



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Ebola blog - resurfaced!

15 messages

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 11:27 AM

To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>, Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Hi Estelle and Dirck,

Estelle, my sincere apologies for not getting back to you with a finalized blog post (b) (6) (b) (6)! I'm back in the office now and have edited, updated and expanded upon what you sent at the end of April - see attached draft.

Since Ebola is featured so much these days, but not often with any link to conservation, deforestation, etc., I ended up making a longer post with more background info. I think it could work if the first section is a FWS webpost that links to the CCC blog and vice versa. The writing is a mixture of Estelle's and mine and hasn't yet gone through review here yet, but I'm hoping the two of you can give some initial feedback [Dirck mainly on first (FWS) part, and Estelle mainly on second (CCC blog) part]. Hopefully that's ok!? Once I've heard back from you, I'll work on getting sign-off here so it can be posted asap.

Estelle, if there's anything else you'd like to highlight in your blog, please let me know!

Thanks in advance and hope things are going as well as they can be at CCC given the difficult circumstances.
Heidi

Heidi Ruffler
Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters
MS: IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

heidi_ruffler@fws.gov
Phone: 703-358-1763
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www.fws.gov/international
 USFWSInternationalAffairs
 USFWSInternat



 USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft.doc
2058K

estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 11:55 AM

To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>, Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Hi Heidi (and Dirck!)

No problem. I hope you (b) (6).

Ebola isn't going anywhere soon unfortunately so it's still very much in the news.

So far it's impacting us greatly for the volunteers. Many has decided to not come. Whoever is already at the CCC are not looking at it the same way but new volunteers and their families are scared. Things as you know has escalated in Liberia and sierra-Leone where there seems to be a huge denial from the population and extreme measures taken by the government (closing all government office for example).

I will read the post and send it to the new CCC board for their input.

Thank you for picking it up again. I will try to find you a picture of us near the chimps with masks and gloves.

All my best,
Estelle

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 1:06 PM

Great! Thanks so much for your quick response and looking forward to receiving your feedback.

Sorry to hear that it's been affecting your volunteer situation so much... I'm sure that CCC is very dependent on their help, so it probably means extra work for everyone else...

Take care and looking forward to hearing from you,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 11:28 AM

Dear Heidi,

Please find attached the corrected blog. You are welcome to change anything.

All my best

Estelle

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

 **USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft corrected.doc**
37K

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 12:25 PM

Thanks, Estelle! Dirck, I made some changes based on the update. Please see the attached version for the latest. I'm hoping to send this to Krishna before COB today. :-)

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

 **USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft corrected_HR_no pics.doc**
4408K

Byler, Dirck <dirck_byler@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 12:39 PM

Looks good Heidi. Great job! May need a quick copy edit. I found a mistake on page 1:

'Fear of certain death at health center.'

But overall I'm fine with it. Dirck

Dirck Byler
Africa Programs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2337
dirck_byler@fws.gov

We have moved! Beginning July 28, the mailing address will be:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters
International Affairs
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Byler, Dirck" <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:06 PM

Thanks! Fixed that and several other things and sending now to Krishna, will cc you.
Will you have a chance to weigh in on something else today, probably around 3pm? I'm writing a draft PR strategy for Central Africa and would love your input.
Thanks,
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Byler, Dirck <dirck_byler@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:13 PM

Sure. Send it my way.

Dirck Byler
Africa Programs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2337
dirck_byler@fws.gov

We have moved! Beginning July 28, the mailing address will be:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters
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Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[Quoted text hidden]

estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:58 PM

Thanks Heidi.

I'm happy with it!

Do you have the link for the CCC? www.projetprimates/CCC

We also have FB page in english now: chimpanzee conservation Center

Thank you for this opportunity.

All my best

Estelle

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:06 PM

Hi Estelle,

Great to hear, thanks! I made a few more minor changes based on Dirck's suggestion and a final review on my end. I've attached the updated version here, which has now been sent to my supervisor for review.

The link I used for CCC was: <http://www.projetprimates.com/chimpanzee-conservation-center/>

And this one for your facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/ChimpanzeeConservationCenter?fref=ts>

I'll keep you posted - hopefully we can get this through review and on the web quickly, although I can't guarantee it'll be lightning speed! ;-)

Take care and thanks for the quick turnaround with your comments! Oh, before I forget, you were also going to look for a picture that could be used (I included a placeholder in the attached version). Please let me know when you have it.

Thanks,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]



USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft corrected_ER_HR_DB.doc

6422K

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 8:51 AM

Hi again,

Good news - the post and blog been approved to post. I'm waiting to hear back re. logistics to upload it and hope to get it up by COB today. Estelle, do you have a CCC photo similar to the one with the people and respiratory guards that we could replace the second picture with? Dirck, can you confirm that the first picture (Ebola hazmats) should be credited to WCS?

I'll also update the CDC case information before it's posted.

Thanks,

Heidi

On Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:06 PM, Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 7:43 PM

Dear Heidi,

Thank you. It's great!

I haven't found a picture of us with masks and gloves. Ebola isn't airborne so we only use masks when there is a cold or if someone is in quarantine.

I'm off to the project tomorrow morning early. I will try to connect as often as possible.

Thank you again.

All my best

Estelle

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 10:54 AM

Hi Estelle,

What do you think of this banner picture: file:///R:/IAWEB/local%20web/publications-and-media/ebola-outbreak.html

I also have a gorilla picture that could be used. I don't want to create more enemies for apes, but think it's most eye-catching to have a relevant animal pictured there.

Thanks for any feedback,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 11:22 AM

Hi Dirck,

Would you be able to confirm the suitability of this image for the Ebola post? file:///R:/IAWEB/local%20web/publications-and-media/ebola-outbreak.html

Thanks,

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 10:32 AM

Hi Estelle and Dirck,

It finally just went live: <http://www.fws.gov/international/>

Thanks for your help (and patience!),

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

affected. Others, however, have had similar impacts as humans: In a particularly tragic case in the northwest of the Republic of Congo in 2006, for example, researchers documented [approximately 5,000 gorilla deaths caused by an Ebola outbreak](#) – equaling a mortality rate of 90 to 95%.

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus is initially transferred to humans by [direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals](#). Although experts consider fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family to be the natural host of the Ebola virus, many other species, including chimpanzees and gorillas – some of our closest living relatives, can also become infected and can transmit the virus to humans. In Africa, humans have contracted Ebola by handling infected apes and monkeys, fruit bats, forest antelopes and porcupines – often through the hunting and preparation of [bushmeat](#), which is a major conservation concern for many species in the region.



Hazmat suit sampling for Ebola northern Republic of Congo. Credit: WCS (TBC)

The larger conservation connection, however, is perhaps less obvious: Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change) during which there is scarcity of food in the bush and all the animals, including fruit bats, feed on the same remaining fruit trees, usually fig trees. Human development, including logging and mining, road construction and agriculture, is increasingly cutting back on forest habitat and bringing animals and humans in closer contact, which can facilitate disease transfer. Some even speculate that the [illegal trade in apes may be the actual culprit](#) behind the current Ebola outbreak.

Find out more about the impact of the current Ebola outbreak on field conservation work from our Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) [\[insert hyperlink\]](#)

How is the current Ebola outbreak affecting on-the-ground conservation work?

The [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC) is the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Guinea. The center is located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), one of two national parks in the country and a priority site for the conservation of chimpanzees. The CCC currently rehabilitates and cares for 43 rescued chimpanzees. These orphaned chimpanzees are primarily victims of the pet trade, and arrive at the CCC after being confiscated by the national authorities.

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) [insert hyperlink to above] in Guinea and other countries in West Africa is a major concern to us here at CCC. Not only is EVD transferable between humans and animals, including chimpanzees, but we have been dealing with several additional challenges as a consequence of the recent outbreak.



