# **Ensuring The Survival of Great Apes in Eastern DRC**

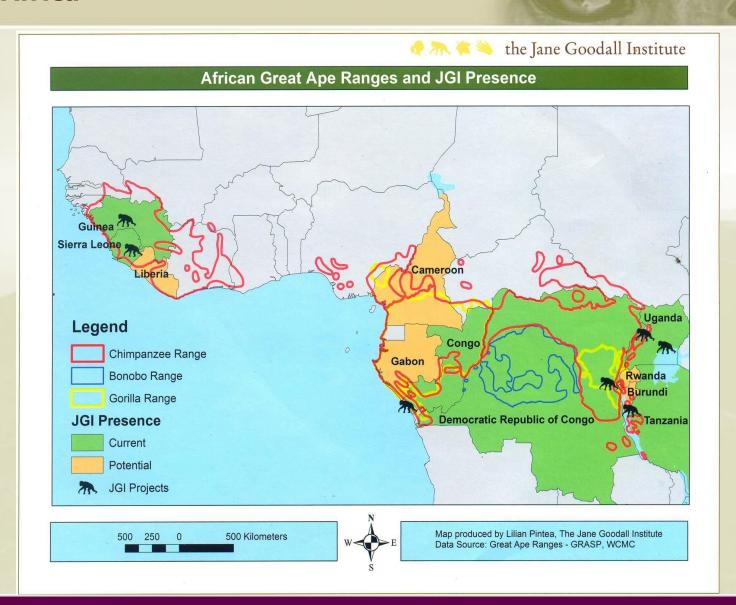


Dario Merlo, Project Coordinator, Community Centered Conservation Program



# 🎻 🔭 🐃 the Jane Goodall Institute

#### **JGI** in Africa



## JGI DRC initial working area



## **Landscape Overview**

- 222,000 sq km
- Rich in biodiversity/endemic species
- 90% of Eastern Lowland grauer Gorilla range
- Estimated 40,000 wild chimpanzees (90% eastern chimpanzee population)
- 80% of intact forest
- Availability of fresh water sources





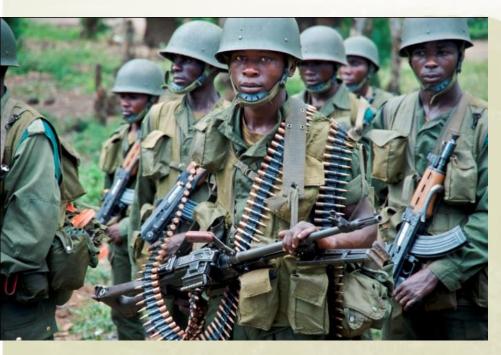




# 🏕 🔭 🥦 the Jane Goodall Institute

## **Main threats**

- Insecurity
- Illegal mining and hunting







# 🕏 🗥 🤻 🐃 the Jane Goodall Institute

### **Main threats**

- Hunting
- Deforestation







# 🛷 🔭 🐃 the Jane Goodall Institute

# **Challenges**

- Insecurity
- Lack of infrastructure
- Inadequate government support





## JGI activities in the landscape

- Education
- Health/Family planning
- Access to clean water
- Facilitating chimpanzee rescue
- Support to the protected areas
- Alternatives to protein livestock project
- Coordination of the research results (socio-economic and apes)



#### **Environmental Education**

- 98 schools reached
- 16,207 primary school children sensitized
- 74 teachers and educators trained
- More than 4,000 education materials produced
- 54 Roots & Shoots clubs established





#### **Sensitization Activities**

- Through radio programs, theater plays, community meetings, billboards on the main roads
- Coordinating EE program at landscape level







# 🛊 🗥 🦥 the Jane Goodall Institute

#### Rehabilitation of health infrastructure

#### **Before**



After



- 6 clinics renovated 42,000 people
- Rainwater collection system built
- Incinerator for waste

