobos' protected status, confessed that he had bought the bonobo in Oshwe, and had hoped to sell him in Kinshasa.

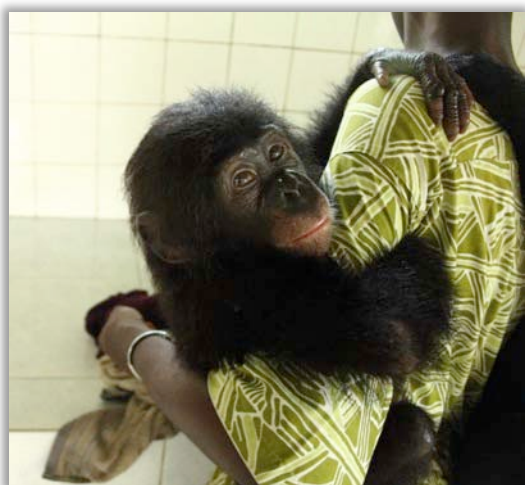


*Oshwe is ready for his close up!*

### ❖ Kindu (II)

*Female, less than 3 years old. Arrived at the sanctuary in April*

Kindu was confiscated in Kindu, Maniema Province, by a representative of the Congolese Wildlife Authority, the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN), who knew of LOLA YA BONOBO and the work we do! Thankfully the airline "Air Service" agreed to take her aboard and safely transferred her to the sanctuary.



*Kindu in the loving arms of her surrogate mother at the sanctuary*

## ❖ Kasai

*Female, less than 2 years old. Arrived at the sanctuary in July*

Kasai was confiscated in Lodja, in the Province of Kasai Oriental, with the assistance of local NGO Community Action for the Protection of the Primates of Kasai (ACOPRIK), before being transferred to LOLA YA BONOBO. She was supposed to arrive in Kinshasa on July 21<sup>st</sup>, but after an endless wait at the airport we learned that the flight transporting her had been cancelled. Luckily she arrived safely on the plane from Lodja just two days later! When we met her at N'djili airport in Kinshasa, she initially showed some stress and worry but then soon understood that we meant her no harm!



*Kasai, with a rock in hand, explores the sanctuary for new found treasures...*

## ❖ Kole

*Male, close to 5 years. Arrived at the sanctuary in August*



*Kole relaxing and recovering with his surrogate mom*

Luck had it that a renowned Kinshasa orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Paypay, came to visit the sanctuary with friends and French colleagues on mission in Congo. The ABC team wasted no time showing them Kole's injury and asking for assistance. Without hesitation one of the surgeons, Dr. Marc Anzalone, offered to carry out an operation that would at least improve Kole's condition by allowing him to have partial use of his fingers. The operation took place the next day with support from sanctuary's veterinary team. Everything went really well and Kole was quite happy to accept the post-surgery care needed.

Kole's rescue was a complete fluke: a team of researchers from the Congolese National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB), including an American researcher, Anne Rimoin, had gone on a business trip to Kole, a small town in the Province of Eastern Kasai. It was there while visiting a nurse's home, that Anne discovered a little bonobo being kept in a cupboard. He was terrified and had a severe wound to his hand, a wound most likely suffered when his mother was being slaughtered. Kole was confiscated with help from the area's Territorial Administrator, and flown back to Kinshasa with the INRB team.



*Kole getting prepped for surgery on his hand*



When new orphans arrive at the sanctuary, both special medical and nutritional care is usually required, with the most common medical conditions including intestinal parasites and respiratory infections, combined with high levels of dehydration and poor nutritional status. Additionally, a number of bonobos arrive at the sanctuary with wounds from ritualistic amputations and/or from the effects of trafficking (i.e. rope or chain wounds) or poaching (i.e. young bonobos may sustain injuries, such as bullet wounds, when their mother was shot).



*Oshwe gets comfortable with Dr. Fanny Mehl, ABC's Program Director and the sanctuary's veterinarian*

New arrivals to the sanctuary undergo a period of quarantine in the care of the sanctuary's veterinary team and one of the surrogate mothers, to ensure that any health issues they may have are not transmitted to the other bonobos in the nursery. This period depends on each individual's health status but usually lasts approximately one month.

## Births

Two births occurred at the sanctuary this year:



### ❖ **Bolingo** (male)

The name Bolingo means "love" in the local language of Lingala. The birth of Bolingo on May 25th was awaited with some anxiety. Her mother Kalina had retained her placenta during the birth of her first offspring in 2007 and a successful delivery was only made possible through manual intervention by Anne-Marie Ngalula, the sanctuary's nurse. Anne-Marie received a Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) "Siddle Award" in 2008

for this life-saving gesture. Bolingo's delivery went smoothly.

### ❖ **Nyota** (female)

The name Nyota means, "star" in the local language of Lingala. This little male was born on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He is the first offspring of his mother, Lisala, who immediately took to caring for her precious new baby.





## Deaths

The pride of 2011 is that **we had no deaths at LOLA YA BONOBO** this year! This is the first time since the sanctuary was settled at LOLA YA BONOBO in 2002!