Volunteers and staff of CCC are trained in safety measures to prevent zoonotic disease transfer.
Photo: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Since humans and chimpanzees share over 98% of the same DNA and are affected by many of the same diseases, we at CCC have a protocol in place to prevent transmission of diseases between the chimpanzees and us. Although the local population has become scared of primates during this Ebola outbreak, they seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area. Unfortunately, captive chimpanzees and primates in Liberia (where there is no sanctuary) are being targeted by officials and the local population out of fear.

Due to Ebola, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra-Leone have issued warnings and bans on bushmeat. This means that bushmeat is no longer in strong demand, and that the poachers had to lower their prices.

This has had both positive and negative consequences. Poachers are not hunting as much, but the local population is now eager for fish, because it is safe. As a result, illegal fishing activities have skyrocketed, even in the protected areas.

Comment [RHE1]: On closer inspection, I realize this photo is actually from [conservation.org](#) and not from CCC. Estelle, do you have anything similar that we could use here? If not, we can just leave it out since it seems to be copyrighted.



Illegally harvested fish is smoked within park boundaries before being transported to market. (Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC)

Comment [RHE2]: Please confirm

Prior to [our first release of chimpanzees](#) in the PNHN in 2008, the CCC had protected a core area of PNHN called the Mafou against poachers. In 2009, when a fishing ban was first enforced, we had to start addressing illegal fishing within this area as well, but the river blocks and the ban were strong deterrents and we succeeded in reducing the number of illegal fisherman. Thanks to USFWS grants from the USFWS's [Great Ape Conservation Fund](#), we have been able to maintain enforcement and protection for the last 5 years.

Over the years, the fishing groups from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban in the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand, they have once again gone against the eco-guards and the law. Over the past months, they entered the protected area in mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to expel them from the protected area.

Credit: Guillaume Banville/CCC

Prior to [our first release of chimpanzees](#) in the PNHN in 2008, the CCC had started protecting the northern part of the core area of PNHN known as the Mafou against illegal hunting and illegal harvesting of wood. In 2009, when a fishing ban was first put in place, we had started to address illegal fishing within the core area. Along with the ban, river blocks were set up and they acted as strong deterrents. We succeeded in reducing the number of illegal fishermen. Thanks to USFWS grants from the USFWS's [Great Ape Conservation Fund](#), we have been able to maintain law enforcement and protection efforts for the last past 5 years.

Since 2009, the groups of fishermen from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban along the Niger River bordering the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand, they have once again gone against law, in spite of the presence of ecoguards as deterrence. Over the past months, the fishermen have been entering the protected area in mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to try to expel them from the protected area.

Mixed mission to expel illegal fishing activities in PNHN between ecoguards, gendarme, fishing authorities and CCC with the military truck and driver. Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Thus, while Ebola may protect some animal species from being hunted for bushmeat, illegal fishing is becoming in some areas a larger and serious conservation issue. In some areas primates are also being targeted since they are perceived as carriers of Ebola.

As the director of the CCC, I hope that more education regarding Ebola both in Guinea and abroad will help to put an end to some of the false information that is leading to panic, unfounded fear in Europe and the United States, and the targeting of primates in some regions of Africa.

For more information about the CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!

Draft USFWS web posting to highlight the connection between Ebola and conservation, linking to a guest blog from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC)

Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, West Africa

Ebola... The name creates fear in everyone, and the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is of grave concern to our partners in the field, including the staff, volunteers, volunteers' families and funders of the [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC), which has been operating in Guinea, West Africa, since 1997. Their concern is justified: EVD, which can infect animals and humans, is one of the world's most virulent diseases. The symptoms are scary, and once you have been infected, the fatality rate can be up to 90%. To date, there is no approved treatment or vaccine available for human or animal use, although an experimental serum was recently used on two Americans with apparent success.

EVD outbreaks affecting humans and animals have occurred in the past (see image below) but what sets this one apart is the scale: the speed at which it has spread from its original outbreak site, Guinea, to neighboring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia, and more recently to Nigeria, and the number of deaths that have occurred. As of August 6, 2014, [the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) confirmed 1,711 suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola and 932 suspected case deaths from this most recent outbreak, including 363 suspected case deaths in Guinea, 282 in Liberia, 286 in Sierra Leone, and 1 in Nigeria.

Some of the reasons behind the rapid spread of this outbreak include:

- Denial over the existence of the virus, resulting in people not changing their lifestyle as needed;
- Fear of certain death at health center, leading to infected people staying at home (and hence infecting family members);
- Continued consumption of bushmeat;
- Cultural burial practices;
- Lack of hygiene; and
- Lack of medical resources, both human capital and equipment.

What does Ebola have to do with conservation?

Ebola is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transferred between animals and humans. Some animal species, while acting as carriers of the disease, do not appear to be affected as the fruit bats. Others, such as all species of primates, are infected and suffer similar symptoms and fatality rate as humans: In a particularly tragic case in the northwest of the Republic of Congo in 2006, for example, researchers documented [approximately 5,000 gorilla deaths caused by an Ebola outbreak](#) – equaling a mortality rate of 90 to 95%.

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus is initially transferred to humans by [direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals](#). Although experts consider fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family to be one of the natural host of the Ebola virus, many other species, including chimpanzees and gorillas – some of our closest living relatives, can also become infected and can transmit the virus to humans. In Africa, humans have contracted Ebola by handling infected apes and monkeys, fruit bats, forest antelopes and porcupines – often through the hunting and preparation of [bushmeat](#), which is a major conservation concern for many species in the Africa.

Hazmat suit sampling for Ebola northern Republic of Congo. Credit: WCS (TBC)

The larger conservation connection, however, is perhaps less obvious: Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change), during which there is scarcity of food in the bush and all the animals, including fruit bats, feed on the same remaining fruit trees, usually fig trees. Human development, including logging and mining, road construction and agriculture, is increasingly cutting back on forest habitat and bringing animals and humans in closer contact, which can facilitate disease transfer. Some even speculate that the [illegal trade in apes may be the actual culprit](#) behind the current Ebola outbreak.

Find out more about the impact of the current Ebola outbreak on field conservation work from our Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) [\[insert hyperlink\]](#)

How is the current Ebola outbreak affecting on-the-ground conservation work?

The [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC) is the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Guinea. The center is located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), one of two national parks in the country and a priority site for the conservation of chimpanzees. The CCC currently rehabilitates and cares for 45 rescued chimpanzees. These orphaned chimpanzees are primarily victims of the pet trade, and arrive at the CCC after being confiscated by the national authorities.

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) [\[insert hyperlink to above\]](#) in Guinea and other countries in West Africa is a major concern to us here at the CCC. Not only is EVD transferable between humans and animals, including chimpanzees, but we have been dealing with several additional challenges as a consequence of the recent outbreak.

Since humans and chimpanzees share over 98% of the same DNA and are affected by many of the same diseases, we at the CCC have a protocol in place to prevent transmission of diseases between the chimpanzees and us. Although this Ebola outbreak has erroneously caused some people in some areas to fear primates, the people around the PNHN seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area.

Due to Ebola, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra-Leone have issued warnings and bans on bushmeat. Although these bans aren't applied, the population has nonetheless significantly reduced their bushmeat consumption, at least in Guinea. This means that bushmeat is in lower demand in Guinea, and prices have plunged over the last few months (a bush rat at market, for example, going from 30,000 GF to 10,000 GF).

This has had both positive and negative consequences. Primate hunting is reduced, but illegal fishing activities have skyrocketed in the Parc National du Haut Niger, even within its most protected sites.

Illegally harvested fish is smoked within park boundaries before being transported to market.



Mixed mission to expel illegal fishing activities in PNHN between ecoguards, gendarme, fishing authorities and CCC with the military truck and driver. Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Comment [RHE3]: Please confirm

Thus, while Ebola protects animals from being hunted for bushmeat, illegal fishing is becoming a larger issue and primates are being targeted as carriers of Ebola.

