About Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary rescues and rehabilitates chimpanzees that have been orphaned due to the bushmeat trade and human-wildlife conflict and those kept as pets. Tacugama takes care of the chimpanzees to a very high standard with focus on the individual’s welfare.

Tacugama also aims to conserve wild chimpanzees in Sierra Leone through education, alternative livelihood activities and law enforcement. We work very closely with the Sierra Leone Government to strengthen the laws protecting the chimpanzees and other wildlife.

The sanctuary is located in the Western Area National Park, close the capital of Sierra Leone, Freetown, in West Africa and was founded in 1995.
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Introduction from Bala Amarasekaran, sanctuary founder and director

2014 has been a difficult year for Tacugama.

All our normal activities came to a halt by midyear with the spread of Ebola. We were faced with many uncertainties surrounding our finances, programs and our very existence. Many of you have come forward to assist us. This combined with the commitment and resilience from our staff and volunteers has ensured that we are still here. My sincere gratitude goes to all of you.

Tacugama will reach a milestone in September; our 20th anniversary. I am still excited about the future of Tacugama but prioritizing our goals with changing times is paramount. Our focus should be on expanding our outreach activities. A well run sanctuary giving the best of care to our resident chimpanzees is a success but not complete. Due to inadequate funding, we have only had limited success in our research, development and conservation programs. "Protecting wild chimpanzees and their habitats through sustainable development" is the key to our future. This should be the “motto” for the coming years. This is the legacy we should aim for.

We have worked very hard in developing our ecotourism ventures, marketing our eco-system services and fundraising strategies. As a result we were in a position to finance most of our operational costs before the arrival of Ebola. Sadly, the current crisis has reversed all these gains. It will take years and a not month to recover. Ebola is leaving a trail of destruction in Sierra Leone. The economy is in a downfall; the health system is in disarray; education on hold; unemployment growing. Within this, Ebola has had some positive impact too; for the first time many larger organizations are campaigning against consumption of bush meat, dealing with wildlife and emerging diseases. Unfortunately the reality is these organizations will leave once Ebola emergency funding dries up and the responsibility of sustaining these campaigns will fall on small, underfunded organizations like Tacugama.

We have stayed safe from Ebola but have continued to struggle with our mysterious “sudden death” issue that has been challenging us for some years. Much effort has gone into resolving the unknown cause of death of some of our chimpanzees. We are currently narrowing it down to the consumption of a toxic plant that is endemic to this region. Eradication of this plant in our enclosures is a daunting task but is being undertaken. Further investigations are continuing through various institutions but we need more help to solve this puzzle. This issue sets a dark cloud over many of our achievements. My relationship with some of the individuals that we have lost spreads over two decades. I wonder if I will ever recover from this, but focusing on saving their kind in the wild should be the reason for me to continue. A just way to pay respect to Julie, Phillip, Christo, Augusta and Charlie girl, to name a few. These chimps inspired me to take Tacugama to where it is and I am sure they are with us in spirit to guide us into the future.

I take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, friends and donors who have supported me and Tacugama over the years. Together we have achieved more than I ever could have imagined when I set foot on this path some 20 years ago.
Ebola Outbreak in Sierra Leone

One word keeps echoing when we talk about 2014: The word Ebola.

On the time of writing this, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has lasted longer than a year and is still not over. The outbreak has had enormous consequences for the worst affected countries: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and also for Tacugama.

As the outbreak intensified, we had to make the difficult decision to close the sanctuary for all visitors to protect the staff and the chimpanzees. We also had to take several safety precautions amongst the staff to avoid anyone bringing Ebola to the sanctuary. These included hand washing and temperature taking on arrival for all staff. We also had to organize transport in the sanctuary vehicle to avoid the staff having to take public transport. A few times we had to temporarily move staff members out of their houses as their neighborhoods become new Ebola hotspots.

We have spent a lot of time sensitizing everyone on how to stay safe and Ebola free. Every day we have briefings to discuss the number of new confirmed cases and any other new information regarding Ebola.

