

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*25th  
Anniversary*

Friends of Bonobos and on behalf of  
Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo

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[www.friendsofbonobos.org](http://www.friendsofbonobos.org)



**Dear Friend of Bonobos,**

Wow, it's been a rough year so far -2020 has been difficult to say the least. I hope you can take a break, sit back and enjoy reading – in great detail – about all that you've done to save bonobos!

Last year was a particularly exciting year because it was ABC's 25th Anniversary!

**We can't thank you enough for your support of their work – some of the most strategic, effective, and comprehensive conservation work on the planet.**

The relationship between Friends of Bonobos and Lola ya Bonobo can be a bit confusing, so let me start with a quick explanation. Friends of Bonobos was founded by Claudine André, founder of Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC) which means Friends of Bonobos in Congo. We are the US-based nonprofit that supports the work of ABC, which includes Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary and Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve, and all the other work you will read about in this report.

Friends of Bonobos raises funds for ABC and raises awareness about bonobos in the US and internationally.

The on-the-ground work in DRC is managed and run in the DR Congo, originally led by Claudine André, and now led by her daughter, Fanny Minesi, both of whom grew up in the DR Congo and have spent most of their lives there. They are the powerhouses behind this mission and work.

I was fortunate enough to spend a little time at Lola ya Bonobo last year. Spending time with bonobos up close is an unforgettable adventure. But the most striking part of the experience was the thoughtfulness and dedication of the entire staff, from the surrogate mothers to the grounds-keepers, who always had a smile and an 'Mbote!' ("Hello" in Lingala) for me and for each other.

**But let me tell you, these folks are serious conservationists.**

Rescuing bonobos in rural Congo is no small feat. Keeping baby bonobos from the brink of death requires a love affair with your job. Moving heaven and earth to release bonobos back into the wild requires a level of devotion and passion that most of us will never experience.

**I have no qualms promising you that supporting these remarkable people on the frontlines of saving bonobos from extinction is the absolute best use of your time, energy, and dedication.**

Thank you for partnering with Friends of Bonobos and Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo. You are our bonobo heroes! Now, on to the good stuff...



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariel Rogers".

Ariel Rogers  
Executive Director  
Friends of Bonobos

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Thanks to Leon Haberkorn, Alex Miles, Sébastien Birr, Raphaël Belais, Zanna Clay, Héritier Mpo, Ariel Rogers, and many others for the photos used in this report!

# Lola ya Bonobo

Bienvenue à  
LOLA YA BONOBO

## The Nursery

Because of your generosity, in 2019, ABC rescued six bonobo orphans. Four survived -- Lolabu, Ingende, Esake, and Tshimbulu. As is the custom at Lola ya Bonobo, they are all named after an area in the Congo where they were rescued.



### **Ingende**

Ingende was rescued from wildlife traffickers by an undercover investigator from Congolese NGO, Conserv Congo. The team at Lola nursed him back to health and he is now doing great with his surrogate mom, Niclette. Even better, three of his traffickers were sentenced to 5 months in prison and fined \$5,000. This was the first time Congolese authorities had imposed criminal penalties for wildlife trafficking!

**Male, 2 years old, arrived Jan. 29**



### **Lolabu**

Lolabu was hidden away in a warehouse, another victim in the international trade in wildlife. A concerned citizen gave local authorities the location they needed to rescue him, but when they arrived, he'd been moved! After days of searching, law enforcement officers finally tracked him down and confiscated him. He arrived safely at Lola ya Bonobo, was paired with Mama Micheline, and is doing well.

**Male, 3 years old, arrived Feb. 10**



### **Esake**

After a bushmeat hunter killed her mother, Esake was bound for the illegal wildlife market to be sold as a pet. Fortunately, local authorities apprehended the hunter and confiscated Esake. Héritier Mpo, a field team member, cared for her and transported her to Lola ya Bonobo. Esake arrived in poor shape, but thanks to the team at Lola and her surrogate mom Yvonne, she made a full recovery!

**Female, 2 1/2 years old, arrived in April**



### **Mweka**

Mweka arrived at Lola in critical condition after being confiscated from poachers. She was extremely malnourished and was the size of an infant despite being 4 to 5 years old. She was starving, dehydrated, and had a broken toe, burns, abscesses, and worst of all - bullets still lodged in her body. The team at Lola tried their hardest to save her, but after fighting for several days she couldn't hold on any longer.

**Female (deceased), 4-5 years old, arrived Sept.**



### **Tshimbulu**

ABC discovered an ad on Facebook Marketplace selling two baby bonobos. During their rescue, the pair remained wrapped together in a hug the entire time, comforting each other. Tshimbulu was in bad shape when he first arrived, severely dehydrated and malnourished. He quickly began to thrive in the care of Mama S'Arrive, and soon began drinking and eating normally. He is doing well!

**Male, 3½ years old, arrived in December**



### **Dibele**

This little bonobo was up for sale with Tshimbulu on Facebook Marketplace. Unfortunately, he was so traumatized and sick that despite our vet team's best efforts, he died shortly after reaching the sanctuary. An autopsy revealed that his body was riddled with parasites and was too weak to fight the infection. We were incredibly sad to lose this little bonobo, but grateful that one could be saved.

