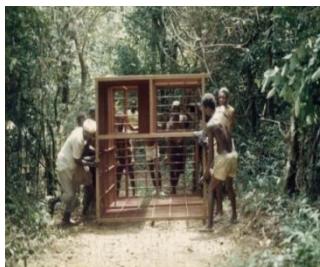




## Tacugama's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

September 2015 will officially mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tacugama. This year, we will be taking time to celebrate and reflect on our efforts towards chimpanzee conservation. Starting from the rescue of Bruno in Bala's home, to expanding to a Sanctuary, caring for 76 chimpanzees and adding an Eco-tourism sector as well as an Outreach Programme, we are happy to say that we have come a long way.



Although we can look back and appreciate our efforts and success, Tacugama wants to take this time of celebration to continue momentum for the conservation of chimpanzees. Tacugama is proud to continue its approach to chimpanzee rehabilitation and care by meeting their physical and physiological needs. We vow to continue to improve the chimps enclosures, allowing them to express their natural behaviours and live the lives they deserve. Tacugama strives to continue using low ecological impact technology to achieve the highest level of sustainability. We also want to increase Eco-tourism, to have a stable source of income covering our running costs. Tacugama will also focus on expanding its Outreach Programme to identify priority communities and reach the rural areas in research, livelihoods, and sensitization. We also would like to extend our thanks to all who have supported us over the many years. Without you, our efforts in rehabilitation and conservation would not have become a reality.

## Come Celebrate With Us!

September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm we'll be celebrating Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown. Guest speakers include Professor Monty Jones, representative of the President of Sierra Leone, Hon. Minister (MAFFS) Dr. Sam Sesay and Bala Amaraskaran, Director. Please contact us at [info@tacugama.com](mailto:info@tacugama.com) to purchase a dinner ticket. If you are not able to attend the event in Freetown, we also have events in UK, US and Spain. Please contact us for more information.

## Quarterly Report, Sept 2015

Greetings from Tacugama!

This is the first time in a few years that we've been able to do a fully informative Quarterly Report!

We have been undergoing a lot of changes at Tacugama, and have been busy staying afloat during the Ebola crisis. Luckily for us, our staff has shown extreme dedication to their work, and came in each day to take care of the chimps. We appreciate their efforts for the chimps!

During the Ebola crisis, Tacugama took extra strides to make sure our staff and chimps were protected. Staff were transported to and from work daily, all were required to wash their hands, and each staff member had their temperature taken daily. Masks were available to all as an added precaution.

Although we are so grateful to have no deaths and illnesses amongst the staff, two of our staff members lost family members and Tacugama was still greatly affected. The Sanctuary was closed for over 8 months, causing us a huge financial gap. 30% of our income is generated through Eco-tourism and goes to cover running costs. Many donors contributed to sustaining the Sanctuary and we are very grateful for all the support we received during the crisis.

We also would like to extend our thanks to all who have supported us over the many years.

Without you, these past 20 years wouldn't have been possible. To the Government of Sierra Leone, to all the mentors, volunteers, employees, donors, partners, friends and family, let's take this 20<sup>th</sup> year to celebrate what we have accomplished for chimpanzee rehabilitation and conservation and continue to make every effort possible for the chimpanzees in Sierra Leone.

Bala. Amarasekaran, Project Director

## Rainy Season Blues and Flu's

This June, many of the chimpanzees suffered from the common cold, having symptoms of runny noses and coughs! We believe it was due to the shift of seasons, from dry to rainy season. The chimpanzees were well taken care of by our vet, Sophie Moittie and our keepers! The chimpanzees are now back to great health!



## Worldwide Veterinary Service Donation

Worldwide Veterinary Services had graciously donated many much needed supplies for Tacugama! We received a new pulse oxymeter, disposables, and other medicines. Thanks to Worldwide Veterinary Services for helping to keep our chimpanzees healthy!

## Tacugama chimps: TOM

We are continuing the integration of our old chimp "Tom", who was rescued in 2013 after spending 30 year as a pet, locked in a cage. Tom doesn't know how to "speak chimp" or how to behave with his animal fellows, thus making the integration to a group of chimpanzees very challenging. We started last year to integrate him with "Gorilla's group" as Gorilla is a kind alpha male, but decided change plans after realizing the process was too stressful for Tom. Tom began the integration process with a group a smaller chimps. It has been successful so far and it is nice to see him finally playing with someone all day. Tom is spending time with Nico, a young male chimp! We hope he will soon be "Uncle Tom" for the little chimps and will be able soon to enjoy the outside enclosure with the whole group.



