1 **TITLE**

2 Dispersal of a human-cultivated crop by wild chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes verus) in a

3 forest-farm matrix

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5 SHORT RUNNING TITLE

6 Chimpanzee crop dispersal

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8 ABSTRACT

9 With the conversion of natural habitats to farmland, nonhuman primates (hereafter 10 primates) are increasingly exposed to agricultural crops. Although frugivorous primates are 11 important seed dispersers which sometimes feed on agricultural fruits, evidence for dispersal of crops by primates is lacking. Here, we examine flexible feeding on cacao 12 (Theobroma cacao) fruit and seed dispersal patterns by chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes 13 verus) at Bossou in Guinea, and consequent cacao germination and survival. From direct 14 15 observations we confirm that cacao fruit is not an important food to chimpanzees, representing 0.23% of focal feeding time. Chimpanzees ingest cacao pulp and either spit 16 the large seeds intact from unripe cacao fruit, or swallow the seeds from ripe cacao fruit 17 which are consequently deposited in faeces. From ecological surveys we show that 18 19 chimpanzees distributed cacao extensively throughout their home range, at a mean distance of $407 \pm \text{SE } 0.6 \text{ m}$ (N=90 clusters, range: 4-1130 m) from cacao plantations. As distance 20 21 from the cacao plantation increased, cacao plants were more likely to survive. Other factors 22 including number of cacao plants in a cluster, plant height, and openness of the understory did not predict short-term cacao survival. Cacao plants within the forest did not produce 23

24	fruit. By contrast, when chimpanzees deposited seeds in a plantation, cacao plants produced
25	fruits due to farmer's maintenance of the area. Our local-scale findings emphasize the
26	complex behavioural and ecological interconnections between coexisting humans and
27	primates in agricultural landscapes, and generate interesting questions regarding primate
28	niche construction and crop 'ownership' related to who 'plants' the crop.
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30	Keywords: human-wildlife interactions, anthropogenic habitat, seed dispersal, cultivated
31	foods, cacao (Theobroma cacao), niche construction
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47 INTRODUCTION

48 We are in a new epoch, the Anthropocene, with most wildlife species exposed in one way 49 or another to the effects of humans and their activities (Woodroffe et al. 2005; Candolin 50 and Wong 2012). Understanding wildlife interactions with rapid human-induced 51 environmental changes and their impact on populations, communities, and ecosystems 52 presents a burgeoning horizon for behavioural and ecological science (Sih et al. 2011; 53 Wong and Candolin 2015). There have been decades of research into the ways in which 54 natural ecosystems function (i.e. the biological, geochemical and physical processes and 55 components that occur within an ecosystem), but less is known about the mechanisms and 56 processes that contribute to the development of human-impacted habitats, and the role of 57 wildlife in shaping such changes. For example, humans are dominant niche constructors, but niche construction (i.e. the process in which an organism changes its own or other 58 59 species' environment) by nonhuman species might also impact ecosystem dynamics at local 60 scales through influencing available resources (Laland and Boogert 2008; Fuentes 2012). 61 Anthropogenic habitats will involve new components of human-plant-primate interactions 62 and hence new levels of complexity (Fuentes and Wolfe 2002; Sengupta et al. 2015). There is growing evidence that anthropogenic disturbance – forest fragmentation, 63 hunting, selective logging, introduction of exotic species – affects ecosystem services such 64 65 as seed dispersal (i.e. the movement of seeds away from their parent plant) through altering 66 animal-plant interactions (Dennis et al. 2007; Wright 2007; Jordano et al. 2011). Such processes can consequently influence animal-mediated dispersal impacting the number of 67 68 seeds dispersed and the local species richness of seedlings (especially for large-seeded

69 species which are less likely to be dispersed by smaller animals), as well as the dispersal

distances of fleshy-fruited tree species (Webb and Peart 2001; Cramer *et al.* 2007; Stoner *et al.* 2007; Wang *et al.* 2007; Markl *et al.* 2012). In particular, the loss of large-bodied
frugivorous vertebrates, which are often disproportionately impacted by anthropogenic
pressure (Linder and Oates 2011; Wright 2003), will result in reduced frugivory and seed
dispersal activities within an ecosystem (Chapman and Chapman 1995; Babweteera and
Brown 2009).

76 Many primate species and populations live in environments that have been affected 77 by human activities including agriculture (Paterson and Wallis 2005; Fuentes and Hockings 78 2010; Estrada et al. 2012; Hockings and McLennan 2012; Hockings et al. 2015). For the 79 maintenance of habitat fragments and to understand the effects of seed dispersal on plant 80 populations and communities, it is important to identify frugivores that can persist in 81 degraded human-impacted habitats and those which are capable of dispersing larger seeds within these habitats (Russo and Chapman 2011; Albert et al. 2014). There has been recent 82 83 interest in the importance of seed dispersal roles of more disturbance-tolerant and 84 ecologically flexible species, and their capacities to disperse numerous large seeds across 85 large distances (Albert et al. 2014; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2015). If primates are not persecuted directly though hunting and can respond flexibly to human-induced 86 environmental changes, there is the possibility to examine longer-term human-animal-plant 87 88 interactions.

