



Care For Us

Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)

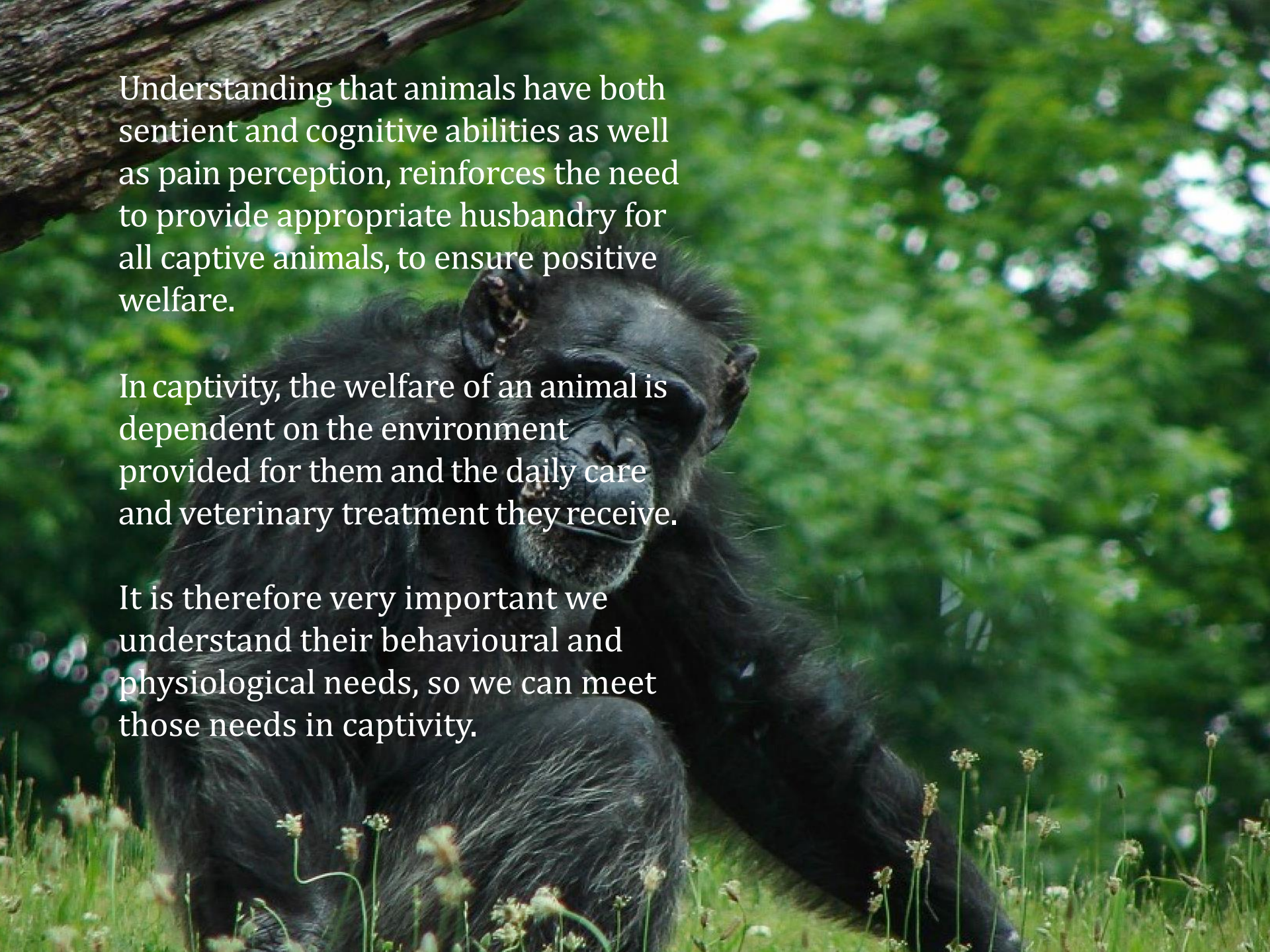
Animal Welfare

Animal welfare refers to an animal's state or feelings. An animal's welfare state can be positive, neutral or negative.

An animal's welfare has the potential to differ on a daily basis. When an animal's needs - nutritional, behavioural, health and environmental - are met, they will have positive welfare.

A good life in captivity might be one where animals can consistently experience good welfare - throughout their entire life.

