

THE ROYAL  
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# From Penguins to Pandas - the conservation game

## Chimpanzees and the Budongo Forest

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**SCILT** Scotland's  
National Centre  
for Languages

**育** **SCEN**  
SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

# The Budongo Forest

The Budongo Forest is in Uganda, Africa. The nearest village to the forest is Masindi.

## Uganda

The capital city of Uganda is Kampala. The international airport is at Entebbe, south of Kampala.

The country has borders with Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. It covers an area of 236,040km<sup>2</sup> (91,136 square miles).

The official language is English which is taught in schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers. Ganda or Luganda and Swahili languages are used locally.

The currency (*the money used in the country*) is the Ugandan shilling which is written as UGX

£1 = 4204 UGX (correct rate as at May 2014)

## Budongo Forest

The forest is in north west Uganda, just north of the village Masindi. The forest is home to about 600-700 chimpanzees as well as many other animals.

The chimpanzees of the Budongo forest were first studied in 1960. The Budongo Forest Conservation Field Station (BCFS) was started in 1990 and since 2005, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) runs the station.

In Uganda, over the last 20 years, about 800km<sup>2</sup> of forest has been cleared. Most of this has been cutting down the forest for agriculture, for example sugar plantations.

A group of chimpanzees, the Sonso chimps, have been studied since 1990. There are about 75 in this group. You can find out more on the BCFS website—[www.budongo.org](http://www.budongo.org)

The chimps are followed to find out about their behaviour and although the chimps are used to humans watching them, the humans stay well enough away from the chimps and do not disturb them.



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# The Budongo Forest

Many of the chimps have injuries from being caught in snares set by local people to catch other small animals. The chimps get caught in these by accident. The chimps will panic and pull the snare tighter around its wrist or ankle. This means the chimps cannot use their hands or feet. It was a surprise to find out that the able bodied chimps look after the disabled.

## The Goat Scheme

The Goat Scheme was started by Dr Fred Babweteera, RZSS African Coordinator for the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Local hunters are given goats to rear and breed if they stop laying snares. The local people hunted the wild animals because they could not afford to buy meat. If they have goats they can farm the goats and stop hunting endangered animals. The snares were set to mainly catch antelope and bush pigs but chimpanzees got caught in them. Dr Babweteera says, *“It is better to understand why people are doing something and to try and help.”*

To find out more about the snares and the goat scheme, please watch this video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KKDWswUago>



© RZSS Budongo Conservation Field Station

# Chimpanzee

*(Pan troglodytes)*

**Size** - The chimpanzee's height is from 100-170cm. The weight can be from 26-50kg for a female and 34-70kg for a male.

**Hands and feet** - They have hands with opposable thumbs. This means their thumbs are just like human thumbs which can be moved to touch the ends of the other fingers and provide good grip. However, unlike humans, they also have opposable big toes on their feet.

**Arms and legs** - Chimpanzees have much longer arms than legs. Long arms are useful to climb trees and reach for fruits on high branches.

**Food** - Chimpanzees mainly eat fruit but will also eat leaves, flowers, seeds, insects, birds, small mammals and when they get the chance they will hunt monkeys.

**Habitat** - Chimpanzees live mainly in rainforests.

**Babies** - A baby chimpanzee is born after about 8 months. Usually just one baby. The baby weighs about 1.8kg. Chimpanzees are very social animals and the young will stay with the parents in a large group, travelling with older brothers and sisters.

**Community** - Chimpanzees live in large groups between 20 and 120. All the chimpanzees in the community will know each other and know who has a higher rank and position in the group. The highest ranking chimpanzee is called the alpha male. The male chimpanzees will eventually fight with each other to become the alpha male.

**Communication** - Chimpanzees can communicate very well with each other. They make noises and gestures - signs with their hands, face or body. A pant hoot starts with a series of short, soft calls that sound like ohh and build up to fast, loud sounds. Sometimes they will make a screaming noise which warns others of danger.



Follow -up work: activities to do **after** the outreach session.



Complete the sentence:

The Budongo Forest is in

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How many African countries  
can you name?

Follow -up work: activities to do **after** the outreach session.

This outreach is linked with learning languages. English is the official language of Uganda but Swahili is still spoken locally.

The other main languages discussed in the outreach session were Portuguese, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

Practise writing the words for chimpanzee in these different languages:

Swahili:

sokwe

Portuguese:

chimpanzé

Spanish:

chimpancé

Chinese:

黑猩猩

[hei xing xing]

Please also see the following resource in this pack:

## Mammals of Africa

To find out more about 'From Penguins to Pandas' outreach programme, contact:  
Sandie Robb, Senior Education Officer, RZSS—[srobb@rzss.org.uk](mailto:srobb@rzss.org.uk)

### Acknowledgements

Dr Fred Babweteera RZSS African Coordinator for the Budongo Conservation Field Station

### Further Information and resources

#### Websites:

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

<http://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation-programmes/projects/current-projects/budongo-conservation-field-station>

Budongo Conservation Field Station

<http://budongo.org/>

Arkive

<http://www.arkive.org>

International Union for Conservation of Nature

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

#### Books:

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Estes, Richard Despard. *The Behavior Guide to African Mammals*. The University of California Press, 1992

Goodall, Jane. *Jane Goodall's Animal World of Chimps*. iBooks, 2012

Goodall, Jane. *The Chimpanzee Family Book*. The Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, 1989

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