## YOUNG BRUNO

Young Bruno has been unlucky and broke his hand during a fight with the big ladies in his group. After, he was required to rest inside for one and half months for the bone to repair, but now he is back again jumping in the trees!

## Health Check: Preventative Chimp Care

We are planning a general health check for ALL chimpanzees beginning in November. Health checks will include a series of laboratory tests including TB tests, full blood test, ECG and ultra sound, etc. Any support for equipment or specialists are welcome. Please contact [vet@tacugama.sl](mailto:vet@tacugama.sl) for a detailed list of supplies we will need.

## Around Tacugama: WILD CHIMPS

We have recently seen a increase in wild chimps visiting around Tacugama. These chimps can be seen around Congo Dam and sometimes even near the enclosures. At night, we often hear the chimps. Tacugama is excited to have them around—it shows that the area around Tacugama has been well protected, enough for the chimps to feel safe to come around!

## Improved Food Storage

We've moved to a new system for food storage. to improve hygiene and decrease food waste! We've separated cereals and fruits, and put the food in colorful baskets.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In June, we were able to go out to the field to continue activities. The team headed out to Moyamba District to monitor activities and collect community and wild chimpanzee data. The team, being led by Rosa Garriga, was able to identify six new communities with evidence of wild chimpanzees habituating nearby.



Rosa Garriga, temporary Conservation Manager, came to Tacugama to lead the Outreach Team. Rosa is also working towards her PhD in Human-Wildlife Conflict. Rosa continues to bring new research to Tacugama. Her use of camera traps have greatly expanded our ability to collect data in the field. Our future hope is to use drones to quickly capture evidence of wild chimpanzees and understand community land use.

## TCOP Capacity Building

Our new Conservation Manager, Lauren Masey, held a series of workshops for the Outreach Officers this month to keep the team busy during the heavy rains. Officers were trained on Project Management and Design, Effective Communication and Writing, and basic GIS skills.

## Sierra Rutile Support

Sierra Rutile has generously pledged to support six communities in the Mobondah area. A pilot project will be started in these communities to implement programs to reduce human-wildlife conflict, promote sustainable agriculture to combat farming expansion, and continue to sensitize communities about the risks of zoonotic disease transmission through bushmeat consumption and unsafe hygiene practices.



## 'Inside Tacugama' Radio Programme

Supported by SMART mobile, 'Inside Tacugama' has continued to air the past few months. Radio shows cover Environmental Issues, focusing on Tacugama.

This month discussed 'Environmental Protection' and highlighted the waste management challenge in urban areas.



Recent Regent-Grafton Highway community Clean-up a collaboration between Tacugama, the Environmental Protection Agency and the communities. Tacugama is working hard on a beautification project near the Sanctuary. Tables and benches overlooking the river have been constructed, as well as tree planting.

Tacugama Community Outreach Programme (TCOP) is striving to secure funding to increase activities on National and Community level. Aiming to protect wild chimpanzees outside of protected areas, TCOP is working closely with MAFFS & NPAA to develop a Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan for all key stakeholder to be involved in the conservation of wild chimps. TCOP is working hard to identify and partner with organizations that can help to implement activities to protect chimpanzees. Our main focus is to address key threats which are bushmeat consumption and habitat loss.





# NEWS FROM CAMP



## Volunteers

As always, we received valuable contribution from our volunteers. Palle Soerig Jensen and Martin Ellebaek (Denmark) arrived in August. Palle Soerig Jensen, specialized in hospitality management is helping us to expand our Eco-tourism ventures. Martin Ellebaek is a zoo keeper student helping us with observations and to improve our enrichment programme.

## Eco-tourism Expansion

We are working on an expansion of our eco-lodges as our Eco-tourism continues to expand. Recognized by Trip Advisor as the number one activity for Sierra Leone, lodges can be in high demand. In August, the Ministry of Tourism hosted a nationwide Tourism Meeting for key stakeholders. Tacugama was praised for being an excellent example of Eco-tourism after receiving high marks on its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).



Visitors can spend the night in a relaxed and romantic environment at the same time as helping the chimps through the lodge fees. Proceeds from the lodges are used to support Tacugama's running costs. If you are interested in this unique experience please make a call on: (+232) 044 625 107 or 044 625 111 or email us at [info@tacugama.com](mailto:info@tacugama.com)

## New Surgery and Security Shelter

As the wild chimps have been seen around our biggest forest enclosure about a 5 minutes walk from our office, a new security shelter was constructed as an added protection for guests and staff.