*A great reason to celebrate!!*

*Dr. Fanny Mehl plays with one of the bonobos in the sanctuary's nursery*

## The Site

The sanctuary has been suffering the deplorable effects of the growing urbanization and recent industrialization of the surrounding areas. This includes the installation (without any environmental impact study) of a quarry on nearby Lukaya River, which displaced many of our local vegetable growers, and the construction of a dam on the river by the national water company, REGIDESO, which displaced more. Perhaps most dramatically, Mr. Albert Buisine (a member of ABC's Board of Directors and neighbor of LOLA YA BONOBO) unexpectedly sold his farmland to MINOCONGO group early in 2011. This resulted in near disaster, with the deforestation of bordering hillsides and the construction of large industrial infrastructure much too close to our enclosures, causing massive erosion in areas where the education team conducts their public presentations and large amounts of sand to invade the bonobos' water ponds.



Finally, the recent arrival of hundreds of thousands of chickens and hundreds of cows within the area (for commercial purposes) has led to the storage of huge amounts of animal feed, which in turn has led to an explosion in the local rat population! Sadly this means that we will likely see the return of one of our biggest enemies, the "Encephalomyocarditis virus" (ECMV), which is transmitted through the urine of rats and is deadly for bonobos (and other wildlife)!





Given this situation, the future seems quite dim for the western side of the sanctuary and Enclosure #3 in particular. With potential health issues related to the extension of the MINOCOGON chicken-raising farm and given their non-compliance with the recommendations of the Minister of Environment for a buffer zone between their facilities and the sanctuary, we may have to abandon enclosure #3. Rapidly developing a new enclosure and sleeping quarters on the eastern side of the sanctuary is therefore of paramount importance, and will be a priority of ABC in the next couple of years.

## Land Acquisition

In order to protect the last remaining sections of forest surrounding LOLA YA BONOBO from urban encroachment, and in anticipation of possible future expansion needs, ABC acquired a total of 18.5 hectares (45 acres) of land immediately adjacent to the sanctuary between 2008 and 2011. Purchases were made progressively over time, based on the availability of funds and willingness of the landowners to sell. The dramatic expansion of the capital city of Kinshasa over the past two years has resulted in sharp increases in the price of land as well as growing competition over remaining plots. This has made acquisition of the remaining land all the more urgent.

In December 2011, ABC purchased 5 hectares (12 acres) of land (plot #4 on the map). This plot of land was particularly critical to ABC as it protects the main water source of the sanctuary, the river that borders Enclosure #2. The small-scale farmers who cultivate the land frequently rinse cassava roots in the river, which significantly increases the arsenic content in



*New land acquired over the past few years is marked in purple; additional plots being negotiated (#5 and 6) are in red/orange.*



water that the bonobos use for bathing and drinking (arsenic occurs naturally in cassava root).

ABC started reforesting plot #3, planting 120 saplings of hardwood and other trees in 2011, and will do the same on plot #4 once the farmers have harvested their last crops in 2012.

To finalize this geographical expansion, ABC is also negotiating the purchase of plots #5 and 6, which cover the valley behind the sanctuary. Other potential buyers have paid advances to the landowner and are currently cultivating small fields within plot #5. As such, we may have to make do with plot #6 – a plot of only about 1 hectare (2.5 acres), but where several springs that flow into the valley are located. These springs would be critical in ensuring that a future 4<sup>th</sup> bonobo enclosure has an adequate body of water, which is key for preparation of bonobos to potentially be released into a naturally swampy forest habitat.



# EKOLO YA BONOBO: THE REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM

*ABC contributes to the survival of the species by releasing socially stable groups of rehabilitated orphan bonobos into a specially-created reserve in the primary forest of the DRC.*

## 2011: 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of reintroduction

Following the success of the first release of 9 bonobos in 2009, in early 2011, ABC launched the second phase of the reintroduction program, with another 11 bonobos planned for release at EKOLO YA BONOBO. This second phase was anticipated to serve as “reinforcement” of the first release group. To do this, ABC planned to conduct three separate releases, with 3-4 bonobos at a time to be released into the existing group, over a four month period.

Prior to their release, the selected bonobos were isolated within the quarantine and training Enclosure #3 at LOLA YA BONOBO.



On **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the first “reinforcement group” of 3 bonobos was transported to Basankusu and then to the isolation enclosure at EKOLO YA BONOBO. This group comprised of Kikongo (male, 10 years), Sankuru (female, 10 years) and Tshilenge (female, 8 years). The translocation of the bonobos was conducted under the veterinary supervision of Dr. Fanny Mehl and Reintroduction Program Director Suzy Kwetuenda.



From their very first day outside the isolation enclosure, the 3 newly released bonobos immediately moved together with the bonobos from the first release group, integrating into a single group. There was no displaying among the bonobos or vis-à-vis the trackers. Initially Sankuru remained closer to the trackers, however without actually trying to make contact with any of them – a sign that the pre-release training conducted at LOLA YA BONOBO was successful! From the very first night, the newly released bonobos were also observed to successfully build nests for themselves.

Following the success of this first group, **another 4 bonobos were then released on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. This group comprised of Tembo (male, 14 years), Boyoma (male, 7 years), Nioki (female, 13 years) and her infant Bomengo (male, 1 ½ years). Dr. Fanny Mehl and Yvonne Vela, one of the surrogate mothers from the sanctuary, accompanied the group to the site.