The effort has been worth it. None of our staff members have been amongst the more than 8000 people in Sierra Leone that have contracted Ebola.

Still, Ebola has had a deep impact on all of us and has affected us all mentally. It has been tough and depressing to follow how the epidemic has spread and to see how many lives it has cost. It is hard that no one can tell where it will hit next and how long it will continue.

Ebola has also affected many of our normal activities, such as community outreach and the school education programmes, which have been put on hold as it is too dangerous to travel upcountry and as the schools are closed.

The Ebola crisis has also deeply impacted the finances of the sanctuary. We have lost a significant part of our income from our eco-tourism activities, but also from field activities and consultancy work for other organizations. A big part of our work has therefore been to raise funds outside of Sierra Leone. It has been tough, but we have been overwhelmed by the support we have had from friends and supporters all over the world. We have received emergency grants from several wildlife and animal welfare organizations, as well as zoos and many individuals who have given a donation or adopted a chimpanzee from us.

Hopefully the current Ebola outbreak will end soon, but we cannot forget the risk of Ebola returning. We are therefore developing protocols for the arrival of new chimpanzees – in case they show symptoms of Ebola. Also, no research has been done to determine if the Ebola has affected the wild population of chimpanzees in Sierra Leone. We are in the process of planning extensive field and surveillance work to try to reveal if the virus has affected the wild population of chimpanzees.
Tacugama’s Resident Chimpanzees

No new chimpanzees arrived at the sanctuary in the past year. Even before the Ebola outbreak, we had not been getting reports of chimps kept as pets and no new animals were brought to the sanctuary. This compares to eight new chimps being brought in during 2013. After the outbreak spread across the country we made the decision to no longer accept any new chimps due to the potential risk of bringing Ebola into the sanctuary, which would be catastrophic, and to alleviate any fear from the public that by continuing to accept chimps during the epidemic may put us and the area at risk.

One of the last chimps to be rescued in 2013 was Tom, a fully grown male of just over 30 years old. He had been kept as a pet since a baby and had not socialized with other chimps for that whole time period. During 2014 we have been rehabilitating him, getting him used to more natural food as well as the sights and sounds of other chimps. In the last half of the year, we have very gradually been introducing him to other chimps and were extremely pleased that over time, he started playing energetically with a young male, Salva, making all the appropriate chimp grunts. At the moment Tom is slowly being integrated to Gorilla, the alpha male of the group. The integration is an ongoing challenge but Dalila, our integration specialist, and our team of keepers are working hard at it.

For the chimps in the smaller (non-forest) enclosures, 2014 has seen some exciting changes with additional enrichment. More poles and ropes have been added to provide more opportunities for swinging and jumping. Artificial termite mounds (see picture at right) now provide hours of entertainment for the chimps who can ‘fish’ for honey or peanutbutter with tools they make from the leafy branches provided. As well, we have constructed ‘swimming pools’ which some of the chimps love to splash around in during the hot days of the dry season. They also enjoy the bamboo feeders that need shaking to get the peanuts out of the small holes drilled in the sides.
Health wise, it has been a year of highs and lows for our resident chimpanzees. Nico (right -playing with ball) is a young male chimp who arrived in 2012 with a fractured upper arm that never healed properly. In late 2013 we flew over a specialist vet from Spain who volunteered to perform the orthopaedic operation Nico needed. Sadly, follow up x-rays showed the bone was not healing as well as it should have. In September ’14 our resident vet performed an advanced procedure to help aid bone healing (injected ‘Platelet Rich Plasma’ around the fracture site) and repeat x-rays indicate this has made a difference, meaning Nico has been able to safely join the other chimps in the big enclosure early in 2015.

In March, Fina (Tacugama’s youngest chimp, pictured left) became unwell and had to be separated from her mother to receive proper treatment. She had severe meningitis type symptoms and was unable to sit up, eat solids or hold on to anything for many weeks. Hardly any improvement was seen after intensive antibiotic treatment, we had almost lost hope of seeing her recover. However, with time and supportive care, she slowly started to improve and in May we felt she was well enough to be reintroduced to her mother. After a few weeks she was suckling again and climbing the trees in her enclosure as if nothing had ever been wrong.

