

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

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ONE YEAR ON: GOMBE AFTER DR. JANE

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Dear readers

One year after the passing of our founder, Dr Jane Goodall, I have much to reflect on, **as she was my lifetime colleague.** It was she who brought me to Gombe in 1972, and we have both spent many years of our lives here by Lake Tanganyika, in the forests of Gombe.

In those early years, we were often here together. While **she and her team were studying chimpanzees, I worked in parallel, with the baboon team,** and the evenings were the chance to share observations and discuss what we had learned. She was always a most inspiring colleague, with her intuitive understanding of animal behaviour, and her many insights. If she had time she would have been studying baboons with us too !



In the later years, we tended to alternate. I among others, was her deputy. She was mostly away on her larger mission, **to encourage all humans to live sustainably on this planet, and to respect and give place to all other creatures.** I was the fortunate one, to stay and live closely with nature at Gombe, and to work with her team of Tanzanian researchers on her behalf.

But her visits, although brief, were most valuable. She was able to come here only twice a year, even for less than a week, but it was always a pleasure to have her with us, and a boost to her team. It was also important to let her slip away into the forest, on her own, whether with chimps or without, just as she had done in the 1960s, to touch base and gain strength. But she always walked in hope of meeting **her friend Gremlin (the best mother of them all !).**

So although she has departed (on 'her next great adventure' as she described it), yet we feel she is with us in spirit, and she has left us her Gombe mission, to understand and conserve chimpanzees and all life around them. And this continues as a basis for her world mission, to respect and favour the environment, and make life better for all living things, including her chimpanzees and all humanity.

Dr. Anthony Collins;

Director, Baboon Research/ Co-Director, GSRC

JGI Tanzania Marks One Year of Remembering Dr. Jane Goodall in Kigoma



Kigoma, Tanzania — The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) gathered together partners, colleagues, and communities in Kigoma **to commemorate one year since the passing of Dr. Jane Goodall**, celebrating her extraordinary life, scientific contribution, and enduring legacy in chimpanzee research, conservation, and environmental protection.

The commemorative event was held at the JGI Tanzania Office in Kigoma Town and brought together a wide range of conservation stakeholders and friends of Dr. Jane's work. Guests included representatives from **the Government of Tanzania, the JGI Tanzania Board, TANAPA, TAWIRI, religious leaders, retired staff from Gombe Research and JGI Tanzania, local communities, and other conservation organisations in Kigoma.**



Walking, Jogging & Remembering Jane

The day began with a Walk for Jane, bringing participants together in a symbolic expression of remembrance and commitment to conservation.

This was followed by the **planting of 91 trees**, representing the 91 years of Dr. Jane's life. The trees serve as a living symbol of her enduring connection to nature and her lifelong message that every individual can make a difference.



Remembering Gombe's Research History

A particularly meaningful part of the celebration was the **participation of retired researchers and former staff who worked with Dr. Jane during her years of research in Gombe.**

Although many have been retired for years, they continue to carry vivid memories of their experiences in the forest and their contributions to the early years of chimpanzee research and conservation. Their presence created a special opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and reflect on the history that helped shape Gombe's conservation journey.



Her Legacy Continues

One year on, Dr. Jane's legacy continues to inspire conservation efforts and research in Gombe, Kigoma, Tanzania, and around the world. Her influence lives on through the people she inspired, the forests protected, the chimpanzees studied and conserved, and the generations encouraged to become stewards of our shared planet.

Aristides A. Kashula

Her journey may have ended, but her work continues through all those carrying her message forward.

Fudge Is No Longer Alpha: His Younger Brother Fifti Takes Power

New Report
from field

A Changing Chapter in Kasekela Community

On 19 September 2026, Fudge was observed moving through Busambo Valley with visible injuries and scars around his waist. He was also limping on one leg. For a chimpanzee who had led the Kasekela Community for ten(10) years, the sight was striking.

Fudge had been seen with injuries before, but this time, something appeared to have changed. The once-respected alpha male was facing increasing pressure from within his own family.



Fifti

The Rise of Fifti

The challenge came from Fifti, Fudge's younger brother and the sixth-born of the F siblings, after Fundi, Familia and Fadhila.

For approximately a week, researchers observed repeated encounters between the two brothers. When Fifti approached, Fudge would often retreat, and even sought refuge behind Galleon, the four-year old son of Golden.

It was an unusual and powerful moment to witness—an alpha male, once responsible for leading an entire community, moving behind a young chimpanzee for protection.

Another male, Ipo, was also observed confronting Fudge, while Nyota appeared to associate with Fifti during these encounters. Slowly, the balance of power within Kasekela was changing.



Fudge

Fudge: A Calm but Restless Leader

Fudge had led Kasekela since 2022, when he took over from Ferdinand. His leadership style was notably calm. He was not known for unnecessary aggression.

One of the challenges during his leadership was that the community often travelled extensively, rarely remaining in one place for long periods to feed and rest.

There were also moments when Fudge appeared cautious in the face of serious threats. During a previous encounter with males from the Mitumba Community, which had moved farther south into Gombe, Fudge retreated leading Kasekela away. This encounter ended tragically with the death of Chema, a member of the Kasekela Community.

These moments reveal that leadership in chimpanzee societies is complex. Being an alpha is not simply about strength—it involves relationships, alliances, confidence, and the ability to maintain the support of others.

