

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

is located in the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve, near Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa.

Sierra Leone is home to the Western Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes verus*, one of the most endangered of chimpanzee sub-species, and is one of the poorest countries in the world. Chimpanzees are protected by law and to hunt, trade or keep them captive is illegal but in a country with limited resources and infrastructure law enforcement is not easy.

Confiscated chimps need a home where they can be treated, rehabilitated and homed in a semi-wild environment. A captive chimpanzee cannot be returned to the wild until it is wise enough and has relearned the skills it needs to survive.

Founded in 1995, we home and rehabilitate confiscated, orphaned and abandoned chimps and now take care of over 90 - sadly the numbers in our care continue to rise. Through the Sierra Leone Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Programme we also work actively towards stopping the illegal trade of this endangered species and supporting the protection and conservation of chimpanzees in the wild through education, communication and legal enforcement.



ZOYAS ON ARRIVAL AT TACUGAMA

Operating Tacugama requires funding to cover both our daily running costs and our outreach projects. No government grant is provided and raising funds in Sierra Leone is a difficult challenge; whilst we receive some limited income locally through charging visitors to tour



ONE OF OUR GROUPS IN THEIR SEMI-WILD ENCLOSURES

and stay at the sanctuary we are heavily dependent on funds raised overseas. To raise our international profile and credibility we post blogs regularly:

<http://tacugama.wildlifedirect.org>

as well as having our own website:

www.tacugama.com

We promote our chimp adoption scheme through the blog, enabling individuals to support our direct running costs. Information on our education and community development programmes is available on our website.



JULIE - ONE OF OUR ADOPTION PROGRAMME AMBASSADORS

Our major project for 2009 is the [National Chimpanzee Census](#). There is no accurate understanding of the number of wild chimpanzees in Sierra Leone and the last estimate was made almost 30 years ago. With endorsement from the Government, the census team will travel across Sierra Leone to undertake a scientifically valid assessment of the distribution and abundance of wild chimpanzees. The results that emerge will inform the development and delivery of an ongoing national conservation plan for the species and their habitat.

Communication and education are key to ensuring the future protection of wild chimpanzees and for a possible reintroduction of Tacugama's chimpanzees in Sierra Leone. We need your help to fund our outreach and communication projects that will contribute to the survival of the Western Chimpanzee.



TACUGAMA KIDS
PROGRAMME
IN ACTION



For more information on how you can help please contact us:

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Sierra Leone Chimpanzee
Rehabilitation Programme