It quickly became clear that their integration of this 2<sup>nd</sup> group was going to be more challenging. The two dominant male bonobos, Tembo (from this 2<sup>nd</sup> release group) and Beni (released in 2009), carefully avoided one another, while Nioki also kept some distance from the main group under the leadership of alpha-female Etumbe (also released in 2009). This dynamic led to frequent fission-fusion encounters within the group.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, one week after the release, the trackers noted that Tembo was no longer with the main group. Nioki and her baby then disappeared from the group the following day amidst commotion surrounding a standoff between the bonobos and the trackers. **All 3 bonobos remain unaccounted for** to-date. Seven missions were conducted between May and September 2011 to try to locate the missing bonobos, without success.



Then a serious accident occurred on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the released bonobos severely bit three of ABC's male trackers (none of the women on the team were targeted). A number of factors may have led to high stress levels within the release group, resulting in the attack on the trackers. In particular, the trackers had reportedly tried to prevent the bonobos from approaching nearby human settlements.



*Suzy Kwetuenda (front) is the Reintroduction Program Director and Christelle Lumbu (back) is the Reintroduction Program Veterinarian*

The wounded trackers were immediately medivac'd from Basankusu to Kinshasa for emergency care. Given unpredictable local reactions to the accident, Suzy Kwetuenda and Christelle Lumbu, the only two project staff not from the Basankusu area, accompanied the trackers back to Kinshasa; they remained based at LOLA YA BONOBO to date.

A decision was immediately taken to suspend physical (nest to nest) tracking of the released bonobos in the forest by the trackers until further notice. Limited food provisioning close to the isolation enclosure was resumed, allowing the team to observe the bonobo group every day when they came to feed.

Meanwhile the group's movements are being tracked, to the extent feasible, from the safety of the canoes.

ABC's primary focus for the rest of 2011 was to secure appropriate **emergency and reconstructive medical care** for the injured trackers. We are thankful to report that Victor and David, the two trackers most severely affected, will receive reconstructive facial surgery by renown surgeon Dr. Laurent Lantieri at Georges Pompidou Hospital in France in 2012.

Key ABC staff also conducted intensive **crisis management consultations** with all relevant stakeholders both in Kinshasa and at the release site. As an immediate measure for the security of both bonobos and possible intruders, Basankusu's local authorities declared EKOLO YA BONOBO a no-entry zone for anyone other than project staff. Meanwhile, a stakeholder meeting was held in Kinshasa in September, regrouping Ministry of Environment representatives and the main actors in bonobo conservation. It aimed to elicit expert advice on what may have caused the bonobos' change in behavior and to discuss possible next steps to ensure the security of the bonobos, project staff and the local population. **During this meeting, all participants reaffirmed their support for ABC's release efforts.**





Although we will never really know what led to this accident, the bonobo experts identified a number of potential stress factors, which may have influenced the bonobos' behavior. They also suggested that, while the outcome was incredibly unfortunate, the bonobos' behavior was not necessarily abnormal if the trackers were perceived in any way to disturb the group's peace. Incidents between the bonobos at LOLA YA BONOBO can frequently result in injuries. The most common situation is when individual males disturb the peace of the group and are "taught a lesson" by an alliance of the females (in the case of conflict between two males, the females usually punish both). While bonobos usually manage to escape with minimal cuts or bites by fleeing into the tree tops, human trackers do not have the speed or agility to do the same.

## Social Actions and Community Support at EKOLO YA BONOBO

Local community support for any wildlife protection or reintroduction program is the most critical element to its long-term success. ABC's release program is not different. As part of our contract with the local Ilonga pô community, who are the traditional owners of the forest where EKOLO YA BONOBO is located, and to maintain good relations with the local population, ABC strives to support local social and economic initiatives. This year, this support primarily focused on village health facilities, thanks to a large quantity of essential medical supplies generously received from Duke University Hospital. ABC also provided the Pôo with building materials for the construction of a new health center and maternity, as a customary exchange for ABC's use of TOTAKA Island. Among other supports, ABC donated textbooks, notebooks and materials for the rehabilitation of a primary school in the neighboring Baenga community; as well as soccer balls and shoes for Basankusu's football school (EFOBA).



## EDUCATION PROGRAM

*ABC contributes to a better knowledge of bonobos and to improved protection of the species through education programs, advocacy and the facilitation of behavioral studies at LOLA YA BONOBO and EKOLO YA BONOBO*

ABC's motto, *conservation begins with education*, informs all our programs

**In 2011, ABC's conservation education activities reached a total of 56,757 people, a 42% increase over 2010!** Of these, 26,580 people were reached by education activities associated with the release program at EKOLO YA BONOBO, 28,102 people benefited from visits at LOLA YA BONOBO and/or complementary outreach activities in Kinshasa schools, and 2,075 people participated in other outreach activities, public presentations and conferences conducted by ABC personnel both within Congo and internationally.