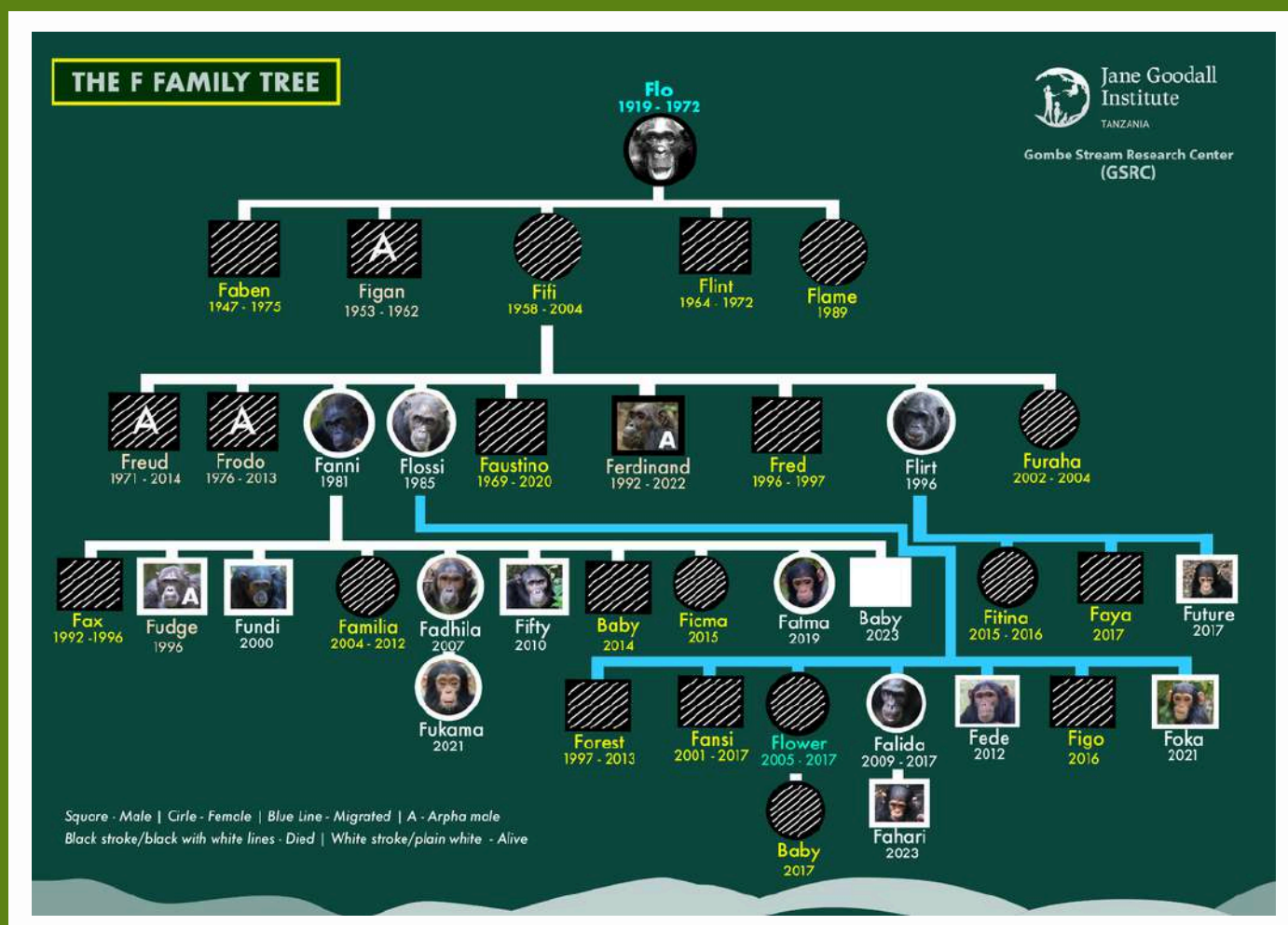
An F-Family Legacy of Leaders.

Fudge's story is also part of a much longer family history.

For generations, males from the “F” lineage have held important positions of leadership within Kasekela. Their history stretches back more than seven decades:

Years of leadership

Figan 1973-1979 6 years, Freud 1993-1997 4 years, Frodo 1997-2002 5 years, Ferdinand 2008-2016 8 years, Fudge 2016-2026 10 years, Fifti 2026-.....



The End of One Reign, the Beginning of Another

Fudge's fall from alpha marks the end of another chapter in Kasekela's long history. His younger brother Fifti has now taken over as the new alpha male.

And for researchers, every change in leadership provides another opportunity to understand the complex social lives of chimpanzees—their families, alliances, rivalries, conflicts, and bonds.

Kasekela has seen generations of leaders rise and fall. Yet remarkably, the “F” lineage continues.

The forest moves on. The community moves on. And now, Fifti leads Kasekela into its next chapter.

JGI TANZANIA CONSERVATION EFFORTS BEYOND GOMBE RESEARCH

The Julian Grace Foundation Visit Strengthens Conservation Partnership with JGI Tanzania

This month, the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) welcomed Jessica Sarowitz and members of the Julian Grace Foundation Board for a visit to learn more about JGI-TZ's conservation work and activities.



During their visit, the team explored key JGI Tanzania initiatives, community centered conservation (like COCOBA groups and coffee farming and processing) , Roots & Shoots clubs and Gombe research. The visits provided an opportunity to meet communities, young people, and researchers and learn more about JGI-TZ's conservation work.



Looking Ahead Together

The visit also provided an opportunity to discuss the partnership and share ideas on supporting chimpanzee conservation, communities, young people, and sustainable livelihoods around the Gombe ecosystem.





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Photos by Stephano Lihedule

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