Human settlement and cultivation introduces new plant species to areas where they
were previously absent (Hockings and McLennan 2012). These can become integrated into
a primate's diet resulting in changes to their behaviour, including activity budgets,
foraging, ranging and grouping patterns, and potentially their survival, including reduced

93 inter-birth intervals (for example, macaques (Macaca tonkeana): Riley 2008; baboons 94 (Papio anubis): Strum 2010; capuchins (Cebus capucinus): McKinney 2011; orangutans 95 (Pongo abelii): Campbell-Smith et al. 2011; chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes): Hockings et 96 al. 2012, McLennan 2013; gorillas (Gorilla beringei beringei): Seiler and Robbins 2016). 97 Studies on the impact of animal-mediated dispersal of exotic species show complex plant-98 human-animal interactions. For example, the landscape-spread of *Opuntia stricta*, a highly 99 invasive cactus that was introduced by people to the Laikipia Plateau in Kenya, is a 100 response to recent changes in land use, primarily the sedentarization of pastoralists and 101 subsequent livestock grazing, as well as the feeding and ranging behaviour of its numerous 102 mammalian consumers (Strum et al. 2015). The ecological impacts of primates in 103 agricultural landscapes, for example, on nutrient cycles and seed dispersal, are for the large-104 part unknown (Estrada et al. 2012). Equally, there are no empirical data on the dispersal of 105 cultivated foods by primates. This is despite many species inhabiting forest-farm matrices 106 and a huge literature on primate seed dispersal including some species that inhabit 107 plantations (such as black howler monkeys, *Alouatta pigra*, inhabiting cacao plantations: 108 Zárate et al. 2014).

109 Studies of animal disperser-plant interactions often examine behavioural patterns 110 (including foraging activity, movement patterns, and gut passage time) to explain overall 111 seed distance distributions and differential seed dispersal by microsite (Nathan and Muller-112 Landau 2000). Seed dispersal effectiveness is determined by dispersal quantity (i.e. the 113 number of seeds that are dispersed) and quality (i.e. the likelihood that a dispersed seed 114 germinates and survives until reproductive maturity) (Schupp 1993). Examination of seed 115 shadows (i.e. the number of seeds at varying distances from the parent plant) or seed

dispersal kernels (i.e. the probability distribution of dispersed seeds in relation to distance) 116 117 are the most common methods to assess the spatial distribution of dispersed seeds 118 (Chapman and Russo 2007; Nathan and Muller-Landau 2000). The spatial distribution of 119 seeds can be influenced by various factors including seed handling (Lambert 1999) and 120 secondary dispersal and predation (Chapman 1989). Moreover, seed and seedling mortality 121 should be higher in proximity to the parent plant due to higher densities/numbers of 122 predators or pathogens (Janzen 1970; Connell 1971; Balcomb and Chapman 2003). 123 However, incorporating animal behaviour into estimates of seed dispersal shadows remains 124 a challenge (Garber 1986; Russo and Augspurger 2004). The mechanisms that impact the 125 spatial distribution of trees within a habitat are complex (Levine and Murrell 2003). Some 126 research shows that adult tree distributions and primary dispersal patterns by primates are 127 spatially aggregated (e.g. near to or under sleeping sites and feeding trees: spider monkeys, Ateles paniscus, Russo and Augspurger 2004; capuchin monkeys, Cebus capucinus: 128 Valenta et al. 2015), even though mortality should be higher when seeds are deposited in 129 130 such high density clumps.

131 Large bodied primate frugivores, such as nonhuman great apes, are considered 132 important seed dispersers because of their dietary diversity, their capacity to feed on large fruits and ingest large seeds as well as their ability to break into fruits with hard-husks, the 133 134 large quantities of seeds they disperse, and long dispersal distances which might improve seed survivorship (Lambert 1997; Lambert and Chapman 2005; Vidal et al. 2013; Beaune 135 136 et al. 2013, 2015; Haurez et al. 2015). Chimpanzees provide an appropriate model species 137 to examine seed dispersal of crops in anthropogenic habitats as they (1) occur in proximity 138 to agriculture throughout their geographic range (Hockings et al. 2015; Hockings and

McLennan 2012) and exhibit the ecological flexibility to exploit such human-influenced 139 140 habitats (Hockings et al. 2009; McLennan 2013; McLennan and Hockings 2014; Krief et 141 al. 2014; Bessa et al. 2015), and (2) are large-bodied frugivores that have been identified as 142 important seed dispersers (Wrangham et al. 1994; Lambert 1997). The diet of wild 143 chimpanzees is dominated by ripe fruit, irrespective of the environment (Goodall 1986; 144 Tutin et al. 1997; Pruetz 2006; Hockings et al. 2009; Watts et al. 2012). 145 Hockings and McLennan (2012) conducted a systematic review of crop feeding in 146 wild chimpanzees and found that chimpanzees consume 36 different crops from 27 sites 147 across tropical Africa with fleshy fruit crops targeted preferentially. The fruit pulp of cacao 148 (Theobroma cacao), a cultivated fruit species also known as cocoa, was among the most 149 commonly eaten crops across the chimpanzees' range and is predictably eaten wherever chimpanzees have access to it. Crop consumption by chimpanzees, including cacao which 150 151 is typically grown as a commercial crop, is often not tolerated by local people. 152 Understanding any potential benefits to crop feeding by primates (such as the dispersal of 153 crops that might be used by humans) can promote the sustainability of human-primate

154 interactions through increasing human tolerance towards problematic behaviours.

Here we present data on chimpanzee use and dispersal of cacao across the core of the chimpanzees' home range at Bossou. We examine factors that impact whether or not cacao plants survive short-term. We hypothesised that chimpanzee flexible feeding behaviour and processing of cacao, including whether seeds are ingested or not, will impact cacao dispersal and survival. We predicted that chimpanzee dispersed cacao plants that survived did so because they (1) were located further from the cacao plantation area because plants are more likely to survive at increasing distance from the plantation area, (2)

were part of a cluster with fewer cacao plants because plants are more likely to survive with fewer competing plants within the same cluster (3) were taller as more established plants are more likely to survive than smaller plants, and (4) were in a location with a more open understory because reduced competition with understory plants favours cacao growth.

