

NEWSLETTER

Ape-assistance.npo

DECEMBER 2008



NEWS FROM D.R.CONGO AND CAMEROON

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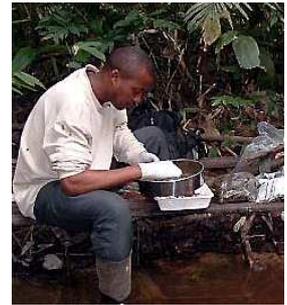


People were so happy to see the boat — it's the first one up the Lomako River in 20-30 years — that they had a dance party. Check out the short video clip on

YouTube: In our Congo Heartland, construction on a bonobo research and conservation center is making great progress despite all odds. The site is at Ndele in the middle of the 3,600 km² Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve, and is not so easy to get to. A boat carrying 60 tons of construction materials took 30 days to travel up the Lomako River to the site of the research center. Not one single item was lost along the way. Jef Dupain (director of the Heartland) told me "some of our people went swimming upriver Lomako, crossing forest and swamps, to go and get 35 liters of fuel to continue the transport! (I have seen the crocodiles, and I have seen the current, and I know about snakes in swampy area). This is simply heroic work done by our team. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xgo4YEc-eiE> The bonobos and gorilla's are one of the most endangered species at the moment. Their habitat is disturbed by fragmentation, logging and hunting. This applies to the entire Congo Basin. Together with the APAS-cooperators Jef is committed to the conservation of great apes and their habitat. Their presence is very important for the survival of the rainforest. Trees and plants

would not spread if the animals do not spread their seeds, whether or not after they have passed their digestive system. Some seeds can only germinate in that way. Therefore it is important to study apes. Great apes also demonstrate the link between the man and his ancestors and are living for decades in the rainforest. They even have over the years invented tools that help them to catch termites and wild bee nests to deeper penetration in order to get honey or ants. Many researchers do studies on the living conditions of great apes in the rainforest. One of them was Stephan Djoufack. Stephan agricultural engineer and was made a doctoral thesis on the use of plants and seeds by gorillas and chimpanzees in the Cameroonian rainforest. He came to the Zoo-project Projéct Grands Singes in 2002, where he supervised by Jef Dupain began working on his doctorate. Many days and months he spent in the rainforest. Putting together a reference collection of fruits and seeds of the local flora was the result. Comparing it with the seeds found in faeces of apes could lead to the identification of the plants and thereby to determine the diet of these animals. Stephan was 31 years and died totally unexpectedly in Antwerp where he the academic year at the University of Antwerp began. His body was flown to Cameroon and taken to his native village in Dschang in October where he was buried. Jef Dupain and the APAS-

cooperators, some of them spent hours and days with Stephan in the research camp in the forest, are all very shocked by this event and offer to the unfortunate family their deepest sympathy and condolences. His "Manuel d'identification des fruits consommés par les gorilles et chimpanzés": will have a permanent place in both the Cameroonian botany as in the primatology.



Stephan in the forest, sieving and looking into gorilla droppings in search of leaves and seeds. PGS loses a driven researcher and Jef Dupain and the APAS-cooperators lost a



dear friend and colleague.

Beekeeping in Cameroon

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Nature must do his work and that goes slowly. Nevertheless hives become increasingly populated. In a few weeks, the first harvest will start.

The beekeepers got the visit of a Dutch expert who came to inspect our hives. Because also in the hives honey production is slowly progressing. It seems appropriate to a study of wild bees from the region around the DJA reserve.

There can be several causes. It is most important to get to know the bees. So the species will be identified in the lab for Zoophysiology of the university in Ghent.

At the moment we start focus on

planting nectar plants, which together have a special value for the people themselves and for the nectar.