### Education at LOLA YA BONOBO

Located on the outskirts of the capital city of Kinshasa, the sanctuary has the opportunity to educate important urban populations, especially the young leaders and decision makers of tomorrow.



protection, the bushmeat and pet trades, and biodiversity in general.

Among these, more than 7,000 students and their teachers had the opportunity to learn about the bonobos through both organized and spontaneous class visits to the sanctuary. School visits range from kindergarten to university level.

Over the year, 20,293 people had the incredible opportunity to directly observe the bonobos foraging, socializing and playing in their forested habitat at the sanctuary, where they also received complementary information on bonobos and other great apes, environmental issues related to bonobo habitat





The education team also organizes visits to the sanctuary for law enforcement officials and other civil servants every quarter, to help increase their understanding of bonobos, the risks associated with the bushmeat trade, existing Congolese and international wildlife trade and detention laws, and specific actions they can take to enforce them. In 2011, the ABC team organized 5 different visits with the Ministry of Environment, reaching 128 civil servants, while another 783 Congolese officials and foreign diplomats also benefited from spontaneous educational visits at the sanctuary during the year.

### ❖ The Great Ape Educational Tool Kit

In addition to hosting school visits at the sanctuary, ABC educators conduct outreach visits at interested Kinshasa schools, for more in-depth activities on bonobos and wildlife and environmental protection more generally. Some of the most active schools have created Kindness Clubs for animal protection. ABC educators work with teachers to plan activities and provide the Clubs with additional educational materials on a rotational basis.



In support of conservation education activities, ABC was selected to participate in the Great Ape Educational Tool Kit project. The project was created by Sabrina and Jean-Michel Krief, respectively primatologist and photographer at the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) in Paris, as a way to raise awareness on great apes. In 2007, with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), they developed a trunk containing a mix of relevant educational materials. After touring France, Uganda, Gabon and a number of other African countries, the trunk was presented in Kinshasa this year, in the presence of the Managing Director of the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN). Over a period of two days at Kinshasa's Botanical Gardens, ABC Education Program Director Pierrot Mbonzo took part in training sessions for use of these

instructional materials. ABC is now ready for the educational trunk to make its way through the DRC to LOLA YA BONOBO....

### Education at EKOLO YA BONOBO

The educational impact of the released bonobos has been an important result of the release program. The release has generated an incredible amount of interest in bonobos and the work of ABC, and the trackers and eco-guards have doubled as "eco-guides" for the hundreds of villagers and passers-by coming to observe the released bonobos from the safety of their canoes every week.

In spite of a slow down after the accident in August, the ABC team educated more than 15,580 people during spontaneous observation of the bonobos from the safety of their canoes on the Lopori River. The team also conducted 73 awareness-raising sessions with over 10,220 participants in surrounding villages, and 8 sessions at local schools, reaching approximately 740 children and youth. ABC hopes to expand these activities, based on the school outreach approach, which has been successfully implemented in Kinshasa, including creation of Kindness Clubs for greater sustainability.



## ❖ **ESANGA YA BONOBO – Totaka Island Sanctuary**

In 2011, ABC worked to secure a large island on the Lopori River, near the release site. The purpose of this initiative is to maintain the tremendous educational impact that direct observation of the bonobos provide while minimizing human interaction with the actual release group as they increasingly expand their foraging range inland within EKOLO YA BONOBO. Totaka Island will serve as an educational sanctuary for the release area, hosting either bonobos who are not fit for release or rehabilitated bonobos from LOLA YA BONOBO pending their final release (i.e. serving as additional quarantine prior to release). ABC has secured funding for the purchase of the island and the construction of the sanctuary and visitor viewing platforms, and negotiations with the Ilonga-Pôo (traditional owners of the land) were initiated this year 2011. Once constructed, complementary funding will be required to support its operation and associated activities.



## **MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bonobo Conservation Action Plan**

In January 2011, a stakeholder consultation was organized in Kinshasa under the auspices of the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN), bringing together all practitioners and organizations involved in bonobo conservation. A total of 68 people from 33 organizations and government departments, including representatives from ABC, participated in the workshop.

### **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) Management Workshop**

The annual PASA Management Workshop, held in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together the directors and key staff from each of the 22 PASA member sanctuaries for three days of presentations and collaborative discussions on issues ranging from the bushmeat crisis and illegal trade to reintroduction, genetics, and emerging infectious diseases. ABC President and Executive Director Ms Claudine André and Dr. Fanny Mehl, ABC Program Director and veterinarian, participated this year. They presented the key learning from the accident that took place at EKOLO YA BONOBO in August.



## **PASA Education Workshop**

Pierrot Mbonzo, ABC Education Program Director, participated in the annual education workshop, which took place from August 22-26 in Uganda. During the workshop, Pierrot made 4 presentations:

- Educational activities at LOLA YA BONOBO and EKOLO YA BONOBO;
- A short report on the project “Community for Primate Conservation” supported by Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (Reforestation at LOLA YA BONOBO);
- Lessons on the involvement of local communities in forest conservation; and
- The Process of Reintroduction: Contact with Local Communities and the Difficulties.



