

SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN/ASIAN GREAT APES (SAGA): EFFORTS TOWARD THE CARE AND CONSERVATION OF CHIMPANZEES

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SAGA was founded on November 19, 1998 by Japanese primatologists in collaboration with Western colleagues, including Jane Goodall and Jan van Hooff. The aim of the organization is to offer support to our evolutionary neighbors, the great apes. SAGA is a spiritual descendant of CCCC (Committee for Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees), established in Chicago in November 1986. SAGA extended CCCC's principles by including all of the great apes as targets, as well as consolidating support, not only from researchers, but also from zoo professionals, the media, and the general public. SAGA aims to facilitate the conservation of the great apes and their natural habitats, to promote animal welfare in captive populations, and to put an end to invasive research. In this talk, I will describe the collective efforts of SAGA over the past decade, resulting in the first chimpanzee sanctuary in Japan (CSU, established in 2007), and the founding, in 2008, of the Wildlife Research Center (WRC) of Kyoto University, which promotes collaboration between research institutes and zoos. I will also describe my endeavors towards a more holistic understanding of the chimpanzee through parallel efforts in laboratory studies in Japan and fieldwork in West Africa. In the course of synthesizing the two different approaches, understanding and utilizing environmental enrichment has become an integral part of my laboratory work, while my fieldwork is continuously accompanied by efforts toward the conservation of the chimpanzees' natural habitat through, for example, the "Green Corridor" reforestation program.

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