

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

### SUPPORT THE CHIMPANZEE TRUST - UGANDA

#### 1. History

The Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary was established in 1998 for the care and welfare of entrusted animals while conserving the ecosystem of Ngamba island. The sanctuary was established as the first step of a combined national and international initiative and a globally recognized collaborative conservation effort geared towards developing and implementing a long-term strategy for the conservation of chimpanzees and their habitat.



*Taking the first chimp rescues to Ngamba '97*



*Ngamba Island in 1997*

The Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary was established primarily for the long-term management of rescued chimpanzee that cannot be returned to the wild; the conservation of chimpanzee habitat in the wild and the education of the general Ugandan public with particular emphasis on chimpanzees, capacity building through training, and building viable national, regional and international partnerships on chimpanzee conservation.



This picture shows the current aerial view of Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

*The Mission* of the Chimpanzee Trust is to promote chimpanzee conservation and environmental management for sustainable development.

The Chimpanzee Trust is among the leaders in chimpanzee-focused environmental conservation, providing excellent care of rescued chimpanzees, contributing to public awareness and understanding of conservation issues, and engaging with communities living alongside chimpanzee populations through our three main programs:

**Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary:** At Ngamba Island, the Trust cares for 50 orphaned and rescued chimpanzees. The Island forest provides a realistic habitat for these disadvantaged individuals and a unique environment that enables the chimpanzees at the sanctuary to express their normal behaviour. The Trust provides veterinary care, rehabilitation, integration, supplemental food and ensures safety to these orphans; some who will not be able to return to the wild given their background, age and current behavioural status.

**Conservation Program:** Sanctuaries are only a short-term solution to the problem facing chimpanzees. Sensitization and education of local communities, and community development through alternative livelihood provision are essential. This encourages people to value their wildlife and to ensure that they remain in the wild where they belong. The Trust has therefore developed and maintained conservation programs to protect and conserve wildlife. The immediate focus is the chimpanzee ranging areas in the Albertine Rift. The Trust is implementing:

**Community adaptability to the loss occasioned by wildlife project;** where the Trust is targeting 13,000 people in eight parishes that surround the Bugoma Central Forest Reserve, home to over **650 wild chimpanzees**. Due to the increased deforestation and habitat loss for wildlife in the Albertine region to commercial farming, logging and infrastructural developments for oil production and distribution, there has been an increase in the incidences of conflict between the subsistence farmers and the now homeless wildlife, including chimpanzees, buffalo, baboons and other monkeys that are looking for food in the farmers' gardens and other plantations. This has created a situation of increased contact and inevitably injury and fatalities on both sides.

The Chimpanzee Trust runs a habitat monitoring program, that involves monitoring of these wild chimpanzees and working with the communities surrounding the forest to develop solutions to mitigate the Human-Wildlife conflict. The community is empowered to absorb the losses they may incur if wildlife raids their property, as well as increase awareness about the wildlife, in particular, the chimpanzees. Farmers are trained to select and adopt high-value cash crops, that are resilient to wildlife interference, e.g. peppers, ginger, chia seed, potatoes, onions, mushrooms and soya beans. Farmers are also organized into groups and save funds from profits from their enterprises in a collective pool to serve as an 'insurance' as well as a loan scheme for those that may lose their harvest to wildlife.

Furthermore, the organization is engaged in **tree planting and forest restoration activities** mainly focused on degraded forest patches. Chimpanzee Trust has established tree nurseries for demonstration as well as sources of seedlings for tree planting within Uganda's Albertine rift area.

**Environmental Education Program:** The environmental education program is branded “**Change My Community Program**” and its main goal is to raise awareness for conservation throughout the local communities, especially young people. The Program integrates environmental education into the school curriculum by working closely with teachers and heads of institutions. We work with primary and secondary schools in several districts. Our program covers topics ranging from chimpanzee behavior to forest and wildlife conservation and from waste management to health and sanitation.

The Trust is also increasing awareness for environmental management through educative drama programs and shows that are aired on the local radios, in the local languages. This drama has now entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> season and has become very popular in the region. The Trust now plans to expand this to other parts of the country.

## **2. Background to the project**

Chimpanzee Trust is dedicated to the welfare of chimpanzees as individuals as well as a species. The operations of the sanctuary include the feeding of the chimpanzees as well as managing their health and welfare. This work is done by a dedicated team of caregivers that the Trust has trained over the years. The operations of the sanctuary are funded primarily through grants for feeding the chimpanzees, while the visitors to the island contribute to the staff costs and maintenance of the sanctuary.