As the director of the CCC, I hope that education regarding Ebola both in Guinea and abroad will help to put an end to some of the false information that is leading to the targeting of primates in the region.

For more information about CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!

Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803, USA
(T) 703-358-2645 (F) 703-358-2115
Krishna_Roy@fws.gov

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Roy, Krishna" <krishna_roy@fws.gov>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <Richard_Ruggiero@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:11 PM

Great, thanks for the quick turnaround. I will send it to the Eurasia branch in case they want to add something.

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: Steven Kohl <Steven_Kohl@fws.gov>, Peter Ward <peter_ward@fws.gov>
Cc: Krishna Roy <krishna_roy@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:13 PM

Hi Steve and Peter,
Krishna suggested I forward the below draft web post to you in case the Eurasia branch has anything to add from Asia about Ebola.

Thanks in advance for feedback,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

 **USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft corrected_ER_HR_DB.doc**
6422K

Ward, Peter <peter_ward@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
Cc: Steven Kohl <Steven_Kohl@fws.gov>, Krishna Roy <krishna_roy@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:22 PM

I can't think of anything to add. Thanks for asking!

[Quoted text hidden]

Our office has moved from Arlington to Falls Church! New address as of [July 28, 2014](#):

Peter B. Ward

Program Officer, Branch of Eurasia, Division of International Conservation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: IA; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 U.S.A.

Telephone: + 1.703.358.1785 Fax: + 1.703.358.2115

E-mail: Peter_Ward@fws.gov Web: <http://www.fws.gov/international>

Facebook [USFWS_International Affairs](#) Twitter: [@USFWSintemail](#)

DOI Employees read [Eurasia News](#) on Intranet site: <https://sites.google.com/a/fws.gov/eurasia-news/>

Ruggiero, Richard <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>
To: "Roy, Krishna" <krishna_roy@fws.gov>
Cc: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>, Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 8:51 AM

Heidi, I like this piece; well done. Because Asia is only 'on alert' for Ebola, as is the rest of the world, I would leave it Africa only. r.

Justin - I spoke to Danielle and wanted to give you a heads-up re. this text, though I'm still waiting on 2 photo confirmations:

The first part of the post, which is from us, will need to go under "Latest News" at /international, and also under "Reports and Publications -> Articles" for the time being, as well as under the "WWB -> Species programs -> Great Ape Conservation Fund", where it would need a separate heading under the "Project Summaries" on the left, something like "Notes from the Field".

Sound ok?

I'm going to be in touch in a separate email re. some other postings.

Thanks!

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Chapman, Justin <justin_chapman@fws.gov>
 To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
 Cc: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Hi Heidi,

I will be happy to post on a new page. Do you have everything that you want to post on the new page besides the photos?

Thanks

[Quoted text hidden]

Justin Chapman
 International Affairs
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 5275 Leesburg Pike,
 Falls Church, VA 22041 USA
justin_chapman@fws.gov
 Phone: 703-358-1768
 Fax: 703-358-2115



www.fws.gov/international
 [USFWSInternationalAffairs](#)
 [USFWSInternat](#)



Roy, Krishna <krishna_roy@fws.gov>
 To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 10:35 AM

Dear Heidi,

Please work with Justin only. Craig has raised concerns about DIC asking Danielle for help.

Thanks,
 Krishna

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 10:38 AM



CCC-chimps.jpg
67K

Roy, Krishna <krishna_roy@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 12:33 PM

Dear Heidi,
Can you call Dirck? I believe he telecommutes on Mondays.
If not run with these photos and get the blog posted.
Thanks,
Krishna

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Roy, Krishna" <krishna_roy@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 1:17 PM

Hi Krishna,
Thanks for the quick turaround. Dirck's on A/L but I was able to confirm it with Richard and also added another picture that he had and thought would be useful. I've sent it to Jennifer for the guest blog upload and Justin for the web upload - will let you know when both are live.
Thanks again,
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Ebola blog - resurfaced!

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: estelle raballand <esthel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:06 PM

Hi Estelle,

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And this one for your facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/ChimpanzeeConservationCenter?fref=ts>

I'll keep you posted - hopefully we can get this through review and on the web quickly, although I can't guarantee it'll be lightning speed! ;-)

Take care and thanks for the quick turnaround with your comments! Oh, before I forget, you were also going to look for a picture that could be used (I included a placeholder in the attached version). Please let me know when you have it.

Thanks,
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]



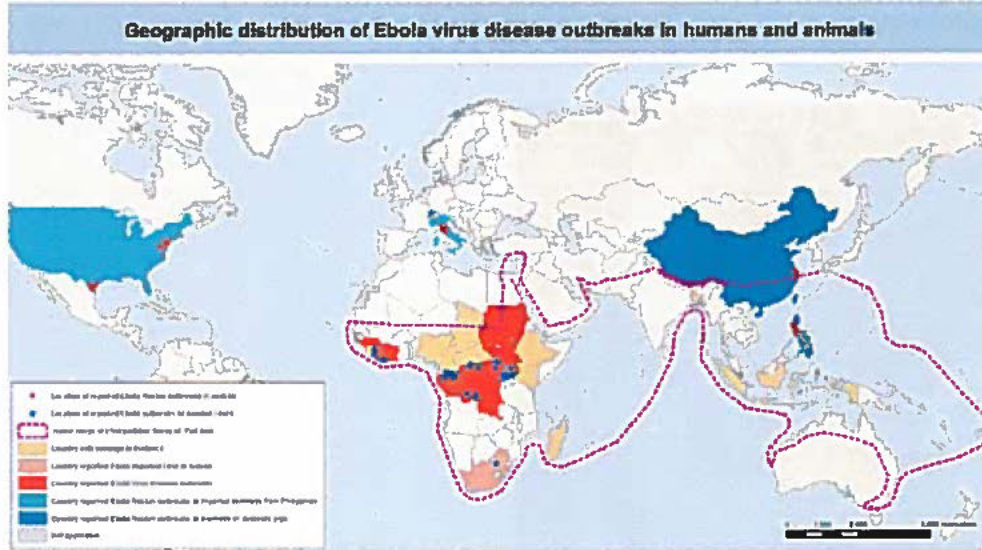
USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_new draft corrected_ER_HR_DB.doc
6422K

Draft USFWS web posting to highlight the connection between Ebola and conservation, linking to a guest blog from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC)

Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, West Africa

Ebola... The name creates fear in everyone, and the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is of grave concern to our partners in the field, including the staff, volunteers, volunteers' families and funders of the [Chimpanzee Conservation Center \(CCC\)](#), which has been operating in Guinea, West Africa, since 1997. Their concern is justified: EVD, which can infect animals and humans, is one of the world's most virulent diseases. The symptoms are scary, and once you have been infected, the fatality rate can be up to 90%. To date, there is no approved treatment or vaccine available for human or animal use, although an experimental serum was recently used on two Americans with apparent success.

EVD outbreaks affecting humans and animals have occurred in the past (see image below) but what sets this one apart is the scale: the speed at which it has spread from its original outbreak site, Guinea, to neighboring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia, and more recently to Nigeria, and the number of deaths that have occurred. As of August 6, 2014, [the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) confirmed 1,711 suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola and 932 suspected case deaths from this most recent outbreak, including 363 suspected case deaths in Guinea, 282 in Liberia, 286 in Sierra Leone, and 1 in Nigeria.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Health Statistics and Information Systems (HSI)
World Health Organization
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Credit: World Health Organization (WHO)

Some of the reasons behind the rapid spread of this outbreak include:

- Denial over the existence of the virus, resulting in people not changing their lifestyle as needed;
- Fear of dying, with infected people staying at home (and hence infecting family members);
- Continued consumption of bushmeat;
- Cultural burial practices;
- Lack of hygiene; and
- Lack of medical resources, both human capital and equipment.

