

## Extended Bio

**Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE**  
**Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute &**  
**UN Messenger of Peace**

In the summer 1960, a young English woman arrived on the shores Lake Tanganyika in what is now Tanzania, East Africa. Equipped with little more than binoculars, a notebook and her fascination with animals, Jane Goodall ventured into what was then called the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve-embarking on a life discovery that would redefine the relationship between humans and animals and shape the world conservation into the 21st century.

Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall was born April 3, 1934 in London, England, to Mortimer Herbert Morris-Goodall, a businessman, and Margaret Myfanwe Joseph, a novelist who wrote under the name Vanne Morris-Goodall.

From earliest childhood, Jane's fascination with animals was encouraged by her parents. One of her most beloved companions was a lifelike chimpanzee, a stuffed animal that her father named Jubilee. In what her mother referred to as "Jane's first animal research program," she once gave her parents a scare by hiding for hours under the hay in the henhouse, waiting to watch a chicken to lay an egg. Young Jane immersed herself in storybooks about wild animals and dreamed of a life in Africa like Tarzan and Dr. Dolittle. At the young age of 23, she found a way to make her dream a reality.

### **EARLY DISCOVERIES**

In 1957, Jane eagerly accepted a schoolmate's invitation to her parents' farm in Kenya. Within a few months of arriving, she met the famed anthropologist and paleontologist, Dr. Louis Leakey. Dr. Leakey was searching for someone to begin a study of chimpanzees-not only to better understand these little-known primates, but also to gain insight into the evolutionary past of humans. He was drawn to Jane's persistent desire to understand animals and believed that a mind uncluttered by academia would yield a fresh perspective.

In 1960, Jane made her second and historic journey to Africa, venturing into the chimpanzees' habitat in the forest at Gombe. She took an unorthodox approach, immersing herself in their habitat, experiencing their complex society as a neighbor rather than a distant observer, and defying scientific convention by giving them names instead of numbers. She came to understand them not only as a species, but as individuals with personalities, complex minds, emotions and long-term bonds.

One day, in the fall of 1960, she saw the chimpanzee named David Greybeard strip leaves off twigs to fashion tools for fishing termites from a nest. Up until that revelatory moment, scientists thought humans were the only species to make and use tools. Her discovery rocked the scientific world, prompting Dr. Leakey to proclaim, "Now we must redefine man, redefine tool, or accept chimpanzees as humans!" Her findings on the tool-making practices of chimpanzees remain one of the most important discoveries in the world of primatology.

During her first year at Gombe, she also observed chimpanzees hunting and eating bush pigs

and other animals, disproving theories that chimpanzees were primarily vegetarians and fruit eaters who only occasionally supplemented their diet with insects and small rodents.

In 1961, she entered Cambridge University as a Ph.D. candidate, one of the few people in history to be admitted without a college degree. She earned her Ph.D. in ethology in 1966 and continued her research in Gombe.

## **REVOLUTIONIZING PRIMATOLOGY-AND CONSERVATION**

Dr. Goodall's field research in Gombe revolutionized the field of primatology. In one of the longest-running field studies of any species, she documented her observations that chimpanzees have distinct personalities, minds and emotions and form lasting family relationships. Over the years, her work continued to yield surprising insights, such as the discovery that chimpanzees engage in primitive and brutal warfare. In 1965, she established the Gombe Stream Research Center, which became a training ground for students interested in studying primates. Today, it hosts a skilled team of researchers and field assistants, including many Tanzanians.

The research center at Gombe also attracted many women, who were nearly absent from the field when she began. "Jane Goodall's trailblazing path for other women primatologists is arguably her greatest legacy," said Gilbert Grosvenor, chairman of The National Geographic Society. "During the last third of the twentieth century, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas, Cheryl Knott, Penny Patterson and many more women have followed her. Indeed, women now dominate long-term primate behavioral studies worldwide."

On her way to becoming the world's leading primatologist, Dr. Goodall had a son, Hugo, in 1967 with her first husband, Dutch nobleman and wildlife photographer Baron Hugo van Lawick. In 1975, she married Derek Bryceson, director of Tanzania's national parks, who died in 1980.

Perhaps most significantly, Dr. Goodall's work engaged a global audience, providing a window into the world of chimpanzees to a public with a deep curiosity about humankind's closest genetic relatives. Through her books, particularly *In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*, people around the world came to be on a first-name basis with the chimpanzees of Gombe. The legendary Flo and her many offspring became so internationally revered that when Flo died, *The London Times* published an obituary. Dr. Goodall's eloquent ability to raise public awareness and understanding would become instrumental in her work to save chimpanzees from extinction.

In 1977, Dr. Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) which advances her vision and work around the world and for generations to come. JGI supports the continuing research at Gombe and is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. JGI is also widely recognized for building on Dr. Goodall's pioneering work in community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa that improve the lives of people, animals and the environment. Its youth program *Roots & Shoots (R&S)*, empowers young people in nearly 60 countries and since its inception in 1991 has greatly impacted youth in over 100 countries to act as the informed conservation leaders that the world so urgently needs.

In the late 1980s, seeing the accelerated pace of deforestation and declining chimpanzee populations beyond Gombe, Dr. Goodall knew that local conservation efforts were not enough and realized she had to leave her beloved Gombe to save chimpanzees from extinction. She

continues this work today, traveling an average of 300 days a year to visit schoolchildren and speak in packed auditoriums about the threats facing chimpanzees, the other environmental crises we face, and her reasons for hope that human beings will ultimately solve the problems we have created.

She emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the collective power of individual action, urging her audiences to recognize their personal responsibility and ability to effect change. "Every individual matters," she says. "Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."

## **WRITINGS**

Dr. Goodall is the author of numerous books that have engaged an international readership in her life with chimpanzees. Her titles include two overviews of her work at Gombe—*In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*--as well as two autobiographies in letters, her bestselling autobiography, *Reason for Hope*, and more recently, *Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder*. From the World of Plants. Published in 1986, *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior*, is recognized as the definitive work on chimpanzees. In 2009, she released *Hope for Animals and Their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued from the Brink*, about the successful efforts of conservationists determined to save endangered species. Her many children's books include *Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours* and *My Life with the Chimpanzees*.

## **RECOGNITION**

Dr. Jane Goodall is the recipient of honors including the Medal of Tanzania, the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal, Japan's prestigious Kyoto Prize, the Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research, the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, the UNESCO 60th Anniversary Medal, and the Gandhi/King Award for Nonviolence.

In April 2002, Secretary General Kofi Annan named Dr. Goodall a United Nations Messenger of Peace. In a 2004 ceremony at Buckingham Palace, Prince Charles invested Dr. Goodall as a Dame of the British Empire. In 2006, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin presented Dr. Goodall with France's highest recognition, the Legion of Honor.

She has received honorary doctorates from universities including University of St Andrews; Goldsmiths, University of London; Utrecht University, Holland; Ludwig-Maximilians University, Germany; Stirling University, Scotland; Providence University, Taiwan; University of Guelph and Ryerson University in Canada; and Buffalo University, Tufts University and other universities throughout the United States.

Dr. Goodall's life and work are the subject of numerous television documentaries, as well as the 2002 film *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees*, the 2010 documentary, *Jane's Journey*, and the 2017 National Geographic documentary *JANE*. Discovery Channel's *Animal Planet* has produced a number of features on Dr. Goodall, including *Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe*, *Jane Goodall's State of the Great Ape*, *When Animals Talk*, *Jane Goodall's Heroes*, and *Almost Human*.

For more information, please visit [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org).