The current pandemic of the COVID-19 caused by the novel SARS CoV-2 virus has greatly impacted both the operations of the sanctuary and the field programs. The sanctuary has closed to the public, losing all revenue from visitors, researchers and volunteers. Furthermore, the management has taken all the necessary precautions to ensure the prevention of this pandemic having any adverse effects, by instilling strict guidelines for both the sanctuary and wild chimpanzee programs. These include;

- Maintenance of a distance of at least 7 meters from the chimpanzees at the sanctuary and 10 meters for the wild populations
- No person (staff, researcher, tourist, etc.) who is clinically ill, or who has been in contact with anybody ill in the preceding 14 days is allowed anywhere near the chimpanzees or in the forest of the wild.
- Ensuring that all individuals coming into proximity of chimpanzees are wearing clean clothing and disinfected footwear
- Hand-washing facilities and supplies for all individuals at all locations
- A surgical face mask be worn by anyone coming within 10 meters of the chimpanzees
- Provide hand sanitizer at several points at the sanctuary

All this has created additional costs for the creation of an effective barrier to the transmission of SARS CoV-2 virus to the chimpanzees in our care as well as those in the wild populations, in the areas of our operations.

### 3. Project description

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary provides for the welfare needs of these chimpanzees, from veterinary health care, feeding, infrastructure, and staffing.

The Chimpanzee Trust has two major activities that require immediate funding to sustain the regular operations towards maintaining the welfare of the chimpanzees on Ngamba Island;

- **Feeding and caring for the chimpanzees for three months (May June and July)**



*Some of the keepers feeding the chimpanzees and the food they are giving the chimpanzees*

Availing a clean environment for the chimpanzee includes daily cleaning and disinfection, feeding and general care for the chimpanzees

- **Retaining the skilled staff at Ngamba Island Repairs to the veterinary clinic on Ngamba Island.**



The team of caregivers and a Veterinarian caring for the chimpanzees 24/7. Ngamba has a team of 18 skilled staff working in 20-day shifts to provide the care needed for these orphaned chimpanzees

- **Monitoring of wild chimpanzees**



Habitat monitoring is a crucial activity to protect the wild population of the chimpanzees and also protect their environment. This has also played a role in the reduction of Human-Wildlife conflict through community education and sensitization using the same habitat monitors, also fondly known as the conservation champions in the local communities.

- **Re-forestation of degraded areas – seedling distribution to willing farmers**



Seedlings of local or indigenous species are to be distributed to farmers to restore the degraded forest. Also, fruiting trees are planted by volunteers and students in existing forests or areas where the chimpanzees frequent

- **Environmental education using radio**



Teachers and students work together to record lessons to be aired on radio for other students to benefit from and learn

#### 4. Project Goals and Objectives

- i. Chimpanzee Trust has embedded the most widely used, current definition for animal welfare, the 'Five Freedoms for Animal Welfare' throughout this document and they are integral to the Minimum Standards. This approach is as equally applicable to non-domesticated species and other forms of captive management since the Five Freedoms define the needs of animals that should be met under all circumstances. The goal of the projects to provide the basic needs of the chimpanzees at Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary. These needs include; Freedom from hunger and thirst; Freedom from thermal and physical discomfort; Freedom from pain, injury and disease; freedom from fear and distress; and Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- ii. The wild chimpanzee program has the main objective of ensuring that the wild chimpanzees remain safe in their natural habitat. This is through constant monitoring them using local skilled trackers to make daily observations without interfering with the day to day life of the wild chimpanzees
- iii. Reforestation of degraded forest cover: Being primarily an agricultural economy, 75% of the population in Uganda practices farming, albeit on a subsistence scale, growing food for consumption on a small scale. This coupled with explosive human population growth due to Uganda's high fertility rate, and primitive agricultural practices, of slash burn plant and abandon, have left huge swathes of land bare of trees. Farmers have, however, learned the value of trees and are willing to replant areas, especially along rivers and in the valleys to protect precious water sources.
- iv. With the current lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been closed for now two months. Whereas some urban schools have continued with education through online lessons and learning, pupils in rural areas, or from poor backgrounds, that have no access to internet or newspapers, or any tools at their homes, are disadvantaged. However, every household in rural Uganda has a transistor FM radion (Uganda Bearue of Statistics census data). Chimpanzee Trust is using this as a cheap and easy way to support these students through radio lessons in partnership with local radio stations. Teachers from the local schools, design radio lessons and also with students, make this fun to use radio drama as a teaching tool for Mathematics, Science, English, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, etc.