What does Ebola have to do with conservation?

Ebola is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transferred between animals and humans. Some animal species, while acting as carriers of the disease, do not appear to be affected. These include fruit bats. Others, such as all species of primates, are infected and may suffer similar symptoms and fatality rates as humans. In a particularly tragic case in the northwest of the Republic of Congo in 2006, for example, researchers documented [approximately 5,000 gorilla deaths caused by an Ebola outbreak](#) – equaling a mortality rate of 90 to 95%.

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus is initially transferred to humans by [direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals](#). Although experts consider fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family to be one of the natural host of the Ebola virus, many other species, including chimpanzees and gorillas – some of our closest living relatives, can also become infected and can transmit the virus to humans. In Africa, humans have contracted Ebola by handling infected apes and monkeys, fruit bats, forest antelopes and porcupines – often through the hunting and preparation of [bushmeat](#), which is a major conservation concern for many species in the Africa.



Hazmat suit sampling for Ebola northern Republic of Congo. Credit: WCS (TBC)

The larger conservation connection, however, is perhaps less obvious: Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change), during which there is scarcity of food in the forest and all the animals, including fruit bats, feed on the same remaining fruit trees, usually fig trees. Human development, including logging and mining, road construction and agriculture, is increasingly cutting back on forest habitat and bringing animals and humans in closer contact, which can facilitate disease transfer. Some even speculate that the [illegal trade in apes may be the actual culprit](#) behind the current Ebola outbreak.

Find out more about the impact of the current Ebola outbreak on field conservation work from our Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) [\[insert hyperlink\]](#)

[Guest blog:]

How is the current Ebola outbreak affecting on-the-ground conservation work?

The [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC) is the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Guinea. The center is located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), one of two national parks in the country and a priority site for the conservation of chimpanzees. The CCC currently rehabilitates and cares for 45 rescued chimpanzees. These orphaned chimpanzees are primarily victims of the pet trade, and arrive at the CCC after being confiscated by the national authorities.

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) [\[insert hyperlink to above\]](#) in Guinea and other countries in West Africa is a major concern to us here at the CCC. Not only is EVD transferable between humans and animals, including chimpanzees, but we have been dealing with several additional challenges as a consequence of the recent outbreak.

Since humans and chimpanzees share over 98% of the same DNA and are affected by many of the same diseases, we at the CCC have a protocol in place to prevent transmission of diseases between the chimpanzees and us. Although this Ebola outbreak has erroneously caused some people in some areas to fear primates, the people around the PNHN seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area.



Comment [RHE1]: This photo is from another organization and will be replaced by one from CCC

Due to Ebola, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra-Leone have issued warnings and bans on bushmeat. Although these bans aren't applied, the population has nonetheless significantly reduced their bushmeat consumption, at least in Guinea. This means that bushmeat is in lower demand in Guinea, and prices have plunged over the last few months (a bush rat at market, for example, going from 30,000 GNF to 10,000 GNF¹).

This has had both positive and negative consequences. Primate hunting is reduced, but illegal fishing activities have skyrocketed in the Parc National du Haut Niger, even within its most heavily protected sites.



Illegally harvested fish is smoked within park boundaries before being transported to market. Credit: Guillaume Banville/CCC

Prior to [our first release of chimpanzees](#) in the PNHN in 2008, the CCC had started protecting the northern part of the core area of PNHN known as the Mafou against illegal hunting and illegal harvesting of wood. In 2009, when a fishing ban was first put in place, we started to address illegal fishing within the core area. Along with the ban, river blocks were set up and they acted as strong deterrents. We succeeded in reducing the number of illegal fishermen. Thanks to USFWS grants from its [Great Ape Conservation Fund](#), we have been able to maintain law enforcement and protection efforts for the last past 5 years.

Since 2009, the groups of fishermen from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban along the Niger River bordering the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand for fish, they have once again gone against the law, in spite of the presence of ecoguards

¹ 10,000 GNF equals approximately US\$1.40 (8/8/14)

as deterrence. Over the past months, the fishermen have been entering the protected area in mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to try to expel them from the protected area.



Mixed mission to expel illegal fishing activities in PNHN between ecoguards, gendarme, fishing authorities and CCC with the military truck and driver. Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Thus, while Ebola may protect some animal species from being hunted for bushmeat, illegal fishing is becoming in some areas a larger and more serious conservation issue. In some areas primates are also being targeted since they are perceived as carriers of Ebola.

As the director of the CCC, I hope that more education regarding Ebola both in Guinea and abroad will help to put an end to some of the false information that is leading to panic and unfounded fear in Europe and the United States, and to the targeting of primates in some regions of Africa.

For more information about the CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Open Spaces guest blog post

22 messages

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 1:14 PM

To: Jennifer Linforth <jennifer_linforth@fws.gov>

Cc: Mark Newcastle <mark_newcastle@fws.gov>, Nancy Monroe <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>, Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <David_Yeargin@fws.gov>, Krishna Roy <krishna_roy@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <Richard_Ruggiero@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Matthew Trott <Matthew_Trott@fws.gov>, Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Hi Jennifer,

Please see attached for a blog by one of our DIC grantees. Would you be able to help upload this into Open Spaces for us? Justin (cc'd) will upload the piece that links to this on the fws.gov/international page (second document attached).

Thanks in advance,
Heidi

Heidi Ruffler
Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters
MS: IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803



heidi_ruffler@fws.gov
Phone: 703-358-1763
Fax: 703-358-2115

www.fws.gov/international
 USFWSInternationalAffairs
 USFWSInternat



STAMP OUT EXTINCTION

2 attachments

Guest blog from CCC_final_08112014.docx
851K

USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_final_08112014.doc
16213K

Linforth, Jennifer <jennifer_linforth@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 1:18 PM

To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Cc: Mark Newcastle <mark_newcastle@fws.gov>, Nancy Monroe <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>, Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <David_Yeargin@fws.gov>, Krishna Roy <krishna_roy@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <Richard_Ruggiero@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Matthew Trott

<Matthew_Trott@fws.gov>, Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

I can get your piece on the DIC Grantees uploaded to where the blog is on Tumblr. David is working on getting me access to where the blog is moving. If I understand correctly it is just the DIC you need and Justin will do the other?

Jennifer

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Jennifer Deschanel
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Marketing Communications
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 1:20 PM

To: "Linforth, Jennifer" <jennifer_linforth@fws.gov>

Cc: Mark Newcastle <mark_newcastle@fws.gov>, Nancy Monroe <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>, Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <David_Yeargin@fws.gov>, Krishna Roy <krishna_roy@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <Richard_Ruggiero@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Matthew Trott <Matthew_Trott@fws.gov>, Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Yes, that's right - just the CCC guest blog.
Thanks in advance,
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Chapman, Justin <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 2:52 PM

To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Hi Heidi,

I have created the page for the Ebola Outbreak and added to the Articles page as well. I just need the link to the open spaces blog.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/publications-and-media/articles.html>
<http://www.fws.gov/international/publications-and-media/ebola-outbreak.html>

Thanks

[Quoted text hidden]

Justin Chapman
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike,
Falls Church, VA 22041 USA
justin_chapman@fws.gov
Phone: 703-358-1768
Fax: 703-358-2115



www.fws.gov/international
 USFWSInternationalAffairs
 USFWSInternat



STAMP OUT EXTINCTION

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Chapman, Justin" <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 3:35 PM

Hi Justin,

Thanks for doing that! I didn't see it on the first link you sent. Should I have done so?