Tragically, we have lost more chimps this year to our most frustrating health issue, which causes acute ataxia (lack of co-ordination) and seizures in some of the chimps that reside in the forest enclosures. No infectious causes have been pinpointed despite extensive research, and we feel the most likely culprit is a toxic plant found in the enclosures. With help of botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London this plant has been identified and intensive efforts from our team have been made to eradicate it from the forest enclosures, not an easy job. Further research is needed to definitely confirm this plant is the cause. However, the Ebola outbreak has complicated exporting any samples from Sierra Leone.

This unidentified health issue remains our most critical priority for assuring the welfare of our resident chimpanzees.
Disease Investigation

We continue to seek collaboration with researchers in universities and laboratories worldwide to help solve the issues with our mysterious disease.

Collaborators on Tacugama Mystery Disease 2012-present

**Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Rogier Bodewes**
2013: Deep sequencing/next generation PCR (paid for analysis and transport)

**RKI (Robert Koch Institute), Berlin, Germany: Fabian Leendertz and Helene de Nys**
2013-present: worked together on improving post-mortem exam protocol (sent lots of crytubes with RNAlater and some tools to perform PME better). We are also working together to do more analysis on potential pathogens.

**Chester Zoo, United Kingdom: Steve Unwin**
2012-present: Funding to perform more diagnostics and veterinary advice on how to proceed with investigations

**PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance)**
PASA Crisis Fund to help with funding diagnostics/investigations

**Kansas State University, USA: Deon van der Merwe**
2014-present: Free research assistance looking at microscopically distinguishing features of Dichapetalum heudelotii and inspecting leaf fragments in vomit/stool of affected chimps

**Kew Gardens, United Kingdom: Helen Pickering, Xander van der Burgt, Martin Cheek, Felix Forest, Dion Devey**
2013-present: Free help identifying plants from enclosures through photography and dried specimens. Sending information about toxicity plants (Xander van der Burgt/Martin Cheek). Analysis of DNA from plant fragments in vomit/stool to identify plants eaten by affected chimps (Felix Forest/Dion Devey). Volunteering two weeks to identify Dichapetalum heudelotii in the forest enclosures and training local staff to identify it dependably (Helen Pickering).

**University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA: AlhajiNjai, Tony Goldberg.**
2013-present: Discussion about future collaboration, potentially with researchers coming to Tacugama. Possibly would help choosing and analysing toxin panel to prove/rule out toxins as cause. Also discussing options for pathogen analysis.

**NOIVBD, Veldhoven, The Netherlands: Gerry Dorrestein**
2013-present: Histopathology of tissue samples from deceased chimps at Tacugama.
Peewee is amongst the chimps that we lost this year. We gratefully remember her for being part of our adoption programme and acting as an ambassador for the rest of the Tacugama chimpanzees. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who continue to support us by adopting a chimp.
**Tacugama Staff 2014**

Tacugama could not run without our fantastic team. We employ 27 local staff and three foreign staff with support from volunteers worldwide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Staff</th>
<th>Foreign Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bala Amarasekaran - Programme Director</td>
<td>Ansu Mattia - Shop/ Lodge &amp; resident artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofie Meilvang - Programme Manager</td>
<td>Franklyn Sesay - Admin Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Jaffe - Veterinarian</td>
<td>Lovetta Koroma - Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalila Frasson - Conservation Manager</td>
<td>Yirah Koroma – Outreach team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willie Tucker - Supervisor</td>
<td>David Momoh – Outreach team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Kapia - Head of care Staff</td>
<td>Joseph Marah – Outreach team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor Kamara - Head of Maintenance</td>
<td>Kongofa E Marah – Outreach team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posseh Kamara - Care staff</td>
<td>Ethel Silla - Education Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manso Bangura - Care staff</td>
<td>Musa Bangura - Gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinneh Sesay - Care staff</td>
<td>Joko Kamara - Patroller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morie Lamin - Care staff</td>
<td>Hassan Sesay - Driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Momoh Sesay – Care staff</td>
<td>Jeredine Campbell - Lodge staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff Koroma - Care staff</td>
<td>Alusaine Conteh - Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sieh Bangura - Care staff</td>
<td>Mohamed Sesay - Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Grant - Care staff</td>
<td>David Margai - Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibrahim Sesay - Driver</td>
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Education Programme