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167 MATERIALS AND METHODS

168 Study site and subjects

169 The village of Bossou is situated in the forest region in south-eastern Republic of Guinea, 170 West Africa (latitude 7° 38'71.7" N; and longitude 8° 29'38.9" W), approximately 6 km 171 from the Nimba Mountain range (Matsuzawa et al. 2011). The village is mainly inhabited 172 by the Manon ethnic group. The Manon family that founded Bossou remains one of its most influential families and holds the sympatric chimpanzees as a sacred totem 173 174 (Yamakoshi 2011). Due to these local cultural beliefs humans and chimpanzees have coexisted over many generations. Parts of the remaining forest at Bossou are also sacred in 175 176 local mythology. However, in recent years, aspects of development, various socioeconomic 177 factors, such as reliance on a cash income from crop sales, and fear of attack by chimpanzees on local persons (Hockings et al. 2010; McLennan and Hockings 2016), have 178 179 altered human-chimpanzee relationship dynamics at Bossou. This has contributed to people 180 becoming less tolerant of chimpanzee crop feeding, despite chimpanzees at Bossou having exploited agricultural foods for generations (Yamakoshi 2011). 181 182 The hills that constitute the 7 km² core of the chimpanzees' home range are split by 183 roads (Fig. 1; Hockings et al. 2006) and are mostly covered in secondary or regenerating

184 forest with small areas of primary forest. There are numerous paths/trails within the forest

that were created by humans and chimpanzees. Swidden (or 'slash-and-burn') agricultural 185 practices have resulted in a mosaic of thicket, cultivated fields and orchards within and 186 187 bordering the reserve. Chimpanzees at Bossou consume 17 crop species, including cacao, 188 and numerous parts, including fruit, leaf, pith, nut, tuber (Hockings et al. 2009). Crops were 189 consumed year-round and comprised 14% of feeding time, with variation across months 190 (monthly range: 3.6-26.3 %, ±SD 76.9). The climate at Bossou is classified as tropical wet 191 seasonal; there is a clear wet season from March to October and a dry season from 192 November to February (Hockings et al. 2009; Takemoto 2004). There has been no previous 193 research on seed dispersal by chimpanzees at Bossou.

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Fig. 1. Map of Bossou village and roads, the surrounding forested hills (including relief),
and the paths walked during ecological surveys. The plantation area is enlarged to show the
five areas A to E (see Table 2 for additional details).

- 200 Cacao is a small evergreen tree in the family Malvaceae. Cacao is cultivated as an 201 understory plant and was introduced from South America to West Africa in the 19th 202 Century by the Portuguese (Howes 1946). Both the young and mature leaves are distinctive 203 and easily identifiable; leaves are alternate, entire, and unlobed. The fruit, called a cacao 204 pod, is ovoid, and contains seeds, often called 'beans', embedded in a sweet white 205 mucilaginous pulp that chimpanzees feed on (Hockings and McLennan 2012). Mature 206 cacao pods of standard size at Bossou were 24.3 cm in circumference (±SE 0.5, N=10) and 207 14.9 cm in length (± 0.3). Each pod (hereafter called fruit) contained a mean of 45.5 ± 0.8 seeds (range: 41-49). Seeds are large, averaging 2.4 cm \pm 0.3 length and 1.4 cm \pm 0.1 width 208 (N=162 seeds measured from four pods at Bossou) and whole seeds are visible in 209 210 chimpanzee faeces. Riley et al. (2013) measured the nutritional content of cacao pulp and 211 compared it to forest fruits commonly ingested by Tonkean macaques in Sulawesi. Cacao pulp contained significantly lower levels of protein, lipids and fibre, yet higher levels of 212 digestible carbohydrate, indicating greater digestibility and energy content than the forest 213 214 fruits sampled.
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216 Other species and cacao dispersal

217 A methodological challenge in understanding seed dispersal by vertebrates is the

218 identification of the frugivore species disseminating the seeds (Gonzalez-Varo *et al.* 2014).

Aside from chimpanzees, no other large-bodied wildlife ingest whole cacao seeds at

Bossou. Although hornbills are present, hornbills generally feed at significantly higher 220 221 strata in the forest canopy i.e. greater than 20 m (Poulsen et al. 2002) and were never 222 observed (during long-term chimpanzee observations) feeding on cacao fruit or seeds. 223 Janson (1983) emphasizes that small bats and avian frugivores are less able to open fruits 224 protected in hard-husks than primates and other mammals. The large number of cacao seeds 225 that are found in clusters (see results) precludes that other smaller-bodied animals are 226 responsible for the cacao dispersed outside the plantation area at Bossou. Local people at 227 Bossou do not consume cacao fruit as part of their local feeding traditions; hence cacao 228 dispersal is not a result of local people feeding. Cacao is a small-scale commercial crop at 229 Bossou and people are not permitted to take it from plantations – which would be classified 230 as stealing – due to its high economic value. Furthermore, the original cacao plantation 231 (plantation zone A) is positioned at the bottom of a steep hill (Fig. 1); hence abiotic factors 232 such as wind and rain (i.e. during tropical storms) could not be responsible for the dispersal 233 patterns of large cacao seeds observed outside of the plantation area. Although it is unlikely 234 that dispersal from the original plantation to neighbouring plantation zones B and C (Fig. 1) 235 is a result of abiotic factors or secondary seed dispersal (e.g. by dung beetles moving chimpanzee faeces), due to their immediate proximity to the original plantation this cannot 236 237 be completely ruled out. However, it was possible to confirm cacao dispersal by 238 chimpanzees to the furthest plantation in zone E through speaking directly with the 239 plantation owner who explained the origin of each cacao plant. 240