**Male (deceased) arrived in December**

# Yvonne Vela

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**"I was destined to work in biology. I am a conservationist."**



ABC's 25th Anniversary wouldn't be complete without recognizing the talented and wise Yvonne Vela, our most experienced surrogate mother. Recently promoted to Manager of the Nursery, she embodies the core values of ABC with her tireless dedication to ensuring the well-being of all young bonobos. To commemorate her nearly two decades of service to bonobos, it is with great pleasure that we introduce you to Mama Yvonne!



**"Bonobos are amazingly similar to human children. They're the same. They just lack language".**

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Originally from Angola, Yvonne was forced to leave when war broke out in her country. She came to Kinshasa to study biochemistry and then went on to pursue a career in teaching, which led her to meet Claudine André. After Claudine observed Yvonne's dedication to her human students, she invited Yvonne to come to Lola ya Bonobo, and Yvonne has been with us ever since.



In addition to mothering her bonobo children, Yvonne has two human daughters of her own. Her style is all love and no nonsense, and humans and bonobos alike defer to Mama Yvonne as the ultimate matriarch of the nursery. With a smile that can light up the room, she's well known for giving the best hugs around and keeping the many mischievous children in line.

When baby bonobos arrive at Lola, they are often weak and frightened, and desperately in need of a mother's nurturing. Mama Yvonne is an expert at making the orphans feel safe and loved and giving them their best chance at recovery. Since joining our team in 2002, she has raised a long line of happy and healthy bonobos.

To accommodate our expanding rescue operations, Yvonne recently transitioned from being a full-time surrogate mother to Manager of the Nursery. The babies and the nursery staff couldn't be in better hands. We are incredibly grateful for Mama Yvonne's dedication to the orphans at Lola for the past 20 years!



# The Bonobos of Lola ya Bonobo

**You provided support and care for the bonobos at Lola ya Bonobo so they can live happy, healthy lives. Your gifts provided:**

- Food and nourishment
- Medical care and treatment, including emergency needs
- Surrogate mothers (for orphaned babies) and bonobo wellness providers for all
- Regular upkeep and repairs of enclosures and buildings, like the infirmary, sleeping quarters, nutrition center, and nursery
- And much, much more

**You also helped keep the sanctuary running efficiently and effectively to properly support all the bonobos and the bonobo education and awareness programs:**

- Educational materials & education activities
- Educators and tour operators
- Utilities, communications, and equipment
- Hygiene, grounds and site maintenance
- Travel and vehicle expenditures
- Security
- And much more





Your gifts provided 66 endangered bonobos living at Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary with a safe home and all the love, care and support they needed to thrive.

# Semendwa

## Three Generations of Hope

As ABC celebrated its 25th year of saving bonobos, one of our most beloved matriarchs celebrated her 23rd birthday - and the birth of her first grandchild.

As one of the oldest bonobos in our care, Semendwa is the leader of the largest social group at Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary.



When Semendwa came to Lola ya Bonobo, at first she had little experience with the norms of bonobo society. She had been kept as a pet by a man who didn't know she was an endangered and protected species. Once he understood, he reached out to the sanctuary and willingly surrendered her.

One of the most-photographed bonobos in the world, Semendwa is a wonderful ambassador for her species.

It quickly became clear that Semendwa is a born leader. She doesn't like conflict, and she uses her status to maintain peaceful relationships among all those in her group.

In 2005, Semendwa gave birth to a daughter, Elikya. Elikya means hope in Lingala -- a perfect name for a healthy baby and a sign of hope that our mission to ensure a wild and healthy future for bonobos was becoming a reality.



Elikya is now 15 years old and lives in her mother's group. Several years ago, Elikya leaned on her mother for support when she lost her first baby. When Elikya became pregnant again in 2019, our veterinarians kept a close eye on her pregnancy. The efforts paid off. On Oct. 2, 2019, Elikya gave birth

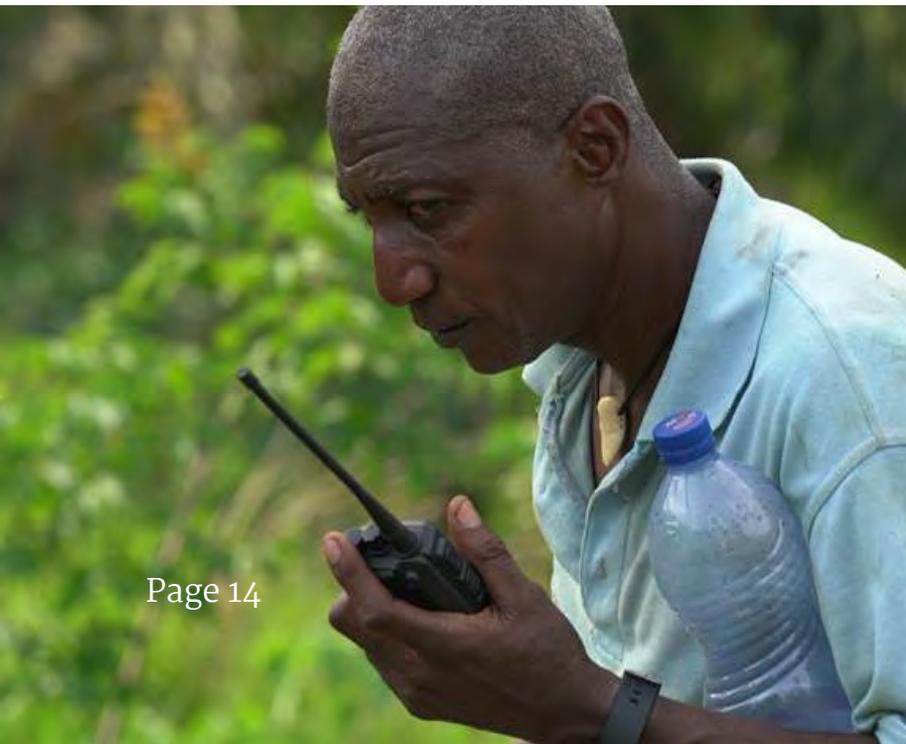
to a healthy baby boy, and Semendwa became a grandmother! The baby was named Molende - meaning zeal or energy. Molende is loved and cherished by all, and the healthy continuation of Semendwa's lineage is a win for her, all of us at ABC, and bonobos everywhere.