On the second link, I have several layout concerns:

- the banner shows a frog, but Ebola is really linked to mammals. Can we use a banner with another animal, e.g. a bat? or an African village scene? or bushmeat?
- the map is misleading as it is... it's very big but then the text box is small and so I think people will think it's connected to this current outbreak, rather than historical ones. Can we get rid of the map completely (and the text above that refers to it)?
- can the pictures be made to be the same size and smaller? They can both be next to each other if that works better.

Thanks in advance and let me know if you have questions!

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Trott, Matthew <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>, Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Linforth <jennifer_linforth@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <david_yeargin@fws.gov>, Nancy Monroe <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 4:27 PM

Hi Heidi, I just got the all-clear to publish this on Open Spaces but I need to run to catch the bus, will post early tomorrow.
matt

Matt Trott
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
EA-Division of Marketing Communications
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Trott, Matthew" <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
Cc: Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>, Jennifer Linforth <jennifer_linforth@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <david_yeargin@fws.gov>, Nancy Monroe <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 4:33 PM

Great, thanks so much!

[Quoted text hidden]

Trott, Matthew <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>, Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 8:16 AM

here is the link:

<http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2014/8/12/How-the-Current-Ebola-Outbreak-is-Affecting-OntheGround-Conservation-Work>

We are changing from Tumblr to a blog on fws.gov, hence the delay. Also, it is not showing up on the main page of the blog yet. But this link works.

Matt Trott
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
EA-Division of Marketing Communications
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Chapman, Justin" <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 9:02 AM

Hi Justin,

Can we touch base about this again?

I've attached three bushmeat photos that would be more suitable for the banner - please use whichever one you think will fit best. Credits for the first 2 are R. Ruggiero/USFWS and the last is M. Muir/USFWS.

Is it possible to make the headings slightly larger?

Last but not least, I think it looks strange to have so much white space in between the photos. Can they either be embedded in the text, or made larger so they go across the page?

Please let me know if you'd like me to stop by and work on this with you - might be faster than emails! The blog is up now, so we can link to it too: <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2014/8/12/How-the-Current-Ebola-Outbreak-is-Affecting-OntheGround-Conservation-Work>

Thanks,
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments



Gabon Mar11 099.JPG
6069K



Pokola Bushmeat Mkt IMG_2650.JPG
6210K



P1030543.JPG
635K

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Trott, Matthew" <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
Cc: Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 9:03 AM

Thanks, Matt and Justin!

[Quoted text hidden]

Chapman, Justin <justin_chapman@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 10:37 AM

What do you think of this banner?

<file:///R:/IAWEB/local%20web/publications-and-media/ebola-outbreak.html>

[Quoted text hidden]

Justin Chapman
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike,
Falls Church, VA 22041 USA
justin_chapman@fws.gov
Phone: 703-358-1768
Fax: 703-358-2115



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Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Chapman, Justin" <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 2:00 PM

Hey Justin,
Let's do it! Dirck likes it. Haven't heard back from the grantee but I'm sure she'll be fine with it too.
Please let me know when it's done and at which link, and I'll ask the blog people to insert the link.
Thanks!
Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

for your help!

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Trott, Matthew <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
Cc: Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 3:55 PM

I just heard it is Elephant Day, no problem

Matt Trott
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
EA-Division of Marketing Communications
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: "Trott, Matthew" <matthew_trott@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 1:36 PM

Hi Matt,

I just noticed that our Open Spaces blog is still connected to Tumblr (<http://usfws.tumblr.com/>), and the Ebola one seems to be a separate site. Is that intentional? I know you said the blog was going to migrate over to the fws.gov site, but it seems like it's all on its own: <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2014/8/12/How-the-Current-Ebola-Outbreak-is-Affecting-OntheGround-Conservation-Work>

It also says 0 views, which can't be accurate, can it?

Thanks for any feedback,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Trott, Matthew <matthew_trott@fws.gov>
To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 1:53 PM

Hi, where is it still connected to tumblr? That needs fixing.

It is not all alone -- There are two posts after it, but yes I was just talking about the need to get it more visibility, so that is in the works. We are working to fix the counter, too. Zero is wrong. I am trying to add to blog.

Sorry

Matt Trott
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
EA-Division of Marketing Communications
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2512
Email communication is easier and better for me.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 1:56 PM

To: "Trott, Matthew" <matthew_trott@fws.gov>

Hmmm, I see the additional entries now - great!

I mistakenly thought the #go grey post (<http://usfws.tumblr.com/>) was made after the Ebola one, which is why I thought we were still using Tumblr too.

Thanks

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

Trott, Matthew <matthew_trott@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 2:05 PM

To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

cool, technically that Go Grey post was after but we just wanted to tell people we were leaving tumblr

Matt Trott

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

EA-Division of Marketing Communications

MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

703-358-2512

Email communication is easier and better for me.

[Quoted text hidden]

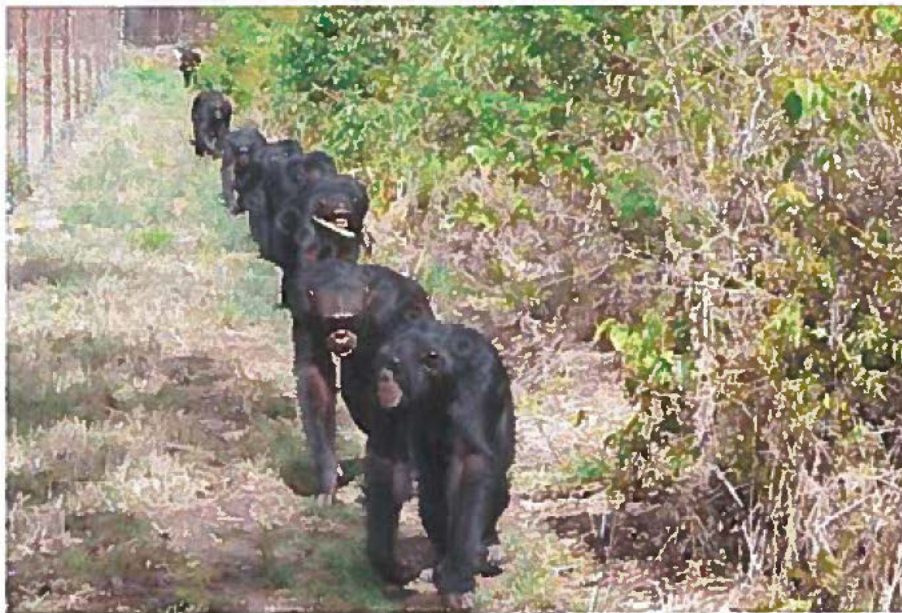
[Guest blog from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center]

How is the current Ebola outbreak affecting on-the-ground conservation work?

The [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC) is the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Guinea. The center is located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), one of two national parks in the country and a priority site for the conservation of chimpanzees. The CCC currently rehabilitates and cares for 45 rescued chimpanzees. These orphaned chimpanzees are primarily victims of the pet trade, and arrive at the CCC after being confiscated by the national authorities.

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) [[insert hyperlink to above](#)] in Guinea and other countries in West Africa is a major concern to us here at the CCC. Not only is EVD transferable between humans and animals, including chimpanzees, but we have been dealing with several additional challenges as a consequence of the recent outbreak.

Since humans and chimpanzees share over 98% of the same DNA and are affected by many of the same diseases, we at the CCC have a protocol in place to prevent transmission of diseases between the chimpanzees and us. Although this Ebola outbreak has erroneously caused some people in some areas to fear primates, the people around the PNHN seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area.



Staff and volunteers at CCC are trained with protocols to prevent disease transfer between chimpanzees and humans.
Credit: C. Danaud/CCC

Due to Ebola, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra-Leone have issued warnings and bans on bushmeat. Although these bans aren't applied, the population has nonetheless significantly reduced their bushmeat consumption, at least in Guinea. This means that bushmeat is in lower demand in Guinea, and prices have plunged over the last few months (a bush rat at market, for example, going from 30,000 GNF to 10,000 GNF¹).