The Tacugama Kids Environmental Education Programme-TKEEP had a successful school programme in the first half of 2014 with four new schools coming on board. During the academic year, the schools were brought to the sanctuary on field trips. Football games, film screenings, drawing and essay writing were among the activities conducted with the children. In readiness for the ensuing academic year, a one-day coordinators workshop was organized for teachers to evaluate TKEEP activities in their schools and to prepare for the new academic year. Unfortunately, the programme could not be implemented as a result of the Ebola crisis leading to the closure of schools nationwide.

Apart from education in schools, an outdoor sensitization exercise on hygiene, pollution and bushmeat was carried out by TKEEP members in the community during an inter-area football final targeting both young and old. A total of sixteen scholarships were also awarded to underprivileged children from one of the TKEEP Schools: God’s Army Primary School. The scholarships were funded by Friends of Tacugama based in UK.

The Education team also collaborated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the distribution of specially designed indestructible footballs, donated by One World Futbol Foundation, in the Moyamba, Port Loko, Tonkolili and Western Area rural communities respectively, though it was halted due to restrictions linked to the Ebola outbreak.

While schools were still open, the Education team carried out a pedal-powered cinema project targeting schools and communities around the Western Area Peninsula. This was a collaboration with Master’s student in Conservation Education Andrea Pawel, from the University of Kent, UK Using equipment donated from Great Ape Film Initiative (GAFI). Sixteen schools were brought on board to explore local children’s understanding of conservation messages through different wildlife films. The research attempted to measure the films’ influence on students’ knowledge acquisition, perception and attitude changes as well as identifying the elements of the films that provoked these effects.

Radio and television sensitization programs on Ebola were also carried out to inform the general public more clearly on the origins of the virus, how it spreads and why the resident chimpanzees at Tacugama do not pose a risk.
Field research and outreach work

Tacugama’s Community Outreach Team (TCOT) has continued to carry out Tacugama’s community outreach programme, combining sensitisation and conservation research with alternative livelihood activities. These activities are promoted to provide an alternative to hunting bush meat and encourage the conservation of remaining forest patches. TCOT has combined these activities in several communities in the Moyamba district. TCOT has worked most closely (from 2013) with six communities (Moseilelo, Nyandehun, Mokebi, Bumpeh-kandoh, Moiteh and Mendetown) reaching almost 3000 people. Community members take full responsibility to protect their community forests and adhere to local conservation rules set with Tacugama. Complementing the conservation work, Tacugama supports the communities with alternative livelihood activities.

During 2014 TCOT has carried out surveys to assess forest protection, wildlife presence and human activity in order to check if communities are operating as agreed. Concurrently they have also developed a poultry farming project. With this project TCOT hoped to reduce the consumption of bush meat and help communities to obtain income by selling the surplus poultry. The aim of the project was to build a poultry house and supply each community with hybrid chickens and local chickens to produce strong and resistant birds. Before the pen construction, clear explanations about poultry production (intensive rearing system) were given to the villagers. Communities were strictly advised to take full responsibility for the chicken by regularly providing them with feed and cleaning the pen. TCOT also sensitized the communities about conservation principles and basic hygiene to avoid diseases within the community.
Wildlife at Tacugama

The TCOT has also continued to monitor the wildlife around Tacugama, especially in the last half of 2014, when they could not go into the provinces due to Ebola related travel restrictions. The team has completed several camera trap projects near Tacugama, in the Western Area National Park and has captured rare images including one of the endangered Jentink's duiker (Cephalophus jentinki) and several of wild chimpanzees just around our fenced enclosures.

Our bird expert Willie Tucker continues to keep track of the bird species living in our area and has in the past year recorded 101 bird species at Tacugama.