## **PASA Veterinary Workshop**

The PASA Veterinary workshop took place from November 14-18 in Uganda. ABC was represented by Dr. Fanny Mehl, its Program Director and veterinarian. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange experiences related to health problems at African primate sanctuaries, including the clinical cases of a possible outbreak of the Encephalomyocarditis virus (ECMV) in Sierra Leone. The group also discussed an analysis of the released chimpanzees at CCC in Guinea and their future plans. ABC presented on the status of the EKOLO YA BONOBO reintroduction program, two years after the world’s first release of bonobos into the wild.

## **Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) Education Workshop**

The workshop aimed to bring together and train personnel from various organizations working on primate conservation issues within the region, in order to improve institutional capacity to change the behaviors of local communities with respect to the DRC’s primates and their habitat.

Within this general objective, the workshop aimed to harmonize messaging and educational methodologies across participating organizations, and to provide educators with improved tools and techniques for community-based conservation education. The “communities for primate conservation” project developed as a result of this training is allowing ABC’s education team to involve students from a local school in reforestation efforts on land recently purchased by ABC, as a means to raise students’ awareness of practical conservation actions which can contribute to protecting local primates and their habitat.

## SPECIAL GUESTS AND VISITORS

Each year, LOLA YA BONOBO is honored by visits from a number of important conservation actors and other policy-makers. We cannot mention them all but would like to highlight the visits of Mr. Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International, Mr. Luc Hallade, the new Ambassador of France in the DRC, as well as the Congolese Minister of Primary and Secondary Education.



*The President of Conservation International*



*The Ambassador of France, Luc HALLADE*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Official Screening and Launch of the Film “BONOBOS”



“BONOBOS” is a full-length feature film directed by Alain Tixier, about Claudine André and a bonobo orphan named Beni. Through the story of Beni’s capture by hunters, his rescue and rehabilitation at LOLA YA BONOBO, and Claudine’s struggles to release him back into the wild, the movie documents the life story of virtually every one of the sanctuary’s bonobos. The film includes spectacular images of bonobos, Lola ya Bonobo and the forest of Congo.

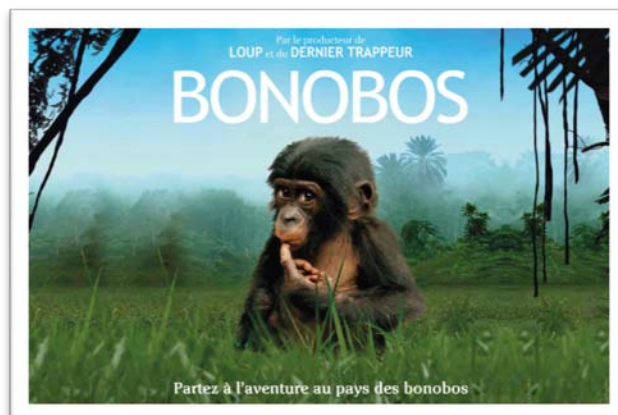
The film was officially screened in France on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. To view a trailer for the movie, please use the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/friendsofbonobos#p/u/3/zGy3BkQEYg>  
Copies of the film (in French) are available on DVD and Blu-ray for purchase.

## ❖ Kinshasa Viewing of the Film BONOBOs

In mid June, ABC organized several screenings of the film at the French Cultural Centre in Kinshasa.

A special morning screening was organized for 80 members of two Kindness Clubs: “Elephant” from St. Cyprien primary school and “Cat” from Tobongisa primary school. At the end of the screening, Claudine André responded to questions from the audience, while Pierrot Mbonzo raised questions for the children to reflect on. This provided a great opportunity for the Kindness Club members to comment on the responsibility of the Congolese to contribute to the protection of the bonobo.

At the end of the activity, each club member was asked to pass the messages learned onto at least five other people - friends or relatives. From this, it was hoped that up to 400 people could receive important conservation messages through the members of both Kindness Clubs who attended the screening.



The film was also screened for the general public during five sessions: two during the day for children and youth and three during the evening for adult audiences. In addition, a special screening was organized for various officials, including ministers, diplomats and other political authorities. In total close to 750 people viewed the film.

## Exhibition at the French Cultural Center, Kinshasa

On July 6, 2011, the Service for Education, Knowledge and Support for Mastery and Use of the French language (SESAM) organized an exhibition on French language instruction within schools in Kinshasa. Nearly 4,000 teachers and school administrators were invited.

ABC was invited to have a booth at the event illustrating how French can also be taught in a different way, through educational activities and guided tours at the sanctuary. The education team seized this opportunity to explain to this important group of educators the impact of awareness-raising activities within schools for the protection of bonobos and their habitat. Nearly 1,000 people visited the booth.

The year ended with the beginning of a new partnership between ABC and SESAM, which is a key project of the Embassy of France in the DRC. The partnership will aim to teach students the mastery of the French language through the theme of biodiversity and conservation in Congo. Learning French made fun!





## Claudine André honored with the “Woman of Gold Award - for the Environment”

In September, the 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the “Femme en Or” (Women of Gold) award ceremony took place in Nice, in the South of France. Trophies were awarded to 11 women in different categories in order to celebrate their career and to share their powerful stories, their achievements and their commitment to promote women’s place in the world.