241 Behavioural Observations

242	Chimpanzee community size at Bossou varied over the complete study period (2004 to
243	2013) from 8 to 14 individuals (Matsuzawa et al. 2011). In 2004 to 2005, we collected
244	behavioural data to record cacao fruit feeding by chimpanzees across 12 months.
245	Community size varied over this period from 12 to 14 individuals, with five to six adult
246	females and the same three adult males present throughout. We randomly selected a focal
247	adult (we excluded all immatures) from a predetermined list each day and when possible
248	followed that individuals from 0630h to nesting, that was usually between 17h00 and
249	19h00 (approx. 2500 hrs, \overline{x} = 8.95 hrs per day; Hockings <i>et al.</i> 2012). Every 5 min we
250	employed instantaneous sampling to record the ongoing activity of the focal individual, and
251	we noted the food species and part when feeding (Hockings et al. 2009, 2012). While
252	following the focal individual, we used all occurrence sampling to record cacao fruit
253	feeding by all individuals excluding infants. A cacao feeding event is defined as any
254	successful foray by an individual to obtain cacao fruit (Hockings et al. 2009).
255	In October and November 2011, we selected and followed an adult focal (based on
256	individuals who were considered most likely to feed on cacao fruit) to maximize the
257	likelihood of observing cacao feeding and cacao dispersal ($N = 22$ days, approx. 149 hrs,
258	mean = 6.8 hrs per day). If we observed a chimpanzee consuming cacao fruit who was
259	known not to have consumed cacao in the previous three days, that individual was selected
260	as a focal and followed continuously until the faeces contained no more cacao seeds (total
261	N = 4 follows, including 3 individuals). This was possible as we knew exactly how many
262	fruits had been consumed and the approximate number of seeds in each fruit. We recorded
263	the locations of seeds that were spat out and those deposited in faeces after being ingested
264	to monitor if germination occurred or not (see below for details). We obtained data on the

approximate gut passage time of cacao seeds from nest to nest focal follows of adult 265 266 individuals that we observed feeding on cacao fruit and ingesting the seeds. We ensured the 267 focal had not fed on cacao fruit in the preceding three days, and were continuously 268 followed without being lost until their faeces no longer contained cacao seeds; hence we 269 accounted for all cacao seeds. Based on chimpanzee behavioural observations, we define 270 cacao clusters as 'spatial aggregations of seeds or plants that were deposited in the same 271 faeces or in the same feeding spot by an individual'. In 2013, we did not employ systematic 272 ethological data collection methods throughout the entire two month data collection period 273 as new Bossou site regulations restricted chimpanzee follows. However, during this period 274 we followed an adult male for one week and we observed one cacao fruit feeding event and 275 we confirmed the gut passage time of cacao (see results).

276 On the two occasions when we observed consumption of unripe fruit (i.e. pod green 277 in colour but full-sized and with mature seeds) they were transported short distances by the 278 chimpanzee resulting in two clusters (see Fig. 2 for an example of a cluster) of dropped 279 cacao seeds per occasion (total N=4 clusters). When the seeds from ripe fruits (yellow in 280 colour) were ingested on two occasions, five faeces (hence five clusters) were deposited on 281 both occasions (total N=10 clusters). If we did not directly observe a cacao feeding event but fresh chimpanzee traces were found directly after the feeding event, then we monitored 282 283 the seeds (N=4 clusters, only unripe fruits). We monitored a total of 18 clusters of cacao 284 seeds (N=245 seeds) for germination success. Beyond looking for evidence of crushed or 285 damaged seeds, and whether the seeds germinated or not, we did not assess the survival of 286 the seedlings (over the 2 month study period in 2013) and efficacy of different seed 287 handling techniques due to the limited observations.

289 Cacao plantations

290 When we first collected behavioural data on chimpanzee crop feeding in 2004, cacao was 291 grown in one small orchard, hereafter the 'original plantation' (Fig. 1, area A). The owner 292 started planting cacao at this location in 1986 and abandoned it in 2004 (but remained the 293 recognised owner). When we collected data on cacao dispersal in 2011 and 2013, three 294 newer plantations had been established that contained cacao and that were in proximity to 295 the original plantation (areas C, D, E). There was also one cultivated area that had been 296 abandoned in 1992 that contained banana plants, mango and avocado trees on the slope 297 leading down to the original plantation (area B). In this abandoned plantation, chimpanzees 298 often rested in a large Ficus anomanii tree after feeding on cacao and sometimes defecated 299 cacao seeds from the tree canopy. These five plantations are hereafter named the 'plantation 300 area'. These were the only sources of cacao from which the chimpanzees could feed from 301 during the study period; this avoids one of the main methodological challenges in 302 understanding vertebrate-mediated dispersal (Gonzalez-Varo et al. 2014).

303 Each plantation was mapped using GPS. For each cacao plant (excluding those in the fruit-fall zone of mature plants) within each plantation, we collected data in 2013 on (1) 304 305 the GPS location of the plant, (2) cacao plant height, (3) whether the plant had previously 306 produced fruit or not, and (4) whether there was evidence that chimpanzees had consumed 307 cacao fruit from that plant, either from direct observations (from long-term direct 308 observations of chimpanzee behaviour) or from distinguishing between the methods used 309 by humans and chimpanzees to detach the pods. At Bossou, farmers cut the pods from the plants with large knives attached to poles, leaving different traces to chimpanzees that tear 310

the pods from the trunk or branch. We asked the owners of plantations A,C,D,E which
cacao they had planted (the previous owner of plantation B could not be located) along with
their planting techniques and cacao requirements. Humans did not plant cacao outside of
the plantations.

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316 Cacao surveys

317 From October to November in 2011 we made an initial assessment of cacao distribution by 318 chimpanzees across the core of their home range, to which the Bossou chimpanzees mostly 319 confine daily activities (Humle 2011). Then in the same period in 2013 we monitored the 320 same plants to assess short-term cacao survival (i.e. over the two years). We conducted 321 surveys (methods replicated in 2011 and 2013) through systematically walking the main 322 paths (Fig. 1, total= 8.7 km) used by chimpanzees on four hills that constitute the core of 323 their home range: Gban (3.5 km of paths), Guein (2.7 km), Gboton (1.7 km), and Ueyaton 324 (0.8 km). The distribution of paths was originally designed to be evenly distributed across 325 the chimpanzees' habitat, and chimpanzees habitually use the paths for travel. This method 326 was chosen over more random sampling (e.g. random plots) which is impractical in this 327 human-impacted habitat as many areas are private and/or sacred and hence cannot be 328 modified (e.g. through cutting vegetation or through use of tagging tape). We counted all 329 cacao plants within a 5 m perpendicular distance from the centre of the path (total survey 330 area 8.7 ha). During chimpanzee follows we opportunistically recorded cacao plants that 331 had been dispersed by chimpanzees but which we did not encounter during surveys on the 332 main paths.

