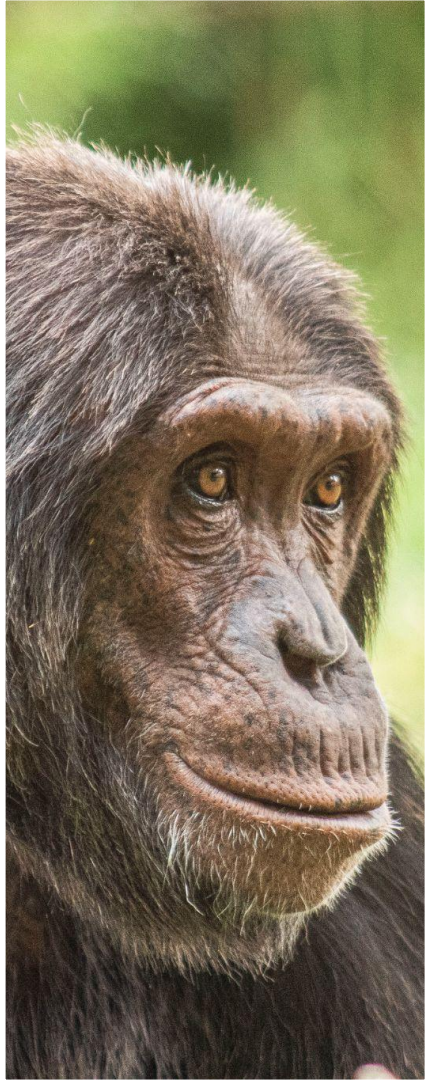


SANCTUARY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CHIMFUNSHI



Chimfunshi Sanctuary (1/2)

Animal Care Major Achievements

- **44** birth control procedures and **62** general health checks (GHC) were carried out for chimpanzees, including **7** emergency interventions.
- **51** GHC were conducted for other wildlife rescued (birds, mammals, reptiles).
- New enrichment programmes were implemented to enhance animal welfare.
- More than **200** tons of food were provided to all animals, including **50** tons produced by the farm.
- **9** keeper workshops were delivered, covering topics such as enrichment and One Health.
- First steps toward pangolin sanctuary certification.
- Training provided to staff for the care of newly introduced species.
- Training opportunities offered to international and local wildlife and veterinary students.

Chimfunshi Sanctuary (2/2)

Rescue, Rehabilitation,and Release

- **29** wildlife individuals were rescued, including 12 Hartlaub's and Fischer's turacos and 6 African grey parrots.
- **2** successful chimpanzee integration processes:
  - Hans & Gus
  - Twins with Nicky
- ***5*** animals from the rescue programme were released back into the wild.

Infrastructures

- New handling facility completed at Enclosure 2.
- New 20-hectare enclosure for the Sudan group started.
- Enclosure 3 fence refurbishment begun.
- Bamboo fence successfully installed.
- Emergency aviary built for new rescues.
- New dedicated shelter built for Poppy, the duiker.
- Bachelor group roof fully renovated.
- Enclosure kitchen facilities completely refurbished.



Animal Care Major Achievements

Caring for more than 175 animals each year is both a challenge and a responsibility that Chimfunshi takes seriously. Our dedicated team of veterinarians, animal care managers, and keepers works daily to ensure the health and well being of every individual. This year marked an important milestone in our population management efforts. After two years of strengthened birth control measures, we successfully recorded zero births, supporting our objective to prioritize space for chimpanzees in need from around the world.

Over 100 health checks were conducted, allowing us to closely monitor each animal and respond quickly when needed. This work relies on strong teamwork, continuous training, and careful planning. We also increased capacity building and knowledge sharing by welcoming students from Zambia and abroad, to train the next generation.







3 R' Achievements

- **Chimpanzees Hans and Gus** were reintroduced together in their enclosure after having been separated for several years, supporting their social reintegration and well being.
- **Nicky and the twins** were gradually integrated together to allow the twins to have interaction with another chimpanzee prior to their transfer to a larger group. This also enhances the well being of Nicky, who is a blind chimpanzee.
- In partnership with WCP and DNPW, **several turacos** were rescued and transferred for rehabilitation. Many turaco species face increasing threats from illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss, and capture for the pet market. These rescues highlight the importance of our rapid response capacity, ensuring confiscated birds receive proper care while contributing to conservation efforts.







Infrastructures and Well Being

Infrastructure development remained a cornerstone this year, driven by the vision to provide every rescued animal with the safest, most enriching environment possible.

The handling facility at Enclosure 2 involved a new design, additional indoor spaces, and overcoming significant construction challenges. The facility now allows all chimpanzees to safely access indoor holding areas, including individuals who previously refused to enter, greatly improving management, welfare, and veterinary care.

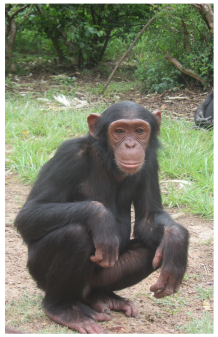
Also, the installation of a bamboo fence reduces visual disturbance for the chimpanzees. This natural barrier helps limit stress related to human presence, improve well being, and maintain an appropriate heath separation between guests and animals.

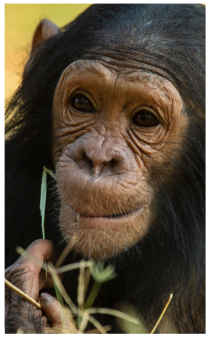


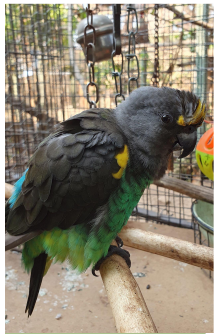


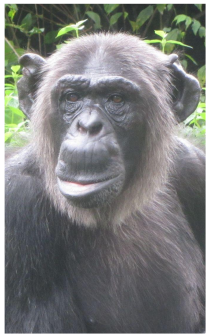












In Memory of …

One of the hardest realities of running a sanctuary is that we commit to our residents for life. This means supporting them through aging and illness, and ensuring they are always treated with dignity, compassion, and comfort.

This year, we said goodbye to Sims. His story reflects both the challenges and the purpose of our work. Rescued in Lubumbashi at just 11 months old after being sold in the illegal wildlife trade, he arrived at Chimfunshi in 2003. Raised with care and surrounded by a supportive chimpanzee family, he lived many years in safety. Despite the dedication of our veterinary team, his chronic condition eventually could not be overcome.

We also remember other residents who passed away this year, including Grumps, Ida, Telma, Christopher, and Little Julius. We also lost Lucky, our beloved Meyer's parrot, and several rescued birds that arrived in critical condition. Each loss reinforces our commitment to rescue, rehabilitation, and compassionate lifelong care.