



Jungle RESCUE!

NG Kids heads to Uganda's Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary to meet some amazing rescued apes...

Welcome to
Ngamba Island
Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Preservers in the Welfare of Wildlife
Proceed to the Visitors Centre



Feeding time at Ngamba

"After her rescue, she spent four weeks in quarantine to make sure she had no illnesses, and then we brought her by boat to the sanctuary on Ngamba Island. Slowly, she recovered and began to play and act like a young chimpanzee should. She's now four-years-old and a happy, healthy chimp. We call her Africa..."

Chimps' second chance

Sadly, this story is not unusual. In some parts of Africa, people still poach (hunt) apes - including chimpanzees and gorillas - for meat, or to be used in traditional medicine, leaving orphans like Africa to be sold as pets. But luckily for these chimps, there are now 10 sanctuaries across Africa, which rescue and care for these orphaned apes.



Dr. Fred teaches locals to care for their chimps

Conservationist and primatologist (ape expert), Dr. Jane Goodall, helped to set up four of these sanctuaries, including Ngamba Island.

"When I first saw the baby chimp, she was in a very bad way," Ngamba Island vet, Dr. Fred Nizeyimana, tells NG Kids. "Her mother had been taken by poachers in Chambura Gorge, Uganda, probably for bush meat, and the baby chimp was captured to be sold for thousands of pounds to a rich owner who wanted her as a pet. But luckily, someone told us where she was."

"When I first came to Africa in the 1960s, there were millions of chimps," Dr. Jane told NG Kids. "But because of loss of habitat and poaching, there are now believed to be only around 175,000 left in the wild."

Sanctuaries like Ngamba not only provide a safe home for chimps, they also help the locals by providing jobs, and teaching people how to protect wildlife and the environment.

"We have over 40 chimps at Ngamba," Dr. Fred tells NG Kids. "The local people are now aware that it's illegal to poach or keep them, so if they hear about a chimp being captured, they'll let us know and we can go and rescue them. It's a big step forward for the apes."

Island life

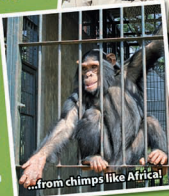
The chimps at Ngamba have lots of space on the island to roam around, but they sleep inside enclosures in cosy hammocks at night. And four times a day they gather at the same place for a very important activity - eating!

"Meal times can be noisy!", says Gerald Musingo, assistant sanctuary manager at Ngamba. "The chimps eat fruit, cabbage and posho (a dish made from maize). They love boiled eggs too - they like to peel the eggs themselves!"

Each of the chimps is watched closely at the sanctuary and their behaviour is recorded, so the keepers build up a profile of them over time. "They sometimes fight over things, but they soon become friends again," says Gerald. "I really think we humans can learn a lot from the chimps!"



Gerald says we can learn a lot...



...from chimps like Africa!

Did you know...?

Chimps are human's closest living relatives and share more than 98% of our DNA!

Africa's baobab tree is also called the 'tree of life', as it can store over 100,000 litres of water... Lake Malawi in southern Africa is home to around 500 species of fish - more than anywhere else in the world...