

**CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF WILD CHIMPANZEES AT BOSSOU, GUINEA**

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This paper aims to describe the current situation and the conservation effort of a small community of 14 chimpanzees at Bossou. The community has been studied for more than three decades since 1976. There used to be about 20 chimpanzees, but the number decreased after the flu-like epidemic in 2003. The current age-sex composition is as follows. There are 6 males and 8 females. Among them, 6 individuals (1 male and 5 females) are more than 40 years old (about 43% of the community). Among the 5 females, the two have no sexual cycling, and the other three still have the sexual cycling. The one female named Jire got her 7<sup>th</sup> offspring in November 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the estimated age of 51 years old. There are three major problems to protect the community. First, the habitat loss continues. The habitat of small forest patches is surrounded by the cultivated field and about 5000 people inhabiting this area. Second, there is a risk of young chimpanzees that can be caught by the wire-snares for trapping small animals, although the chimpanzees are protected by the local Manon people as their totem. Third, the community is isolated from neighboring ones. There are no female immigrants coming into the community. We are making effort of stopping the habitat loss through the law enforcement of the reserve, the environmental education, and the reforestation program called "Green corridor" to connect the fragmented forests to the nearest large forest in Mont Nimba, the World Natural Heritage site.

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