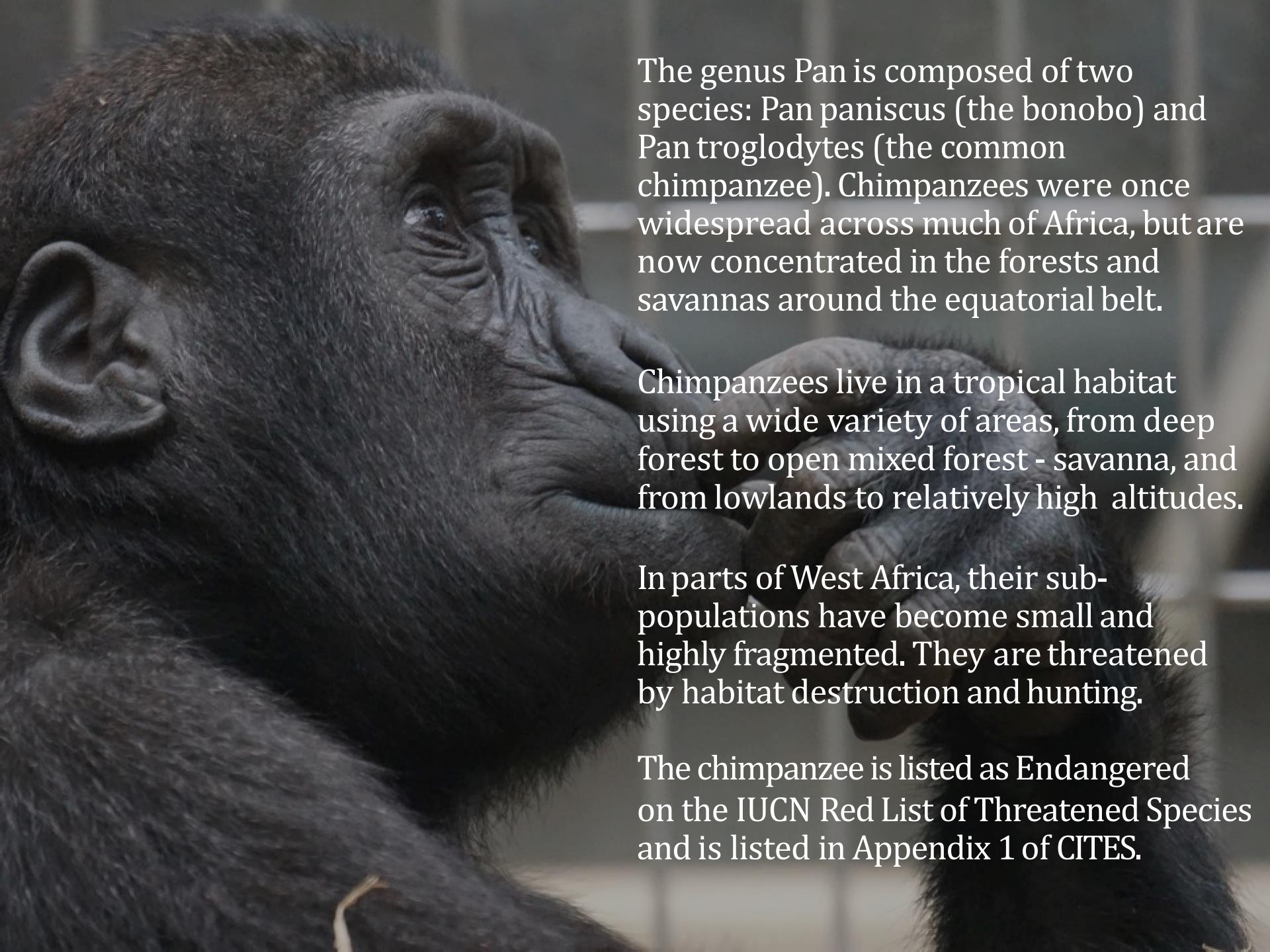


A chimpanzee is sitting in a grassy field with small white flowers. In the background, there are green trees and a large tree branch in the upper left corner. The chimpanzee is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.

Understanding that animals have both sentient and cognitive abilities as well as pain perception, reinforces the need to provide appropriate husbandry for all captive animals, to ensure positive welfare.

In captivity, the welfare of an animal is dependent on the environment provided for them and the daily care and veterinary treatment they receive.

It is therefore very important we understand their behavioural and physiological needs, so we can meet those needs in captivity.