Calliandra calothyrsus was made available by ICRAF (International Center for Research in Agro Forestry). This is a multi-purpose plant species, grown as a forage crop to supplement low quality forage for ruminant animals (The milk production can increase by 10%). It is also used for the delivery of green manure, land rehabilitation and erosion control, and in the shade can grow coffee and tea. She is excellent firewood to cook on a small fire. Calliandra wood dries very quickly and gives a smoke-free fire. But the most important thing is

that the pollen can be used as a source for the production of honey. The first Calliandra plants are already big enough to be put in a garden or a field. And they have shown their beautiful flowers, seeds will be available for multiplication. Continued pg. 2)



BEEKEEPING IN CAMEROON (CONTINUATION PAG. 1)

In consultation with IRAD (Institut de Recherche Agricole et de Developpement) and ICRAF in Cameroon we will decide whether it is possible to plant in a lawful manner, new plants, possibly in interaction with other crops already used. Plant material with a lot of nectar on flowers will certainly be a positive influence.

For our beekeepers this are exciting times they are anxiously following the hives and upcoming harvest. Romeo Toukam, our agricultural engineer, has now started a breeding program for bee populations to be increased. The planning for 2009 is now put up. APAS plans workshops next

year in the making of side-products of honey. The people will have the opportunity to learn how they can make candles and other things such as honey wine, etc. To make this possible, APAS will attract an expert for the training.

Meanwhile, all the beekeepers now have their protective clothing, smokers, gloves and hat with protective netting.

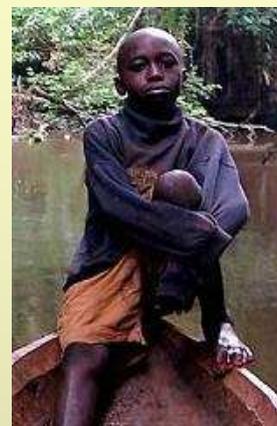
Our beekeepers are now united in a federation with the beekeeper name "APIMES"; **API**culteurs **MES**amena, the town which includes our villages. The statutes were drawn up and officially registered. From now on they are

so official.

The first harvest is coming immediately after the long rain season. The honey will be sold to local markets.

Meanwhile, a permission is obtained from food inspection to honey processing and packaging. Everyone looks forward to tense the first bottles of honey. APAS is looking for the spring of 2009 to course material such as English or French speaking guides on how to make candles, honey wine and other craft products made of wax and honey.

Tips on books that are eligible are certainly welcome at: ape.assistance@gmail.com



**SIDOINE ANNO
2005**

EDUCATION IN CAMEROON

A little later than normal (July 7, 2008) it was again party time at the school in Malen V.

And in early September, thanks to our sponsors textbooks were purchased for the school. From now on every child has his own books for language, history, geography, etc. Also the new school building is in use. All this is a noticeable improvement for the children.

Meanwhile, some child ambassadors already have a foster parent. In January will be decided how this sponsorship will be spent. We will know then result of 2008 and as agreed will be 1/3 benefit the children, 1/3 to the school and 1/3 as support for sustainable development in the villages.

Meanwhile, the first scholarship was

awarded. Many of you probably still remember Sidoine who in 2005 stole the heart of a visiting tourist in the villages. She is still sponsoring Sidoine who finished now his school. He is almost 12 and he went from September to the Lyceum in Abong Bang, a town on a 4hrs drive from his village. His school expenses are increasing and APAS decided from now on to start with scholarships. It was not so easy to find a school and accommodation for Sidoine. He can go to school here two years and then another solution must be sought, because Sidoine wants to learn a real profession. So later on he can earn an income of a real job.

APAS offered him together with his sponsor for this year a scholarship of € 250. Which is enough to cover registration, uniform, sportswear, shoes, books,

and writing materials with a mattress to sleep on. Going to school in Yaoundé would cost three times as much. So this was the only solution for his parents to give their boy a real education. They help with transport and accommodation costs.

In the rainforest it is not evident, a child that is studying.

Mostly the circumstances are difficult and people have no possibilities to offer the children an education. Primary school is mostly the only thing if a school is in the neighbourhood. Otherwise there is no education.

For 250 Euro, people, even companies or groups can donate and make scholarship possible for one of the oldest children of our school in Malen V who will end their school in June 2009.