¹ 10,000 GNF equals approximately US\$1.41 (8/11/14)

This has had both positive and negative consequences. Primate hunting is reduced, but illegal fishing activities have skyrocketed in the Parc National du Haut Niger, even within its most heavily protected sites.



Illegally harvested fish is smoked within park boundaries before being transported to market. Credit: Guillaume Banville/CCC

Prior to [our first release of chimpanzees](#) in the PNHN in 2008, the CCC had started protecting the northern part of the core area of PNHN known as the Mafou against illegal hunting and illegal harvesting of wood. In 2009, when a fishing ban was first put in place, we started to address illegal fishing within the core area. Along with the ban, river blocks were set up and they acted as strong deterrents. We succeeded in reducing the number of illegal fishermen. Thanks to USFWS grants from its [Great Ape Conservation Fund](#), we have been able to maintain law enforcement and protection efforts for the last past 5 years.

Since 2009, the groups of fishermen from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban along the Niger River bordering the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand for fish, they have once again gone against the law, in spite of the presence of ecoguards as deterrence. Over the past months, the fishermen have been entering the protected area in mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to try to expel them from the protected area.



Mixed mission to expel illegal fishing activities in PNHN between ecoguards, gendarme, fishing authorities and CCC with the military truck and driver. Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Thus, while Ebola may protect some animal species from being hunted for bushmeat, illegal fishing is becoming in some areas a larger and more serious conservation issue. In some areas primates are also being targeted since they are perceived as carriers of Ebola.

As the director of the CCC, I hope that more education regarding Ebola both in Guinea and abroad will help to put an end to some of the false information that is leading to panic and unfounded fear in Europe and the United States, and to the targeting of primates in some regions of Africa.

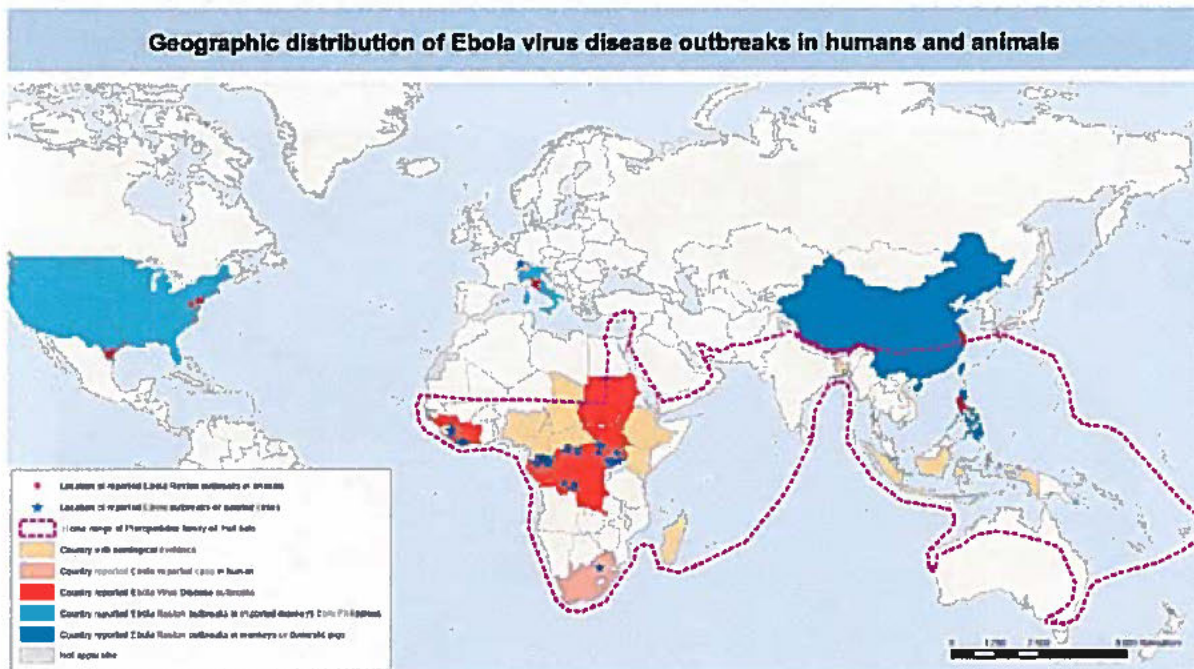
For more information about the CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!

Draft USFWS web posting to highlight the connection between Ebola and conservation, linking to a guest blog from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC)

Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, West Africa

Ebola... The name creates fear in everyone, and the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is of grave concern to our partners in the field, including the staff, volunteers, volunteers' families and funders of the [Chimpanzee Conservation Center \(CCC\)](#), which has been operating in Guinea, West Africa, since 1997. Their concern is justified: EVD, which can infect animals and humans, is one of the world's most virulent diseases. The symptoms are scary, and once you have been infected, the fatality rate can be up to 90%. To date, there is no approved treatment or vaccine available for human or animal use, although an experimental serum was recently used on two Americans with apparent success.

EVD outbreaks affecting humans and animals have occurred in the past (see image below) but what sets this one apart is the scale: the speed at which it has spread from its original outbreak site, Guinea, to neighboring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia, and more recently to Nigeria, and the number of deaths that have occurred. As of August 8, 2014, [the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) confirmed 1,779 suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola and 961 suspected case deaths from this most recent outbreak, including 367 suspected case deaths in Guinea, 294 in Liberia, 298 in Sierra Leone, and 2 in Nigeria.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Health Statistics and Information Systems (HSI)
World Health Organization



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Credit: World Health Organization (WHO)

Some of the reasons behind the rapid spread of this outbreak include:

- Denial over the existence of the virus, resulting in people not changing their lifestyle as needed;
- Fear of dying, with infected people staying at home (and hence infecting family members);
- Continued consumption of bushmeat;
- Cultural burial practices;
- Lack of hygiene; and
- Lack of medical resources, both human capital and equipment.

What does Ebola have to do with conservation?

Ebola is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transferred between animals and humans. Some animal species, while acting as carriers of the disease, do not appear to be affected. These include fruit bats. Others, such as all species of primates, are infected and may suffer similar symptoms and fatality rates as humans. In a particularly tragic case in the northwest of the Republic of Congo in 2006, for example, researchers documented [approximately 5,000 gorilla deaths caused by an Ebola outbreak](#) – equaling a mortality rate of 90 to 95%.

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus is initially transferred to humans by [direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals](#). Although experts consider fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family to be one of the natural host of the Ebola virus, many other species, including chimpanzees and gorillas – some of our closest living relatives, can also become infected and can transmit the virus to humans. In Africa, humans have contracted Ebola by handling infected apes and monkeys, fruit bats, forest antelopes and porcupines – often through the hunting and preparation of [bushmeat](#), which is a major conservation concern for many species in the Africa.



Illegally hunted primates awaiting transportation to a bushmeat market in Central Africa. Credit: R. Ruggiero/USFWS

The larger conservation connection, however, is perhaps less obvious: Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change), during which there is scarcity of food in the forest and all the animals, including fruit bats, feed on the same remaining fruit trees, usually fig trees. Human development, including logging and mining, road construction and agriculture, is increasingly cutting back on forest habitat and bringing animals and humans in closer contact, which can facilitate disease transfer. Some even speculate that the [illegal trade in apes may be the actual culprit](#) behind the current Ebola outbreak.