Claudine André was nominated as “Woman for the Environment 2011” for dedicating her life to the conservation and protection bonobos. Claudine dedicated her trophy to the men and women who work in the National Parks of the DRC, putting their lives at risk everyday combating poachers.



The trophy is hers to share with the entire team at LOLA and EKOLO YA BONOBO, as well as with her family who so often have to share her with our closest cousins! Accepting the trophy, she called us to think of the last bonobos, able to live free in the vast, wild rainforests of the DRC!

## MEDIA

This year, Claudine and the ABC team were exceptionally busy raising awareness on bonobos and ABC’s work. In particular, there was extensive media coverage around the BONOBO feature film release, with over 80 articles or shows about ABC’s work! See [Annex A](#) for details.



## OUR STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER FRIENDS OF ABC

### ❖ ABC Staff and volunteers

As always, the results documented in this report could not have been achieved without the dedication of ABC's staff and volunteers.

This year at the sanctuary, we re-organized the work of the **keepers for the enclosures**, giving more responsibility to two of our surrogate moms from the nursery: Yvonne was entrusted with oversight of Enclosure #2 and Henriette with oversight of Enclosure #3. Both were trained by Jean-Claude. This offered us more flexibility with enclosure management given regular leaves, and will prepare us better for future Enclosure #4. Henriette and Yvonne have proved to be excellent leaders for the two enclosures. This feminine addition to the previously all-male team of keepers has generated new ideas and positive energy from the whole team.



In **the nursery**, Micheline took on the role of “team leader” previously handled by Henriette, with assistance from Espérance. Two new surrogate mothers were recruited to replace Henriette and Yvonne; this was sorely needed, as during the last quarter of 2011, 4 new orphans were confiscated and brought to the sanctuary!

Following the accident at EKOLO YA BONOBO, **Suzy Kwetuenda** (Reintroduction Program Director) and **Christelle Lumbu** (Reintroduction Program Veterinarian) returned to Kinshasa and were incorporated into the team at LOLA YA BONOBO. Christelle replaced Clémence Kalemeko, the sanctuary's veterinarian who had left in late

2010 for family reasons. Suzy continued to manage the reintroduction project and staff remotely via daily telephone and Internet communications. In addition, Suzy is now responsible for observing the behavior of the different groups of bonobos at the sanctuary, and assisting Dr. Fanny Mehl with the day-to-day management of animal care at the sanctuary. Her excellent English, dynamism, and knowledge of the bonobos have also been invaluable to the educational program and the many foreign visitors on week-ends.



**Evelyne Pitault**, from Dakar, had originally planned to volunteer for two months at LOLA YA BONOBO. She fell in love with the bonobos and offered to stay for a longer period. Meanwhile, everyone at the sanctuary was conquered by her contagious enthusiasm and tireless energy. Evelyne oversees bonobo food procurement and preparation and assists in caring for the extremely delicate new arrivals in quarantine.

**Dietary management** is shared with Philippe Kunaka, who transferred from Enclosure #2 when Yvonne became keeper. Philip is from Kimbala village, near LOLA YA BONOBO, and therefore knows the local farmers very well.



## **ABC's Direction and Management**

### **Direction and Finances**

- Claudine André, Fanny Mehl, Valéry Dhanani

## **EKOLO YA BONOBO**

### **Scientific & Veterinary Department**

- Suzy Kwetuenda, Christelle Lumbu

### **Trackers and Anti-Poaching Patrols**

- Ibrahim Yengi, Jérôme Mobando, Simon Mbamba, Bokoo Longongo, Betulu Likofata, Alain Iwaka, Longongo Bawaka, Adolphe Atunda, Louise Asinoko, Véronique Ndjea, Esonga Akongando, Roger Nokodibo, David Mokoma, Nokodibo Bossiongo, Mokoma Jean Louis, Mosanja Joseph, Isongu Henri Jonas

### **Community Mobilization and Development**

- Matthieu Ndjoni Mayala, Guy Mosengo, Jacques Isola Ibanda

### **Administration and Support Personnel**

- Alphonse Mongbenga, Yvon Swekalo, Thomas Bondola, Souverain Bawaka, Jean Mokweti

## **LOLA YA BONOBO**

### **Veterinary Health**

- Fanny Mehl, Anne-Marie Ngalula, Christelle Lumbu

### **Surrogate Mothers, Keepers and Keeper Assistants**

- Micheline Nzonzi, Esperance Tsona, Hortense Buwayi, Mimie Bayadila, Stany Mokando, Jean-Claude Nzumbi, Henriette Lubondo, Yvonne Vela, Ndombe Luvualu, Kadogo Manzambi, Paul Nsala, Jean Lokuli

### **Bonobo Hygiene and Diet**

- Adolphe Zukuku, Makabi Kinkani, Pacha Nsiala, Bernard Nsangu, Béatrice, Philippe Kunaka, Nsimba, Pablo

### **Education Team**

- Pierrot Mbonzo, Blaise Mbwaki, Prosper Bolumba

### **Visitor Support**

- Jean Lambert Boeke, Didier Manzambi, Alain Miteti

### **Administration and Security**

- Hélène Ndongu, Sylvie Kwaba, Douglas Ibanda, Freddy Mavusu, Constant Konzi, Tyty Nsevolo, Odile Kalombo, Moussa Kuziatuka, Mala Kadimba



### ❖ Invited Members

In 2011, LOLA YA BONOBO had the pleasure of hosting **55 invited guests**, all members of ABC's sister associations in Europe and the USA who came to the sanctuary to experience first-hand the day-to-day work at the sanctuary and have the incredible privilege of observing the bonobos *de visu*.

