

# ***Gorilla Journal***

*Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*

No. 17, December 1998



**Unrest and Con-  
servation Efforts  
in the Virunga  
National Park**

**Progress in Mt.  
Tshiaberimu  
Conservation**

**Status of the  
Rwandan Gorillas**

**Gorilla Groups in  
Mgahinga Gorilla  
National Park**



# BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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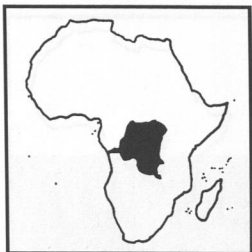
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### Unrest and Conservation Efforts in the Virunga Park

Since August 1998, the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie* (RCD) has waged an armed rebellion against the government of President Laurent Desiré Kabila. As in 1996, the events started in Goma and Bukavu, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The armed forces shifted from loyalists to rebels with less fighting in towns. However, the situation has worsened and resulted in the escalation of violence and insecurity in the region.

Most of the roads out of Goma are very unsafe for travellers. The rebel forces control most of the towns but there are several armed groups active all around including Interahamwe militia and Mai-Mai. There was isolated fighting in various places, and Rwindi, inside the park, was attacked on different occasions. Although there was not much loss among park personnel, the crisis has had very adverse effects on conservation. Most of the park rehabilitation process and plans have been hampered by the crisis. Several patrol posts have been abandoned or closed down to avoid putting people at a great risk.

In areas where there was no enormous disturbance, rangers and other park personnel were encouraged to remain present to avoid a complete loss of park control and monitoring. In some areas, some activities continue but with too many constraints, i.e. rangers continue the monitoring of gorillas in Jomba. There has been some disturbance of the habitats in the southern sector where about 25–50 m of forest vegetation were cut on both sides of the road between Kibati and Rutshuru (about 60 km) to create a security buffer zone. This also affected the cultivation and crops of local people who were sometimes displaced to new areas or to camps. The general attitude

among conservationists lies on expectation and some sort of encouragement from some wardens to rangers to deal with the difficult situation. Other problems caused by the crisis include:

- A breakdown of regular communication and reporting between ICCN (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature*) Goma and the field. It was difficult to even have an internal discussion about the impact of the war on conservation. Recently we urged the ICCN Goma office and all the chief wardens to have a meeting to evaluate the situation and to prepare a flexible contingency plan including priority issues to deal with the situation. DFGF (*Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund*) Europe generously and promptly provided support to cover all the logistic needs for the ICCN meeting in Goma on December 4–5.

- No salaries are being paid or are expected to be paid in the near future by the government (rebels or Kabila).

- The continuation of the long military presence in the park has resulted in increased poaching activities.

*Vital Katembo Mushengezi*

*There is some evidence that soldiers are hunting in Virunga National Park. One ranger in Rwindi was seriously injured by Mai-Mai during a night attack on Kamandi post. Other rangers are also at risk. As the salaries of the rangers are not being paid, the risk is great that they themselves might start poaching. It is almost impossible to take action against poachers, because soldiers are in the park all the time.*

*Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo told us in October that Interahamwe are active in the south of the park and Mai-Mai in the central sector. Several guard posts have been closed down. Poaching has started up again in the centre and in the east of the park, but it has not yet reached the level it had in 1997. On September 30, 4 rangers were seriously injured by Mai-Mai, and on October 9, Rwindi was attacked again. The*

*property was looted, but Claude Sikubwabo was able to save the equipment that the Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe provided him.*

**Latest news:** *Claude Sikubwabo told us on December 31 that poaching by the military is increasing. Animals are shot and sold in the villages surrounding the park – Kibirizi, Kiwanja and Ishasha. DFGF Europe is funding an emergency program to enable the ICCN regain control in certain zones.*

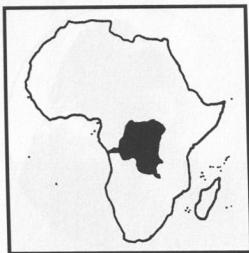
### Tourists Kidnapped in Congo

Four foreign tourists who had wanted to visit the mountain gorillas in Jomba vanished after being attacked by gunmen, probably Interahamwe. Despite having been advised not to cross the border, a group of 6 tourists entered the Democratic Republic of Congo on August 15, only a few days after the recent war had started there. Two of them escaped the attack, the other 4 tourists as well as 2 drivers, 2 rang-

### Two Young Gorillas Killed in Jomba

On September 3, poachers shot 2 mountain gorillas near Jomba in Virunga National Park, D. R. Congo, according to AWF (*African Wildlife Foundation*). Birori, a juvenile male, and Gasigwa, a 3-year-old female, who belonged to the Lulengo group, were killed only 100 m from the park boundary. During a group count, ICCN rangers noticed that only 6 of the 8 group members were present.

It is thought that the gorillas were killed mistakenly and that the poachers were hunting other animals. They left the apes' bodies and fled.



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ers and 3 porters vanished. One of the foreigners was released after a few days. The 3 foreign visitors who are still missing are from New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Ugandan newspaper *New Vision* reported that the abducted tourists were sighted in a Congo forest in October. Diplomats and locals said the number of captives has risen to 5 and includes 2 more men, one of whom wears a religious collar. Since then, we have not received any news.

### The Mikenos Gorillas

This article describes the history of a gorilla group during the troubled times between November 1996 and April 1998.

The IGCP (*International Gorilla Conservation Programme*) initiated and supervised a program for the monitoring of the mountain gorillas and for the study of the ecology of the Mikenos (Virunga National Park), after several ICCN staff had been trained for this purpose. Every gorilla was observed, described and photographed;

their characteristics were recorded on 'identity cards'. Subsequently, each habituated animal was named. The history of the former Ndungutse group could be followed during the war and subsequent turmoil. The group contained 25 individuals in 1996, but the silverback and several other group members were killed in May 1997.

### What Happened Before

The Mikenos gorillas were introduced in an article published in *Gorilla Journal* 13 (December 1996). At that time, the factors threatening the survival of these animals included poaching, attempts to trade young gorillas, the decline of nature conservation organisations' support, insufficient cooperation between the ICCN and the local population, a lack of revenue from tourism, the risk of war and the presence of Rwandese refugees.