When we located single cacao plants or clusters, we gave the plant or cluster a code 333 334 to enable later identification. For each plant or cluster of plants we collected the following 335 data: (1) GPS location; (2) number of plants; (3) furthest distance between plants within a 336 cluster; (4) the height of each plant; (5) the openness of the understory (horizontal visibility 337 beyond 10m was classified as open, and less than 10m was classified as closed). Cacao 338 plants require appropriately spaced canopy trees for optimal growth. Certain conditions are 339 also favoured, including specific trees to provide shade for the cacao and fertilize the soil 340 especially during the dry season, as well as trees that do not serve as alternative hosts to 341 disease and pests which can affect the cocoa underneath it (Asare 2006). It was beyond the 342 scope of this research to determine the complex yet specific combination of shade tree 343 species and characteristics required for maintaining optimal cacao growth in a forested 344 habitat. As a measure for the amount of light reaching the cacao on the forest floor, we 345 rated the horizontal openness of the understory in proximity to cacao, with an open rather 346 than closed understory resulting in reduced competition with other plants (Asare 2006). 347 We classified seedlings as <50 cm high, saplings as 50-200 cm high, poles as 201-348 400 cm high, and mature plants as >400 cm based on the ability of plants of that size to produce fruit in plantations (adapted from Beaune et al. 2015). We employ the term 'plant' 349 to cover all size classifications. For mature cacao plants, we recorded whether a plant had 350 351 conjoined trunks (i.e. formed from the growth of multiple closely deposited seeds) or whether it had a single trunk (i.e. came from a single seed). We took care to distinguish 352 353 between cacao plants from a single seed that had split and had multiple branches to those 354 that had separate trunks to ensure we accurately counted the number of plants.

355

356 **Data analysis**

357 We analysed data statistically using SPSS version 22 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, U.S.A.). We 358 conducted parametric analyses only when data were normally distributed with homogeneity 359 of variance (Sokal and Rohlf 1995), and we checked data for multicollinearity. We 360 considered all the hypotheses as two tailed and tested at P<0.05. We present averages as 361 means with standard errors (SE). 362 We calculated % focal feeding time on cacao fruit and other species by dividing the 363 time spent feeding on cacao fruit by all adults across the 12 months by the total feeding 364 time on all wild and cultivated species and food parts across the same period.

We calculated the straight-line dispersal distance between georeferenced cacao plants (outside the cacao plantation area) and the closest part of the plantation area using ArcGIS version 10.2.1.

To examine whether the cacao clusters varied greatly in their spread (defined as the furthest distance between cacao plants within a cluster) according to the number of cacao seeds in the cluster we ran a Spearman's rank test on all clusters with greater than one seed (N=59; cacao plants identified in 2011 or 2013).

From direct observations in 2011 we examined if seeds spat out or deposited in faeces by chimpanzees germinated or not (265 seeds deposited in 18 separate clusters by at least three individuals). We calculated the short-term survival of all cacao identified in 2011 (through ecological surveys or whilst following the chimpanzees) by examining whether at least one plant in a cluster survived for two years or not. To examine the factors impacting plant survival or not in the two year period, we ran a Logistic Regression with plant survival in each cluster (total clusters, N=59) as the binary response dependent

variable. As independent variables we included (1) distance to plantation (m), (2) number
of cacao plants per cluster, (3) average height of cacao plants (cm) in 2011, and (4)

381 horizontal openness of habitat.

382 Our non-random methods to examine the distribution of cacao across the habitat 383 precluded randomized estimates of cacao density in relation to distance from the plantation 384 area. However, to gain an approximation of how distance from the plantation area impacts 385 cacao densities, we examined the number of cacao clusters corresponding to the total area 386 of path surveyed and the total area within each 100 m distance category. Using ArcGIS we created multiple ring buffers at 100 m intervals from the plantation area polygon. Using the 387 388 tabulate intersection function in ArcGIS, for each distance category we calculated (1) how 389 many cacao clusters were present, (2) the total forested area in the chimpanzees core range 390 area, and (3) the total path distance surveyed. We divided the number of cacao clusters by the total path area (i.e. path length multiplied by 10 m) and total area within 100 m distance 391 392 categories from the plantation area.

393

394 Ethical note

All research involving wild chimpanzees was non-invasive and strictly adhered to ethics guidelines detailed by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (UK), and the ethical committee of the Bossou and Nimba International Research Group at Kyoto University. Permission to carry out this fieldwork was granted by the Direction Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation Technologique (DNRSIT) and Institut de Recherche Environnementale de Bossou (IREB), and adheres to the legal requirements of the Republic of Guinea in which the research was conducted.

403 **RESULTS**

404 Chimpanzee cacao feeding behaviour and gut passage times

405 Chimpanzees at Bossou consumed cacao fruit in 13 of 187 focal observation days, with a 406 total of 34 cacao feeding events. Cacao was eaten in five months of the year but mostly in 407 October (21 of 34 events). Although we observed most chimpanzees ingesting cacao (10 of 408 12 individuals excluding infants present for all-occurrence sampling during 2004-2005 409 cacao season), cacao was not an important food in this community, constituting only 0.23 410 % of total focal feeding time (N=9 focal adult individuals, range: 0-15 mins, mean= $5.56 \pm$ 411 1.76). Chimpanzees spent between 1.17 to 13.93 % of their feeding time on their 25 most consumed food species and parts, and cacao was ranked in 55th in its importance in their 412 413 diet (Supplementary Table 3). The chimpanzees consumed pulp from both ripe and unripe 414 cacao fruits, although mostly selected ripe fruits (28 of 34 events; Fig. 2). Chimpanzees dropped or spat out the seeds from unripe cacao, whereas they swallowed the seeds and 415 416 pulp from ripe cacao in all cases (Supplementary video 1). The chimpanzees subsequently 417 deposited the ingested cacao seeds in faeces and dispersed a mean of 14.72 ±SE 2.84 cacao 418 seeds per cluster (defecated clusters: mean= 10.80 ± 3.35 , range: 1-34 seeds: N=10; spat out clusters: mean=19.63 \pm 4.44, 1-39 seeds, N=8). The gut passage times for cacao ranged 419 420 from 6.9 h to 25.8 h (see Supplementary results for descriptions of events). We did not 421 observe any instances of cacao seed destruction by chimpanzees and did not find chewed or 422 damaged seeds in faeces.