Hazmat suit sampling for Ebola northern Republic of Congo. Credit: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Find out more about the impact of the current Ebola outbreak on field conservation work from our Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) [[insert hyperlink](#)]

[Guest blog:]

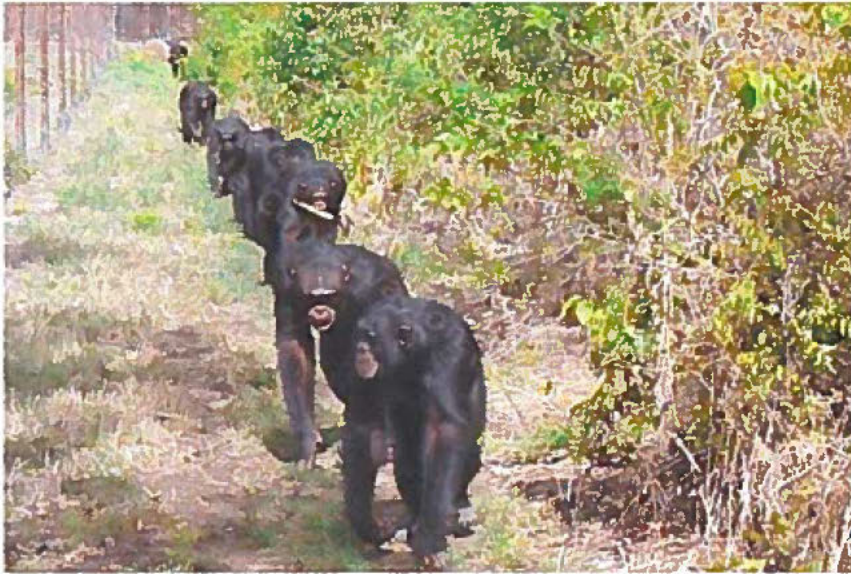
How is the current Ebola outbreak affecting on-the-ground conservation work?

The [Chimpanzee Conservation Center](#) (CCC) is the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Guinea. The center is located in the Parc National du Haut Niger (PNHN), one of two national parks in the country and a priority site for the conservation of chimpanzees. The CCC currently rehabilitates and cares for 45 rescued chimpanzees. These orphaned chimpanzees are primarily victims of the pet trade, and arrive at the CCC after being confiscated by the national authorities.

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) [[insert hyperlink to above](#)] in Guinea and other countries in West Africa is a major concern to us here at the CCC. Not only is EVD transferable

between humans and animals, including chimpanzees, but we have been dealing with several additional challenges as a consequence of the recent outbreak.

Since humans and chimpanzees share over 98% of the same DNA and are affected by many of the same diseases, we at the CCC have a protocol in place to prevent transmission of diseases between the chimpanzees and us. Although this Ebola outbreak has erroneously caused some people in some areas to fear primates, the people around the PNHN seem to regard the chimpanzees at the CCC differently, probably due to our long lasting commitments in the area.



Staff and volunteers at CCC are trained with protocols to prevent disease transfer between chimpanzees and humans. Credit: C. Danaud/CCC

Due to Ebola, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra-Leone have issued warnings and bans on bushmeat. Although these bans aren't applied, the population has nonetheless significantly reduced their bushmeat consumption, at least in Guinea. This means that bushmeat is in lower demand in Guinea, and prices have plunged over the last few months (a bush rat at market, for example, going from 30,000 GNF to 10,000 GNF¹).

This has had both positive and negative consequences. Primate hunting is reduced, but illegal fishing activities have skyrocketed in the Parc National du Haut Niger, even within its most heavily protected sites.

¹ 10,000 GNF equals approximately US\$1.41 (8/11/14)



Illegally harvested fish is smoked within park boundaries before being transported to market. Credit: Guillaume Banville/CCC

Prior to [our first release of chimpanzees](#) in the PNHN in 2008, the CCC had started protecting the northern part of the core area of PNHN known as the Mafou against illegal hunting and illegal harvesting of wood. In 2009, when a fishing ban was first put in place, we started to address illegal fishing within the core area. Along with the ban, river blocks were set up and they acted as strong deterrents. We succeeded in reducing the number of illegal fishermen. Thanks to USFWS grants from its [Great Ape Conservation Fund](#), we have been able to maintain law enforcement and protection efforts for the last past 5 years.

Since 2009, the groups of fishermen from the PNHN's closest cities have generally respected the fishing ban along the Niger River bordering the Mafou core area. However, with the recent increase in demand for fish, they have once again gone against the law, in spite of the presence of ecoguards as deterrence. Over the past months, the fishermen have been entering the protected area in mass to fish. One group included nearly 200 people with 40 pirogues (African fishing boats), and the CCC had to fund three different missions to try to expel them from the protected area.



Mixed mission to expel illegal fishing activities in PNHN between ecoguards, gendarme, fishing authorities and CCC with the military truck and driver. Credit: Estelle Raballand/CCC

Thus, while Ebola may protect some animal species from being hunted for bushmeat, illegal fishing is becoming in some areas a larger and more serious conservation issue. In some areas primates are also being targeted since they are perceived as carriers of Ebola.

As the director of the CCC, I hope that more education regarding Ebola both in Guinea and abroad will help to put an end to some of the false information that is leading to panic and unfounded fear in Europe and the United States, and to the targeting of primates in some regions of Africa.

For more information about the CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

webpost

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
To: Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 1:16 PM

Hi Justin,
Please see attached updated document that's good to go for the posting (it still includes the blog post, which will be posted by Jennifer or someone else if she's still out of the office).
Please let me know if you have any questions!
Thanks for your help,
Heidi

Heidi Ruffler
Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters
MS: IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803



heidi_ruffler@fws.gov
Phone: 703-358-1763
Fax: 703-358-2115

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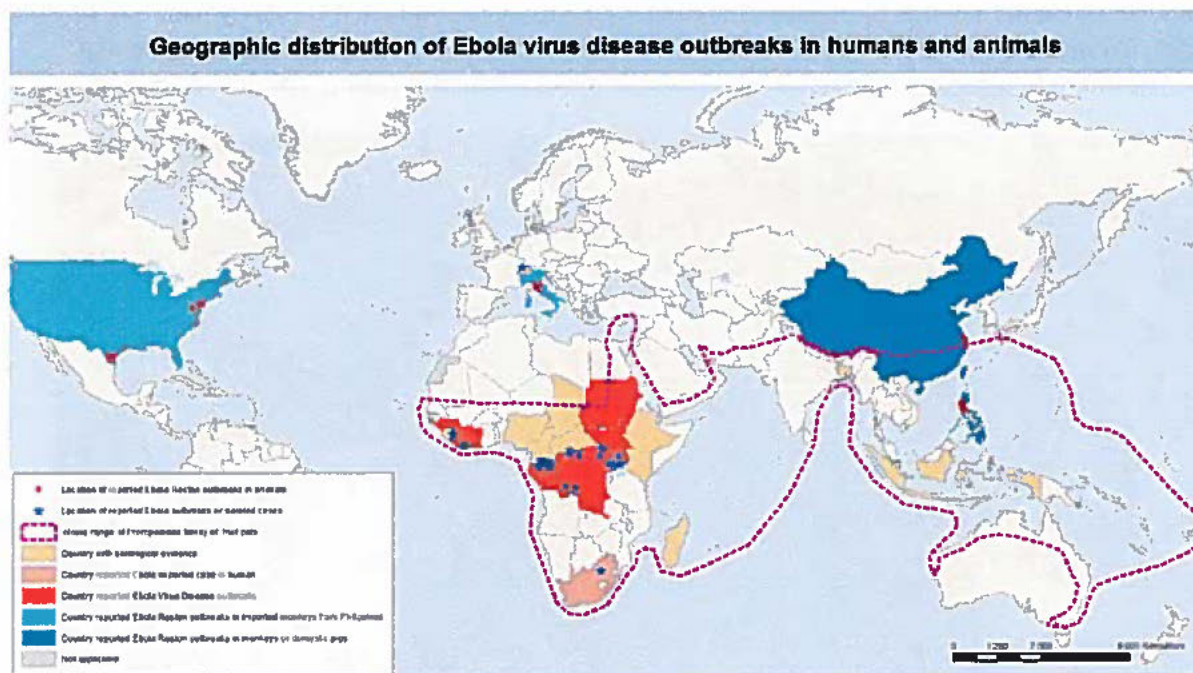
USFWS post on Ebola with CCC blog_final__08112014.doc
16213K

Draft USFWS web posting to highlight the connection between Ebola and conservation, linking to a guest blog from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee, Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC)

Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, West Africa

Ebola... The name creates fear in everyone, and the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is of grave concern to our partners in the field, including the staff, volunteers, volunteers' families and funders of the [Chimpanzee Conservation Center \(CCC\)](#), which has been operating in Guinea, West Africa, since 1997. Their concern is justified: EVD, which can infect animals and humans, is one of the world's most virulent diseases. The symptoms are scary, and once you have been infected, the fatality rate can be up to 90%. To date, there is no approved treatment or vaccine available for human or animal use, although an experimental serum was recently used on two Americans with apparent success.

