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

GOMBE MONTHLY BULLETIN

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GOMBE AFTER DR. JANE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As we transition from the wet to the dry season, our field researchers remain dedicated to their daily work of observing and collecting behavioral data on chimpanzees and other primates across the Gombe ecosystem.

Seasonal shifts, directly influence food availability and wildlife movement patterns within and around the Gombe forest. Over the past month, our field research team has documented how this seanonarity has influenced chimps behaviors such as ranging use and grouping patterns.

These observations continue to expand our unique, long-term dataset, providing valuable insights into primate social dynamics and environmental interactions.



DR. DEUS MJUNGU, GSRC DIRECTOR

Through continuous field observations and long-term research, we remain committed to deepening our knowledge of chimpanzees and other Gombe wildlife while supporting their long-term conservation.

Sincerely

Director of Gombe Stream Research Centre

RAINY SEASON AND ITS IMPACTS IN GOMBE

TRANSITION FROM RAINY SEASON TO DRY SEASON

The rainy season in Gombe has officially ended as the region gradually transitions into the dry season. This season recorded an average of 1,492 mm of rainfall — an 11% increase compared to last year, though still lower than the 1,600 mm recorded in 2024, the wettest season in recent years.

Despite the higher rainfall totals, the season was characterized by irregular rainfall patterns and longer dry intervals between rain events, reflecting the growing impacts of climate variability.





WEATHER PATTERNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

During the final phase of the rains, researchers and field teams observed several notable weather-related events, **including strong winds and increased wave activity across Lake Tanganyika.**

- **Big trees fallen down**
- **Few boats damaged**

ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN THE FOREST

The ecosystem continued to show dynamic interactions, **large swarms of flying termites were observed within the forest.** These seasonal insects provided an important protein and fat substute in chimpanzees diet.





CONCLUSION

These observations highlight the close relationship between seasonality and wildlife behavior in Gombe. Continued monitoring remains crucial in understanding these dynamics.

SAFETY NOTE ⚠️
No human injuries or deaths were reported during these events.

New reports from field

GOOD NEWS: TANGA, A MOTHER CHIMP CONFIRMED TO BE PREGNANT

During the month, Tanga was tested positive for pregnancy. This good news brought some excitement to Gombe family. We wish her the best with her pregnancy. This will be her seventh offspring.

Tanga's youngest infant is Temeke, while Turwa continues to survive and grow well.

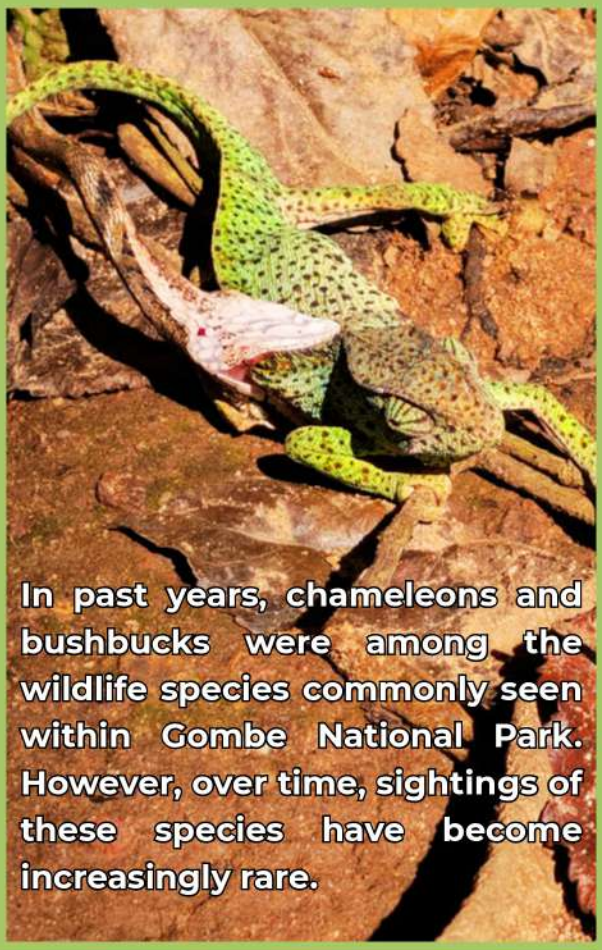
Four of her previous offspring: Tom, Tabora, Tarime and Tukuyu, sadly passed away.