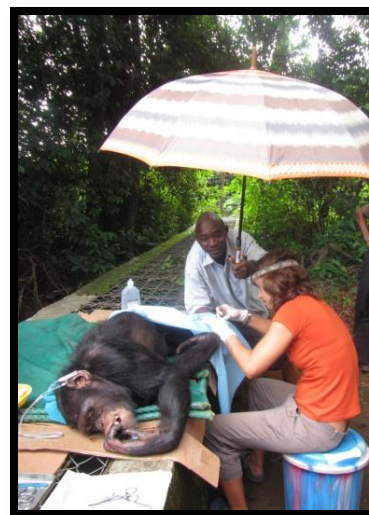
A new small surgery has been constructed there as well and will be used by the veterinarian to undertake any clinical procedures for chimps in those enclosures.



## Getting to know our staff: Sieh



Sieh Bangura has worked at Tacugama for almost two years. He started off doing construction of New C. We were very impressed with his work ethic and his expressed interest of the chimps. Sieh is now one of the three caretakers for our Rosalind group. He looks after the welfare of 12 chimpanzees, feeding, cleaning, observing, and maintaining their enclosure. His favourite chimpanzee is Jazzy, a playful male. The two share a close relationship. Sieh says is constantly surprised at the chimps cleverness. He enjoys taking care of the chimps and making sure they stay happy!



Our vet, Sophie Moittie suturing a wound for a chimp in the rain! Sophie has been with us for over 6 months now and is enjoying working with the chimps! She keeps a close eye out and monitors their nutrition, welfare, and health status.



## RECENT EVENTS

### Tacugama Event at ISAT

Twice per month, ISAT (*International Security Advisory Team Sierra*), invites guest speakers to present for a mixed crowd of expats and locals. In August, ISAT hosted Tacugama to promote its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Programme Manager, Sofie Meilvang presented on the history of Tacugama and where we are headed in the future. We are looking forward to speaking at many more of these forums, especially in light of the curfew being lifted. A big thanks to ISAT for hosting the evening.



### Teaming up with SMART Mobile



We are excited to have partnered with SMART Mobile - a recently established telecommunication provider for Sierra Leone. SMART is sponsoring Tacugama in media and communications. 6 billboards have been placed around Freetown, promoting Tacugama thanks to SMART. They have also been funding our radio programme 'Inside Tacugama', as well as our education programme. Many thanks to SMART!

### Tacugama Activities: Bird Tour, Yoga Retreat, WHH Workshop

#### Bird Tour

In August we hosted our monthly bird tour, the day was rainy, but we still were able to see some birds! Participants are taken through the Western Area National Park, including Tacugama Dam and Congo Dam.

#### Yoga Retreat

We were able to reinstate our Yoga Retreat this month! Tacugama always enjoys a good turnout, hosting yogis from all levels and bringing them together for a relaxing and healthy weekend!



#### Organisation Workshops

In August, we hosted Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) for a workshop. They were able to host 17 people for a 2 day workshop. WHH employees enjoyed the barbeque area around the lodges as their conference room. and got to enjoy tours and nature walks during breaks! Tacugama is happy to host events like this! Feel free to contact us if you'd like to get out of Freetown!



# SUPPORTERS OF TACUGAMA

We would like to thank the following partners for their ongoing sponsorship:

**Partners:**

Associacio Amics de Tacugama - Spain  
Friends of Tacugama - UK  
SMART Mobile

We would like to thank the following organisations for their contributions during Ebola:

A Kinder World Foundation, Animal Concepts, Ape Conservation Efforts, Arcus Foundation, Busch Gardens Zoo, Chester Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Copenhagen Zoo, Dublin Zoo, EAZA, Givskud Zoo, Go Ape, Humane Society International, ICZ -International Congress of Zoo keeping, IFAW -International Fund for Animal Welfare, IPPL– International Primate Protection League, Jane Goodall Institute – UK, LUSH Cosmetic Charity Pot, PASA – Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Primate Action Fund, Sweden Chimpanzee Trust, Zoo Parc de Beauval, Zoos South Australia. A big thanks to many generous individuals, who has donated as well.

We would like to thank the following for their support through grants:

**Grants:**

Arcus Foundation  
Barcelona Zoo  
Copenhagen Zoo  
Rufford's Small Grant Foundation  
IPPL– International Primate Protection League  
Sweden Chimpanzee Trust  
Zoos South Australia  
Zoo de la Palmyre



Tacugama depends on your generosity & support to continue to provide a safe haven for Sierra Leone's chimp population and their habitat. To make a contribution, you may do so at:

<http://www.tacugama.com/how-you-can-help/donate-now>

**THANK YOU!**

**Don't forget to check out our  
TACUGAMA WEBSITE [www.tacugama.com](http://www.tacugama.com) or join us at Facebook,  
Twitter and YouTube.**