## Sanctuary Improvements

In 2019, Lola ya Bonobo experienced an increase of escapes, especially by many young male bonobos. This is not safe for the bonobos! They could enter a neighboring village, get lost, and get hurt. Addressing deteriorating enclosure fencing was an important step in deterring their escapes. Renovations and upgrades included expanding and doubling the electric fence, better securing the pillars into the ground, and protecting against erosion. These security measures have greatly improved the situation.

New radios have improved security and communication across the sanctuary, particularly important for the bonobo monitors as well as the security guards. ABC was also able to replace an old vehicle used for traveling to and from the sanctuary.



# Education and Awareness

In 2019, you supported education and awareness to citizens throughout the DR Congo. Your gifts helped ABC achieve the following:

- 4,300** Children and teachers participated in Kindness Clubs and in-school conservation programming
- 15,200** Visitors to Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary
- 26,100** People participated in educational activities near the bonobo release site Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve
- 45,600** Total participants in all ABC's environmental conservation education programs in 2019

# 567,000

People reached by ABC's educational programs over the last 15 years - thanks to your support!



# Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve

## You are helping bonobos move back to the wild!

At Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve, ABC releases bonobos that have been nursed back to health at Lola ya Bonobo back into their natural habitat, the Congo rainforest. This process is also called reintroduction or rewilding.

The rewilding process involves years of selection and preparation at Lola ya Bonobo, and then includes two release phases. The first phase involves releasing bonobos to Totaka Island, where they live in quarantine until they are deemed healthy and ready. The second phase of release is when the bonobos are moved from Totaka to Ekolo ya Bonobo, their rainforest forever home.

ABC continues to monitor the health, well-being, and safety of the bonobos at Ekolo ya Bonobo through eco-guards, bonobo trackers, and our private-public partnership and management of the protected area - all thanks to your support!

You also supported partnerships with the local communities around Ekolo ya Bonobo to manage the reserve and provide:

- Jobs/economic security
- Nutrition education
- Agricultural development
- Supplies for schools
- Maternity services
- Dental clinics
- And much more



# Major Milestone

Because of your support, in 2019 Ekolo ya Bonobo was expanded from approximately

20,000

to approximately

**120,000**

acres of protected rainforest.



# 25th Anniversary

## Our Founder, Claudine André



Twenty-five years ago, Claudine André was living a normal life in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She owned and ran an art boutique while raising her family. She had grown up exploring the harmony and beauty of the natural world, and a deep reverence for nature stayed with her as she grew older. In the early 1990s, she found herself called to volunteer at the Kinshasa Zoo. Unrest was becoming civil war in Congo, and the zoo animals were neglected and starving.



One fateful day in 1993, a baby bonobo turned up on the zoo's doorstep. Claudine immediately felt a connection to the helpless little creature whom she named Mikeno. Though she was warned that orphaned bonobos had never survived at the zoo in the past, Claudine uncovered the secret to bonobo survival: TLC. Food, water, and veterinary care weren't enough to save these little creatures; they also needed love.

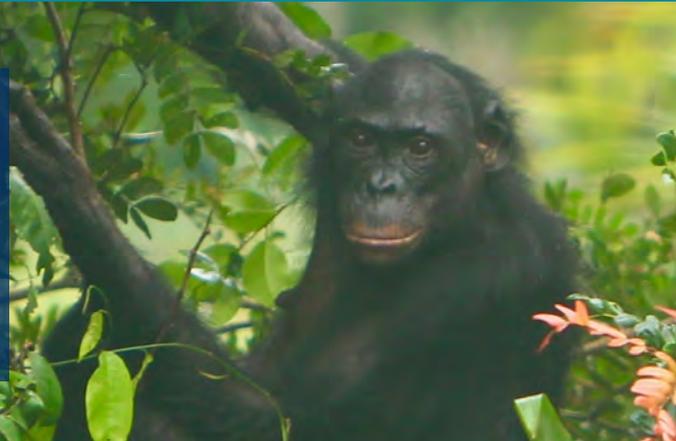
"Baby bonobos refuse to survive without the mother. They have only one goal – to die – because they cannot live without love."



After Mikeno's miraculous recovery, word quickly spread that Claudine had the magic touch when it came to orphaned bonobos. People began bringing bonobos to her from all across the country. To care for them, Claudine founded Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC), and began the mission to protect her sweet orphan charges.

Claudine's vision for bonobos ran into a major obstacle when civil war broke out in Congo in 1998. Even as the country dissolved into violence and chaos, Claudine refused to give up. She managed to rescue an additional 10 orphans and move all 22 bonobos to a 35-acre site just south of Kinshasa, in the Lukaya Valley. She named the sanctuary Lola ya Bonobo, Paradise for Bonobos in Lingala, the official local language of the DRC.