The genus *Pan* is composed of two species: *Pan paniscus* (the bonobo) and *Pan troglodytes* (the common chimpanzee). Chimpanzees were once widespread across much of Africa, but are now concentrated in the forests and savannas around the equatorial belt.

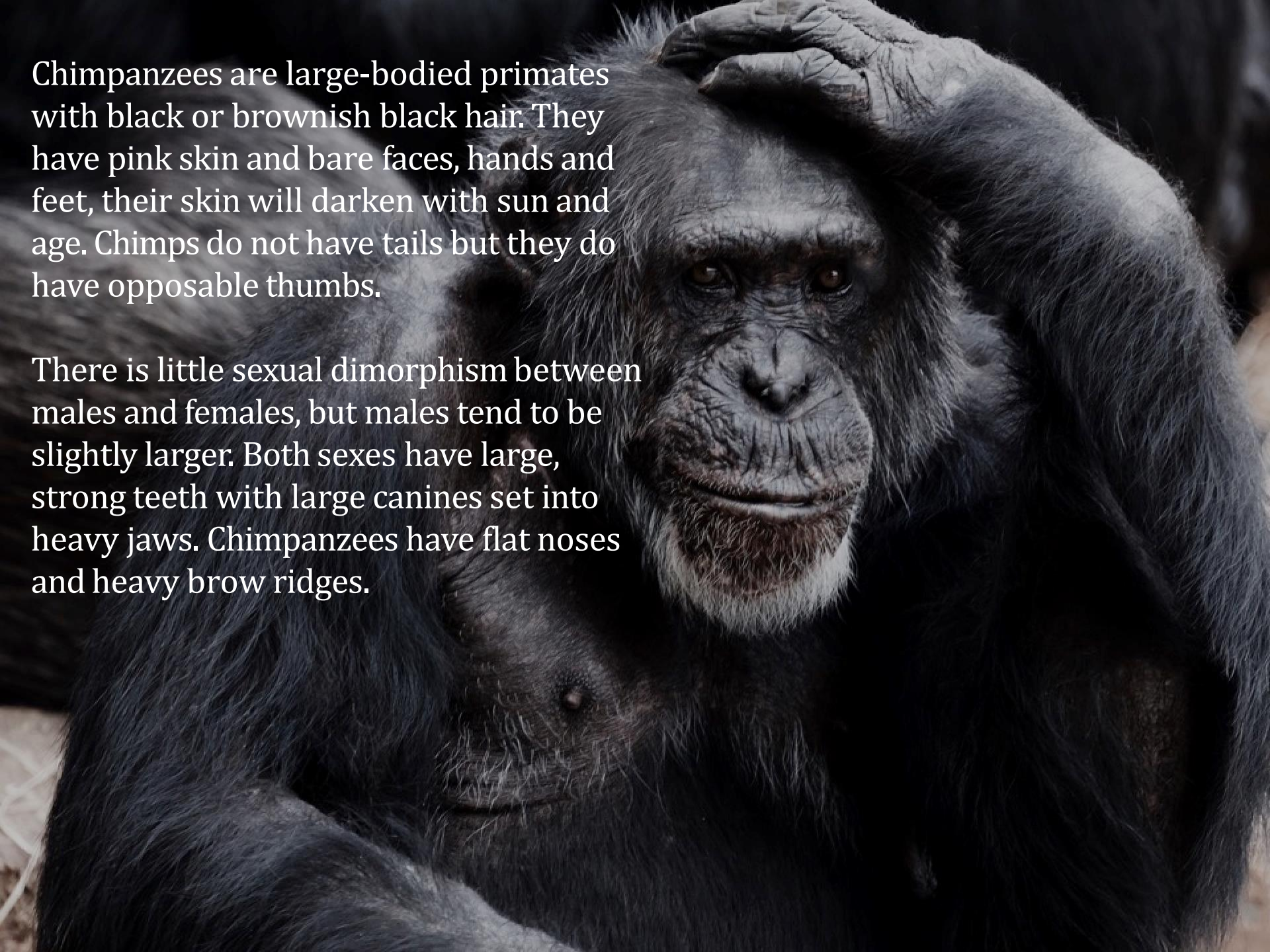
Chimpanzees live in a tropical habitat using a wide variety of areas, from deep forest to open mixed forest - savanna, and from lowlands to relatively high altitudes.

