



**New York University**

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Faculty of Arts and Science  
Department of Anthropology  
25 Waverly Place  
New York, NY 10003-6790

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is a great pleasure to add my support to the Budongo Conservation Field Station's application for registration as a VCA under the GDI. I have long been acquainted with Budongo Forest and its chimpanzees, and was recently able to revisit for the first time in forty years. I knew Budongo as a unique but threatened ecosystem, and the site of first-rate research in primatology and related aspects of tropical forest biology and conservation. My visit allowed me to experience and appreciate the efficiency and sensitivity with which the BCFS is run on a day-to-day basis. Ugandan and expatriate research students and interns work effectively and collegially with the locally-recruited trackers and snare-removal teams. Many local staff members have been with the project for decades, and are clearly dedicated to the forest and its chimpanzees, and to disseminating the conservation message. I have no doubt that but for the BCFS and its long-term vigilance against unsustainable exploitation, the Budongo Forest ecosystem would now be severely impoverished, if not totally destroyed.

I have read BCFS's proposal and recent Quarterly Report. The research and conservation plans they describe are imaginative but realistic, well-grounded both in good science and in appreciation of the needs and concerns of the local population, and tailored to a perennially tight operating budget. I cannot imagine a project more deserving and appropriate for VCA listing, and give it my unreserved recommendation.

Yours truly,

Clifford J. Jolly  
Professor Emeritus, Anthropology