By 2006, in a slowly recovering post-war Congo, Claudine had managed to rescue another 40 bonobos, and in 2009, she oversaw the first successful release of seven bonobos back to the wild. The group was led by matriarch Etumbe (right), one of Claudine's most beloved bonobos.



## "Education is the key to conservation."

Throughout the years, Claudine emphasized conservation education as the key to the long-term survival of bonobos. She also initiated community development projects to enhance the well-being of people living in villages around the release site, which she named Ekolo ya Bonobo, or Land of the Bonobos.



Looking toward the future, Claudine passed the reins of ABC to her daughter, Fanny Minesi (left), in 2014.

But our dedicated founder has never and will never stop working towards a future where bonobo populations flourish once again in the forests of the Congo – free of the dangers of habitat destruction, poaching, and illegal pet trading, living beside humans in peace and harmony – all because of one little bonobo named Mikeno.



# A Major Step Forward

## **Thanks to you, Ekolo ya Bonobo Achieved Protected Area Status**

Years of work with provincial authorities of Équateur Province came to fruition in April 2019 when ABC secured Protected Area (PA) status for Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve under a Public Private Partnership (PPP). Official recognition of Ekolo was a critical step for long-term bonobo rewilding and conservation efforts, made possible because of your support!

**Located within the mega-peat bog of Central Africa, Ekolo has exceptional potential as a carbon sink, an important tool to combat climate change.**

### **Key Features**

- Grew from 20,000 to 117,400 acres
- Mostly swamp forest
- Managed in partnership with local communities
- Habitat for numerous rare and protected species, including bonobos, crocodiles, leopards, pangolins, and many others.



ABC founder and board director Claudine André and the governor of Équateur Province sign documents to officially create the reserve.



# Where in the World is Ekolo ya Bonobo?

DR Congo on World Map

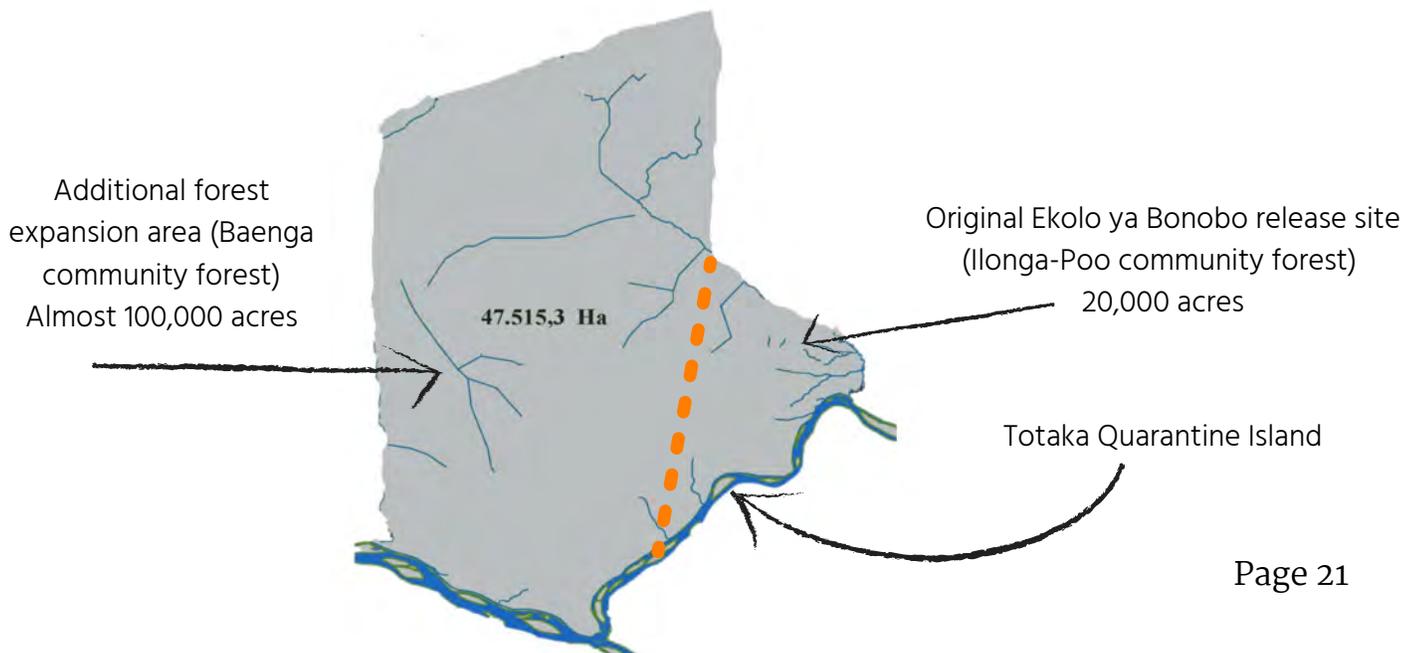


Equator Province in DR Congo



## Map of Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve

47,515 hectares / 117,400 acres





## Bonobo Rewilding

In 2018, you helped make history! A group of 14 bonobos were a part of the world's second-ever bonobo release. The group was initially released onto Totaka Island for a period of quarantine before their final release into Ekolo ya Bonobo.

During this time a baby was born, aptly named Totaka. This is a great sign that the released group is doing very well!