Fig. 2. Adult male chimpanzee at Bossou feeding on ripe cacao fruit. The ripped branch, from where the chimpanzee tore the fruit from the cacao tree, is attached to the pod in his hand (photo taken by N. Bryson-Morrison).

Cacao dispersal and short-term survival

431	The seeds from 17 of 18 monitored cacao clusters germinated within one week of
432	deposition by chimpanzees, with an average 92.9 % germination success per cluster (range:
433	50-100 %, N=17 clusters including a total of 249 seeds). Cacao seeds can germinate in
434	faeces or when spat out by chimpanzees whilst feeding on the pulp. The seeds that did not
435	survive were either found rotten or had disappeared and were likely preyed upon by other
436	animals.
437	Across the survey periods in 2011 and 2013, we recorded 436 cacao plants in 90
438	clusters that had been deposited by chimpanzees outside of the plantation area (Fig. 3 for

439	examples of cacao plants and clusters). 59 clusters were identified in 2011 and an
440	additional 31 clusters were identified in 2013, taking the total number of clusters identified
441	during the research period to 90. Of the 90 clusters, 60 were located through surveys along
442	paths and 30 through chimpanzee follows. Chimpanzees dispersed cacao from 4 m up to
443	1130 m outside of the plantation area, with a mean distance of 406.82 \pm SE 0.56m (N=90
444	clusters). Cacao plants were distributed across the four main hills within the core of the
445	chimpanzees' home range (Fig. 4).



- **Fig. 3.** (a) ripe cacao pod with seeds surrounded by white pulp, (b) cluster of cacao
- seedlings from the same faeces, (c) young cacao sapling with distinctive bright green
- 450 leaves, (d) cluster of saplings on the edge of a main chimpanzee path, (e) mature cacao tree
- 451 with a conjoined trunk, a result of more than one seed from the same chimpanzee faeces
- 452 growing and reaching maturity.
- 453



456 Fig. 4. Cacao distribution (cacao plants/clusters are shown by black dots) across the core of
457 the Bossou chimpanzees' home range with 100 m distance rings from the plantation area
458 (also shown enlarged).

459

455

The mean number of plants per cluster was $4.84 \pm SE \ 0.61$ (range: 1-27) and clusters with more cacao plants had a significantly wider spread (i.e. the furthest distance between plants within a cluster) than those with fewer plants (Spearman's rank: *rs*=0.503, N=59, P=0<0.001). The mean height of plants per cluster was 98.3 cm ±SE 13.22, although 464 maximum plant height was 700 cm. 51.1 % of clusters were seedlings (N=46), 35.6 % were 465 saplings (N=32), 10 % were poles (N=9), and 3.3 % mature plants (N=3).

466 Cacao survival in the forest was predicted by distance from plantation area (Table
467 1): cacao closer to the plantation area was less likely to survive the two year period than
468 those further away, but there was high variation in the distances from which plants survived
469 (Fig. 5). Other factors did not predict short-term cacao survival (Table 1).





472 Fig. 5. Box plot (showing maximum and minimum values as whiskers above and below the
473 central rectangle which spans the first quartile to the third quartile; the horizontal line inside
474 the rectangle shows the median, and outliers are shown as an open circle and asterisk) of
475 cacao survival from 2011 to 2013 (total N=59; died N=21, survived n=38) at different
476 distances (m) from the plantation area.

- 477
- 478

479 **Table 1.** Factors included in the logistic regression model and their significance in

480 predicting cacao survival.

481

						95 %	% C.I.	
	β	s.e.	wald	df	$\exp(\beta)$	Lower	Upper	Sig.
Understory	.093	.652	.020	1	1.097	.306	3.938	.887
Distance to Plantation	.003	.001	4.607	1	1.003	1.000	1.005	.032*
Number of cacao plants	.090	.117	.587	1	1.094	.869	1.377	.443
Plant height	.012	.007	2.555	1	1.012	.997	1.026	.110
Constant	-1.524	.872	3.056	1	.218			.080

482 Logistic Regression where overall model $X^2 = 16.50$, df=4, P<0.01, N=59, R² = .24 (Cox and Snell). For each 483 factor the following model parameters are shown: unstandardised b-coefficients (β) with associated standard

484 error (s.e.) and 95% confidence intervals (CI), odds ratio (exp (β)), and the tests significance.

485

The number of cacao clusters decreased with increasing distance from the plantation area, but increased again at distances of 1100 to 1200m (Fig. 6a). A similar pattern occurred when we calculated cacao density from total area of forest within each distance ring (Fig. 6b). When we calculated densities using path area surveyed within each distance category, the density of cacao was high up to 100m from the plantation area but then low at all other distance categories (Fig. 6b).





496 Fig. 6. (a) Frequency distribution of cacao clusters from the cacao plantation area across
497 different distance classes (0-100m, 101-200m, and so on), and (b) Densities of cacao
498 clusters (number per ha) calculated from path area and total area across different distance
499 classes.

