

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2017

Jane Goodall Institute Welcomes Carlos Drews, New Executive Director  
*Scientist and conservation leader joins organization to provide strategic leadership and oversight*

Vienna, VA

Today, the Jane Goodall Institute's board of directors announced that as of March 21, 2017, Carlos Drews joined the Jane Goodall Institute as the organization's executive director. In this role, Drews is responsible for advancing the mission of the Institute through its nine core programs, as well as leading a staff of more than 250 conservation professionals.

*"Having worked all my life with passion in the field of conservation stewardship, the position as JGI's executive director is the most rewarding role I can play — allowing me to continue to work with African great apes specifically, and to build on my convictions about community-based conservation and the power of the young generation to shape a better world."*

Prior to taking on his current role at JGI, Drews spent 13 years working for the World Wildlife Fund. In his early years at WWF Latin-America & the Caribbean, Drews headed the regional species and fisheries team. During his time as Regional Marine & Species Leader, Drews was instrumental in reducing the amount of sea turtles injured by long-line fishing in the Eastern Pacific. Subsequently, Drews became the global director of species conservation at WWF International in Switzerland, responsible for engaging governments, NGOs, corporations and donors to rally behind a joint marine & terrestrial species conservation agenda.

As a child, Drews dreamed of studying animals in Africa. He realized this dream years later when he arrived in Tanzania as a graduate student researching psychological warfare in baboon communities – a study that earned him the John Napier Medal of the Primate Society of Great Britain.

*"Great apes are exposed to habitat loss, disease, poaching and other threats. They are a sensitive litmus test for our relationship with fellow creatures on Earth, given their close proximity to us: if we do not fix the way we treat and respect our closest living relatives, what chance may other animals have, I wonder?"*

A native of Colombia, Drews earned his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Cambridge and has carried out research into wildlife behavioral ecology in Africa and Latin America, which includes research on the behavioral ecology of primates as well as caimans. He also holds a Masters in biology from Munich's Ludwig-Maximilians as well as a Masters in applied biology from the University of Cambridge.

A longtime admirer of Dr. Jane Goodall and her work, Drews works to preserve and build on Dr. Goodall's legacy at the helm of Jane Goodall Institute. Working with a talented staff located all over the world, Drews unites the JGI team and positions the Institute to ensure long-term success of JGI's conservation efforts.

*“Remarkably for me, this position gives me the opportunity to be mentored by an outstanding conservation leader that I have very much admired for at least three decades. I feel strongly committed and determined to equip JGI to move sustainably towards Jane Goodall’s vision.”*

### **About the Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall. By protecting chimpanzees and inspiring action to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals and the environment. Founded in 1977 by Dr. Goodall, JGI makes a difference through community-centered conservation and the innovative use of science and technology. We work closely with local communities around the world, inspiring hope through the collective power of individual action. Through Roots & Shoots, our youth-led community action and learning program, young people in 140 countries are acquiring the knowledge and skills to become compassionate conservation leaders in their own backyards.

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