In October 1996, war broke out in the region. In the gorillas' area, several military operations were conducted to drive away Rwandan dissidents. Armed groups continue to terrorize the area to this date (August 1998).

### Gorilla Group Sizes and Lone Males in 1998

	March	June	July
Lulengo	11	11	11
Kwitonda	10	11	12 <sup>1)</sup>
Rugendo	18	18	9
Humba	—	—	10
Munyaga	12	12	11 <sup>2)</sup>
Kabirizi	11	14	14
Lone males	4	4	5 <sup>3)</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>

<sup>1)</sup> One transfer from Nyakagezi

<sup>2)</sup> Transfer of one to Kabirizi

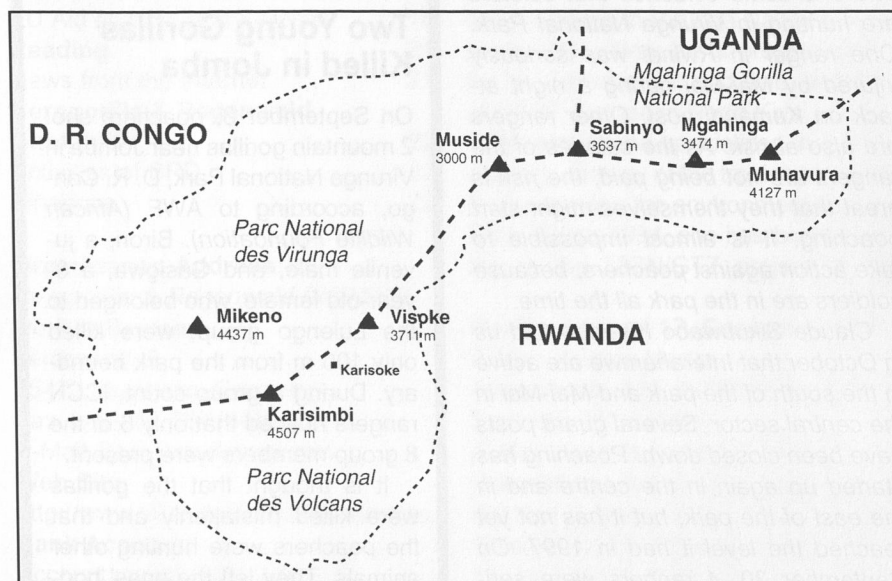
<sup>3)</sup> One blackback from Kabirizi

The first of the habituated gorilla families in Jomba was found in December 1996. As the new rulers of the Democratic Republic of Congo regarded nature conservation as very important, mixed patrols into the area were carried out from February 1997, consisting of rangers and military personnel. Thanks to these patrols, all gorilla families have been observed at least once a month since the beginning of May 1997 except for the Rafiki group, which has disappeared.

Before May 1997, the number and composition of the habituated gorilla groups remained similar to what it was in September 1996. However, 2 young gorillas were killed in September 1998 by poachers/soldiers operating in the Jomba area (p. 3).

### The Former Ndungutse Group

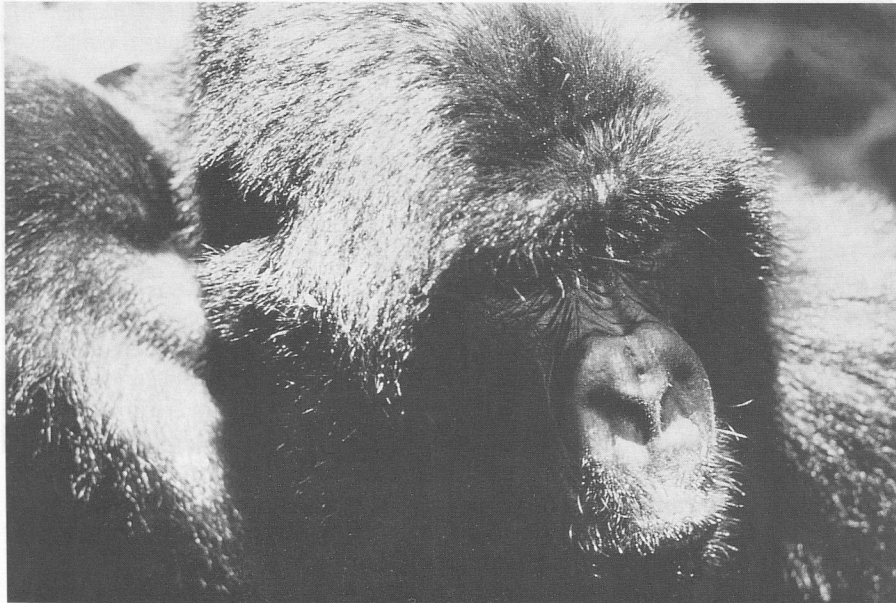
On May 18, 1997, this gorilla group came under fire from the military. The silverback Ndungutse was killed after he had bitten a soldier; the soldier opened fire and shot 3 other gorillas as well. This event was followed by dramatic changes. One of them was that the gorillas left their usual range for several months.



*The Virunga Conservation Area and its volcanoes*



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**A mountain gorilla on Mt. Miken**

*Photo: Angela Meder*

It was not clear which gorillas had been killed. At first, it was thought that the gorillas might be from the former Luwawa group. Casualties were estimated to be from 4 to more than 10. Some people thought that the group might have split or that the members might have joined other groups. Because of intensive military activities, the rangers were not able to go deep into the forest.

In October 1997, some members of the family were seen for the first time. In November, 2 subgroups were found, both led by blackbacks. One was led by Buhanga and contained 9 animals; the other one was led by Karateka and consisted of 4 animals. Hence, only 13 of the original 25 group members remained.

The two groups had similar habits and were ranging through the same area. They occasionally met and had severe clashes, during which several members transferred between groups. Among these were

– The female Mawazo, born 1990. In October 1997 she was a member of

the Buhanga group. In November 1997 she transferred to Karateka immediately after a confrontation. On January 10, 1998, she followed Buhanga after another contact.

– The juvenile Mutaka switched from Buhanga to Karateka, then to Buhanga again and finally to Karateka between November 1997 and February 1998.

– The juvenile Bukima transferred from Buhanga to Karateka in November 1997 and February 1998.

On February 23, 1998, a non-habituated silverback called Munyaga took over. The 2 blackbacks became lone males and have not been seen in their original range since.

