

Friends of Chimps makes life safer
for wild chimpanzees by supporting



THE BULINDI CHIMPANZEE & COMMUNITY PROJECT



We protect chimps and forests
by helping people.

www.Friends of Chimps.org

We are a GuideStar Silver organization

712 H Street NE, Box 1170

Washington DC 20002

501(c)(3) registered as Friends of CSWCT; EIN# 27-2278948

US-based Friends of Chimps is proud to support the Bulindi Chimpanzee and Community Project (BCCP), located in the Bugoma-Budongo wildlife corridor of Uganda.

In fact, we've supported BCCP since they started back in 2015. Together we wondered how to help 300 wild chimpanzees survive in forest fragments in western Uganda, living alongside farmers who also need trees for watershed and wood needs.

The answer was straightforward: to conserve chimpanzees and forests, programs must first address the very real need of local people. Out of this realization have come programs that:

- Protect 260 acres of chimp forest and farmer watershed;
- Re-green the corridor by distributing more than 1 million fast-growing tree seedlings every year to people in 250 local villages
- Provide Schoolchild Assistance to help cover school fees for 60+ families;
- Create and maintain 57 "safe water" boreholes and other water sources;
- Monitor 6 chimpanzee groups daily in this important wildlife corridor;
- Support 10 Village Loan Savings Associations;
- Teach school children and communities how to avoid conflict with wildlife;
- Help young women attain secondary and higher education.

BCCP's 34 team members, all from the local community, are committed to making this important wildlife corridor a better place for all - and to creating a model conservation program that others can follow as other forests and creatures face similar pressures.

Join us in supporting this amazing



NATURAL FOREST CONSERVATION & SCHOOLCHILD SPONSORSHIP

BCCP sponsors the school children from local households who are willing to conserve natural forest on their land. Since 2015, this initiative has enabled dozens of children to complete their education, while helping families conserve critical habitat for chimpanzees. By helping cover school fees, farmers no longer have to harvest trees to pay the bill.

In 2023, BCCP supports **60+ private forest owning families**, many of whom have several children in school. This program is enabling ongoing conservation and regeneration of **260 acres of natural forest** – and growing. These forests are critical to the chimpanzees and also provide critical watershed for local farmers.



Small forest used by the Wagaisa chimpanzees, conserved through the Schoolchild Sponsorship program for private forest owners.

TREE PLANTING AND REFORESTATION

Since 2017, BCCP has distributed 5 million **new trees** in their tree nurseries; about 40% of these are indigenous forest species for reforestation, enrichment planting and shade; 31% are robusta coffee for agroforestry; and 29% are fast-growing species for household woodlots. These 5 million+ trees are planted by 2,000 landowners in over 250 villages. Our experienced team of foresters and agriculturalists provide farmers with 'best practice' training and guidance to maximise survival of the trees. Overall survival at 4 to 6 months is greater than 70% thanks to our education and monitoring programs.



Three year old Maesopsis and Khaya trees (both indigenous forest species) planted in Kyamuchumba village in 2018. Since 2017 BCCP has raised and supplied over 5 million trees to farmers in the Budongo-Bugoma corridor.

HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

Regular dialogue with local people is essential for reducing conflicts and promoting tolerance towards the chimpanzees. BCCP carries out regular ‘sensitization’ meetings in villages to mitigate conflicts, address people’s concerns and questions about the chimps, and dispel misconceptions. They offer residents advice on “do’s and don’ts” when encountering chimpanzees to increase safety for people and the wellbeing of the chimps.

In parallel to their monitoring and conservation of the chimpanzee groups, they provide support and outreach to local communities throughout the Budongo-Bugoma corridor in 2023. They also provide school and radio broadcast programs.



BCCP staff Edward and Jonus (in green shirts at right) holding a ‘sensitization’ meeting with residents in Kitagasa village, Mairirwe area, to address the problem of some farmers setting snares to protect their sugarcane from animals, including baboons and chimpanzees.