501 Cacao maturity and fruit production

The height of fruit-producing cacao in plantations was greater than that of cacao unable to produce fruit, and ranged from 357 to 1100 cm, averaging 578 cm (±SE 19.6). Despite some cacao plants in the forest attaining maturity (i.e. >400 cm height), they were unable to produce fruit. In contrast, cacao dispersed by chimpanzees into a guarded mixed-crop plantation (plantation area E) was able to mature and to produce fruit (Table 2). The owner said that chimpanzees frequently crossed his banana (Musa spp.) plantation and deposited the cacao seeds in their faeces, and that he subsequently tended to the cacao seedlings to ensure their survival. Four of the mature cacao plants in that location had multiple conjoined trunks and had been formed from a cluster of cacao seeds within one chimpanzee faeces (Fig. 3e; Table 2).

		A #00 0170	No. anana	% (N) cacao	No. mature	% (N) fruit-	% (N) mature
	Guard level	(ha)	plants (clusters)	humans	clusters	cacao	conjoined
Forest		230	436 (90)	0	3	0 (0)	33.3 (1)
Plantation							
A. Original	Abandoned	0.15	86 (74)	51.4 (38)	48	87.5 (42)	4.2 (2)
В.	Abandoned	0.11	119 (48)	0	9	11.1 (1)	11.1 (1)
C.	Guarded	0.08	36 (25)	0	11	63.6 (7)	18.2 (2)
D.	Guarded	0.04	24 (24)	100 (24)	0	-	-
E.	Guarded	1.53	47 (27)	7.4 (2)	15	86.7 (13)	26.7 (4)

520 **Table 2.** Forest and plantation areas at Bossou containing cacao.

521

522 In the original plantation (plantation A), the cacao planted by the owner in 1986 523 accounted for over half the total cacao present in that zone during surveys (Table 2). From 2004 to 2005, we recorded that chimpanzees solely consumed cacao from this plantation 524 525 and frequently spat out the seeds of unripe fruits. The remaining cacao that the owner had not planted himself was either a result of chimpanzee feeding (or feeding in-situ by other 526 527 small-bodied animals) or natural fruit-fall under the canopy. To optimize cacao growth, the owner of plantation A employed a 3m x 3m spacing pattern between cacao seedlings, 528 529 planting one seed per spacing and hence none of these mature cacao plants had conjoined trunks. In contrast, between 4.2 and 26.7 % of mature cacao trees across plantations were 530 created by multiple cacao seeds in the same cluster (which physically differs from cacao 531 trees from one seed with multiple stems; Table 2, Fig. 2F) 532

533

534 **DISCUSSION**

535 This paper provides empirical data on the dispersal of a crop by a large-bodied mammal in 536 a tropical agricultural landscape, demonstrating interactions between flexible foraging 537 behaviour by chimpanzees (i.e. feeding on cultivated foods and crop handling), human 538 behaviour, and plant survival. Even though cacao was only available seasonally at Bossou 539 and was not an important food to this community (based on the amount of time spent 540 feeding and not on the absolute quantity ingested and/or nutritional value), it was dispersed 541 by chimpanzees across the core part of their home range. As predicted, the way in which 542 chimpanzees handled cacao impacted its subsequent dispersal. When fruits were ripe the 543 seeds were swallowed with the pulp, whereas when the fruits were unripe chimpanzees spat 544 out the seeds. At Bulindi in Uganda the chewed cacao pulp was detected in 12.3 % of 545 chimpanzee faeces and was consumed in 12 of 13 survey months (McLennan 2013). 546 Despite long-term monitoring of chimpanzee diet at this site through faecal sampling, 547 mature cacao seeds were rarely observed in chimpanzee faeces. Chimpanzees at Bulindi 548 often consume immature pods that lack fully formed seeds, and when ripe pods are eaten, 549 the chimpanzees appear not to ingest the seeds and instead spit them out (McLennan pers 550 comm). Chimpanzees show inter-community differences in the crops that they target even if the same crops are available (McLennan and Hockings 2014). Our results indicate that 551 552 chimpanzees might also exhibit different food processing techniques, in this case for 553 cultivated foods, impacting the likelihood and potential patterns of crop dispersal. Given 554 that primates will be increasingly exposed to novel food resources in anthropogenic 555 habitats, examining variations in the techniques employed to process novel resources by 556 different primate species and/or groups of primates is an interesting line of future enquiry.

The number of dispersed seeds depends on the number of visits to the plant by an 557 558 animal disperser and the number of seeds swallowed per visit. The quality of seed dispersal 559 depends on the quality of the treatment given to the seed in the animal's mouth and gut, and 560 the quality of seed deposition which can be directly associated to animal behaviour and 561 physiology (e.g. their diet, ranging, gut size, food passage rates and defecation patterns, i.e. 562 whether they deposit seeds singularly or in clumps) (Schupp 1993). Both cacao seeds 563 swallowed (and passed in faeces) and spat out by the chimpanzees germinated. This 564 research did not investigate the effect of seed predators and secondary dispersers on the 565 post-dispersal fate of cacao seeds, but are likely important in plant-primate interactions 566 (Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2015). The cacao plants identified during the surveys (many of 567 which were already saplings, poles or mature plants when surveys started) show that cacao dispersed by chimpanzees in the forest can survive for multiple years but does not produce 568 569 fruit. However, contrary to predictions, cacao plant size and the number of cacao plants per 570 cluster did not significantly impact likelihood of survival. To understand why the density of 571 the understory vegetation did not impact cacao survival, more fine-tuned data on specific characteristics of the surrounding vegetation down to the species level and the requirements 572 of cacao in forested habitats are required. Distance from the plantation area was the only 573 measured factor that significantly influenced whether cacao survived or not, which is 574 575 consistent with ecological seed dispersal theory whereby mortality should be higher in 576 proximity to the parent plant due to higher densities/numbers of predators or pathogens 577 (Janzen 1970; Connell 1971). Some cacao did survive in proximity to the cacao plantations, 578 likely due to large numbers of cacao seeds being deposited in the area: chimpanzees 579 transported cacao short distances before feeding and spitting the seeds, or sometimes rested

in nearby trees after feeding on cacao and subsequently defecated the seeds (which were
shown to have low gut passage times) in large quantities. This is consistent with other
studies that demonstrate clumped patterns of seed deposition in areas where primates
repeatedly defecate, irrespective of low per capita seed survival under nesting sites or
parent trees (Russo and Augspurger 2004).

