

## Upcoming Events for 2025

**October 13**  
**Gorilla Golf**  
Flat Creek Country Club

**HoneyBaked Ham**  
**Fall Gift Card Sale**  
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

**December 2**  
**GA Gives/**  
**Giving Tuesday**

**December 13**  
**ZA Volunteer**  
**Holiday Bazaar**  
After Mega Update



## How Does ACE Handle Emergency Requests?

*How does ACE handle  
emergency requests?*

*How does ACE send  
donations to Africa and  
Indonesia?*

*How do we make sure our  
donations are getting to  
the groups that need  
them?*

*How does ACE have  
money to send in  
emergencies without  
holding fundraisers for  
that cause?*

These are some of the questions members asked after ACE received the last two emergency requests. In general, members want to know how ACE sends money abroad.

### General Fund

ACE has a General Fund that is made up of money from memberships, renewals and unspecified

donations. From this fund we pay our "cost of doing business" expenses, such as insurance, computer costs, banking costs and start-up costs for fundraisers.

When we have an emergency request or want to increase the size of a donation from a fundraiser, the funding comes from this General Fund. Treasurer, Susan Smith, evaluates ACE expenses and projected income. Then she will make an educated recommendation to the Board concerning an amount that might be taken from the General Fund. The Board discusses and if approved, the membership will vote on using the General Fund money for something other than our regular "cost of doing business" expenses.

ACE fundraising projects usually specify the non-profit each project will support. The Board wants to support all four great apes and will review past donations to each great ape group. When

the review is done, the Board will make a suggestion as to the great ape group to support with the fundraiser. The membership will vote to accept this suggestion or entertain something different. After the membership votes to approve the great ape group to receive the profits from the event, the fundraiser is able to include it in publicity and advertising.

If you have ever sent money abroad, you understand that it's not easy. ACE wants to make sure our donations are going to the non-profit group we want to support plus we want to make sure they get the correct amount. Many of the non-profit groups work in countries that have had military uprisings. Combine that with a variable exchange rate, sending money abroad can be tricky. To work around these problems, ACE makes donations to the non-profit groups in the United States that support the work done in the foreign countries. **We do not send money directly to foreign countries.**

*The following are some examples of places to send money in the US but supporting the work in foreign countries:*

1. **Lola ya Bonobo**  
donations are sent to

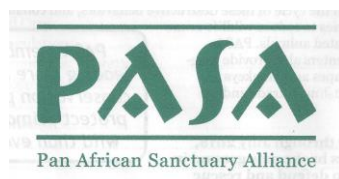
Friends of Bonobos in Durham, NC.

2. **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International**  
donations are sent to DFGFI headquarters in Atlanta, GA.

3. **SOCP and BOS**  
donations are sent to Orangutan Outreach in New York, NY.

4. **Jane Goodall**  
donations are sent to Jane Goodall Institute in Washington, DC.

Thank you for asking these important questions. Remember - the Board has a responsibility to handle all ACE money wisely. We do this through research, evaluation, and voting. If you ever have questions about this, please contact a Board member.



## Behind the Scenes with PASA

by Karin Keller

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) is celebrating 25 years of protecting primates in

Africa. ACE was invited to join Kelly O'Meara (Executive Director) and Becky Rose (Board Member) in a webinar to learn more about what PASA is all about.

PASA started in 2000 at the Columbus Zoo with the idea to bring sanctuaries and wildlife centers together, to form networks, and to present a united front to speak as one voice for primates across Africa. There are currently 23 member organizations in the alliance with a global network of NGOs, specialists, volunteers, and compassionate supporters.

PASA established an accreditation process to ensure all member uphold the same rigorous set of criteria from sanctuary management to the highest quality of care for the animals. These standards are always changing and improving and so members have to get reevaluated every five years to meet PASA requirements.

Funding wildlife sanctuaries is expensive and raising money is very difficult. Some sanctuaries allowed interactions with the animals in their care to bring in desperately needed funds. Some allowed guests to hold monkeys to raise money. The photos taken were then spread on social media. It wasn't the right

thing to do because it sent the wrong message that wild animals make good pets. It went counter to what sanctuaries stood for. Many animals from the illegal pet trade, at least the lucky ones, end up in sanctuaries. It's a long and expensive journey for them to be rehabilitated. Sanctuaries are full of illegal wildlife trade animals often for a life long commitment and most of these animals can never be released back into the wild. So one very important question to find common ground was how should member sanctuaries raise money in an effective and ethical way.

The work of wildlife rescue is mentally and physically very demanding. There is so much suffering to take to heart. PASA serves also as backbone for its members. It offers support in form of workshops and educational programs for staff, primate care training, leadership grants and emergency support.