SAFE WATER

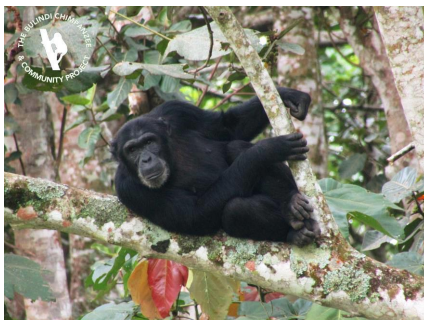
The project builds village wells (boreholes) to provide local households with clean and safe water, helping to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases. Additionally, the wells mean that villagers no longer collect water from streams inside the forest where they risk running into chimpanzees! With help from water charity partners, BCCP has constructed and maintains 57 **water wells**, providing clean, safe water for thousands of residents.



Residents of Mbiwe village (Wagaisa area) using their new water well (July 2021)

MONITORING CHIMPANZEES

All the chimpanzees surviving in the Budongo-Bugoma corridor are severely threatened by habitat loss, growing human population, an oil pipeline and expanding infrastructure, and other threats. Chimpanzees are highly intelligent and capable of finding ways to survive. But they need our help to protect and regenerate forest, and to minimize conflict with local people. Six groups are now monitored daily by a staff of 12 monitors. The monitors act as community ambassadors, educate the local community on smart coexistence, protect local forests, and observe and collect data on chimpanzee health and behavior. Each monitor is from the community where they work, and they are well-spoken and highly-regarded resources that play a vital role in assuring the well-being of all. Chimpanzees have traditionally been viewed as a type of ancestor in this locale, and the monitors help ensure that regard persists.



Meet Lovis, an adult female, and 2 year old Elleni. These chimpanzees, and so many others like them, survive in the corridor today thanks to BCCP's work. Chimpanzees are humankind's closest relatives, each with a distinct personality and close family ties.

VILLAGE LOAN SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS



BCCP supports 10 village loan savings associations, making small loans available to locals as they start small businesses. These loans help locals achieve better livelihoods in forest-friendly ways. This program is very popular. Those receiving loans have typically been successful in their businesses, and conscientiously paid back their loans as planned.

Shown above are a few members of an all-women association that purchased chairs to rent out for special events. Individual women also started their own businesses, producing and selling items such as eggs, pork, and mushrooms.

ENERGY SAVING STOVES

The project provides local households with energy-saving cook stoves, which require far less wood than traditional open stoves, reducing people's need to cut trees for firewood. The stoves are also more efficient and safer to use (no open flame and less smoke!). Every year, BCCP constructs about 250 energy-saving stoves for forest-adjacent households, reducing fuel consumption and pressure on chimpanzee habitat.



CHIMPANZEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BCCP runs a popular 'Chimpanzee Football League' for local teams from villages within chimpanzee ranges. They provide each village team with kits and balls and hold tournaments once or twice every year. The football league provides a platform for communicating information about chimpanzees to young people, and brings local communities together to support their teams in the spirit of conservation!

The 2023 'Chimpanzee Football Tournament' was the most successful and popular yet, with **22 local teams** competing for the coveted trophy!



ABOVE PHOTO: Kiziranfumbi Football Club in their new kits are holding tree seedlings to plant before their match against Kitabona FC during our 2021 Chimpanzee football Tournament.



BCCP Team Members

Your donation fights climate change, improves people's lives, and helps craft a real-world model of how people can sustainably coexist with nature. This is a grass-roots program, and every dollar you donate goes a very long way. That's why we at Friends of Chimps are supporters.

Want regular updates? Subscribe to US-based 501(c)(3) Friends of Chimps at our website (www.friendsofchimps.org). And follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Credit card donations: <https://www.friendsofchimps.org/bulindi/>

Check donations written to Friends of Chimps can be mailed to our address, shown below.



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