585 Chimpanzees at Kibale dispersed seeds a greater distance from either the parent tree 586 or any other tree of that species compared to sympatric primates due to long digestive 587 passage times (mean passage time = 31.5 h) and daily travel distances of up to several 588 kilometers (Lambert 1997). Bonobos at Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic 589 of Congo, ingested *Dialium* fruits with seeds that are disseminated in their faeces at 590 considerable distances (average: 1.25 km after 24 hr of average passage time) and after gut 591 passage, seeds are better able to germinate (Beaune et al. 2013). Our estimates for gut 592 passage times were shorter than these previous estimates in wild chimpanzees. This might 593 be due to the large seed sizes of cacao and the large number of seeds ingested which 594 encourage them to pass rapidly through the gut. However, cacao was generally dispersed 595 over relatively large distances of up to 1100 m from the cacao plantation area. As seeds were often swallowed whole by chimpanzees at Bossou, dispersal characteristics were 596 597 inherently related to chimpanzee ranging behaviour. Our data are consistent with what we 598 know about chimpanzee ranging behaviour in this community whereby individuals can 599 travel between the four main hills over the course of one day. Future research should link 600 spatial data on chimpanzee daily movements with seed dispersal patterns over time (Zárate 601 et al. 2014). Seed shadows of dispersal patterns of cacao were similar when calculated using numbers and densities per total area of forest in each distance category, with cacao 602

decreasing at increasing distance from plantation area, albeit with a slight increase between 1100-1200 m. However, cacao densities calculated from total path area surveyed within each distance category showed a different distribution pattern with high densities up to 100 m from the plantation, then consistently low densities at all other distance categories. An increased likelihood of encountering cacao whilst following chimpanzees in the forested areas in proximity to the cacao plantations during cacao season might account for this discrepancy.

610 Cacao located in the forest was never observed to produce fruit – if monitored 611 plants had produced fruit outside the research periods (which coincided with the main 612 cacao season within the plantation area at Bossou), distinctive traces would have been 613 found on the cacao plant itself. The dense upper canopy within the forest restricts cacao 614 maturation, especially fruit production, as it restricts light to the understory and young 615 cacao plants are forced to compete with other vegetation (Asare 2006). In contrast, cacao 616 that had been deposited by chimpanzees into plantations did survive until maturity and 617 were able to produce fruit. We have observed chimpanzees feeding on cacao from mature 618 cacao plants in plantation E that they had originally dispersed to that location. The owner described how he identified the cacao seedlings deposited by chimpanzees within his 619 plantation and in the neighbouring forest that he subsequently cleared to expand his 620 621 plantation. Due to the high economic value of cacao, he frequently cleared any understory vegetation and removed most large canopy trees, leaving a few remaining shade trees, 622 623 which provided optimal growing requirements for the cacao. Due to these maintenance 624 activities, he emphasized his ownership of the cacao, despite acknowledging the cacao had 625 been 'planted' by the chimpanzees. Although the farmer tolerated some cacao feeding by

chimpanzees, he said he was forced to harvest cacao quickly otherwise chimpanzees would
take it all, and expressed annoyance that chimpanzees frequently consumed other crops
including bananas in his plantation.

629 Cacao dispersal by chimpanzees outside of plantations does not result in the 630 production of additional fruit and hence does not enrich the Bossou chimpanzees' diet. The 631 dispersal of this crop is unlikely to have long-term implications for chimpanzee persistence 632 at this site especially in light of an ageing and declining chimpanzee community (Sugiyama 633 2004; Matsuzawa et al. 2011). However, this research has highlighted the possibility that 634 animal-mediated dispersal of crops at other sites has the potential to positively impact the 635 ability of wildlife to persist in human-impacted habitats, especially if farmers obtain 636 economic benefits through wildlife crop dispersal. To examine this requires an 637 understanding of the local crop assemblages and their growing requirements, and the crops targeted by primates at that location. A more complete understanding is required of 638 frugivorous primates as niche constructors and how the dispersal of wild and crop foods at 639 640 human-impacted sites by primates determines the abundance, diversity and distribution of 641 tropical plants and other animal species, and how this potentially benefits local human 642 populations (Sengupta et al. 2015). Like other large-bodied frugivores inhabiting disturbed habitats (e.g. western lowland gorillas, Gorilla gorilla gorilla; Haurez et al. 2013), the 643 644 local extirpation of chimpanzees at Bossou will potentially result in changed and 645 impoverished tree regeneration of a whole forest ecosystem (e.g. for brown lemurs, 646 Eulemur fulvus; Ganzhorn et al. 1999).

We agree with Sih *et al.* (2015) that new behavioural ecology theory should be 647 648 incorporated into population/community models to predict both adaptive and maladaptive 649 (e.g. if they incite human retaliation) behavioural responses to rapid human-induced 650 environmental changes. We suggest that this new theory must take account of human 651 behaviour (for example through quantifying the degree of risk humans pose to wildlife) at a 652 local-scale and the degree to which this determines if an animal's behaviour is adaptive or 653 not. Effective long-term strategies to conserve wildlife that utilise agricultural areas require 654 a combination of approaches that protect habitat, target wildlife behaviour, and increase 655 local people's tolerance towards wildlife, and secure their livelihoods (Treves et al. 2006). 656 To predict the threshold beyond which wildlife populations are unable to accommodate 657 human presence and activities, and local people will no longer tolerate wildlife presence, 658 further research on the numerous ways that animals modify their behaviour and the 659 ecological consequences of these behaviours, both positive and negative, is needed. 660 661 **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. Supporting Information: Supplemental results (Appendix S1) and Supplemental movie 662 (Appendix S2) are available online. 663

664

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