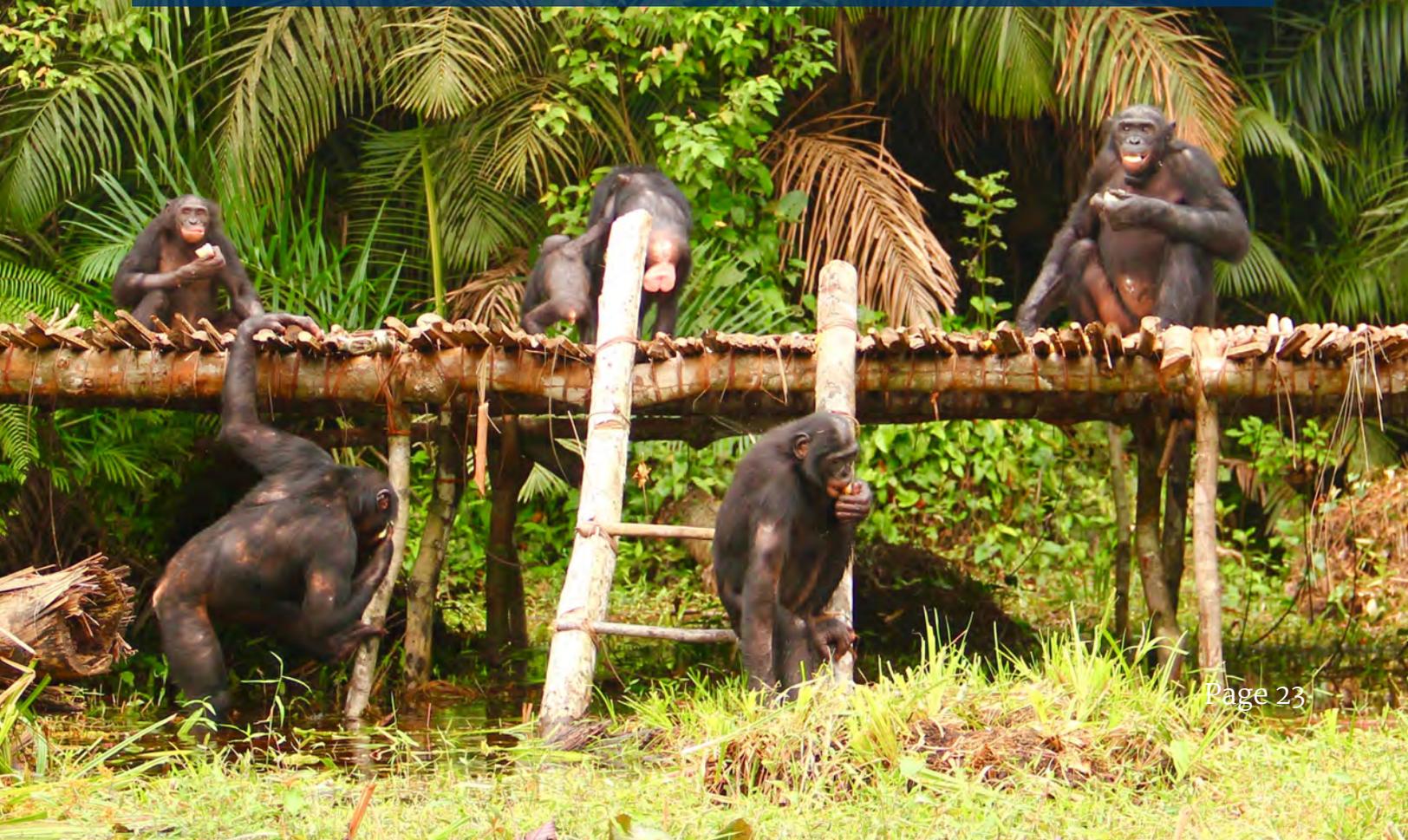
Initially planned for the summer of 2019, the release had to be postponed due to Ebola outbreaks in the region. For now, the bonobos remain at Totaka Island where ABC's team continues to monitor them.



## Meet the bonobos on Totaka Island!

In 2019, the group on Totaka Island was comprised of 8 orphans rehabilitated at Lola ya Bonobo, 6 sanctuary-born offspring, and 1 baby born at Totaka Island.

- Maya (female, 26 years old) + children: Bisengo (daughter, 13 years old), Mayele (son, 8 years old), Ndona (daughter, 3½ years old)
- Lisala (female, 18 years old) + daughter, Elaka (2½ years old)
- Mwanda (female, 16 years old) + children, Mvula ya Lola (daughter, 6 years old) + Totaka ya Totaka (son, 1 year old, born at Totaka)
- Masisi (female, 12 years old) + daughter, Boyokani (1½ years old)
- Api (male, 19 years old)
- Mbandaka (male, 17 years old)
- Yolo (male, 16 years old)
- Kole (male, 11 years old)



# Héritier Mpo

## A Fearless and Trusted Partner in the Field



From wildlife rescuer to NGO founder to surrogate bonobo parent to licensed eco-guard, Héritier Mpo wears many hats - and he does it all while looking like a true superhero from the back of his motorbike. Since he began partnering with ABC in early 2019, Héritier has worked tirelessly to rescue orphan bonobos who need our help.



A trusted first responder, he works on the front lines with local law enforcement to track down and extricate baby bonobos from dire and often dangerous circumstances.