At the moment (August 16, 1998), we know of 6 gorilla groups which can be visited regularly if security is guaranteed. The Nyakagezi family was habituated in Congo (and called Faida) but now it stays exclusively in Uganda. The Rafiki group cannot be observed at the moment because it ranges in a zone where security is bad. Two non-habituated males, Mapua and Ruzirabwoba, regularly visit the Jomba area

and seek out confrontations with each other and with the Lulengo family. There have been 4 births since May: 2 in the Kabirizi group in April, 1 in the Kwitonda group in May and 1 in the Humba group on July 12. The Rugendo family has split into two. Rugendo managed to keep 8 members with him while 8 others joined Humba, Rugendo's son.

*Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo, Evariste Bararuha Ntayomba, Benjamin Ndakazi Lola and Vital Katembo Mushengezi*

### **Progress Report on Mt. Tshiaberimu Conservation Activities**

The project started in September 1996 with the aim of strengthening the management and protection of the biological resources of Mt. Tshiaberimu with effective participation of local communities. From August 1996 to May 1997, the Democratic Republic of Congo was swept by a tragic war which had an adverse impact on the national park system. During the war, efforts were made to provide moral support and relief assistance to the rangers and the park personnel. Following some recommendations from the 1997 expedition, there was an immediate need to enforce the anti-poaching activities by implementing a regular biodiversity monitoring program.

A team of 25 park rangers, among them 3 trackers and 20 other workers, are participating in the different project activities. Efforts were made to provide incentive and motivation bonuses ranging between US\$ 20 and 40 to the workers and rangers, respectively. The Conservator is also provided with US\$ 100. This is covered by the project as top-ups to the unpaid state salaries and has been paid regularly since January 1998. The project has also been covering medical charges and



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provides food rations during anti-poaching patrols in the forest.

Among the team, 8 rangers were selected to participate in the biodiversity monitoring program. They are located permanently at the Kalibina camping site. It is their task to locate gorilla groups and other animals and record information while others are involved in anti-poaching patrols and construction activities.

### Park Infrastructure Development

Housing was a serious problem for the rangers working on Mt. Tshiaberimu, because the park had very poor or no existing infrastructure. The project has decided to provide improved shelter and housing to the rangers and their families. Tin-roofed houses built with local materials are to be constructed at Burusi, Kangai and Kasimbi, the 3 main patrol posts around the mountain. The construction has now been completed for 4 houses and 2 paillotes in Burusi, 2 houses in Kasimbi and 2 in Kangai. This provides shelter to 16 rangers' families. Other houses are still to be built but we are relying on the rangers to complete the construction. The Kalibina research cabin has not yet been set up, but a preliminary plan has been discussed with architects/entrepreneurs working in Butembo, Beni and Kyondo.

### Antipoaching Activities and Protection of Biological Resources

In 1996 and 1997, many destructive activities were observed in the forest; protecting the park was difficult. Rangers had been disarmed during the liberation war and the local people took advantage of the situation and the poor working conditions in order to extend their illegal activities inside the park. Poachers set antelope and monkey snares and traps and dug gold clandestinely; others cultivated crops illegally, cut trees and burned charcoal. The most disastrous activity is char-



**Mt. Tshiaberimu rangers on their way to the Burusi post**

*Photo: Vital Katembo Mushengezi*

coal burning and exploitation as it involves many villagers and opens the forest to cultivation.

In January 1998, an effort was made to bring a mixed delegation of ICCN, the Administrateur du territoire of Beni and DFGF representatives to discuss the problem in Burusi. The delegates used the occasion to explain some facts about community-based conservation and to sensitize the local people to stop poaching and cultivation inside the park boundaries.

Rangers have been carrying out patrols in various parts of the mountain to combat poaching. Despite being disarmed their presence had a very dissuasive effect on the poachers. During the patrols they remove snares and confiscate saws and machetes and other material used by poachers. This proved effective in reducing the poaching activities. Up to now 5 saws have been confiscated from the pitsawers and gold mining no longer exists in the forest. About 50 snares were removed during the patrols. We have also identified and warned 6 pitsawers living in the surrounding villages.

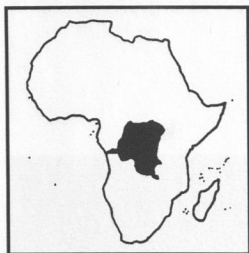
In July 1998, the military officer and Commandant in charge of Kyondo came to visit the project activities. His

two-day stay in the forest was a boost to the anti-poaching campaign. A meeting was held in Burusi with different local leaders and responsible persons from the villages. The Commandant promised to send soldiers to help rangers in their activities, whenever this is necessary.

### Biodiversity Monitoring

The number of gorillas living on Mt. Tshiaberimu has not been accurately determined. Data obtained by counting nests indicated between 14 and 22 individuals. To accurately determine the number we follow the group over a given period of time without losing it. This monitoring program was initiated in April and the team based at Kalibina is undertaking the regular daily location of the gorillas. The data are recorded on sheets with information on the GPS coordinates, the nest numbers and ages or the group composition – if observed –, weather conditions etc.

However, the density of the vegetation does not facilitate animal observations. So far we have initiated trail marking and maintenance. A 6,725 m grid system has been cut to allow easy movement and observation in the gorilla ranging zones. These trails were



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cut without major disturbance of the vegetation (trees were left and only bamboo and low plants were removed).

We have not downloaded the GPS records but most of the zones of activities of gorillas are known. We have located 2 large groups: one of 8 gorillas (7 + 1 baby), sometimes with a peripheral solitary male who used to nest near the group, and another group of 6 individuals. We have also evidence of about 4 solitary males ranging in the forest. On several occasions, gorillas were approached or seen at a very short distance, but on all occasions, some individuals charged and ran into the forest to avoid contact.

### Local Community Participation

Several contacts were made with local leaders and political authorities in the region to ensure effective support of the project activities. The local head of the Bashu collectivity, Mr. Abdallatif, was contacted in person and he promised to do what he could to stop the destructive activities. In various places, such as Kabeka and Ngitse, the local people no longer recognized the original park and they claimed new park boundaries. Lambert Machozi, Chef de Groupement of Burusi, created many problems as he incited the villagers to destroy the park which he no longer considered to exist. In June he was replaced by Mr. Kabindula who has proved to be very cooperative.