The team has also prepared several booklets about the different fauna and flora found at Tacugama, which will be used for our visitors, once the sanctuary reopens.
Research

Our former veterinarian and now research advisor, Rosa Garriga, has begun her PhD in cooperation with Tacugama. The doctorate title is: Human-Wildlife Co-Existence in Non-Protected Areas in Sierra Leone with Special Emphasis on Wild Chimpanzee Populations.

The PhD will involve several research projects within Sierra Leone with help of Tacugama’s outreach team.

In the first four months of the year, we had post-doc researcher Elainie Madsen from Lund University in Sweden here. It was Elainie’s third stay at Tacugama, as part of her ongoing behavioural research project.

Masters student Andrea Pawel from Kent University in UK was here for three months to carry out research for her master on conservation education movies, using our pedal powered cinema.
Chimpanzee Population Study in Port Loko

In the beginning of the year, the TCOT and research advisor, Rosa Garriga, carried out a study in Port Loko district in cooperation with Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent, UK. The study was funded by Rufford's Small Grants Foundation.

The title of the study was:

Study of Chimpanzee Populations (*Pan Troglodytes Verus*) Using Camera Traps in Non-Protected Disturbed-Fragmented Habitats in Port Loko District - Sierra Leone

A total of 171 interviews were performed across 38 human settlements. These found that rice and cassava are the main subsistence crops cultivated and both crops were reported to be the most raided by animals. We also obtained information on the types of measures used by farmers to protect their crops and people's attitudes towards chimpanzees.

We obtained photographic evidence of wild chimpanzees in four different locations. This survey also provided very interesting additional information on the biodiversity status of the study area. The most abundant species photographed were Maxwell duikers, fire-footed rope squirrels, giant pouched rats and African brush tailed porcupines. Red-flanked duiker was photographed for the first time in this study.

The results obtained in this study show that despite the high level of habitat degradation the level of biodiversity is still of interest, including the presence of wild chimpanzees, that seem to have adapted to these human-modified habitats.
**Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve upgraded to National Park**

From June of 2014 the newly established National Protected Areas Authority (under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security – MAFFS) has established a new National Park: the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP); formerly the Western Area Peninsular Forest Reserve, Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary is situated within its borders. Thanks to the new upgrade there are now four National Parks in Sierra Leone, while the other Protected Areas number 11 in total. This is a good achievement for the conservation of wildlife and forest habitat of the country but many problems have not been solved. Though they include 45% of the country’s wild chimpanzee population, the four National Parks do still suffer from habitat degradation due to human encroachment and exploitation of natural resources in these areas.

The proximity of the Western Area Peninsula National Park to the capital, Freetown, means that there are tremendous pressures on the forest through encroachment for housing, fuel wood, bush meat and farmland. All these activities have a profound effect on chimpanzees through the gradual destruction of the remaining forest habitat and by increasing human-wildlife conflict.

Tacugama, due to its location, is active in patrolling the area surrounding the sanctuary with the aim to detect and deter any illegal activities. Sadly, in the past year some areas have been burned to obtain charcoal and to clear plots of lands for farming. Local people still practice such activities despite the ban placed on this demarcated area. Fortunately, the Ministry has now posted forest guards to take care of this issue and we hope that with regular patrolling the illegal activities can be minimized and thus guarantee a better future for the chimpanzee population that still lives in the area. We also play a major role in protecting one of the capital’s major water catchment areas, the Congo Dam.
Consultancy and Ecosystem Services

After many years of carrying out Tacugama’s own programmes, one of the proven abilities of TCOT is carrying out conservation research through camera trapping, reconnaissance surveys and interviews with local communities. During the past year, the team has worked on two major projects supporting international organizations.

Bumbuna Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) has been appointed by Endeavor Energy Holdings LLC and Joule Africa Ltd to carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Phase II of the Hydroelectric Power Project. This project involves increasing the hydroelectric power of Bumbuna dam from 50 megawatts to 252 megawatts. TCOT has been engaged to carry out a primate survey, focusing on chimpanzees, in the area as part of the environmental assessment. In May, TCOT worked for three weeks setting up camera traps and performing reconnaissance walks and transects.