**SIDOINE ANNO
2008**

FLASH — MESSAGES

Tax deductibility: (for people living in Belgium)

For nearly a year APAS is following a procedure to obtain tax deductibility. The Belgian law is a strict and complicated procedure. But the last checks were successfully passed. At this moment, a positive opinion was sent to the minister and we have to wait for his signature. In the next two fiscal years we may write certificates for all donations from € 30. We therefore hope to get final approval before the end of this year, so all gifts given in 2008 can already be in consideration for tax deductibility.

Ecotourism

Is becoming also launched in Cameroon. For the second time this year, a small group of tourists with a guide the villages and life in and around the rainforest a closer look. The new school in Grinding and V had a lot of the kids were back in all their dimples with this unexpected 'Sinterklaas gifts,' even though they know this phenomenon is not in Cameroon. But an opportunity like this again provided a pleasant celebration.

http://users.skynet.be/origo/Reizen_HTM/kameroen.htm

Czech Radio visit:

In November we had a visit of a team of Radio Prague. Already a number of years, the team supports gorilla conservation. They follow through the Internet all the ups and downs of the gorillas in the Prague Zoo. In 2006 they visited Cameroon and the Limbe Wildlife Centre and they made shots in the rainforest and in the villages, including Malen V. After a number of actions in their country and the production of a DVD with the proceeds going to gorilla conservation in Africa,

(continued page 4.)

Romeo als gids voor de toeristen tussen de bijenkasten.



**A view on the World of International development
September 19th 2008**

Opening exhibition of photos made by Patrick de Spiegelaere in Antwerp. Several magnificent big screens in open air showed photos made on projects for international development in Africa. This was an organization by the city of Antwerp and the Patrick de Spiegelaere Foundation. Patrick died very unexpected and the city decided to do this exhibition in his honor. The council of the city for international development AROSA offered full cooperation to the organization. It became a unique opportunity for all organizations of the city active in international development to present them to a bigger public. With a photo wall in the lounge tent, smaller organizations like apas who have no big budgets for promotions were given a chance to promote themselves and to make contacts with big organizations like Unicef, Oxfam Fair Trade and others.



Gerry De Mol and his singers gave a beautiful show and Sandra Deakin, Maarten Mertens and Koen De Bouw read the stories behind the photos. A wonderful initiative of the City Council. Apas, member of Arosa, organized the exhibition at the lounge tent with posters of all organizations for international development.

Cameroun diner October 4th 2008

In cooperation with apas, the Oxfam Fair Trade World shop organized a Cameroon diner in favor of apas projects in Cameroon. 260 persons came to our African meal with "taugé" and "poulet DG". We are very grateful to the volunteers of the World shop of Oxfam for this initiative. Our thanks go to coordinator Paul Loman and Kurt Schamp for the initiative and all volunteers who came to help apas in the kitchen. Our special thanks go to the sisters at the convent in Delft for the use of the kitchen and restaurant of their school. This initiative brought apas more than 3000 Euros for the beekeeping project. Apas is thanking all people involved for this opportunity.



A walk in the Zegge on 25th of Oktober 2008

De Zegge, a piece of heartland owned by the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (Antwerp Zoo), is situated in Lichtaart, in the valley of the Little Nete river. The mission of the RZSA is to contribute to worldwide nature conservation. By conservation of the Zegge, the RZSA contributes to nature conservation in their own country. 25 participants joined our walk and enjoyed the stories of conservator Marcel Verbruggen. He has already 83 years of age but he works daily doing conservation work at the Zegge. For the youngest of the group the Konik horses were their moment of the afternoon. Enjoying a late summer afternoon in the sun in the middle of a natural environment, we were pleased to be there far away from the city noise. If we have the chance to come back in spring to enjoy the wild orchids in this environment we will certainly do. Our special thanks to Antwerp ZOO and Marcel Verbruggen, our guide.

HOW TO SUPPORT ?

With a friendly donation of 3€ a month or a yearly amount of 30 Euro you become a member of our 'bonobo-club'!

From now on we award our sponsors.