During previous discussions and consultations with local leaders, the need for a permanent and regular consultation and dialogue between the park administration and the local population was expressed. However, there were other issues which required immediate action and decisions, such as the illegal exploitation of charcoal in the forest by the local people and the crops grown in illegal shambas/gardens within the park. The local leaders and the villagers have been allowed to

harvest their crops but not to plant more and new cultivations.

In April, a Rockefeller-funded project was launched by Trinto Mugangu with the aim to understand traditional values, perception and attitudes of the local communities toward conservation of two mountains (Kalonge and Tshiaberimu). The project will also determine whether there are some traditional beliefs which serve to conserve these mountains and their resources and would therefore be suitable for promoting peoples' participation.

Two assistants, Kambumbu (a sociologist) and Kasivika (a development agent) have been involved in developing a questionnaire for the surveys. They made visits to various villages around Mt. Tshiaberimu and have gathered some data on people's views of the resources. No analysis has been made so far.

Most of the people in Burusi and neighbouring villages are peasants living from agricultural production and sometimes from the long-distance bicycle trade. It is a particular challenge to integrate development and conservation under these circumstances, and it imposes a proportionally higher amount of non-refundable resources. There is a great need to explore possibilities of supporting the efforts of the local initiatives to alleviate the burden of the extreme poverty they are confronted to. The local people will better understand the relevance of gorilla conservation on Mt. Tshiaberimu for their lives if they actively participate in conservation efforts and benefit directly from them.

### Problems, Constraints and Perspectives

The efforts to achieve a sound conservation program on Mt. Tshiaberimu are challenged by several problems. Although some progress has been observed, serious constraints are faced by the project. They include

- The lack of adequate funding,
- The need to address the problems of long-term conservation as a joint effort by various stakeholders,
- The political unrest and radiating crisis and escalation of violence in the region.

Regarding the new rebellion, we have set up a strategy to face the situation on the project level: maintain a permanent presence of dedicated rangers in the forest who will continue their monitoring activities and continue providing the needed support.

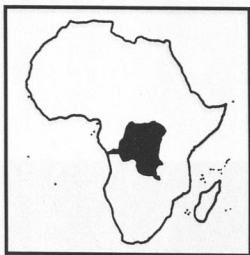
### Addition: The Present Situation at Mt. Tshiaberimu

Kampala, December 22, 1998: Efforts have been made to keep most of the project activities in the field. Since the beginning of the war, Tshiaberimu has been the only area in Virunga National Park where a set of coordinated and coherent activities aiming at conservation of the biodiversity is still feasible. This has been possible not only because it is a remote area but also due to:

- The strong dedication of rangers to save what remains in Tshiaberimu,
- The continuing support provided by the project despite very difficult logistics and access to the field by road,
- The flexibility in our operational base.

The war has made it necessary to channel most of our communication and funding support via Kampala. We have been able to rely on various people and organizations who are willing to support the project and ensure its continuation despite the war in the region. We have been forced to create a flexible plan of activities which can be adjusted in accordance with the new developments in the area. This new channel could be created because the security situation is good on the road Kampala-Kasindi(border)-Beni and to Tshiaberimu.

*Vital Katembo Mushengezi*



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### Brief News from Kahuzi-Biega National Park

After the war, which started in October 1996, the security at the Tshivanga station began to improve until the beginning of 1998. Normal park duties were gradually resumed – for example, surveillance and research. Some development activities around the park, especially some rehabilitation activities and awareness campaigns were started again. The restoration of the infrastructure of Kahuzi-Biega National Park and especially of Tshivanga, which was nearly completed after the storm that had devastated the park in 1996 and destroyed most of the installations.

Unfortunately, this glimmer of hope was very brief because the same crimes that had been committed during the first war were repeated during the second war that started August 2, 1998. More destruction resulted.

Since that date, most activities have been discontinued, in the interior as well as the exterior of the park, because of insecurity. In the meantime, those responsible for the park and the project Kahuzi-Biega/GTZ have not been idle. The park and project employees who had stayed in Bukavu tried to make realistic and feasible plans to deal with the critical period until the situation returned to normal again.

Accordingly, it was decided to continue two activities: surveillance and local awareness. The aim of the surveillance was to reduce the destruction of the park's resources during the crisis. The park has been a battlefield for different parties from time to time. It is therefore difficult to plan activities in the interior of the park. In order to discourage troublemakers who take advantage of the crisis to carry out their destructive activities, the surveillance will now be directed around the park, where we are encouraging the tradi-

tional chiefs and the local administration to organize mixed patrols of rangers and local police. This form of collaboration had also been successful during and after the 1996 war.

By means of sensitization, we want to convince the population to reduce the present excessive destruction of the park's resources. To this end, the severe problems that the Kahuzi-Biega National Park experienced during the two wars were reported clearly to the local political and administrative authorities as well as the people living around the park, and appropriate solutions were found. As for surveillance, the priority with sensitization was to encourage communication between traditional chiefs and the local administration, and to ensure their inclusion in each activity.

We have learned from our surveillance efforts that large mammals, especially elephants, have already suffered from the poaching with firearms. So far, we have no evidence that any gorillas have been killed recently, according to the team of pygmy pisseurs who enter the park to localize the habituated groups. They ask their brothers to preserve this species because the economy of the park and their own survival depends on them.

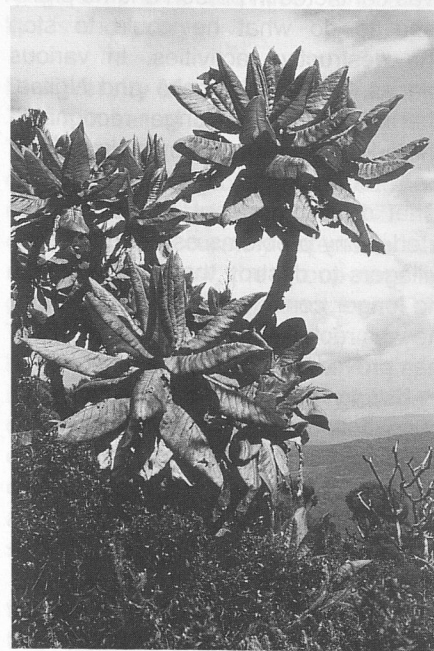
In face of this reality, we wonder if this park and its biological diversity can survive in the long term if the destruction cannot be stopped soon. This World Heritage Site was at its height 4 years ago and was then the pride in particular of South Kivu, the Congo and informed scientists. Now it is generally sinking into disarray. The war has not stopped illegal land distribution in the park, especially in the corridor between the mountain and lowland sectors. Soon there will be two separate blocks of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park because the corridor which connects these two parts (mountain and lowland part) is being destroyed. Should we let this World Heritage Site

deteriorate in plain view of the whole world? This is an alarm cry from the Kahuzi-Biega National Park directed at everybody who loves nature!