In brief; no chimpanzees were caught on film with the camera traps and only two out of 28 reconnaissance walks and transects showed the presence of chimpanzees. TCOT has compared these findings with the results from the 2010 census, when the presence of chimpanzees was recorded in three different spots in the area. It appears that the situation is completely different now; sadly TCOT found signs of chimpanzees (old nests) only in one site.

Training course for STEWARD and Bioclimate

In July, TCOT went to the area close to Outamba-Kilimi National Park (OKNP) to start a collaboration between the sanctuary and STEWARD and Bioclimate (both organizations working in conservation and poverty alleviation). OKNP is included in the list of priority areas for chimpanzee protection; the population in this park is estimated to be between 200–300 individuals.

TCOT organized a workshop on how to perform surveys in the forest in order to train local people who will become future forest monitors of community protected forest. STEWARD has already selected two patches of forest close to the villages of Kortor and Sumata and has designated these two patches as community protected forest.

Additionally, through interviews TCOT was able to ascertain that the perception on the chimpanzee population by the local communities is quite good. All the local people reported seeing more chimpanzees now compared to before the war (’92–’02) and everybody knew about the laws protecting chimpanzees in the country.

TCOT hopes that with our training the community forest monitors will be able to control and check the biodiversity and presence of animals inside their community protected forests. TCOT hopes that this survey will initiate reconstruction and rehabilitation of OKNP, support anti-poaching activities and promote tourism and conservation research.
Ecotourism

The sanctuary has been closed for visitors since August.

Before closing down we had a very good year with many visitors coming for sanctuary tours and staying overnight in the lodges. With an encouraging number of 3,827 visitors in 2013, we were looking forward to a record year in 2014. We had even started the construction of two new lodges with a grant from the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was secured through the National Tourist Board. WTO has also given funds for the construction of a new information centre. We wanted to build more lodges as several travel agencies had requested more beds to accommodate larger groups of tourists. Unfortunately, this work has been put on halt due to the Ebola outbreak.

Total number of visitors 2014:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>National Adults</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Children</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-national Adults</td>
<td>1,109</td>
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<td>Non-national Children</td>
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<td>Visitors staying in the lodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-paying visitors (local</td>
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<tr>
<td>communities and schools)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of visitors 2014</strong></td>
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The sanctuary is currently still closed for visitors. We hope very much that the Ebola epidemic will be over soon. However, we do anticipate that even after the outbreak has stopped, it will have long-term consequences for tourism in Sierra Leone. This means we will have to continue to raise funds outside of the country for a long time to come to compensate for the lack of visitors.
Volunteers

We are very grateful for the help we received from some very dedicated volunteers in the first half of 2014. Bruniilde Ract Madoux from France helped our outreach teams with some of their conservation research trips in the provinces, Rohit Wadhwani (UK) completed the development and release our new and improved website and Kelly Jackson, a vet student from Australia, assisted with procedures. Helen Pickering (a botanist) strictly speaking volunteered in December 2013, helping the Tacugama team identify toxic plants, but she has been an amazing support while based in the UK afterwards. We were very lucky to welcome Kate Bodley, a very experienced zoo vet from Australia. She covered Tacugama’s resident vet while on leave in the summer. She has also continued her support from afar by fundraising, sending hard-to-get medical supplies and liaising to provide veterinary expertise. Jutta Philipp not only volunteered on site during a short stay in Sierra Leone, but has also continued her support with some very creative fundraising while back in Germany to help us through the Ebola crisis. Andrea Pawel, who was here to do work for her master thesis, also helped in many ways by developing new marketing material, such as stickers and posters, for us. Anita (Frankie) McKenna left Tacugama in February after over five years as our Programme Manager and is now part of the UK Friends of Tacugama team.