NAME	BORN	DIED
Tom	2001	2020
Tabora	2006	2015
Tarime	2012	2013
Tukuyu	2014	2015

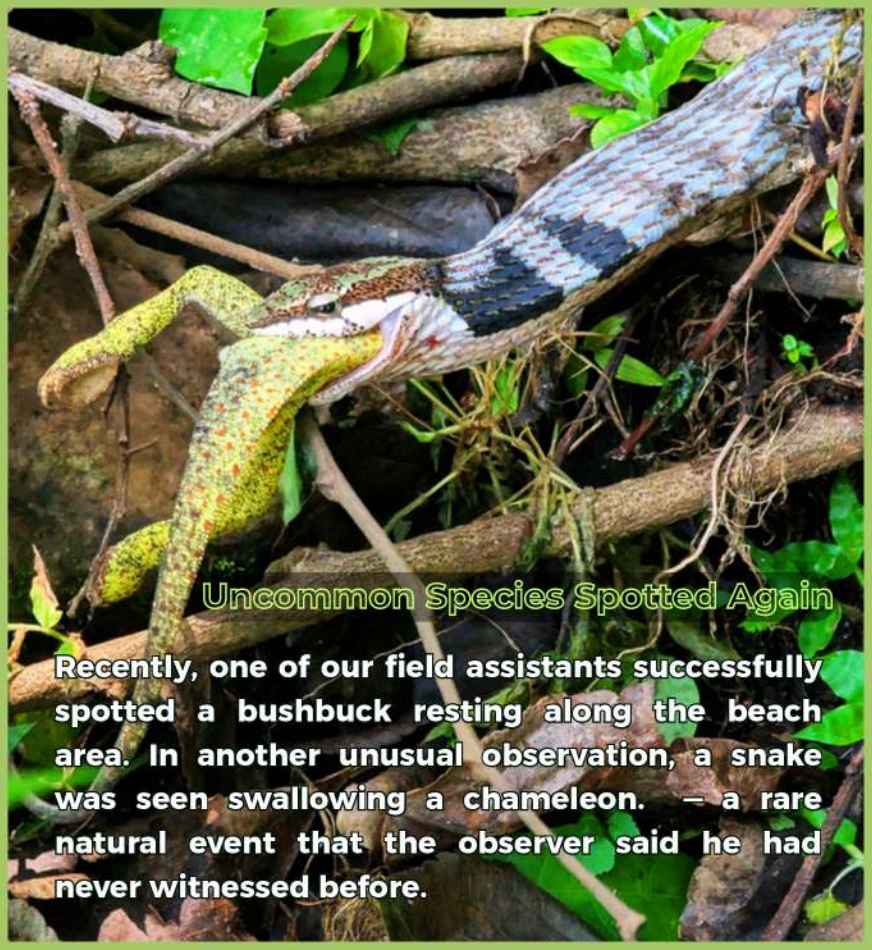


The research team will continue monitoring her progress closely in the coming months

RARE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BRING EXCITEMENT IN GOMBE



In past years, chameleons and bushbucks were among the wildlife species commonly seen within Gombe National Park. However, over time, sightings of these species have become increasingly rare.