*Mbake Sivha*

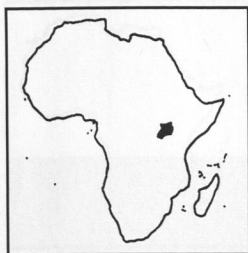
*The German ministry BMZ has recently decided to continue the GTZ project in Kahuzi-Biega, but with a considerably reduced budget. The rangers will still be paid in 1999 – however, they lack necessary equipment, for example. We offered to equip them from our storage supplies as soon as they can resume their patrols. Since the beginning of October, the rangers have been again officially allowed to guard the Tshivanga station.*

*When the new war started in August 1998, the project could save most of the material like cars. It helps the personnel continue some conservation work. Mai-Mai are still hiding in the park, and therefore it is especially dangerous for park staff and for expatriates to enter the park.*



**Senecio johnstoni in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in 3,340 m.**

*Photo: Armin Heymer*



# UGANDA

## Gorilla Groups in Mgahinga Park, August 1997 to July 1998

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park was established on May 9, 1991, following a long history of name and boundary changes. It is located in the southwestern corner of Uganda and is the smallest park in Uganda with an area of 33.7 km<sup>2</sup>. It contains a range of montane forest and non-forest vegetation, a range of animal species (including the golden monkey, elephants, buffaloes, duikers), and is visited frequently by groups of mountain gorillas which cross the border from the adjacent national parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Parc National des Virunga) and Rwanda (Parc National des Volcans).

The park consists of the Ugandan slopes of three inactive volcanoes: Muhavura, Gahinga and Sabinyo. Due to El Niño, the park and its surroundings experienced a very wet season, with the highest peak of rainfall from December 1997 to February 1998. In April 1998, there were reports of several deaths of people who were swept away by run off from the slopes of the

volcanoes. On April 13, 1998, a child of our porter drowned in a heavy down-pour of rain.

### Aims and Methods

The aim of the survey was to determine the number of mountain gorillas that use Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which area and which time of the year. Emphasis was laid on unhabituated groups.

A team of 4 experienced rangers was deployed (not on a daily basis) to carry out monitoring of the presence or signs of any gorilla group and at the same time patrol for illegal activities. Any findings were recorded on a piece of paper including the name of the place. This information was later plotted on a map of the park. In the second half of the monitoring period, most of the data collected also included the tourist group (Nyakagezi). There were rare sightings of wild groups.

### Results

In the second half of the study period, few observations were made compared to the first half. Dung droppings, trails, nest sites and physical sightings were recorded. The gorilla signs were

## Gorilla Birth(s)

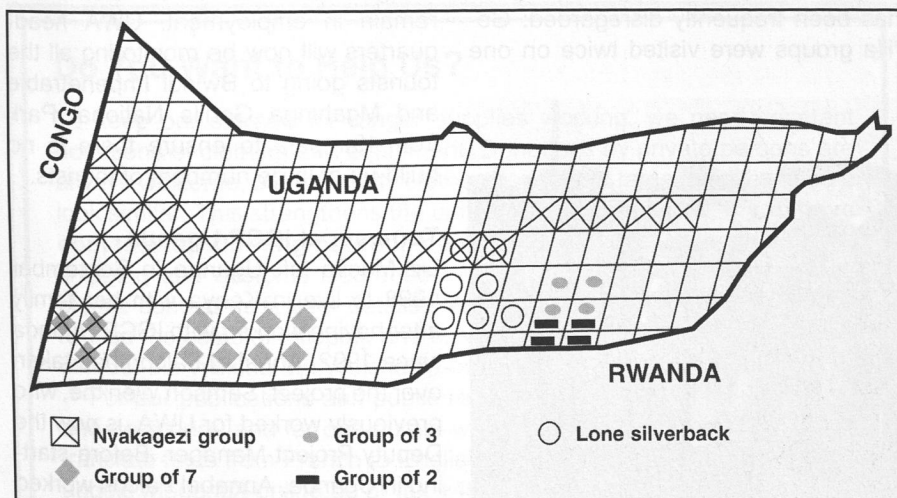
In early August a baby was born in the Nyakagezi group by the handicapped female Kaboko. This group lives mainly in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, although the birth occurred while the gorillas were across the border in D. R. Congo.

The *New Vision* reported on October 23 that a gorilla baby had been born in the Nyakagezi group; according to the newspaper, the birth took place while the group was staying in Congo for a few weeks. The baby was noticed when they returned to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park at the beginning of October. We could not find out whether this is the same baby or whether 2 gorillas were born.

noted mainly around Rugezi Swamp, Sabinyo, Gahinga, Muhavura and Kabiranyuma, near the Rwanda-Uganda border. The observations were mainly confined to Zone 1 of the park.

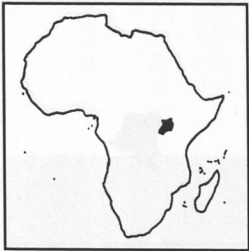
It was noted that only the Nyakagezi group (habituated) uses part of the formerly encroached areas in Zone 2, Nyakagezi triangle, mainly when in transit to and from the Congo. The earlier group of about 7 individuals sighted in February 1997 was not seen at all during the later part of the study. However, 4 nests were seen close to Rugezi swamp on the border to Rwanda; the nests are believed to have been made by a part of the group of 7.

The following groups were found: a group of 7, a group of 3, a group of 2, a lone gorilla and a group of 10 (Nyakagezi). The dominant male in the tourist group is constantly being challenged by a younger silverback. The dominant male has had wounds for a good period of time.