He often encounters difficult terrain, broken bridges and other obstacles, and yet time and time again, Héritier has proven he will go to great lengths to ensure bonobo orphans make it to safety.



Once, while navigating difficult terrain while rescuing a bonobo, Héritier was involved in a motorcycle accident. Héritier put the bonobo first and managed to protect her from harm even as he sustained several injuries himself.

Another time, his motorbike ran out of gas mid-rescue. Out of cash, and with no other options, he sold his cell phone to ensure there were no delays in getting the baby bonobo safely to the sanctuary for critically needed care.

Recently, Hérítier received training as a surrogate parent. Arranging transportation to Lola can sometimes take weeks, so having a trained surrogate in the field to immediately provide the affection and love that baby bonobos need drastically improves their chances of survival.

ABC's most experienced surrogate mother, Yvonne Vela (below), provided the training. Now Hérítier is better able to help orphans bounce back after the trauma of losing their parents. Already, we are seeing a high survival rate for the bonobos who started their journey to Lola ya Bonobo on Hérítier's motorbike.



When he's not helping rescue orphans in the wild, Hérítier is running his own NGO, APPACOL, or Action for the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. We are very proud to have him as a trusted partner in the field, and excited to celebrate his hard work as we enter our 26th year of saving bonobos.

## Biodiversity Research

To better understand the carrying capacity of the newly expanded community forest reserve, ABC conducted a phenology study. The scientific teams consisted of both ABC staff as well as community members, as per ABC's commitment to engage local communities in all project activities. The teams collected data to monitor plant growth and fruiting patterns of trees found in the reserve, as well as weather patterns - data that will inform future bonobo releases.

ABC is committed to engaging with and hiring local community members in all project activities.

## Solar Panels & Transportation

Access to electricity has proven to be one of the biggest challenges for Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve. The Basankusu administrative and logistics support office has electricity, but the research station is completely off the grid. ABC was able to procure and install solar panels to provide power to the scientific team's office but maintenance is a constant task.

ABC also procured two outboard motors and a dugout canoe for use at the release site.



# Community Engagement

In the areas around Ekolo Community Reserve, poor nutrition continues to be a major problem endangering the health of local communities, especially women, infants, and children. ABC nutritionist Jean Pierre Isongu and his assistant held 81 nutritional education sessions and conducted cooking demonstrations using locally available ingredients.

ABC provided school supplies including textbooks, blackboards, notebooks, writing utensils, and other essentials. Supplies were purchased in Kinshasa and transported by boat to Basankusu for distribution.

**125 Teachers** participated in and  
**5,820 Students** benefitted from these activities.



Fishponds constructed 3 years ago continue to provide local communities with protein alternatives to hunting. Residents have replicated the ponds in other areas, and over 1,000 people are now benefiting from the project.

# 2019 ABC Financials

## 2019 Revenue

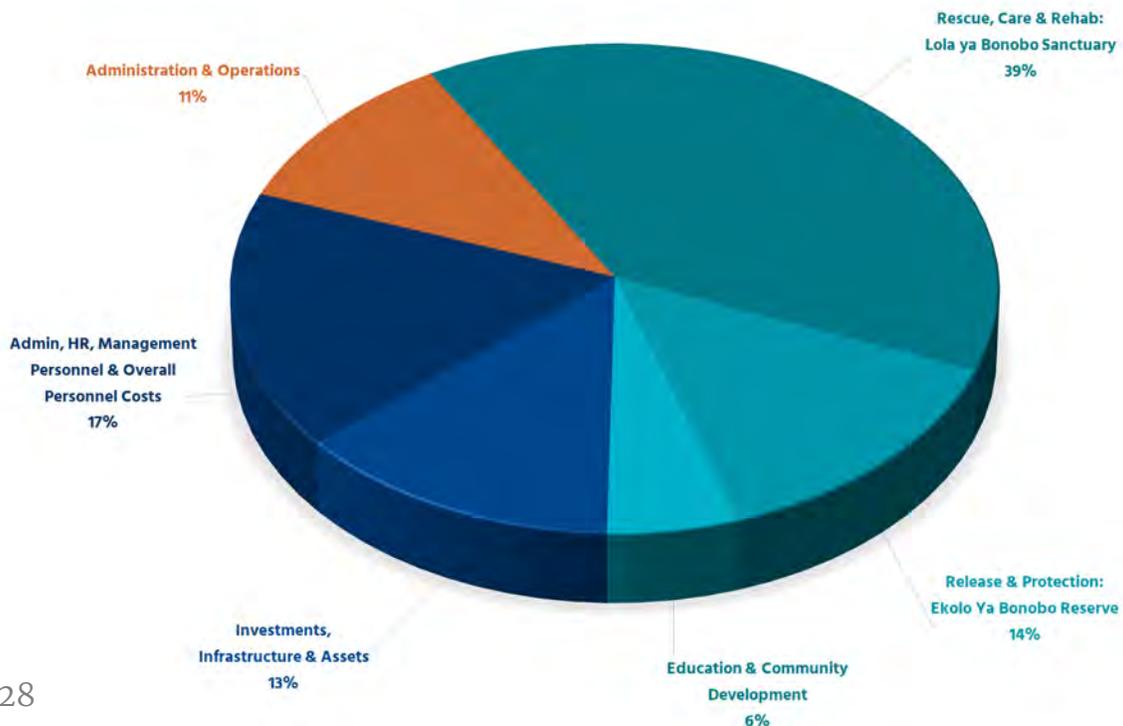
Income and Local Contributions	\$130,233
Grants and Sister Associations Contributions	\$898,405
In-Kind Donations	\$539

**Total: \$1,029,067**

## 2019 Expenses

Rescue, Care & Rehab: Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary	\$384,939
Release & Protection: Ekolo ya Bonobo Reserve	\$134,625
Education & Community Development	\$52,063
Investments, Infrastructure & Assets	\$129,177
Admin, HR, Management Personnel & Overall Personnel Costs	\$166,109
Administration & Operations	\$107,735

**Total: \$974,648**



# Organizational Development

Your support provided the bonobos with much needed new team members and supported professional development for core staff members.

## New Staff

This year, ABC welcomed Peguy Kiadi (right) to the surrogate mom team at Lola ya Bonobo.



In addition, Elodie André was hired as Human Resource Manager along with Procurement Manager, Baguyno Baya. Thanks to these new additions, communication and daily operations are more streamlined and General Director Fanny Minesi can focus more attention on strategic planning, an often overlooked but critical element of all successful long-term conservation projects.

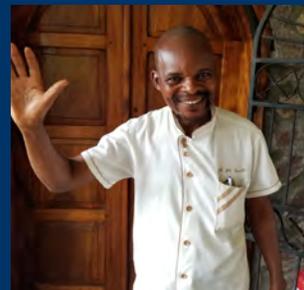
## Capacity Building & Professional Development

ABC's veterinarian, Dr. Jonas Mukamba (left), received specialized training on topics including essential lab tests for new orphans, blood tests, bonobo behavior, and intensive care. Jonas has since taken a leadership role and oversees much of the veterinary operations at the sanctuary.



Émile Manzambi, ABC's fence technician, completed vocational education and received his secondary school diploma. In addition, Didier Manzambi and Junior Mazina, who work with overnight visitors, completed a six-month cooking program.

From left to right, Émile Manzambi, Didier Manzambi, Junior Mazina.



# Friends of Bonobos

## International Awareness & Funding for Bonobos

**At Friends of Bonobos, we raise funds and awareness for ABC's bonobo conservation programs and we raise global awareness about bonobos and their plight.**

Your gifts supported bonobo conservation and program accomplishments in the DR Congo. But by supporting Friends of Bonobos, you have also helped to build long-term advancement of bonobo conservation, through:

- Increased US and international awareness of bonobos and their plight
- Increased revenue and increased capacity to grow revenue long-term for DRC-based bonobo programs, which leads to more saved bonobos and more bonobo habitat protected by ABC.

### **What's the problem?**

Bonobos were finally recognized as a separate species in the 1930s, more than 150 years after people had already come to know chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans. Today, the knowledge gap remains: bonobos are the least known of the great apes.

Since the beginning, ABC has worked to change that. Already, more than half a million people in the Congo have participated in ABC's education and awareness programs. Now, Friends of Bonobos is working with ABC to harness the power of digital and social media to raise awareness of bonobos and their plight globally.



# A Great Year for Bonobo Awareness

From 2018 to 2019, we increased our followers from 20,000 to over 67,000 people across our three primary social media platforms - Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

Why does this matter? Because by increasing our social media followers more than three times over, we also increased the reach of bonobo information, education, and awareness, all while raising more funds for bonobos in the DR Congo.

**In 2018, about 540,000 people were reached via our online awareness programs. But in 2019, that grew to over**

**11,600,000**

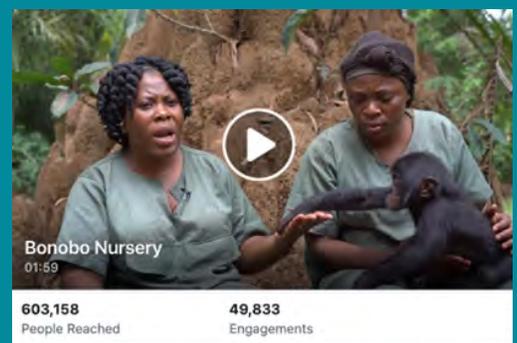
**That means over 11 million more people saw our bonobo videos and stories than the previous year.**



One thing we've learned? People love to hear about bonobos and all they stand for – kindness, cooperation, and peace.

## Bonobo Internship

A key to a good awareness growth strategy is great visual content – especially video. After an international search we provided an internship to a dedicated and talented Belgian videographer, Leon Haberkorn. In his two months at Lola ya Bonobo, Leon produced more than 50 videos including staff and bonobo stories, and a special 25th anniversary video with Claudine André. We continue to release his videos and use this content to spread the word about bonobos!



This video Leon produced was our most engaging bonobo video in 2019, reaching 30X more people than our most-engaging video from 2018.



## Attention on Bonobos

Thanks to our growing digital presence, bonobos are receiving more media attention and offers than ever before, including from blue-chip production companies. These opportunities will help to raise global awareness about bonobos and further amplify the work of ABC.

In 2019, the Dodo, a viral media brand that focuses on telling uplifting animal stories, saw our ramped-up social media posts and approached us about producing a video about an orphaned bonobo. We worked with them to produce a viral bonobo video story that was viewed by almost

**10 million people.**



In 2019, we started to work with major media outlets to plan and produce a variety of content for radio, TV, and film, including pre-production planning for 2021, 2022, and 2023 seasons.