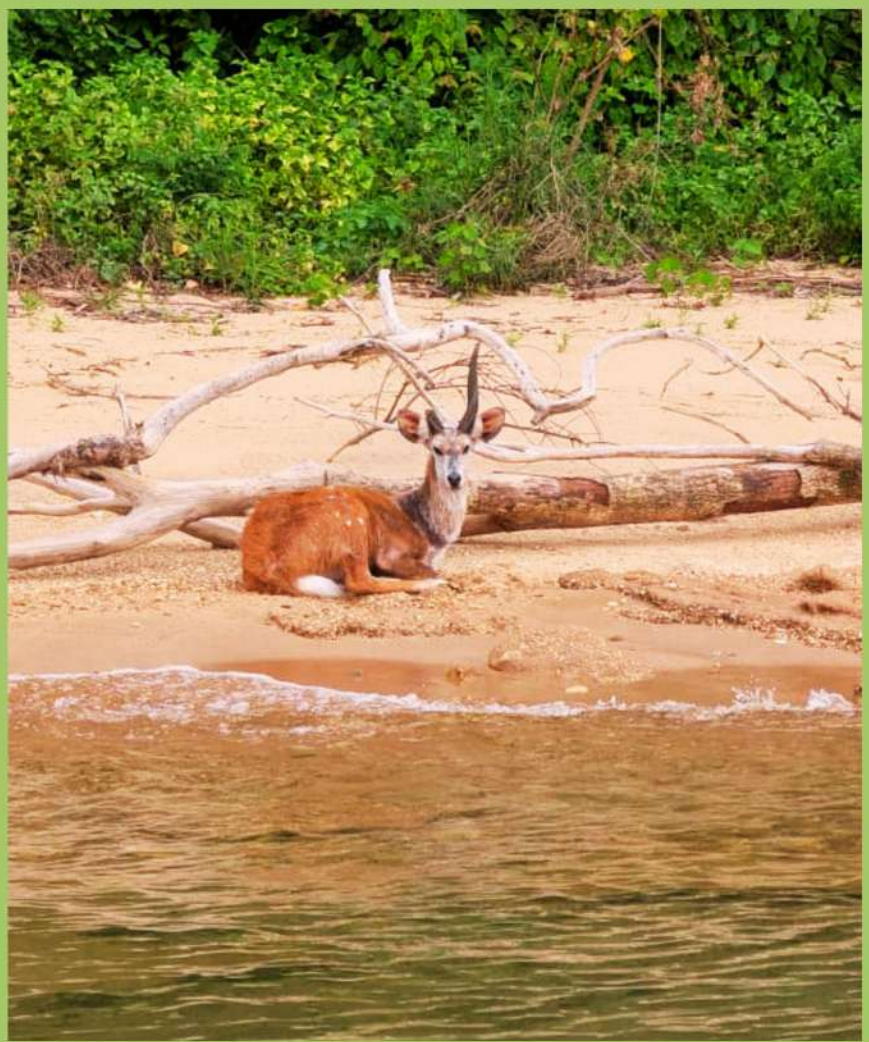
Uncommon Species Spotted Again

Recently, one of our field assistants successfully spotted a bushbuck resting along the beach area. In another unusual observation, a snake was seen swallowing a chameleon. – a rare natural event that the observer said he had never witnessed before.

Capturing Rare Moments

These rare **sightings and photographs were successfully documented by researcher Ashahadu Bitata,** making the moments both exciting and surprising for the team.

Although there is currently no direct scientific evidence confirming whether these species are increasing again within the park, such observations continue to provide hope and valuable records of Gombe's biodiversity.



STORIES BEYOND THE FIELD

GSRC STAFF CELEBRATE WORLD WORKERS' DAY

GSRC staff joined the rest of the world in celebrating World Workers' Day on May 1st. As part of the annual celebration, the management continued its tradition of recognizing employees whose dedication and hard work continue to contribute greatly to the institution's success.



This year, congratulations go to Kibaliza Kimata and Mzee Sufi Hamisi for being recognized as Best Workers of the Year (2026) at the Gombe Stream Research Centre.



Kibaliza serves as a Field Assistant and Lab Technician, supporting both field activities and laboratory work while, Mzee Sufi Hamisi is the head of a baboon field researchers.

Their dedication, discipline, and service continue to inspire the entire GSRC team.

JGI TANZANIA CONSERVATION EFFORTS BEYOND GOMBE

For many years, JGI Tanzania has continued implementing different conservation activities beyond the Gombe research landscape, working closely with local communities to promote sustainable livelihoods, gender equality and environmental protection.



The Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (COSME) Project in Tanga and Coast Regions, where Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA) groups continue creating positive impacts within coastal communities.



COCOBA groups engaged in seaweed farming, beekeeping and briquettes making, as part of Nature-Based Solutions activities.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CONSERVATION



The activities has helped improve household incomes, support small businesses, and strengthen the role of women within their families and communities.

Beyond livelihoods, the initiative also contributes to conservation and climate change adaptation efforts by promoting sustainable use of coastal resources and reducing pressure on the forests.



GROWING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Over the past three years, the COSME Project has successfully established 153 COCOBA groups, reaching 4000+ members, with total savings of TZS 600+ million, 60+ M used to establish 52 Nature Based Soluations (NbS)

These achievements demonstrate how community empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation efforts can work together to strengthen resilient and environmentally responsible communities.



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Photos by Stephano Lihedule and Ashahadu Bitata, Jane and Kibaliza Kimata

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