## **Reproductive Health/Family Planning**

- Access to methods (condom, pills, depo provera, cycle beads, IUD)
- Partnership with Ministry of Health (71 health facilities)
- Informing communities (theater, posters, radio programming and +600 CBDAs)







## **Family Planning**

- Training of health care providers and CBDA's (55 training sessions, 1,300 providers trained)
- Infection prevention supplies
- 163,900 women are expected to be reached this year









# 🛷 🔭 🐃 the Jane Goodall Institute

#### Access to clean water

- Improving health of communities
- Reducing the distance for accessing water
- Spring protection committees
- 9 springs protected







# 🏕 🔭 🥦 the Jane Goodall Institute

# **Supporting conservation efforts**

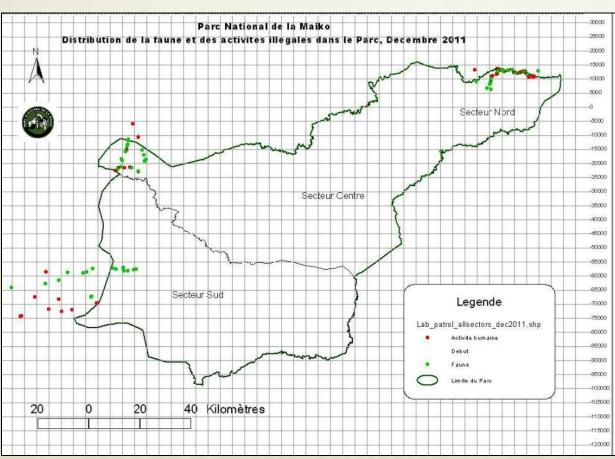
- Providing food rations for patrols
- Contributing to salaries
- Supporting with equipment





## **Supporting conservation efforts**

data on wildlife and illegal activities







## Chimpanzees rescue

- To address the illegal hunting of meat and trafficking of baby chimpanzees we partner with:
  - •local NGO and wildlife authorities
  - Lwiro Rehabilitation Center for primates



- Process initiated by the Congolese government (MECNT & ICCN)
- 15 great apes experts, conservation NGO's
- Security services and government at every level