- **From 100 Euro on, you become a member of our 'bonobo-club! And you will be invited to our yearly bbq and other events.**
- **Those who contribute 250 € will receive a 'bronze bonobo' membership.**
- **When you contribute 500 € you will receive a "silver bonobo" membership. All donations above 1000 € will automatically lead to a "Golden bonobo" membership.**
- **Firms and organisations can become members too and arrangements can be worked out!**
- **Bonobo awards will be presented at a yearly event .**
- **Npo.apas also accepts legacies and duo - legacies**

A new law in Belgium allows NPO's to receive duo-legacies

(Duo-legacies: people who want to donate a legacy to a friend or a relative can write their request to an Npo like apas and give that Npo a donation on one condition : the NPO has to pay all taxes . That way the friend or relative receives the full amount without paying taxes.)

Note: www.apes-assistance.org is temporarily www.apes-assistance.net !!

Due to a technical malfunction the site was suddenly offline. The company that manages him makes every effort to correct it . But the website is temporarily placed under the site name www.apes-assistance.net.

With our apologies. It will take some time but finally we will get a normal. "Org" version back. Please be patient.

Flash messages (continuation pag 2.

Czech Radio on visit

(continued page 2)

they decided to put gorilla stories on paper and make small books for schoolchildren.

Since 2006, they supported the gorillas in Limbe Wildlife centre. A refuge centre for animals captured from poachers and hunters from the bush meat trade, or (illegal) trade in forest meat. They came up with the idea to give African children a different view on the gorillas from their own rainforest . They have the stories, originally selected for Czech children, translated into English and French, and adapted to African standards for the Cameroonian children.

The booklets arrived with Jana and Boris in Cameroon at the Limbe Wildlife Centre and are distributed from mid-November. Jana Jiráťová and Miroslav Bobek visited the school in Malen V under the guidance of Romeo Toukam and distributed the books in the school. Beautiful books decorated with wonderful photographs of the gorillas in the Prague Zoo and they tell the story of Mōja and its gorilla family with funny anecdotes and

instructive stories. For example, how Mōja meets an ant on her birthday banana cake and a rich learning confrontation starts between them. Wonderful books for schoolchildren in Limbe and Malen V . All this is part of a program to protect the lowland gorillas in the wild. We hope to give you more inside information after Jana and Boris return to Prague next month. <http://www.rozhlas.cz/therevealed/portal/>

School reopened in the next forest village in Cameroon.

In the village Doumo-Pierre, the local government in Messamena renovated and reopened now the old school. Doumo-Pierre is on a hour and a half march of Malen V after a crossing of the river with the canoe . This is still entirely in its early stages, but children from here and from the next village Mimpala now have a new opportunity to go to school for the first time in years. Here is yet to start with the establishment of a parents association. Children from here were so far deprived of education because the distance was too far to Malen V.

APAS looks forward if they can also contribute or do something for the future of these children.

DR Congo - Salonga project from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee

Apas board member Patrick Guislain will soon return from ZSM's past mission to the DR Congo. Patrick is field site coordinator for the project directed by Dr. Gay Reinartz. We asked him to bring us the latest news from the Salonga National Park! In 2006, Apas contributed to the initial phase of one of ZSM's activities in the Salonga; the set-up of an agriculture project at the villagers' request. The goal was to revitalize agriculture in nine villages bordering the park, thus creating better living conditions for the local populations and reducing the poaching pressure on part of the Salonga in the long run. How did the agriculture project evolve since 2006? What is the Salonga like, and how are the bonobos holding up? We'll keep you informed in our next newsletter!

Koen's blog

People who have remarks or questions can always have a look at the blog of apas council member Koen (unfortunately in Dutch)

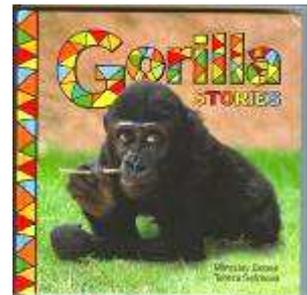
<http://speelsmaarse-rieus.blogspot.com/search/label/Onze%20VZW>

www.apes-assistance.net

Those who don't want to receive this newsletter any more, can unsubscribe with just a small email to apes.assistance@gmail.com

"Gorilla Stories"

Stories for the children in Malen V and Limbe about Mōja.



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