



PASA

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance

2023 Strategic Development Conference

March 2023, Malawi

Executive Summary

The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), the largest association of wildlife centers in Africa, includes 23 organizations in 13 African countries. Our members are securing a future for Africa's primates by fighting the illegal wildlife trade, rescuing and rehabilitating orphans of the trade, educating the public, empowering communities, and protecting critical habitat. PASA strengthens our member organizations and works to build a global movement to save Africa's great apes and monkeys.

Each year, PASA organizes a three-day Strategic Development Conference (SDC) to bring together leaders of PASA's member organizations. This conference is crucial in allowing our members to increase the welfare of over 3,400 rescued animals in rehabilitation at PASA member centers by sharing their expertise, discussing challenges, building capacity, and joining forces to secure a future for Africa's primates. The combined knowledge of these 23 sanctuary leaders serves as an unparalleled resource at the conference, raising the capacity of each participating sanctuary to provide their animals with the very best care and protection in the wild.

Due to the pandemic, this conference has not been held since 2019, meaning that the sanctuaries had been working in relative isolation for three years and making this year's conference even more pivotal and among the most important in our history. PASA's 2023 SDC provided a unique opportunity for members to share their common challenges, their expert knowledge in primate welfare, and to explore ways in which they can come together to protect primates. It was a vital event for PASA's member organizations to connect for the first time after several challenging years.

The 2023 SDC was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 26th – 29th March. The local host was Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, a PASA member wildlife center based in Lilongwe. Seventeen PASA member representatives attended the conference, along with eight PASA staff and several representatives from other conservation organizations with strong ties to PASA. We had a wide variety of presentations and discussion topics at this year's conference, including reintroduction, fundraising, tackling the illegal wildlife trade, security at sanctuaries, and community conservation. Sessions were also set aside for open discussion which allowed the members to share and discuss their most urgent challenges and their most impactful strategies for creating change. Post-conference surveys completed by participants confirmed the success of the SDC with attendees strongly agreeing that they gained useful knowledge in the realm of primate welfare and conservation and that the conference is essential for furthering the work of their organizations and the Alliance.

PASA is extremely grateful to the organizations and individuals who helped to fund this important conference, which has served as an important catalyst for future conservation and welfare work.



Highlights/Topics Covered

Before the SDC, PASA sent a survey to the sanctuary directors to prioritize topics for the conference, in order to ensure the conference agenda was informed by the needs and interests of member organizations. Based on their feedback, PASA chose the main agenda topics.

Wildlife Trafficking

The subject of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) formed one of the core areas of discussion at this year's conference. All members agreed that the IWT was one of the greatest threats to African primates. From the extensive bushmeat markets of Central Africa to the export of primates as pets and "entertainers," PASA member sanctuaries are at the forefront of the devastation that the IWT is causing.

The greatest challenges to tackling the IWT were discussed, including lack of support from law enforcement, consumer demand, and the growing number of foreign, unaccredited zoos illegally exporting primates under false permits. Potential strategies to combat these threats were discussed at length, with all members providing their insights and perspectives from their own regions of operation.

This year, we were honored to be joined at the conference by Lisa Hywood, founder and director of the Tikki Hywood Foundation which has made enormous strides in combatting the trade in pangolins in Zimbabwe and across Africa. Lisa was generous enough to share her strategies and insights for addressing the IWT in pangolins and to discuss potential synergies between the fights to protect primates and pangolins, both of which feature prominently in the IWT across Africa.

PASA's Head of Campaigns and Policy, Iris Ho, had the chance to meet the members, many for the first time, and spoke at length about the work PASA is doing to represent the sanctuaries on the world stage and to lobby for greater protection for Africa's primate populations.

It was particularly helpful to hear from PASA members who have had success in combating the trade in their own regions and to hear their strategies and advice for members in areas where the trade is still a huge problem. PASA members were able to take home these invaluable lessons and methodologies to apply in their own areas of operation. Members also came away from the conference with new ideas and relationships, including the formation of coalitions to fight the trade as a united front.

Sanctuary Updates

Prior to this year's conference, PASA members had not been able to meet altogether since 2019 – before the Covid pandemic struck and dramatically changed life for all member centers for over three years.