First priority for PASA and its members is always to bring animals to safety. When monkeys or great apes are suffering they need immediate rescue. This is often done by PASA directly to get the animals out of harms way as quickly as possible.

Sometimes a rescue takes many years of planning and collaborating with member sanctuaries, governments, and local communities. An example of a rescue that took years of advocacy and collaboration finally brought four chimpanzees to a sanctuary in Liberia to get a second chance at life. The four chimpanzees, Tita, Tza, Fifi and Simao ranging in ages from 2 to 12 years lived in terrible conditions in Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau doesn't have any sanctuaries nor do they have laws that prohibit private possession of wildlife. Therefore, it was necessary to rescue and transfer them to another country. This made it that much more complicated and costly to deal with different sets of governments and laws. On top of this, the COVID pandemic and a coup attempt made it seemingly impossible to make this rescue happen. But with determination, collaboration and expertise, PASA and its partners were finally able to bring them to a sanctuary in Liberia. This rescue illustrates the power of alliances that make the impossible possible.

The COVID crisis was especially hard on sanctuaries. Not only had the staff to be quarantined

because of the fear of zoonotic diseases - staff had to stay in the sanctuaries and could not go home to their families - but also tourism, a vital means of income, stopped abruptly. PASA helped sanctuaries to stay afloat in these very challenging times.

Protecting primates is not just a local problem but needs to be addressed on a global platform, thus PASA works with CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, to promote policy and advocacy to advance primate protection long-term.

Sanctuaries are especially important to combat illegal wildlife trade, which is multi-million dollar illegal industry intertwined with drug and human trafficking. There is an important link between having a sanctuary available to take in confiscated animals. Law enforcement is more likely to intervene and make it harder for wildlife trafficking if a sanctuary is available to accept confiscated animals.

The work of sanctuaries and wildlife centers doesn't get easier. Conservation threats like habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, poaching and climate change have increased in the last 25

years. Diseases like Ebola and civil wars are also threatening wildlife. Existing sanctuaries are at capacity and more of them are needed. PASA works with governments to establish new sanctuaries in their countries for immediate and long-term care but also rehabilitation and release to the wild. These are very complicated projects and PASA is in talks with governments, advising, and supporting them to establish sanctuaries. Currently PASA is working with the Rwandan government since there are no sanctuaries in that country yet.

An important component in wildlife protection is empowering local communities. Commercial bushmeat trade is a real problem but also local consumption of bushmeat. It's a way to make a living for many. Sometimes it is lack of information and it only takes a little bit of conservation education to change human behavior. PASA and member sanctuaries are teaching adults and children the importance of their environment and how they can protect it and the wildlife around them. In programs like farming, bee keeping, and reforestation, communities learn how to use other resources to create a sustainable livelihood without harming wildlife or

destroying their environment.

PASA was founded with the idea to bring local and global expertise and experience together to form networks and relationships to accomplish more across Africa. In the fight to protect primates, strength is in numbers and every dollar counts. In turn, we at ACE can rest assured that every dollar we raise and send their way is desperately needed and is in good hands.

For more information go to [PASA.org](https://pasa.org).



## **HoneyBaked Ham Spring Sale Ends**

By Susan Smith

Our Spring HoneyBaked Ham gift card campaign has ended. Our sales were down a little this year with only \$350 worth of cards sold. From that amount ACE received 20% of the sales, which gave us \$70 for the general fund. Hopefully we will do better with our 2025 Fall campaign.

Starting November 1 we will begin the Fall Campaign that will run through December 31. This period of time will cover your holiday needs as well as food for football games tailgating. In addition, gift cards are a great way to say "thank you" to all the folks that provide you services - postal worker, dog groomer, teachers, etc. It is also an easy way to help you get through all the holiday events a lot easier by purchasing HoneyBaked Ham products.

Detailed information and a flyer you can share will be coming out in the October ACE newsletter.



## WOW!!! - Auction for Apes a Success

by Susan Smith

The first Auction for Apes was a rousing

success. We surpassed our goal of \$2000, raising over **\$2300**. As stated the profits raised will benefit Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS)



Photo by BOS

The auction contained 88 donated items. The variety of items helped to increase the bidding activity. Some of the items that were not originally bid on during the auction were later sold. So a total of 72 of the 88 items were eventually sold.

This event would not have been this successful without the involvement and support of many individuals. Thanks to all the people who donated items; without them there would not have been an auction. Thanks to everyone who bid and/or won auction items and those who made donations; your support got us over our goal. Also, want to thank Carol Haile for her artwork in creating the brand for the Auction, and to Jenny Reineck for helping get the word out through social media.