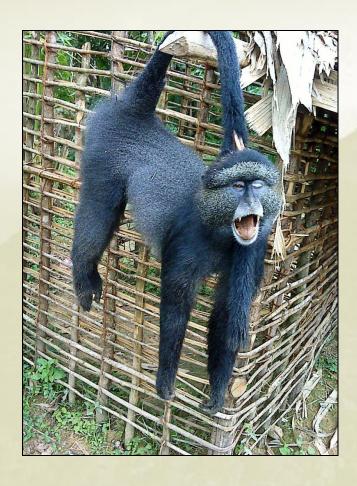
# 🍖 🔭 🐃 the Jane Goodall Institute

## **Conservation Action Plan**

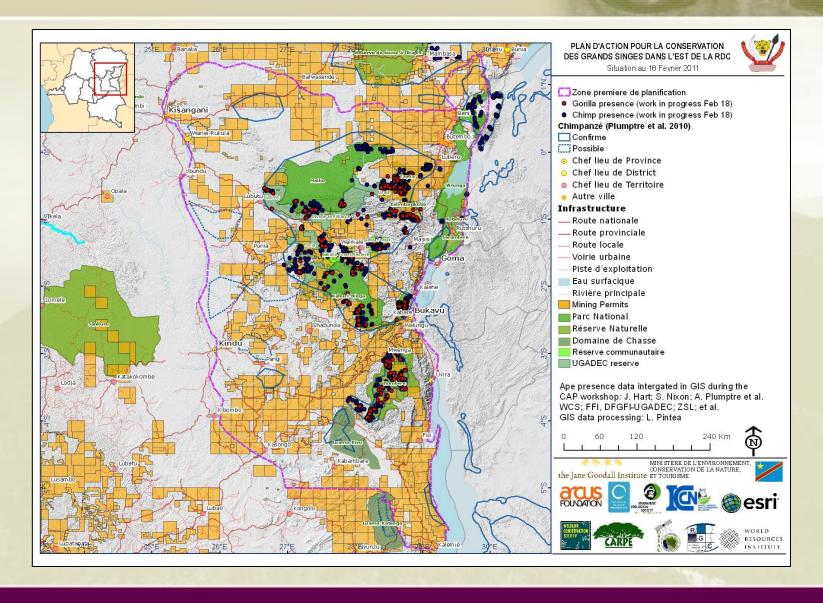




Identifying the threats - hunting, mining, deforestation







#### Defining strategies:

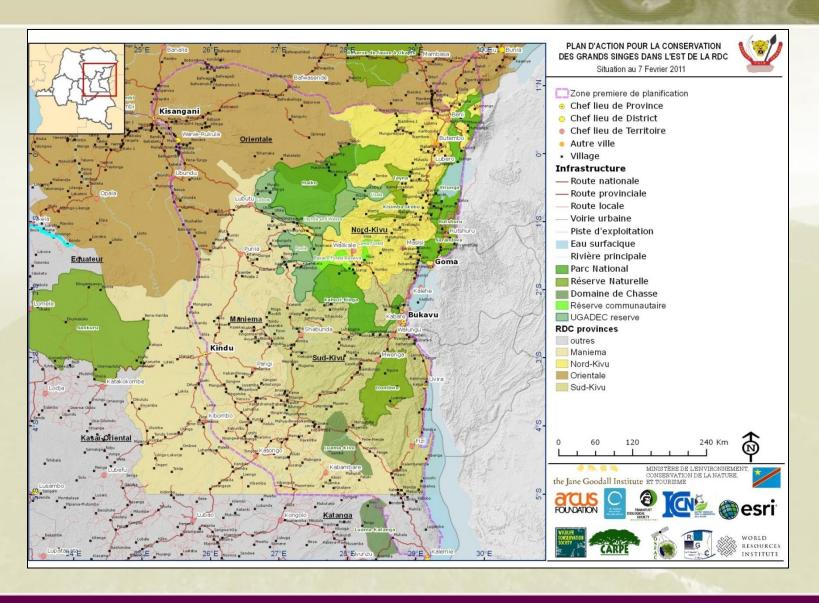
- Assessment of priority population of Great Apes
- Sensitization and involvement of communities in conservation
- Consolidation of territory management
- Strengthen protected areas, community forests and sanctuaries
- Application of laws in protected areas and intervention zones





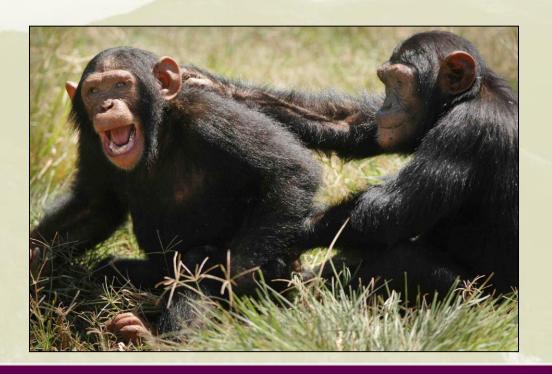
- Continuous process of searching accurate information and data on apes
- Meeting with stakeholders to review the document
- Endorsment of the government
- JGI play a leading role in coordination of Apes Conservation effort





#### **Lessons learnt**

- Achieving program results in a conflict area is possible
- Partnership with government and the local community is key for longer term impact
- Community ownership & governance of activities enables successful implementation
- Use of new technology is improving the quality of our work
- Combining & coordinating NGO strengths leads to better outcomes



#### **Donors & Partners**

- DRC Ministry of Environment
- •UGADEC
- •Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
- Arcus Foundation
- •USAID/CARPE
- Conservation International
- •JGI USA, JGI Canada, JGI Australia & JGI Spain
- Dian Fossey Gorilla funds International
- Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
- Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Fauna & Flora International
- Zoological Society of Frankfurt
- Zoo's Victoria



# **THANK YOU**