Each member representative was given time to update the group on developments, key challenges and successes at their centers that had occurred during the three previous years. It was incredibly valuable to share these updates, showing the challenges that we had been through and survived as an alliance and sharing stories of hope and success in our common battle to save Africa's primates.



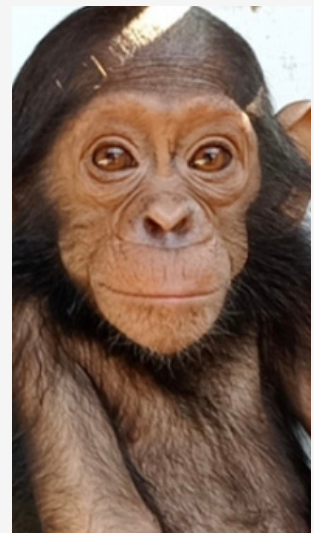
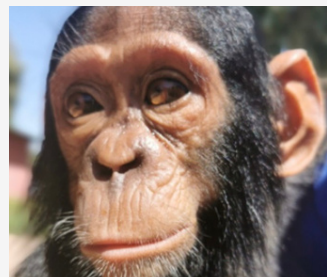


Reintroduction

Reintroduction of primates to the wild is one of the more difficult challenges facing PASA member centers and an area in which sharing experiences and strategies between members is extremely beneficial. The conference therefore included a session on reintroduction where members could either join the “Great Apes” reintroduction discussion or the “Monkeys and other animals” discussion. Members discussed the multiple challenges present with reintroduction of animals from sanctuaries and shared strategies, methodologies, and considerations to ensure that all members have vital knowledge from previous reintroductions when planning their own reintroduction projects. While opportunities for reintroduction are shrinking alongside viable primate habitat, these discussions help the sanctuaries to gain the most information they can from the limited reintroduction experiences that have occurred in Africa.

Security

Last year saw a terrible milestone for African sanctuaries – the first attack and kidnapping of baby chimpanzees at a PASA member sanctuary. J.A.C.K Sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo suffered this terrible ordeal in mid-2022 when three of their rescued baby chimps were stolen from their nursery by armed intruders and held for ransom. At this year’s conference, there was a special session dedicated to security at sanctuaries and what measures the members could take to try to avoid this terrible situation from being repeated elsewhere. Members discussed their various ideas and strategies regarding their own security and protection, including sharing of specific, practical security measures that can be taken to fortify the primate enclosures and sanctuaries from outside intruders.



Franck Chantreau, founder of J.A.C.K Sanctuary, recounted the kidnapping of chimpanzees Cesar, Hussein, and Monga. He shared how J.A.C.K has improved their security measures since then and encouraged others to do the same.

Primate Welfare

The three day conference offered members many opportunities to formally and informally discuss many specific topics in primate welfare and rehabilitations. Some areas that emerged for discussion from smaller group interactions included:

- Enclosure design for optimum primate welfare, including difference in design and welfare implications for primarily arboreal vs. terrestrial primates.
- Recent disease outbreaks, including discussions of which drug combinations worked for tackling specific diseases.
- Interspecific housing, including discussions of which primate species could be safely housed together to promote welfare, minimize space needs, and replicate wild habitats.
- Tuberculosis testing methods, new methodologies, and collaboration between members on the challenge of tuberculosis.

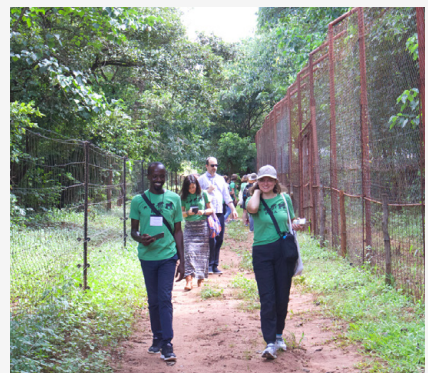


Fundraising

The PASA Development team, Molly Mayo and Jenny Botting, gave a presentation on fundraising for the attendees. Areas of focus were the various ways in which PASA can support the fundraising strategies of its members and tips and recommendations for grant writing for primate welfare and conservation. Finally, an interactive component allowed members to discuss their biggest fundraising challenges to ensure that PASA is supporting its members in the most challenging areas of sustainability.



