

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)
Gombe Stream Research Centre (GSRC)

GOMBE MONTHLY BULLETIN

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We join together in wishing Trezia and her newborn a strong and healthy journey ahead.

GOMBE AFTER DR. JANE

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CAPACITY FOR
FUTURE SCIENCE**

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Since our last message, our field researchers have continued with their daily **commitment of observing and documenting the lives of chimpanzees and other primates in Gombe**. Through consistent monitoring, we are gaining deeper insights into social dynamics, health patterns, and the changing environmental conditions that shape their survival.

In recent months, we have strengthened our research approaches **by integrating new technologies and traditional methods on data collection**, achieving and analysis, we continue to pave a way on a better understanding of chimps and other primates in a faster way than before.

These efforts are helping us better understand emerging challenges such as habitat pressure, disease risks, and the effects of climate variability on chimpanzee populations.



DR. DEUS MJUNGU, GSRC DIRECTOR

We are also investing in the next generation of researchers by supporting **training and capacity-building programs for young scientists and field staff**. Their dedication ensures that Gombe remains a global leader in long-term primate research.

As we move forward, our commitment remains clear: to advance scientific knowledge, strengthen conservation efforts, and contribute to a future where **chimpanzees, other primates and their ecosystems can thrive**.

We are grateful for the continued support of **our partners and stakeholders** who make this work possible.

Sincerely

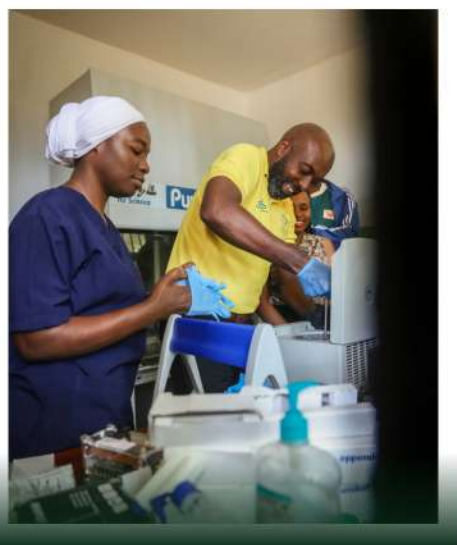


Director of Gombe Stream Research Centre

Inqaba Biotech Visit Strengthens Laboratory Capacity at GSRC

Early of April, Gombe Stream Research Centre (GSRC) hosted a visit from Inqaba Biotech East Africa Ltd (IBEA), a regional provider of life science and molecular research products and services.

GSRC is one of their customers in Tanzania, working closely with them to support laboratory-based research.



During their visit, the Inqaba team provided **training to GSRC staff** on the use of their products, including updates on new technologies and improved laboratory solutions.

These sessions are important in ensuring that **researchers stay up to date with modern tools and techniques used in molecular and diagnostic work.**



Improving Sample Collection and Preservation

One key area of focus was sample handling and preservation. For example, certain biological samples such as urine can quickly lose quality in field conditions.

Inqaba introduced products that help preserve samples for longer periods, even in remote field settings, allowing researchers to maintain sample integrity until laboratory analysis.



Bringing Data into the Digital Age and Strengthening Ongoing Collaboration

The team also supported the installation and setup of laboratory equipment, including PCR bench-top systems. They worked closely with GSRC staff to ensure proper use of the equipment and provided guidance on improving laboratory procedures and workflows.

This visit reflects the continued collaboration between GSRC and Inqaba Biotech, aimed at improving research efficiency and access to high-quality scientific products. Such partnerships play an important role in advancing molecular research and strengthening scientific capacity at Gombe.



A NEW BEGINNING: CELEBRATING A NEW CHIMPANZEE BIRTH AT GOMBE

There is a sense of excitement and hope at Gombe Stream Research Centre as we celebrate the birth of a new infant to Trezia, a well-known female chimpanzee in our long-term study.

Trezia was born in 1973 in the Mitumba community in northern Gombe. Later in her life, she migrated to the Kasekela community. Over the years, Trezia has shown resilience and strength in new community.

A History of Loss and Resilience

Trezia gave birth to her first infant in 1993, followed by others in 1999, 2005, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2017.

Sadly most of her previous offspring did not survive to adulthood.

Diseases are one of the causes. For example, Zeus died from a respiratory disease outbreak, while Zumpa died after suffering from paralysis.

