



# Bonobos World Manifest

## The context

- > **Managing climate change is the biggest challenge in the 21st century.** The disturbances observed in the four corners of the planet strike more and more often populations of more and more numerous and sometimes totally deprived. The retreat of the ice caps, the constant extension of the list of threatened or endangered species are the objective markers of this deadly evolution that threatens our planet.
- > **Despite two major conflicts** and their processions of millions of deaths, the countries of the "North" have developed thanks to their technological advances and the massive use of fossil fuels but at the cost of significant effects on the environment (erosion linked to deforestation, pollution of soil, water and air). Their stagnant demography contrasts with the dynamism of the "Southern" countries, whose young and greedy consumerist population legitimately aspires to the lifestyle of the most developed countries.
- > **While the protection** of threatened or endangered species may seem "romantic" or "anecdotal" to some of you, it is nevertheless fundamental. To each of these animals in danger corresponds an ecological niche, a biotope altered by human activities, even destroyed. By locally seeking solutions that respect the environment of these species without hindering the desired sustainable development goals, one contributes to develop virtuous regional projects.
- > **By their convergence**, the dynamics of "species protection" and "sustainable development" give rise to the hope of a better governance of our planet thanks to the emergence of new models of development.

## Why did we choose Bonobos monkeys?

- > **Like the Panda**, there are animals that immediately gain the sympathy of a large audience that can be measured by the craze shown at each new birth. Others, such as wolves or sharks, do not benefit from this capital. As to the Bonobos, they are known to the general public for their "unbridled" sexuality but how many are aware that beyond this picturesque feature, there are only 20 to 30,000 individuals of this species so genetically close to *homo sapiens* that we are. Like the Chimpanzee (with which he was confused for a long time), the paths of evolution separated us about 5 million years ago. With 98.7% of DNA in common with humans, it is actually our closest cousin.

> **Living endemically** within a vast area of rainforest in the *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*, they are threatened by deforestation, hunting, poaching, epidemics ... and armed conflict. They could, if nothing changes, disappear within 50 years.



**Status of the Bonobo established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

**EN A4cd >> Endangered !**

In case of extinction, it would be a part of our origins that would disappear forever.

> **For almost 30 years now**, the problem has been tackled by a small group of people surrounded by many volunteers who are dedicated to the cause of this particularly endearing animal. Several associations contribute to fundraising from sponsors in Europe and the United States of America, including the association "**Les Amis des Bonobos au Congo**" (ABC), founded by *Claudine André* and helped by *Dominique Morel* in this task. This founding nucleus has managed to develop some remarkable concrete actions despite an unstable political environment.

> **But which society would understand** and bear that more attention is paid for the survival of a "monkey" than to that of its members ? With more money, doing better is always possible. More ambitious programs are now needed, combining education, population health and sustainable land use to consolidate the protection of endangered species in the long term.

**If the future of Bonobos is in congolese people hands, let's help them !**