### ABC's Board of Directors

**President:** Mrs. Claudine André  
**Vice-President:** Mrs. Dominique Morel  
**Treasurer:** Mrs. Valéry Dhanani  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Angélique Busine  
**Veterinary Advisor:** Dr. Fanny Mehl  
**Legal Advisor:** Mr. Roger Masamba  
**Audit:** Mr. Albert Busine  
**Advisor:** Mr. Victor Minesi

### ❖ Visiting Researchers and Publications

ABC regularly hosts teams of primatologists and researchers to conduct behavioral observations on-site at the sanctuary. Only non-invasive research is allowed, in strict compliance with ethical standards and scientific rigor. This research contributes to a better understanding of bonobos, an important element for improving conservation of the species.

Researchers have come to LOLA YA BONOBO from the following international educational institutions:

- Duke University
- St. Andrews University
- Emory University
- Harvard University
- Max Planck Institute
- Kyoto University
- Veterinary Schools of Liège and Lyon



The sanctuary has also hosted Congolese researchers and students from the following institutions:

- University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN)
- National Pedagogic University (UPN)

*Dr. Zanna Clay of Emory University, on-site at the sanctuary*

The following scientific articles, submitted or published in 2011, are based on behavioral and cognitive research conducted at LOLA YA BONOBO:

#### Scientific Publications

- Clay, Z., Pika, S., Gruber, T., Zuberbuhler, K. 2011. Female bonobos use copulation calls as social signals. *Biology Letters*, doi:10.1098/rsbl.2010.1227
- Clay, Z., Zuberbuhler, K. The structure of bonobo copulation calls during reproductive and non-reproductive sex. 2011. *Ethology*, 117, 1-12.
- Fischer A, Prüfer K, Good JM, Halbwax M, Wiebe V, et al. (2011) Bonobos Fall within the Genomic Variation of Chimpanzees. *PLoS ONE* 6(6): e21605. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021605
- Hare, B., Wobber, T. & Wrangham, R. in press. The self-domestication hypothesis: bonobo psychology evolved due to selection against male aggression. *Animal Behaviour*
- Herrmann, E., Hare, B. Cissessi, J., Tomasello, M. in press. The origins of human temperament: children avoid novelty more than other apes. *Developmental Science*.
- Jones P., Cordonnier N., Mahamba C., Burt F.J., Rakotovafo F., Swanepoel R., Andre C, Dauger S. & Bakkali Kassimi L., Encephalomyocarditis virus mortality in semi-wild bonobos (*Pan paniscus*). 2010. *Journal of Medical Primatology*. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0684.2010.00464.x
- Maclean, E & Hare, B. in press. Bonobos and chimpanzees infer the target of an actor's attention. *Animal Behaviour*.
- Rosati, A. & Hare, B. 2010. Chimpanzee and bonobos distinguish between risk and ambiguity. *Proceedings of Royal Society: Biology Letters*. (2010) 00, 1–4 doi:10.1098/rsbl.2010.0927
- Rosati, A. & Hare, B. in press. Decision-making across social contexts: competition increases risk-prone choices in chimpanzees and bonobos. *Animal Behaviour*.
- Wobber, T., Hare, B. 2011. Psychological health of orphan bonobos and chimpanzees in African sanctuaries. *PLoS One*. 6, e17147.



## ❖ Our Sponsors and Friends

As always, the work documented in this report would not be possible without the support of numerous sponsors and friends who contributed to our work directly or via our sister organizations Friends of Bonobos (incorporated in the US) and Amis des bonobos en Europe (incorporated in France). While the main institutional and corporate donors are listed on the next page, our gratitude also goes to the hundreds of adoptive parents and individual sponsors who faithfully make small and large donations, often anonymously, year after year, but cannot all be mentioned here.

We would like to extend very special thanks this year to all those who responded to our call for solidarity with the wounded trackers, and helped us defray the costs of their medical evacuation, emergency care and recovery, then their travel to France for reconstructive surgery in 2012: thank you to our friends at the Society for the care of wild animals (SECAS), the Amneville Zoological Park in France, the International Primate Protection League, the French banking group BPCE, the Great Ape Trust's Ted Townsend, to Ahycodae at the Hopewell Fund, to James and Karen Holtz, Maria-Susana Pataro, and several anonymous donors.



## ❖ Gifts in Kind

Many local businesses are continuing to assist us, often on a monthly basis, with gifts in kind. Among the most important in 2011, we would particularly like to thank:

- \* Achour Group (foodstuffs for the staff)
- \* Air France (excess baggage allowance)
- \* Cilu (cement for construction projects)
- \* Cosys - Kenwood Congo (repair of radio & telecommunication equipment)
- \* Fujifilm (Educational panels and flyers)
- \* Hewa-Bora (domestic flights)
- \* Nova Product (soap)
- \* SHAMKA (paper supplies and general services)
- \* Transport Routiers Congo (maintenance and repairs of vehicles)
- \* Vodanet (internet service).