A Moment of Hope

This newly born infant marks Trezia's eighth offspring and brings renewed hope to researchers and field staff alike.

As we celebrate this special moment, we are all hopeful for the infant's healthy growth and survival.

This birth represents not only a new chapter for Trezia but also an encouraging sign for the future of chimpanzees at Gombe.

BABOON MOVEMENTS AND FEEDING PATTERNS AT GOMBE

Recent observations over the past four months (December to March) have revealed notable changes in baboon group movements and feeding behavior across Gombe.



Movement of Groups Across Areas

Over the past few months (December to March), the DD baboon group spent most of their time in higher areas such as Lock Peak, Peak Ledge, Bullsoko, Linda Peak, Jane's Peak, and parts of Kasekela (AK4). Because of this, the DB group, who usually occupy these areas, moved down to Kakombe Valley and nearby areas like Dellway.

Later, the AC group also moved from the hills into Kakombe Valley, which forced the DB group to move once again, showing clear competition for space among the groups.

Feeding Patterns and Food Availability

While in the higher areas, the DD group mainly fed on caterpillars, termites, and mushrooms. During this month of April, many baboon groups were also observed feeding on papaya fruits, which were widely available and attracted different groups.

In Kakombe, the AC group fed on a variety of foods including local plants, fruits, and insects found near the stream.



These observations show how baboon groups change their locations depending on food availability and the presence of other groups. It also highlights how competition for resources influences their movement and behavior at Gombe.

STORIES BEYOND THE FIELD

GOMBE STREAM RESEARCH CENTRE (GSRC) SUPPORTS LOCAL STUDENTS

Gombe Stream Research Centre is currently hosting two students from the University of Dar es Salaam-Tanzania, Lisa Sabaya and Henry Saimo, who are in their second year of a Master's degree in Zoology.

They are based at Gombe for up to three months, actively conducting data collection for their respective research projects.



ADVANCING RESEARCH THROUGH FIELD AND LABORATORY WORK

Lisa Sabaya is undertaking laboratory-based research focused on the molecular investigation of gastrointestinal parasites among chimpanzees in the Kalande, Mitumba, and Kasekela communities. Her work involves collecting and analyzing samples to better understand parasite dynamics and their implications for chimpanzee health.

Henry Saimo is carrying out field-based data collection on the assessment and modeling of chimpanzee nesting sites. His study will provide important insights into habitat use, nesting patterns, and spatial behavior.



On left is Fundi on nest, this part of Henry assessment areas and on right side is Lisa in Lab

JGI IS BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FUTURE SCIENCE

Both students are supported by the Jane Goodall Institute, demonstrating a strong commitment to enabling local students to pursue advanced studies while gaining hands-on field experience.

This support plays a vital role in strengthening locally driven conservation research.

Their work at Gombe reflects the growing importance of investing in local young scientists who will continue advancing primates research and conservation in the future.

NEW STAFF: JANE JOINS THE TEAM AT GSRC



Jane Daudi Lukumay joined JGI Tanzania effective 1st April 2026 as a Field Assistant at the Gombe Stream Research Centre (GSRC), Kigoma.

She will be involved in following chimpanzees in the field and collecting individual-level data for long-term research.



EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND

She brings over one year of experience in primate and wildlife research, having worked with the Greater Mahale Ecosystem Research and Conservation from 2024 to 2025.

Jane holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation from Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), awarded in 2024.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

Her appointment represents an important step in strengthening the participation of women in field science and conservation work at GSRC.

It is also a reflection of growing opportunities for young female scientists in wildlife research, and an inspiration for future generations—perhaps even nurturing the vision of a future “Dr. Jane” in conservation science.

SHE

- Loves nature
- Enjoys working with animals
- Committed to field work



www.janegoodall.or.tz

Photos by our own videographer Stephano Lihedule

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14112 Mikocheni B, Serengeti Road,
House No. 11, Plot No. 375
P. O. Box 70728,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 2775 236,
Fax: +255 22 2775 230

P. O. Box 1182,
Kigoma, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 28 2988 176/177,
Fax: +255 28 2988 179
E-mail: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz

Instagram - [@gombestream/@janegoodall_tanzania](#) | X - [@JGI_Tanzania](#) | LinkedIn - Jane goodall institute tanzania | Facebook - Jane goodall institute tanzania