In parts of West Africa, their sub-populations have become small and highly fragmented. They are threatened by habitat destruction and hunting.

The chimpanzee is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is listed in Appendix 1 of CITES.

Chimpanzees are large-bodied primates with black or brownish black hair. They have pink skin and bare faces, hands and feet, their skin will darken with sun and age. Chimps do not have tails but they do have opposable thumbs.

There is little sexual dimorphism between males and females, but males tend to be slightly larger. Both sexes have large, strong teeth with large canines set into heavy jaws. Chimpanzees have flat noses and heavy brow ridges.

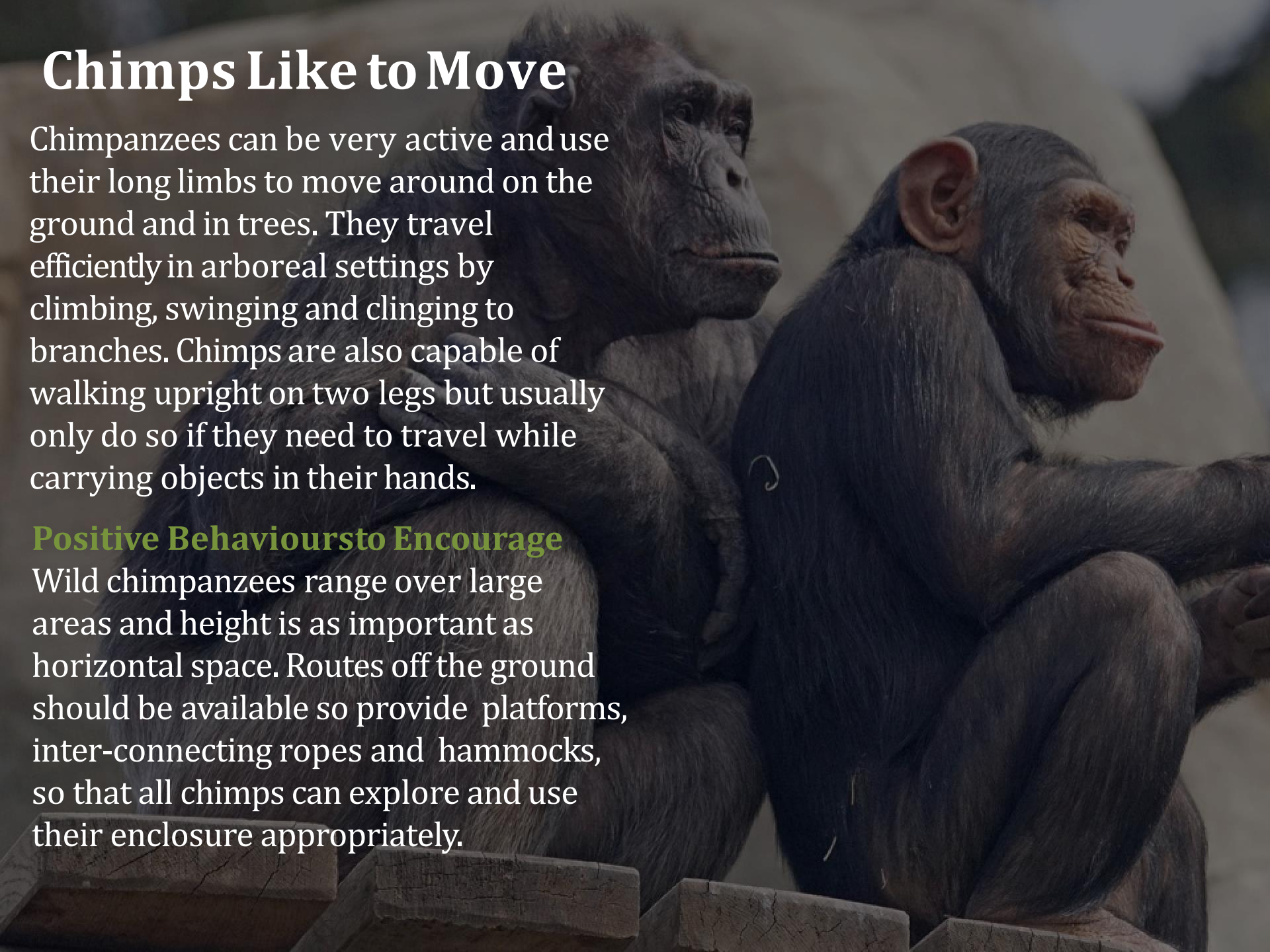


Chimps Like to Move

Chimpanzees can be very active and use their long limbs to move around on the ground and in trees. They travel efficiently in arboreal settings by climbing, swinging and clinging to branches. Chimps are also capable of walking upright on two legs but usually only do so if they need to travel while carrying objects in their hands.