**Distribution of gorilla groups in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park**

Original drawing: Ignatius Achoka



# UGANDA

As May, June and July progressed, there were few sightings and observations due to the onset of the dry spell with parts of the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park becoming dry; this hampered the observation of signs like trails. We strongly believe that during the study period, there were 4 gorilla groups (including the tourist group) and a lone silverback, making a total of 23 individuals.

## Conclusion

Although it has been estimated that about 23 animals use the park, this figure may not be accurate. In the second half of the study period, the same manpower was deployed as in the first half; however, not all areas could be visited on all days in every month. This was due to the increasing activities in the park, namely research, security patrols, community liaison and tourism.

The donation by *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* of 2 pairs of binoculars was an additional incentive to the field staff, who at the moment are involved in observing and identifying birds. The jungle boots (good quality) went a long way in facilitating the field work. These boots have proved to be ideal for the rough terrain in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Special thanks go to *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkt-*

*hilfe* who provided financial and material support and the willingness of the staff to ensure the field data collection and write-up of this report.

*Ignatius Achoka*

## Gorilla Tourism in Uganda

In Bwindi, the Habinyanja (Ibare) group was opened for visitors in July, at first only for 2 standby visitors. This means that tourists can visit 2 groups again in Buhoma. IGCP and DFGF staff are continuing the habituation of the Nkuringo group.

As the newly habituated gorillas move on the side facing Kisoro, the *Mgahinga Safari Lodge* has offered space to house administration offices. After a promising conversation with the responsible minister, it is hoped that it will work out. As the lodge now has its own radio, it is possible to contact Kampala and the national parks directly. The *Mgahinga Safari Lodge* donates 5% of its returns to the administration of the town of Kisoro.

As gorilla tracking is now concentrated on Uganda, the number of unofficial tours has unfortunately increased there, too. We heard from various sources that the tourism program has been frequently disregarded: Gorilla groups were visited twice on one

day, tourist numbers exceeded the limit, visitors were allowed close contact to the gorillas, and bribery was often observed. Some tourists were prepared to pay more than £ 600 to see the gorillas illegally, as the *Sunday Telegraph* reported on October 4. Trucks with up to 30 passengers sometimes arrived to visit the gorillas; all those tourists have no pre-booked permits. The waiting list for standby permits in Bwindi was often very long since legal gorilla visits in Rwanda and Congo were stopped.

The Ugandan newspaper *New Vision* reported on December 3 that the *Uganda Wildlife Authority* (UWA) has abolished standby permits to curb illegal tracking. Now, 10 gorilla visitors are allowed in Bwindi per day and 6 in Mgahinga. Nature walks in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park were also banned, and in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park they were restricted.

Unscrupulous park staff had been taking advantage of nature walks and standby permits to conduct private gorilla tracking besides the official trips. Poor remuneration has worsened the situation, to the extent that it is more profitable to receive a bribe and face being sacked than to be faithful and remain in employment. UWA headquarters will now be monitoring all the tourists going to Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park from Kampala to ensure there is no build-up of large numbers of tourists.

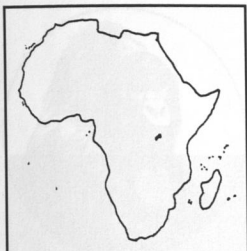
## Turnover at IGCP Uganda

Liz Macfie left Uganda in September 1998 to live in Kenya with her family after having worked with IGCP Uganda since 1992. Annabel Falcon has taken over the project. Samson Werikhe, who previously worked for UWA, is now the Deputy Project Manager. Before starting in Uganda, Annabel Falcon worked for the IGCP Regional Office in Nairobi.



**Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Headquarters**

*Photo: Johannes Refisch*

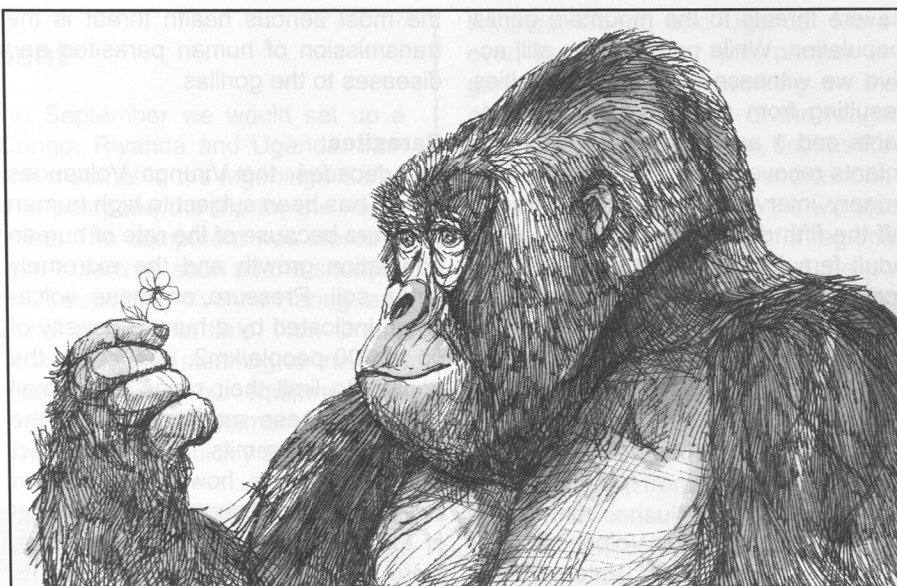


## RWANDA

### Karisoke Trackers Monitoring Gorilla Groups

DFGF International reported that the silverbacks Beetsme and Titus and their group of 24 mountain gorillas have been seen and identified by a team of Karisoke trackers. Beetsme had first been observed by Dian Fossey 25 years ago. At that time, he was a young blackback male of approximately 8 years and had just joined the group. A researcher asked Fossey why the group's dominant silverback tolerated this new male and potential competitor; Fossey replied "Beats me!" and the name has stuck ever since. Beetsme was the undisputed leader of his group for many years. Today, he is the wizened old subordinate silverback of the group, which is now led by his longtime silverback companion Titus. When the men found Beetsme's group, it was apparently quite calm. The members Fuddle and Rano were not seen, but all other members of the group, including Tuck's infant, now 1 year old, were fine. A nest count indicated that the unseen gorillas were also present.

Pablo's and Shinda's group have also been located in good health.



