

Project Update: February 2013

After a breakfast of sita fruit, the Fongoli chimpanzees moved toward a highway that cuts into their home range. They paused to watch traffic and seemed to contemplate a journey to the other side. Suddenly, a mining truck stopped along the road and a surveyor hopped out to break open rocks in search of gold. This activity disturbed the chimps and they quickly retreated. Next, they returned to their breakfast site for more sita, and later moved toward fruiting trees near a mining camp. As they approached this area, the chimps paused and listened to people conversing around the camp. Subsequently, they changed direction and sought out fruit trees 3 km away. Although the chimps located safer feeding sites, they travelled longer distances to access them.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xcxzqaa9ulh0ldf/MM%20at%20the%20R7.mp4>

Video caption: Mamadou, an adult male chimpanzee, watches traffic along a highway.

Video credit: Stacy Lindshield