*THANK YOU!*

## Main institutional and corporate sponsors of ABC in 2011





## ANNEX A – MEDIA COVERAGE

### PRESS – PRINT, TV & RADIO

#### JANUARY

- 30 MILLIONS D'AMIS - Anne VOSGIEN, une magistrate au secours des bonobos

#### MARCH

- Univers Sciences.TV- cité des Sciences (Romain Lejeune)
- RTL - Stéphane Boudsocq
- Télé Câble- Nathalie Jacquet
- Continent Sciences /France Culture- En direct au Salon du livre. Stéphane Deligeorge
- Orange TV - Valérie Donnay
- Sud Radio- Jean Rimbaud
- JT Des Animaux/Chaîne Animaux - Julien Arnardi
- Ecran Large.com - Simon Riaux
- JT de TF1- Bénédicte Duran
- C'est au Programme/France 2-Sophie Davant
- Autour de la Question /RFI. Caroline Lachowski
- Déjeuner avec Alain TIXIER.Jean-Pierre Bailly et SND- Hôtel de la trémoille
- Gala-Maryvonne Ollivry
- BFM TV-Claire Fleury
- Mon Quotidien/L'Actu-Antonin Simon
- Cité Cinémas -Emmanuel Pey
- JT de France 3- Claudine Gilbert
- Journal du Dimanche - jean -Pierre Lacomme
- La Marche des Sciences/France Culture.Aurélie Lunot
- Vivre avec les bêtes/France Inter.Fabienne Chauvière
- Ciné 6+JT/M6 + JT/M6 - Bertrand Neau
- Allôciné: Interview (Commentaires d'extraits du film) questions-réponses avec les internautes.
- Le Figaro - Emmanuelle Frois
- Projection du film pour des internautes et blogueurs "Nature"Suivie d'un débat au club de l'Etoile (Animé par Yoann SARDET)
- Emission "Cinémas"/France 5 présentée par Serge MOATI
- MICKEY Magazine - Au Secour des Bonobos (Film - #3066 April)
- FEMINA - Sauvons les Bonobos
- GALA - La Nouvelle Dian Fossey
- CULTURE, LOISIRS - Voyage au pays des bonobos
- LE MONDE - Un film coup de Cœur
- FIGARO ET VOUS - Les bonobos, ces Hippees de la Forêt

#### APRIL

- MOUSTIQUE (Pierre Yves Pâque)
- RTBF-Radio (La Monde est un village)
- La Dernière Heure (Patric Laurent)
- Cineuropa.ORG (Aurore Engelen)
- Metro (Lieven Trio)
- EMMA.BE (Nicholas Gilson)

## **APRIL (cont'd)**

- La libre Belgique (Alain Lorfevre)
- Plus Magazine Photo
- Plus Magazine (Gilda Benjamin)
- RTBF JT (Cathy Immelen)
- L'avenir (Pierre Yves Pâque)
- Avant-Première LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE
- Int.Sud Presse
- Départ vers Liège RTBF (Maison de la Sciences, Quai Van Beneden 22, Liège)
- Interview RTBF - Les Niouzz (Marie-Pierre Fonsny)
- François Louis (TBC)
- Jean-Louis Lahaye (TBC)
- Avant-Première LIEGE SAUVENIERE
- ARTE 50° NORD (Jean François Pluygers)
- AVANT-PREMIERE BRUXELLES (UGC TOISON D'OR)
- L'avenir pour les Enfants (Nathalie Lemaire)
- RTL-Fâce-à-Fâce
- RTL JT (Nicholas Gilson)
- RADIO NOSTALGIE
- WAKOU
- WAPITI (Film - Le Paradis des Bonobos)
- Air France (Film - BONOBO AU PARADIS)
- Doc nature (Lukuru, femelle bonobo)
- PHOSPHORE (Film - je veux sauver les bonobos)
- GEO ADO (Film - L'espoir des bonobos)
- GEO ADO (Film - l'histoire vrai de beni)
- GEO ADO (Film - relâcher)
- SCIENCE&VIE (Au paradis des bonobos)
- SCIENCE&VIE (Un paradis aussi pour les chercheurs)
- SCIENCE&VIE (Un retour à la vie sauvage longuement préparé)
- ACTU-NATURE (Combat d'une femme pour sauver les grands singes)
- télé Star (Un film poignant pour sauver les bonobos)
- Télé TNT (Des singes et leur ange gardien)

## **JUNE AND JULY**

- LOOK'IN
- WAPITI
- Télé Star (documentaire)
- FIGAROSCOPE (L'Histoire Vrai de Beni, un Bébé Bonobo Sauver par Claudine André)

## **AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

- OPTINUM
- Fadhi'live (Claudine André Vit au Congo et se Bat pour la Suivre des Singes Libre)

## **DECEMBER**

- Bellisima

*“Banso pona Bonobo!”*  
*Together for the Bonobos!*



**A.B.C.**  
*Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo*