



BONOBOS
Critically endangered and suffering from war and civil unrest.



GORILLAS
Threatened by poaching, deforestation, human disease and war.



ORANGUTANS
Extinct by 2010 if their habitat continues to disappear at current rate.



CHIMPANZEES
Threatened by the bushmeat trade and habitat loss.

The importance of saving the apes

The new millennium does not bode well for our closest relatives in the animal kingdom – the great apes of Africa, Borneo and Sumatra. Without urgent effective action, their evolutionary odyssey will soon end - at the hands of their human cousins.

By entering the ape world, we have gained a greater understanding of their self-awareness, remarkable intelligence and an ability to communicate with signs and symbols. We now know that the great apes share over 95 percent of our DNA.

Habitat loss, forest fires, logging, hunting for bushmeat and the capture of live infants for sale, have all contributed to their decline. Apes are protected by national law in every country they inhabit, but these laws are poorly enforced. International law is also failing to protect apes as financial incentives are a constant lure to illegal traders and hunters. War and civil unrest have exacerbated the existing problems in several African countries and Indonesia.

However there are glimmers of

hope. Where 'ape tourism' has been developed, as with mountain gorillas and some populations of chimpanzees, apes are seen as an important economic resource. Some timber companies are talking about adopting a Code of Conduct, which would reduce the impact of their activities on wildlife. The newly formed CITES Bushmeat Working Group may also soon bring the illegal bushmeat trade under control. But the urgency of the situation demands a higher level of action.

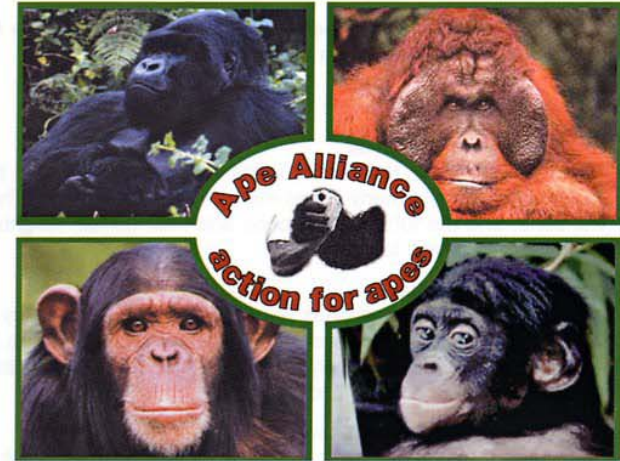
Every local extinction is a loss to humanity, a loss to the local community and an irreparable hole torn in the ecology of the planet.

If we cannot generate a radical increase in efforts to protect apes and their habitats, it will be too late for many more populations of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans.

This is a call for individual and government action. How can we look into our cousins' eyes and say no?

Ian Redmond *Chairman, Ape Alliance*

This event is supported by grants from the Born Free Foundation and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. The Ape Alliance would also like to thank British Airways for donating the cost of an international flight for Professor Galdikas.



THE GREAT APE EVENT



Hosted by
Sir David Attenborough

to launch 2001 - An Ape Odyssey, an international campaign to save the great apes

Supported by



Programme for the evening

6.00pm Doors open with displays by member organisations of the Ape Alliance and the BBC. Refreshments on sale.

7.00pm Sir David Attenborough opens the evening.

Dr Jo Thompson ~ Bonobos

Jo Thompson founded the Lukuru Wildlife Research Centre in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) more than 10 years ago. The region is now a war zone, and the future of bonobos and their human neighbours hangs on the outcome of peace talks.

Ian Redmond ~ Gorillas

From Nigeria to Rwanda, gorillas are in trouble - threatened by bushmeat hunters, loss of habitat and war. Ian Redmond began work as the late Dian Fossey's research assistant and, for more than 20 years he has focused on the conservation of gorillas and elephants.

Dr Charlotte Uhlenbroek ~ Cousins

By special arrangement with the BBC, Dr Charlotte Uhlenbroek - presenter of the popular *Chimpanzee Diary* - will present archive footage of some of the speakers and their fieldwork. She will also talk about her own recent encounters with the great apes during her filming of *Cousins*.

8.10pm ————— INTERVAL —————

8.30pm Professor Biruté Galdikas ~ Orangutans

2001 marks the 30th year of Dr Biruté Galdikas' work with wild orangutans in Indonesian Borneo. During that time she has seen the population plummet and numbers of orphan infants soar. If the decline continues, she concludes that most wild orangutans will be gone in only five to ten years.

Dr Jane Goodall ~ Chimpanzees

Dr Jane Goodall's Gombe Stream Research Centre is in its 40th year. Voted 'the most famous living scientist' by a survey in the USA, she travels the world as an emissary for our endangered relatives, speaking to presidents and primary school children with the same passion and commitment.

9.30pm Panel discussion
Sir David Attenborough chairs a panel discussion and invites questions from the audience for the four speakers.

10.00pm Finale
Dr Charlotte Uhlenbroek concludes the evening's proceedings with four of her favourite clips - one for each great ape - from the highly acclaimed BBC series *Cousins*.

An envelope is enclosed, should you wish to make a donation to the four projects which will benefit from the Great Ape Event. Cheques should be made payable to the Ape Alliance. Thank you.

Proceeds from the event will benefit these projects

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THE BONOBO NURSERY AND SANCTUARY in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Since the civil war in DRC there has been a sharp increase in the sale of orphan bonobos on the streets of Kinshasa. Claudine Andre has created a safe haven for these infants, and despite riots, shortages of food and equipment, and the complexities of Congolese bureaucracy, she has succeeded in saving many lives. The sanctuary has also developed an educational programme with local schoolchildren.

THE MOUNT TSHIABERIMU GORILLA PROJECT, Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The gorillas of Mount Tshiaberimu were doomed until the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund stepped in and employed Vital Katembo - a dynamic Congolese biologist - who has managed to turn the situation around despite the difficulties and dangers of civil wars. By combining micro-development economics with wildlife management, this small group of gorillas might just be pulled back from the brink of extinction.

2

THE ORANGUTAN CARE CENTRE AND QUARANTINE FACILITY, Indonesian Borneo

The Care Centre provides veterinary care for over 100 young orangutans. It is staffed by both local and western professionals. Dealing with orphans, however, is treating the symptom not the cause, and a vital role of rehabilitation centres such as this is public education and assisting law enforcement agencies to better protect the orangutans before they require a clinic or human care, while they are still free in the wild.

THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE TCHIMPOUNGA CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY AND RESERVE, near Pointe Noire, Congo-Brazzaville

The sanctuary now has 75 orphan chimpanzees in its care, almost all victims of the illegal bush meat trade. They act as ambassadors for their species and a focus for conservation education. The project also creates employment for the local people and a market for all the fruit and vegetables they can grow. Running the sanctuary is a major undertaking in a country which has twice suffered from civil war in the last few years.

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