## Conferences

Friends of Bonobos attended and exhibited at major wildlife conferences for the first time ever! We were invited to exhibit at two conferences, giving us the opportunity to raise awareness about bonobos among people who are passionate about wildlife conservation, but most of whom had never heard of a bonobo.

At the Wildlife Conservation Expo, experts, supporters, and people who just wanted to learn more about conservation came together to network and discuss current issues affecting wildlife.

At the Wildlife Habitat Council Conference, corporations and nonprofits came together to find a way to collaborate in conservation. We explored connections and collaborations with companies interested in wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and community development.



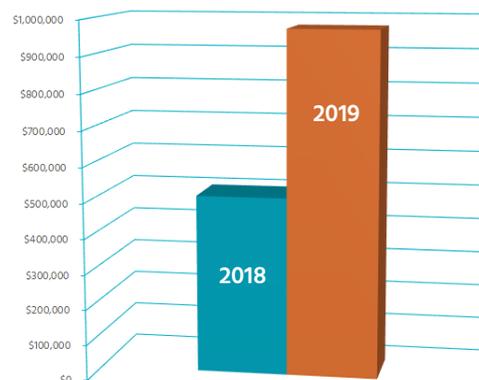
# Friends of Bonobos Financials

Friends of Bonobos has been investing in staff, digital and social media, and infrastructure so that we can raise more funds for ABC and raise awareness about bonobos and their plight. And 2019 was our first year with a full-time Executive Director!

As a result, in 2019, we saw a

**93%** increase in revenue in just one year.

<u>Revenue</u>	2018	2019
Grants	\$125,000	\$206,000
Individuals & Foundations	\$380,000	\$767,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$505,000</b>	<b>\$973,000</b>



## 2018 Expenses

Operational & Fundraising Expenses (US)	\$ 32,000
Awareness Program Expenses (US)	\$ 13,000
DRC Program Expenses (Grants to ABC)	\$463,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$508,000</b>



## 2019 Expenses

Operational & Fundraising Expenses (US)	\$ 86,000
Awareness Program Expenses (US)	\$ 47,000
DRC Program Expenses (Grants to ABC)	\$770,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$903,000</b>

## Expense Proportions

	2018	2019
Percent of expenses spent on operations & fundraising	6%	10%
Percent of expenses spent on programs	94%	90%

# How can I help?

## Donate Today!

The most powerful thing you can do right now to help bonobos is to donate to the organizations saving them and their habitat.

- Join the Fellowship, our community of dedicated monthly donors to save and protect bonobos for the long haul! [BonoboFellowship.org](https://BonoboFellowship.org)
- Donate one time. Your gift now helps provide lifetime care to bonobos. Giving online is fast, easy and secure. Donate [here](#).
- Send a check to: Friends of Bonobos, PO Box 2652, Durham, NC 27715 (USA)

## Fundraise for us!

Run a race, donate your birthday, host a dinner party – the options are endless! Be a Bonobo Champ. We make it easy. Start your fundraiser [here](#).

## Invest in their future

Donate stock or IRA income, or consider putting a gift for bonobos in your will. For more information on making bonobos a part of your planned giving, contact us at [info@lolayabonobo.org](mailto:info@lolayabonobo.org).

## Spread the word



Most people don't know what a bonobo is. You can help to change this by spreading the word about these peaceful primates. Tell your friends, tell your workmates. Easiest of all, follow us on social media and SHARE!



# Looking Ahead–The Next 3 Years

## Goals for Bonobo Rescue, Care & Rewilding

- Rescue, care for and rehabilitate orphaned bonobos at the world's only bonobo rehabilitation center and sanctuary, Lola ya Bonobo.
- Release another group of able bonobos to the wild (and continue to do so every 3-5 years) at Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve and bonobo reintroduction site.
- Conduct feasibility study in partnership with DRC National Office of Tourism to plan future expansion and renovation of Lola ya Bonobo into international eco-tourism destination.

## Education and Awareness Goals

- Increase understanding of bonobos among Congolese children and adults, prioritizing areas where the bushmeat and wildlife pet trade begin (poaching in the forest) and end (trade in the villages).
- Grow partnerships with major media outlets to increase awareness of bonobos and their plight worldwide.
- Increase global understanding and awareness of bonobos through digital and social media and by facilitating ethical research studies related to bonobo behaviors, cognition, societal structure, culture, and habitat use and disseminate findings to international audiences.

## Community Engagement Goals

- Engage local communities in management of Ekolo ya Bonobo.
- Expand participatory socio-economic development projects in support of communities surrounding Ekolo.
- Develop sustainable and ethical ecotourism potential of Ekolo in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders.

## Rainforest and Wildlife Protection Goals

- Develop and implement management plan for Ekolo ya Bonobo in collaboration with local communities and government stakeholders.
- Explore community interest in and conservation potential for expansion of Ekolo ya Bonobo to 250,000 acres.

# Thank You!

In 2019, you rescued,  
provided safe haven, and  
protected our peaceful  
cousins for the long haul.

Thank you for your  
enduring commitment  
to bonobos!



# 2019 Annual Report

Friends of Bonobos and on behalf of  
Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (Lola ya Bonobo)

Friends of Bonobos | P.O. Box 2652 Durham, NC 27715 | +1.919.717.9572



When you give to Friends of Bonobos, you can be confident that your donation is making a difference. Friends of Bonobos is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to Friends of Bonobos are tax-deductible to the full extent of U.S. law.



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