*Mountain gorilla in Rwanda*

*Drawing: Chisato Abe*

### Status of the Rwandan Mountain Gorillas

In September 1998, the first visit to the Parc National des Volcans by staff of the Karisoke Research Centre for almost 14 months was permitted and facilitated by military escorts. When the trackers began making weekly visits to

3 groups of mountain gorillas, it was very reassuring to find the population in apparently good health. There have been several births. Only 3 of more than 80 gorillas remain to be accounted for. They may not be missing, but we will need to make repeated visits to get opportunities to see all individuals. The groups are observed in less than optimal conditions: they have been in the bamboo zone, and visits usually last less than an hour. One of the 'missing' adult females immigrated from the Susa group in 1996, but was not well integrated into Pablo's group. We have yet to establish whether she has returned to the Susa group.

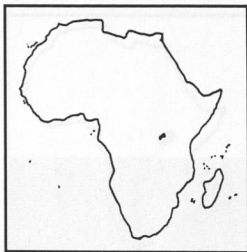
Until recently, the most serious threats to the mountain gorillas were poaching and habitat encroachment. Recent periods of conflict could have had both direct and indirect impacts on the population. Direct impacts may result from the presence of armed individuals from both sides in the civil war: the dangers of being shot or shelled, and the stress of confronting fleeing people or armed combat. Indirect effects, however, are likely to pose more

### Do You Want to Help Us?

To keep our storage for ranger supplies working, we need constant donations of clothing and equipment. Donations by private persons are always welcome, but generally clothes donated in large supplies should look similar. This strengthens the unity of the ranger teams. **If you have contacts to clothing/outdoor companies, please help us!** As the shipping and customs clearance can be very expensive and difficult, please contact us first for details. We would also be grateful for hints to reduce the costs of shipping and customs clearance in Uganda. Please contact Iris Weiche at [I.Weiche@t-online.de](mailto:I.Weiche@t-online.de), fax +49-7071-31805.

For our publications and public relations, we are seeking illustrators and designers, and for our journal we are looking for persons who can translate texts from French to English. Please contact Angela Meder at [angela.meder@t-online.de](mailto:angela.meder@t-online.de) or fax +49-711-6159919.

**We would be grateful for your support in any of these tasks!**



## RWANDA

severe threats to the mountain gorilla population. While patrols were still active we witnessed 4 gorilla casualties resulting from antelope snares (3 infants and 1 adult female gorilla). The infants recovered completely after veterinary intervention; a wire snare cut off the fifth digit of the left hand of an adult female. Unable to monitor them regularly, we feared that more gorillas would become accidental victims of snares. Also, large numbers of people, both civilian and military, have deposited potentially infectious faecal matter and other waste in the forest.

### Snares

The Parc National des Volcans is protected by Rwandan and international laws, yet poaching of bamboo, wood and meat is a perpetual problem. Karisoke anti-poaching patrols had removed 673 snares in the first half of 1997. In June, Karisoke and government park staff (ORTPN) daily patrols were suspended, and the local population took advantage of the lack of protection for the park's flora and fauna. The intensity of illegal activities became extremely worrying, with large quantities of meat coming out of the park (mostly antelope) for sale in local markets. During just 6 days in late July and early August, Karisoke trackers collected 140 snares, thus the likelihood of gorillas becoming snare victims was high.

We have recently established that at least 96% of individuals in the 3 Karisoke groups are visibly in good physical shape. Apparently the same is true of the 'tourist' groups. Fortunately, there has been no loss of limbs or life to snares; this may be partially attributed to the ability of certain gorillas to recognise snares. At least 2 silverbacks seem to be aware of the danger posed by snares, and react strongly when a snare is detected (unpublished observations). Having come through the last 18 months intact, it may be that

the most serious health threat is the transmission of human parasites and diseases to the gorillas.

### Parasites

For decades, the Virunga Volcanoes region has been subject to high human pressure because of the rate of human population growth and the extremely fertile soil. Pressure on these volcanoes, indicated by a human density of up to 400 people/km<sup>2</sup>, has forced the gorillas to limit their range to a small portion of these mountains, near the volcanoes' summits. Close contact with humans has, however, increased in recent years. Since 1994, as a result of the war and genocide in Rwanda, there have been massive movements of refugees through the Volcanoes and Virunga National Parks, followed by a military presence.

Fecal samples were collected from habituated gorillas in Rwanda to investigate their evolving endoparasite fauna. Gorillas seem able to tolerate certain species of gastrointestinal parasites without manifesting signs of sickness. In 1997, veterinarians of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Centre and researchers of University of Tennessee found 3 intestinal parasites not previously identified in gorillas, but known to infect humans. The presence of these parasites may have resulted from increased contact with human fecal matter or other waste. Such contact is likely to have happened when large numbers of people were crossing the park during the genocide in 1994. Infectious waste was probably left uncovered in the forest. Due to the close genetic relatedness of humans and gorillas, disease transmission is possible with potentially devastating consequences.

The Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Centre has initiated a comparative study in the Virunga National Park and may find further evidence of human impact on the gorillas' health. Pres-

ures on this protected area have been enormous due to the presence of two major refugee camps at the edge of the park from July 1994 to October 1996.

Since October 1997, human presence in the forest has again increased significantly as a result of the renewal of war in Congo. This could be disastrous for the gorilla population. There is, therefore, a need to continue to closely monitor the health of this population and, specifically, to periodically assess changes in the spectrum of parasites carried by gorillas and variation in parasite loads. This would contribute to the control of disease outbreaks and provide additional data for the long-term management of this endangered primate.

Liz Williamson  
and Antoine Mudakikwa

### Leaflet for Tourists

The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* designed a leaflet with hints and rules for gorilla visitors which can be distributed for free by tour operators and in the national park offices. The German issue was funded by various tour operators, and the English issue was funded and printed by *Abercrombie & Kent* and supported also by IGCP.

A copy can be ordered from Angela Meder (address: p. 2).





# GORILLAS

## Storage for Ranger Equipment

In the last issue we announced that in September we would set up a storage of equipment for rangers in Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Kurt Niedermeier kindly offered a room for the material in the *Mgahinga Safari Lodge* in Kisoro. Unfortunately we had to postpone the trip for the hand-over at the last moment until further notice. The equipment was stored in Kampala and we decided to transport it to Kisoro as soon as the situation would permit. We are very grateful to GTZ, especially Yvonne Haring, and Debby Cox, who took care of our material during that time. Now Ursula Karlowski, Volker Jährling and Martin Kokemohr are planning to travel to Kisoro in January to organize the storage. A part of our equipment will already be used in gorilla conservation very soon: Vital Katembo will take it to Mt. Tshiaberimu and hand it over to the rangers as quickly as possible.