In the UK, Tessa King (UK) runs our chimp adoption programme and has ensured that our UK Friends of Tacugama (FoT) organization plays an active and important part of our overseas fundraising. The FoT team also includes Paul Glynn, Mike Pugh, Sri Srikanthan and Steph Farrimond. RAG Consulting (Steve Trigg and Ann Barratt) provided new staff uniform shirts after visiting Tacugama early in the year.

After the Ebola outbreak hit Freetown in the summer, we felt less comfortable allowing short term volunteers to take the risk of coming to Sierra Leone, so since July we have had no more volunteers, despite several having made plans to come help.
**Thanks to all our fantastic supporters in 2014**

Thanks to all our wonderful supporters and friends: Your support has made a huge difference to sustain the sanctuary during these difficult times!

**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

**Ebola Emergency grants and donations:**
Animal Concepts
Busch Gardens Zoo
Columbus Zoo
Dublin Zoo
Givskud Zoo
ICZ - International Congress of Zoo keeping
IPPL – International Primate Protection League
LUSH Cosmetic Charity Pot
Sweden Chimpanzee Trust
Zoos South Australia
Arcus Foundation
Chester Zoo
Copenhagen Zoo
EAZA
Humane Society International
IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
Jane Goodall Institute – UK
PASA – Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
Zoo Parc de Beauval

**Partnership:**
Associacio Amics de Tacugama - Spain
Friends of Tacugama - UK
SMART Mobile

And a big thanks to all of you who have supported us individually, by adopting a chimpanzee or donating. We are also incredibly grateful for all the emails we have received from people that have been concerned about the chimpanzees and staff here. We are very happy to know that so many people care about Tacugama and its residents.
Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<td>Chimpanzee care</td>
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<td>Veterinary expense</td>
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<td>Operating expenses</td>
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<td>Outreach expenses</td>
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<td>Ecosystem service expenses</td>
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<td>Capital expenditures</td>
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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brought forward from 2013</td>
<td>165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>43,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola Emergency Funds</td>
<td>145,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual contributions</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including adoptions</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-system services</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Fees</td>
<td>6,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecotourism income</td>
<td>56,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>460,183</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>172,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus</strong></td>
<td><strong>287,189</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tacugama is trying to ensure that it can operate with a secure financial platform, which means that we try to maintain a surplus of at least one year’s operational costs. In the twenty year history of the sanctuary it has had to endure civil unrest, rebel war and now the Ebola crisis and the economic turmoil that it has created in Sierra Leone. Having some financial security is critical for operating in this unpredictable environment.

One of the major sources of Tacugama’s income has been the increasingly successful eco-tourism operations of the sanctuary but as the sanctuary will remain closed to visitors until the country is clear of Ebola epidemic and the fact that it will take many, many months for the tourism business to recover, mean that we can no longer expect any significant eco-tourism income in 2015.

We are extremely grateful to the organisations and individuals who have responded to our fundraising in 2014 and enabled the sanctuary to maintain some stability, without this the future of the sanctuary would be very uncertain.
In 2015 we expect to incur the following expenditure:

Sanctuary running costs: $200,000

(Increased over 2014 due to rising basic costs as a result of the economic crisis in SL and as we increase investment in our community outreach team and development of their alternative livelihood programme)

Replacement vehicles for supplies and outreach activities: $40,000

(We plan to purchase two second hand four wheel drive vehicles to replace existing vehicles which are no longer roadworthy)

Establishment of mini hydro power: $25,000

(We also plan to expand our solar panel system and establish a mini hydro power to back up the solar panels, which are not sufficient to generate enough power during the rainy season where the hours of sun are limited. For this reason, we would like to install a mini hydro power in a nearby stream, which could sustain us with electricity during the rainy season).

This means that our fundraising efforts in 2015 are essential for delivering the funds that the sanctuary requires to ensure continuity of its work.
Learn more about Tacugama

You can keep in touch with Tacugama and learn more about our work through our website, Facebook page, blog and YouTube. Additionally several of our research project reports can be downloaded from our website.

Website: www.tacugama.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Tacugama
Blog: http://tacugama.wildlifedirect.org
YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4ncZweRhh0

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