Positive Behavioursto Encourage

Wild chimpanzees range over large areas and height is as important as horizontal space. Routes off the ground should be available so provide platforms, inter-connecting ropes and hammocks, so that all chimps can explore and use their enclosure appropriately.



Chimps are Social

Social interactions are essential for chimpanzee development, learning and overall well-being. They can live in large social groups and communities and travel in smaller subgroups. Family bonds are very strong, especially mother-daughter bonds. Females disperse from the natal group once mature, males usually spend long periods of time in proximity to other males.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Chimps must never be kept on their own. It is recommended there are no fewer than three males and five females in one group in captivity. Natural, complex and socially rewarding enclosures will encourage positive behaviours including grooming, nesting and breeding. The social structure of wild chimpanzees is fluid, so in captivity an enclosure must be able to accommodate enough space for all chimpanzees and allow for their complex social needs to be met.



Chimps Like to Talk

Chimpanzees use verbal communication such as alarm calls, mating calls, and greeting vocalisations. Each individual has his or her own distinctive 'pant-hoot', so the caller can be identified with precision. When young chimpanzees play, they emit breathy laughter, and soft grunts uttered by foraging or resting chimpanzees probably serve to maintain communication within a group.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Ensure chimps are kept in compatible groups where a social hierarchy is established and there is limited aggression between individuals. Do not remove or introduce chimps without a thorough assessment of the impact on group well-being.

Chimps Communicate with their Bodies

Chimps are extremely tactile and physical contact is crucial for them. Social grooming is very important to help maintain friendships and calm nerves. When angry, chimpanzees may stand upright, swagger, wave their arms and throw things, with hair bristled and screaming. Male chimps can do charging displays - dragging branches or hurling rocks.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

In the wild, a fluid group can commonly be made up of between 20 and 100 individuals. Chimpanzees should be kept in compatible, social groups to reflect this natural social organisation and allow for normal and positive interactions between individuals.

Submissive chimp signals include:

Crouching, presenting the rump, holding the hand out.

Dominant chimp signals include:

Touching, kissing, or embracing a subordinate.



Chimps areClever

Chimpanzees are intelligent, inquisitive, social animals. They are big-brained and have evolved to experience a dynamic, interesting environment. They can manipulate materials to make complex fishing and hunting tools.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

In captivity they easily grow bored and develop abnormal behaviors if not provided with an enriching, complex environment. They need an environment varied in its topography, shade, climbing structures, pools, rocks, smooth areas, refuges, sights and sounds. Chimps should be encouraged to forage for their food and use tools.



A chimpanzee is shown in profile, facing left, holding a green plant stem in its mouth and using its hands to peel it. The background is a lush green forest. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Chimps Like their Food

Chimpanzees spend the vast majority of their days foraging for food. In the wild, they primarily eat fruit, but their diets also include leaves, seeds, flowers, insects, and meat. Eating can be a social event and they can use tools such as sticks to poke insects out of holes in rotting trees or even for fishing.

Positive Behavioursto Encourage

Chimpanzees should be fed a balanced diet that includes a mixture of vegetables, fruits, insects and other high-protein foods. Providing a supply of browse and presenting food in a manner that encourages foraging, exploratory and pleasurable behaviours is critical.

Chimps Like to be Comfortable

Chimpanzees construct tree nests in the wild. They are usually made fresh each day but occasionally reused. They use natural branches and leaves to make comfortable beds, but some chimps do like to sleep on the ground.

Positive Behaviour to Encourage

Different bedding materials should be provided so chimps can make their own selection and build a nest. Enough space should be provided for chimps to sleep in trees or on soft substrate on the ground. Raised sleeping options such as hammocks and platforms should also be provided. Always ensure enough places are provided for all chimps in a group.



Chimpanzees Enjoy...

Playing, forming close bonds, being comfortable and eating different and interesting foods. They are very inquisitive and intelligent.

In captivity we should always try and replicate their natural and normal behaviours, so they are happy and healthy throughout their lives.