Conference attendees visited Lilongwe Wildlife Centre to learn about the sanctuary and its efforts to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife. The tour was incredibly informative and gave sanctuary directors many new ideas.



Award Recipients

One of the key strategic goals for PASA is to recognize, celebrate and support the development of African leadership in PASA member sanctuaries.

In 2016, PASA launched the Norm Rosen Leadership Development Grant to provide an opportunity for African nationals in management positions at PASA member wildlife centers to attend the Strategic Development Conference, with the goal of supporting emerging African leaders in primate welfare. Winners receive full funding to attend the Strategic Development Conference, as well as additional opportunities for leadership training. Recipients of the Leadership Development Grants were:

Dr. Titus Mukungu from Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda
Fredrick Mackinnon Onyancha from Colobus Conservation, Kenya
Phillip Sekulya from Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda
Dorothy Basemera from Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda



In addition, The Siddle-Marsden Award is presented every year to an African staff member of a PASA member wildlife center who exemplifies a commitment to primates, a commitment to conservation, and a commitment to excellence. This year's award was originally designated in 2020, but due to the pandemic, we were only able to present the award to its deserving winner at this year's SDC. We were thrilled to present this award to Dr. Lina Adolphine Ntububika who won the award for her remarkable work as veterinarian at Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lina was the first female wildlife veterinarian in the DRC and is a trailblazer for Congolese women with a passion for conservation. We were delighted that Lina could join us from the DRC where she is continuing to advance primate conservation through her work with the organization Gorilla Doctors.



Building Synergy

Within the alliance, different coalitions of members facing specific challenges have been created to fight for primate protection in different regions of Africa. For example, the Action For Chimpanzees coalition was spearheaded by PASA members in West Africa at the SDC in 2019 and has grown swiftly into an impactful project. It is now funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and is building capacity to fight the IWT in three West African countries. More recently, the DRC Taskforce was born as a coalition led by PASA and its three members in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is in the early stages of raising capacity in the DRC to fight the devastating wildmeat (or bushmeat) and live primate trades.

The SDC is therefore a valuable time to come together and make strategic plans for coordinated action in regions of Africa where PASA members face urgent challenges. This year there were several discussions held on new coalitions in priority landscapes and we look forward to the exciting initiatives that will evolve from these crucial discussions.

We were also happy to host attendees from various non-PASA organizations who have strong expertise and involvement in primate conservation and welfare and are part of the extended PASA family. This included Alison White from the Arcus Foundation, Lisa Hywood from the Tikki Hywood Foundation, Susan Patero from Jane Goodall Institute International, Richard Ssuna from Second Chance Chimpanzee Refuge Liberia, Paloma Corbi from Four Paws, and Linda Lanzl from S.A.F.E. Worldwide.



Accomplishments

In order to ensure that the conference is as useful as possible to our members, PASA collects post-conference surveys from all attendees in which statements can be ranked from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) and suggestions for future conferences can be shared. We were happy to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from this year's attendees. The attendees strongly agreed that:

The conference serves as a catalyst for unifying and aligning our work to protect primates (Mean score: 4.62)

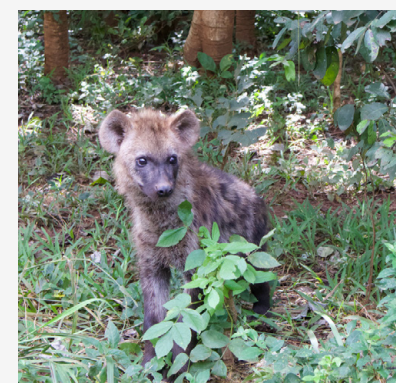
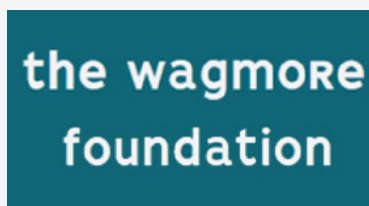
I gained important current info related to primate conservation and welfare (Mean score: 4.31)

The SDC is vital for furthering the work of my organization and the alliance (Mean score: 4.62)

Suggestions for future conferences included more time dedicated to discussing the illegal wildlife trade, strategic development, and fundraising for sustainability. Many members specifically noted the importance of the conference in bringing together organizations with shared missions to learn and share with one another.