## 5. Project Activities

| Project component | Activity  | Responsible person                              |
|-------------------|---|---|
| i.                | Procurement of fresh food supplies and dry rations for the chimpanzees  | Director  |
|                   | Feeding, cleaning after maintaining facilities of the chimpanzees daily | Caregiving team                                 |
| ii.               | Monitoring wild chimpanzees daily                                       | Conservation Champions                          |
| iii.              | Procurement and distribution of seedlings for reforestation             | Conservation Officer and Conservation Champions |
| iv.               | Recording and airing of radio lessons for primary schools               | Education Officer                               |

## 6. Project implementation period

| Project component | Activity  | May 2020 | June 2020 | July 2020 |
|-------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| i.                | Procurement of fresh food supplies and dry rations for the chimpanzees  |          |           |           |
|                   | Feeding, cleaning after maintaining facilities of the chimpanzees daily |          |           |           |
| ii.               | Monitoring wild chimpanzees daily                                       |          |           |           |
| iii.              | Procurement and distribution of seedlings for reforestation             |          |           |           |
| iv.               | Recording and airing of radio lessons for primary schools               |          |           |           |

## 7. Description of deliverables

Deliverables;

1. Under the project to feed the chimpanzees over a three-month period;
  - i. 9 deliveries of chimpanzee fresh foods

- ii. 1 delivery of dry rations
- iii. 1 delivery of cleaning and general supplies for chimpanzee care

2. Monitoring wild chimpanzees daily

- i. Daily records of wild chimpanzee data
- ii. Minimal illness or death of wild chimpanzees reports
- iii. Prevention of poaching and illegal activities in the forest

3. Procurement and distribution of seedlings for reforestation

- i. Securing and distributing 100,000 seedlings
- ii. Distribution of seedlings to farmers
- iii. Monitoring reports on planting and survival rate of at least 85% of seedlings

4. Recording and airing of radio lessons for primary school

- i. At least 30 lessons recorded and aired
- ii. 3 lessons aired per week on three radio stations

**8. Project staff**

Project staff shall include;

- |       |                                      |   |   |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| i.    | The Director                         | - | Projects lead                                       |
| ii.   | Finance Manager                      | - | Financial controller, audit and reporting           |
| iii.  | Finance Assistant                    | - | Procurement Payments and issues                     |
| iv.   | Sanctuary manager                    | - | Sanctuary operations                                |
| v.    | Conservation Officer                 | - | Distribution and monitoring field operations        |
| vi.   | Caregivers (8 staff and 1 volunteer) | - | Feeding and caring for the chimpanzees              |
| vii.  | Field assistants (3)                 | - | Data verification and entry – field operations      |
| viii. | Conservation champions (8)           | - | Wild chimpanzee monitoring, community sensitization |



## 9. Project Budget - over a 3-month period

| S/N          | Description   | Cost (USD)       |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 1            | Chimpanzee feeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fruits and vegetables</li> <li>- Maize/cornmeal, millet and other dry rations</li> <li>- Enrichment and side cage care</li> </ul>   | 13,500.00        |
|              | Cleaning materials, Sanitizers and disinfectants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soaps and bleach</li> <li>- Brushes and other materials</li> </ul>  | 1,135.73         |
|              | Caregiving and maintenance costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caregiver's stipends</li> <li>- PPEs</li> <li>- Feeding and medical costs</li> </ul>  | 20,768.88        |
| 2            | Habitat monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conservation champion's stipends</li> <li>- Fuel and logistics</li> <li>- Community meetings</li> </ul>   | 6,000.00         |
| 3            | Reforestration of 1000ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procuring 100,000 seedlings</li> <li>- Fuel and transportation</li> <li>- Distribution</li> <li>- Monitoring farmer progress over 10 weeks</li> <li>- Geo-referencing</li> <li>- Insurance and medical costs</li> </ul> | 8,260.00         |
| 4            | Radio Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recording of lessons</li> <li>- Airing on local stations</li> <li>- Monitoring of feedback</li> </ul>  | 900.00           |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>50,564.61</b> |