Enjoy the items that you won and stay tuned for our next fundraiser.



## Lola ya Bonobo Thanks ACE

May 9, 2025

Hello Everyone at Ape Conservation Effort,

When historic flooding struck Kinshasa and swept into Lola ya Bonobo, your quick response made all the difference. Because of your attention and generosity, we've been able to protect the bonobos and begin rebuilding stronger than ever.

Thank you for standing with us, and with the bonobos, when we needed it most.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Ariel Rogers  
Executive Director,  
Friends of Bonobos

*Also included with this email were photos and a description of the crisis. We are including this for you with the following:*

## Severe Flood Hits Kinshasa & Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary: Recovery Underway

A powerful storm system that drenched Kinshasa in early April 2025 triggered

the most severe flooding the region has seen in years - claiming at least 33 lives, displacing thousands, and causing catastrophic damage across neighborhoods and natural areas, including the beloved Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary, home to 70 rescued bonobos.

Located at the southern edge of the capital city, the sanctuary found itself directly in the path of the surging waters as the Ndjili and Lukaya Rivers burst their banks following days of unrelenting rainfall.

"We lost everything," Kinshasa resident Marie Nzola told NPR, standing beside what remained of her home. "We left everything behind." (NPR April 8, 2025)



## A Sanctuary in Crisis

For the bonobos and staff who live and work at Lola, the flood left a trail of destruction:

- The sanctuary's water pump was buried in heavy sediment for days, halting access to clean water and plumbing. Major repairs to the water systems are needed while staff continues to collect and carry water by hand.
- Enclosure fencing was damaged by falling trees and mudslides, threatening the security of the bonobos.
- Building roofs were torn or collapsed, including guest housing and bonobo medical infrastructure.
- The on-site restaurant, a gathering spot for guests and educational groups, was almost completely submerged - its future now uncertain as leaders consider relocation.
- Guest pathways and educational trails were washed away, halting field trips and local conservation programming.
- Vital electrical systems were shocked, affecting medical equipment, lighting, and refrigeration.
- Ongoing supply chain disruptions have driven up the cost of basic goods, placing additional strain on recovery efforts and daily operations.

Faced with extensive damage, Lola's team sprang into action. Staff and caregivers, many of whom stayed on-site during the storm,

prioritized the safety of the bonobos and began stabilization and emergency cleanup immediately.

## Donor Action Helped Turn the Tide

In response to the crisis, supporters around the world stepped in to fund critical repairs and recovery efforts.

"Thanks to our donors, we were able to respond immediately," said Ariel Rogers, Executive Director of Friends of Bonobos. "Fencing was repaired and our bonobos remained safe throughout it all. The outpouring of generosity showed just how much this community cares, not just about the sanctuary, but about the future of this endangered species."

## Kinshasa Flooding, Climate, and the Road Ahead

This flooding echoes a deadly disaster in 2022 that killed over 100 people in Kinshasa. As such events grow more frequent, due partly to climate change, conservation sites like Lola ya Bonobo are increasingly vulnerable. The sanctuary is now exploring how to adapt its infrastructure to rising climate risks, including elevating walkways, reinforcing critical buildings, and relocating high-risk facilities.

"This was a wake-up call," Rogers says. "We're not just rebuilding - we're rethinking. And we're doing it with the same determination that's driven this sanctuary for over two decades."



## Did you know?

My mother always taught us that if people don't agree with you, the important thing is to listen to them. But if you've listened to them carefully and you still think that you're right, then you must have the courage of your convictions.

*Jane Goodall*

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

*Albert Einstein*



## 2025 ACE Board

Jane Barron  
Susan Callaway  
Barbara Cebula  
Shelley DeWeese  
Karin Keller  
Jenny Reineck  
Susan Smith

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Gorilla Golf:  
[gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org)

# Ape Conservation Effort Donor Form

Please print clearly. The information you provide will be used to promote your donation and your company.

Your personal or company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City	State	Zip Code	Phone Number
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Please give a complete description of the donated item: \_\_\_\_\_ Retail Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## (Complete this section if donating a Gift Certificate)

Will you supply the gift certificate?	Yes	No
or		
Do you authorize ACE to create your gift certificate?	Yes	No

Ape Conservation Effort, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization.  
Tax I.D. #20-5911817

Do you want a copy of this Donor Form sent with your acknowledgment letter?    Yes                      No

**Donor's Authorized Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ape Conservation Effort, Inc.  
800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30315**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Committee member: \_\_\_\_\_

Rcvd.: \_\_\_\_\_