In Gratitude of Our Supporters

The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance would like to thank the very generous organizations and donors that contributed to the 2023 Strategic Development Conference. The conference would not be possible without their support. We would like to thank the following organizations for sponsoring this significant and valued event for Africa's primate conservation and protection community.



Appendix 1 - Attendees

Alison White, Arcus Foundation
Arend van Blerk, Ape Action Africa
Bala Amarasekaran, Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Dani Keith, PASA
Dave Du Toit, Vervet Monkey Foundation
Dorothy Basemera, Leadership Grant Recipient, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Eric Willaume, Parc de la Lékédi
Etienne Charrière, Translator, PASA
Franck Chanteraeu, PASA Board, JACK Sanctuary
Fredrick Mackinnon Onyancha, Leadership Grant Recipient, Colobus Conservation
Heather Anne Vanek, Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center
Iris Ho, PASA
Itsaso Velez del Burgo Guinea, Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre
Jenny Botting, PASA
Jerry Aylmer, Limbe Wildlife Centre
Joshua Rukundo, PASA Board, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Kaitlyn Bock, PASA
Kelly O'Meara, PASA
Lilija Rapa, PASA
Lina Nturubika, Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre, Siddle-Marsden Winner
Linda Lanzl, SAFE Worldwide
Lisa Hywood, Tikki Hywood Foundation
Martine Van Schoor, Lilongwe Wildlife Centre
Michele Stumpe, PASA Board
Miguel Garcia, Chimpanzee Conservation Centre
Molly Mayo, PASA
Nancy Mungania Karuru, Colobus Conservation
Paloma Corbi, Four Paws
Pamela Cunneyworth, Colobus Conservation
Pauline Stuart, Chimp Eden
Peggy Motsch, Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage
Phillip Sekulya, Leadership Grant Recipient, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Rebeca Atencia, Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center
Rebecca Rose, PASA Board
Richard Ssuna, Second Chance
Ruby Vise-Thakor, PASA
Sebastian Louis, PASA Board
Sheri Speede, Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue
Stephen Ngulu, Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Susana Pataro, JGI Global
Titus Mukungu, Leadership Grant Recipient, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Torie Curr Smith, Lilongwe Wildlife Centre
Zach Schwenneker, Drill Ranch



Appendix 2 - Agenda

Saturday, March 25th:

Participants arrive in Lilongwe

Sunday, March 26th:

7:00 - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00am Welcome and opening remarks (Michele Stumpe, Lilongwe representative, government official)

9:00 - 9:30am Brief introductions (all participants)

9:30 - 10:30am The latest on PASA (Kelly O'Meara, Michele Stumpe, PASA staff)

10:30 - 11:00am Tea break

11:00 - 12:30pm Each PASA member 2-year update, part 1

12:30 - 2:00pm Lunch

2:00 - 3:30pm Each PASA member 2-year update, part 2

3:30 - 4:00pm Tea break and veterinary supply + PASA merchandise dispersal

4:00 - 6:00pm Private meeting for PASA member directors

7:30pm Dinner

Monday, March 27th:

7:00 - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00am Introduction of the leadership development grant recipients and Siddle-Marsden award.

9:00 - 10:30am Each PASA member 2-year update, part 3

10:30 - 11:00am Tea break, group photo

11:00 - 3:30pm Tour and lunch at Lilongwe

4:00 - 6:00pm Security at sanctuaries (Panel discussion - Franck Chantereau, Michele Stumpe, Zach Shwenneker)

7:30pm Dinner

Tuesday, March 28th:

7:00 - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30 - 9:30am PASA and your fundraising strategy (Jenny Botting and Molly Mayo)

9:30 - 10:00am Tea break

10:00 - 11:00am Each PASA member 2-year update, part 4

11:00 - 1:00pm Small group discussions

- Open discussion topics
- Reintroductions - apes (CCC to lead)
- Reintroductions - monkeys and wildlife (Lilongwe to lead)

1:00 - 2:30pm Lunch

2:30 - 3:30pm Open discussion

3:30 - 4:00pm Closing remarks

6:30 - 8:00pm Dinner

Wednesday, March 29th:

Participants leave Lilongwe or stay for start of SBCC workshop