EVD outbreaks affecting humans and animals have occurred in the past (see image below) but what sets this one apart is the scale: the speed at which it has spread from its original outbreak site, Guinea, to neighboring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia, and more recently to Nigeria, and the number of deaths that have occurred. As of August 8, 2014, [the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) confirmed 1,779 suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola and 961 suspected case deaths from this most recent outbreak, including 367 suspected case deaths in Guinea, 294 in Liberia, 298 in Sierra Leone, and 2 in Nigeria.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Health Statistics and Information Systems (HSIS)
World Health Organization



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Credit: World Health Organization (WHO)

Some of the reasons behind the rapid spread of this outbreak include:

- Denial over the existence of the virus, resulting in people not changing their lifestyle as needed;
- Fear of dying, with infected people staying at home (and hence infecting family members);
- Continued consumption of bushmeat;
- Cultural burial practices;
- Lack of hygiene; and
- Lack of medical resources, both human capital and equipment.

What does Ebola have to do with conservation?

Ebola is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transferred between animals and humans. Some animal species, while acting as carriers of the disease, do not appear to be affected. These include fruit bats. Others, such as all species of primates, are infected and may suffer similar symptoms and fatality rates as humans. In a particularly tragic case in the northwest of the Republic of Congo in 2006, for example, researchers documented [approximately 5,000 gorilla deaths caused by an Ebola outbreak](#) – equaling a mortality rate of 90 to 95%.

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus is initially transferred to humans by [direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals](#). Although experts consider fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family to be one of the natural host of the Ebola virus, many other species, including chimpanzees and gorillas – some of our closest living relatives, can also become infected and can transmit the virus to humans. In Africa, humans have contracted Ebola by handling infected apes and monkeys, fruit bats, forest antelopes and porcupines – often through the hunting and preparation of [bushmeat](#), which is a major conservation concern for many species in the Africa.



Illegally hunted primates awaiting transportation to a bushmeat market in Central Africa. Credit: R. Ruggiero/USFWS

The larger conservation connection, however, is perhaps less obvious: Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change), during which there is scarcity of food in the forest and all the animals, including fruit bats, feed on the same remaining fruit trees, usually fig trees. Human development, including logging and mining, road construction and agriculture, is increasingly cutting back on forest habitat and bringing animals and humans in closer contact, which can facilitate disease transfer. Some even speculate that the [illegal trade in apes may be the actual culprit](#) behind the current Ebola outbreak.



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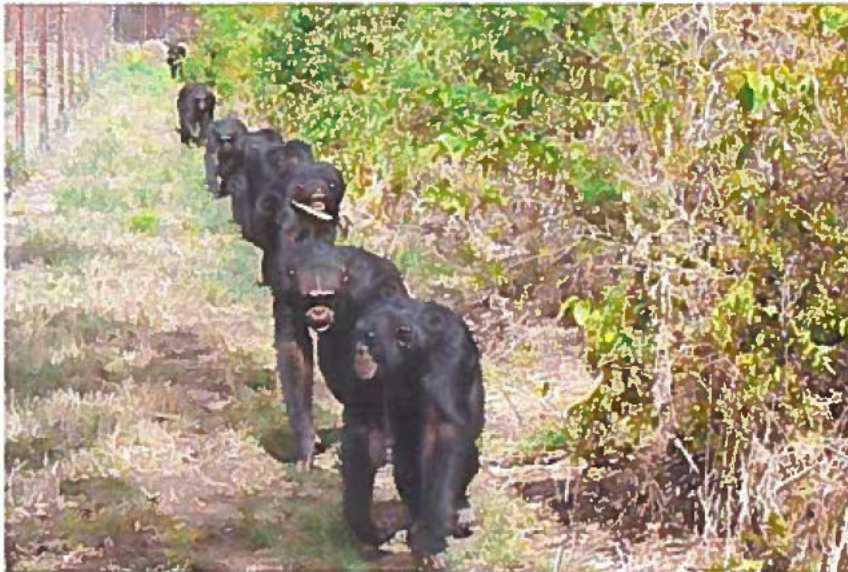
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For more information about the CCC, please [visit us on the web](#) and on [our Facebook page](#)!



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Ebola info

6 messages

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
 To: Justin Chapman <justin_chapman@fws.gov>
 Cc: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 9:02 AM

Hi Justin,

I left you a VM this morning, didn't realize you were teleworking! :-)

Can you put a blurb of the Ebola text on the Latest News so people will see it? e.g. the following:

The recent outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is of grave concern to our partners in the field in affected areas, including staff, volunteers, volunteers' families and funders. Read more about some of the conservation implications of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa ([hyperlink to our publications page](#)). Find out how the current Ebola outbreak is affecting conservation work on the ground in a guest blog ([hyperlink](#)) by the Service's Great Ape Conservation Fund grantee Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC), which has been working in Guinea, West Africa, since 1997.

Also, I think the initial title would be best as "Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa" (ie. removing the "Guinea") since it's more general. Thanks very much for making the change and for linking the page and blog to our homepage.

Danielle will also send you a blurb on sharks for the homepage. Please feel free to remove and archive the bottom two stories (Three Timber Species Receive CITES Protection and Revisions to U.S. CITES Implementing Regulations).

Thanks,
 Heidi

Heidi Ruffler
 Division of International Conservation
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters
 MS: IA
 5275 Leesburg Pike
 Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

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 Phone: 703-358-1763
 Fax: 703-358-2115



www.fws.gov/international
 [USFWSInternationalAffairs](#)
 [USFWSInternat](#)



Chapman, Justin <justin_chapman@fws.gov>
 To: "Ruffler, Heidi" <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 9:12 AM

Hi Heidi,

Is there a particular image you would like me to use for this home page post?

Thanks

[Quoted text hidden]

—

Justin Chapman
 International Affairs
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 5275 Leesburg Pike,
 Falls Church, VA 22041 USA
justin_chapman@fws.gov
 Phone: 703-358-1768
 Fax: 703-358-2115



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**STAMP OUT
 EXTINCTION**

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
 To: "Chapman, Justin" <justin_chapman@fws.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2014 at 9:16 AM

Hi Justin,

I'm guessing the first one here might be too gruesome? If so, we can use a chimp one, including the one attached which is also in the blog.

If you need a different option, please let me know!

Thanks,

Heidi

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

P1030543.JPG
 635K



Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>

Newsweek query

1 message

Ruffler, Heidi <heidi_ruffler@fws.gov>
 To: Claire Cassel <claire_cassel@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 1:17 PM

Hi Claire,

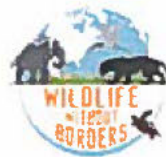
Can you confirm whether the Newsweek story on Ebola is officially dead? Or going ahead without FWS? As you know, Richard was approached independently of the interview request for bushmeat related photos. It seems that this request just resurfaced again and I'm wondering how we should respond.

Thanks in advance for any guidance,

Heidi

Heidi Ruffler
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STAMP OUT EXTINCTION