



The fruit of discord? *Saba senegalensis* use by chimpanzees and local people in southeastern Senegal

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Distribution area of Western chimpanzees

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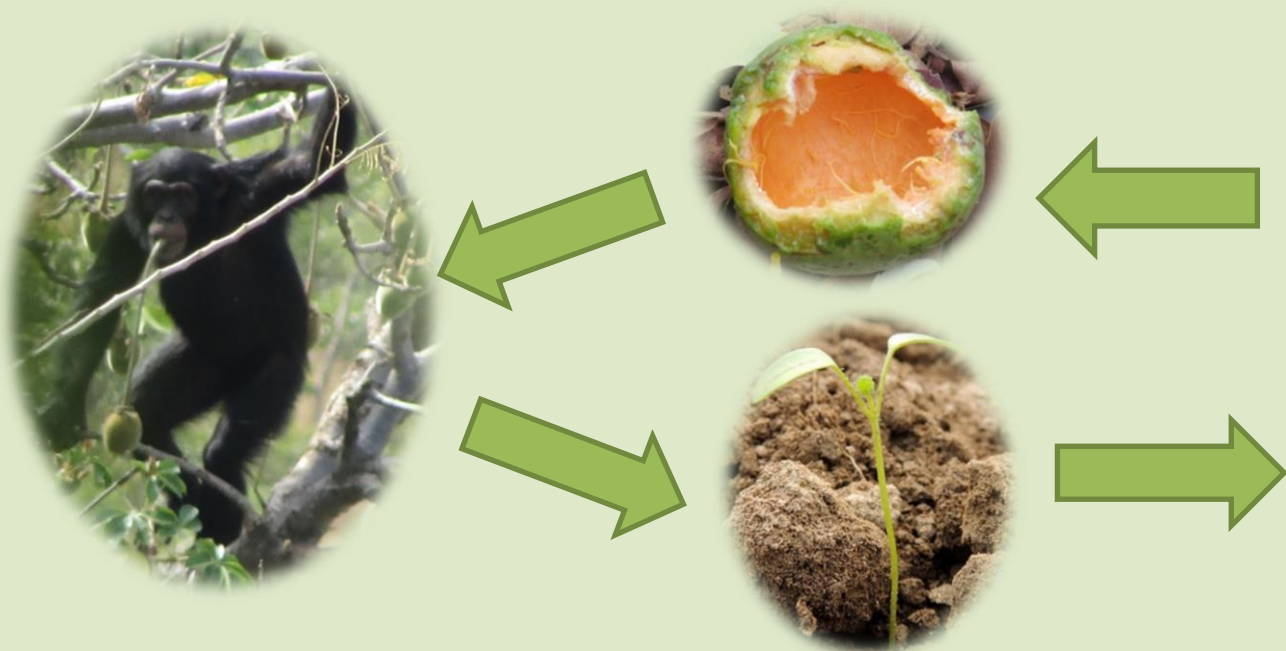
Western Chimpanzees in Senegal, West Africa

- **Western Chimpanzee** (*Pan troglodytes verus*) is facing **local extinction** in Senegal, with less than 400 individuals¹.
- More than 56% of Senegal's **human population** lives in **rural areas**, where they rely on forest products.
- Chimpanzees are threatened by **competition** with humans over access to **natural resources**, including *Saba senegalensis* fruit¹.
- The **Jane Goodall Institute Spain** runs a programme to conserve chimpanzees in the **Dindefelo Community Nature Reserve (RNCD)**, Kedougou region, southeastern Senegal².

Saba senegalensis: a key fruit

For chimpanzees:

It is the most essential fruit resource during the **transition between the dry and wet season**³.



Chimpanzees are the most important seed **dispersers**.



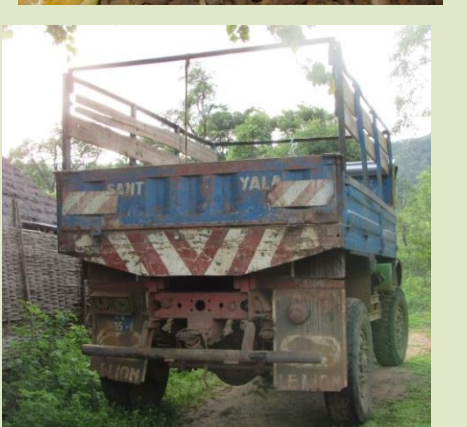
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For humans:

It is an important source of income **when crop stores are exhausted**⁴.



Marco Schmidt



The human exploitation to supply external markets is **unsustainable**⁴.

Actions by the JGI (2012)

To make this fruit available for people and chimpanzees in the RNCD²:

- **Protection** of gallery forests
- Awareness campaign of **sustainable and non-destructive harvest methods**
- Community managed ***Saba* plantations**



Jane Goodall Institute Spain in Senegal

Need for an updated understanding

Field work (May-July 2017) in the RNCD to:

- 1) Evaluate the **importance** of *Saba*
- 2) Assess **spatiotemporal differences** in harvest
- 3) Identify **factors** related to collection
- 4) Estimate the **amount extracted**

Biological methods

- Presence/absence of seeds in faeces
- Fruit trails

Social sciences methods

- Semi-structured interviews
- Participant observation

Results

- Integrated to the JGI strategies
- Influence regional action plans

¹ Carter, J., Ndiaye, S., Pruetz, J. & McGrew, W. (2003). Senegal. In: R. Kormos, C. Boesch & M. B. T. Bakarr, ed. *West African Chimpanzees Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

² Pacheco, L. et al. (2012). Perspectives on sustainable resource conservation in community nature reserves: a case study from Senegal. *Sustainability*, 4, pp. 3158-3179. MSc Dissertation, Iowa State University, IA, USA.

³ Pruetz, J. (2006). Feeding ecology of savanna chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) at Fongoli, Senegal. In: G. Hohmann, M. Robbins & C. Boesch, ed. *Feeding ecology in apes and other primates*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, pp. 161-182.

⁴ Knutsen, P. (2003). *Threatened existence: Saba senegalensis in southeastern Senegal*.