**Volker Jährling donating ranger equipment**

*Photo: Bündler Zeitung*

## Activities of the IGCP

The goal of the IGCP (*International Gorilla Conservation Programme*) is to ensure the long-term conservation of the mountain gorilla and its afro-montane and high altitude habitat in northwestern Rwanda, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and southwestern Uganda. We are here summarizing the IGCP's activities during the months July to September 1998.

José Kalpers was hired as the IGCP Regional Technical Advisor. He will be working in the region and have the following objectives: enhance technical capacities of the 3 individual national IGCP programs, strengthen IGCP communications and information management systems and processes in place at national and regional level and manage the Regional Strategic Framework for the conservation of the mountain gorilla and its habitat developed in

Rwanda, Congo and Uganda. Moreover, he is together with partner organizations currently working on the continued development of the ranger based monitoring program, both as Regional Technical Advisor and as consultant for CARE-Uganda. He will also work on the development of a regional framework for conservation of the gorilla habitat in Rwanda, Congo and Uganda.

In Uganda, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the site for the visitor's centre at Buhoma was prepared. The EIA will be funded through the IGCP grant from USAID in Uganda. A 3 month consultancy will develop a program and action plan addressing the resolution of human-gorilla conflict. The program will be specific for Uganda, but the design has included extensive input from Congo and Rwanda, to ensure that the recommendations will be relevant to the context in the other countries.

There will also be a study to design the methodology for assessing the behavioural impact of tourism on gorillas. Nancy Thompson Handler is leading the consultancy, with Alastair McNeillage. The methodology is looking at the situation in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park specifically, but will be approached in such a manner as to be applicable in the Virungas as well.

Another study by Jacques Homsy will assess the effectiveness of the tourism rules in minimizing health risks to the gorillas with the ultimate goal of developing a sustainable tourism program. It is planned to review the current rules and regulations and to give recommendations on modifications to the protected areas authorities if necessary. Mechanisms to control the tourism program at Bwindi and Mgahinga and to deal with abuse of the regulations are being developed and implemented by UWA and IGCP.

At the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, IGCP is continuing its program of



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land purchase around the Kitahurira corridor. The Ranger Based Monitoring Program is currently being implemented in Uganda. It will harmonize the monitoring activities in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park with those in Congo and Rwanda, thus enabling collaboration and coordinated conservation of the entire habitat.

Due to the political crisis in Congo, IGCP has not yet recruited a new Program Officer and National Representative. Eugène Rutagarama, IGCP Program Officer in Rwanda, and José Kalpers have recently been in Goma to discuss the situation with the new Provincial Director of the ICCN, Stanislas Bakinahe, and the wardens of the Virunga National Park. IGCP is continuing with the provision of technical, financial and material support to ICCN. The Ranger Based Monitoring Program is continuing in Congo from all three major patrol posts: Jomba, Bikenge and Bukima.

Moreover, IGCP is continuing to provide support to the ICCN and other partners in the conservation of the forest patches around Sarambwe. It is also working with the ICCN and PEVi (WWF education and reforestation program) towards the establishment of mechanisms to ensure collaboration and continuous dialogue with local communities.

In Rwanda, the development of the monitoring program is continued. The gorilla groups habituated for tourism have recently been located. Although it was impossible to determine complete group composition, the groups appeared to be in good health. Their tolerance of humans, however, had deteriorated due to infrequent contact.

Eugène Rutagarama has had continued input into the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy for Rwanda. IGCP is working on a technical planning/working group to develop a policy on community conservation in Rwanda. IGCP has provided contin-

ued technical, financial and material support to the Rwandan national park authority ORTPN.

## Mountain Gorilla Health Network

Following the mountain gorilla PHVA (*Population and Habitat Viability Assessment*) in December 1997, a group of veterinarians formed a mountain gorilla health network (MGHN). Although largely stimulated by the PHVA, the network is independent and not linked to any specific organization. Its purpose is to provide a forum for communication and exchange of information concerning the health and diseases of the mountain gorilla.

Members to date are almost entirely veterinarians who have experience of clinical work with mountain gorillas, are currently involved in research on the health of the subspecies or are Ugandan graduates working with wildlife in the region. The network is coordinated by a steering group consisting of John E. Cooper (UK), Jonathan Sleeman (USA) as well as Gladys Kalema and Tony Mudakikwa (Uganda, Rwanda). The immediate contact for further information is

Prof. Dr. John E. Cooper  
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust  
Les Augrès Manor, Trinity  
Jersey JE3 5BP  
Channel Islands  
Fax +44-1534-865161  
E-mail NGAGI@compuserve.com

John E. Cooper is carrying out a study of skeletal material from gorillas in museums and private collections in Europe. The purpose of the study is to collate information and to develop a database on skeletal disease and abnormalities in gorillas, with particular reference to the mountain gorilla. Parallel to this research on skeletal pathol-

ogy, he is examining skins and wet (fixed) tissues from gorillas.

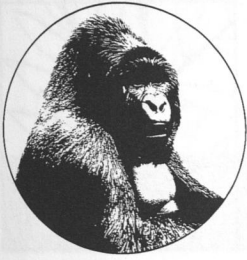
Now John E. Cooper is looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with analysis and collation of data and, possibly, examination and measuring of museum specimens. An ability to speak French or German may be an advantage, but enthusiasm and some basic knowledge of biology are the main requirements. Interested persons should write to the address above.

John E. Cooper

## Gorilla Killed in Cross River State, Nigeria

On October 27, 1998, an adult male gorilla was killed by a hunter on Afi Mountain, a proposed wildlife sanctuary within the *Afi River Forest Reserve*. Researchers of the *Afi Gorilla Research Project* discovered the dead gorilla. When they were following a fresh gorilla trail, they discovered a site where a gorilla had been killed and butchered. They followed the hunter's trail to a cave where he had smoked the meat. The head and one hand and foot were collected as evidence, but the rest of the meat was already on its way to the local village where it was sold to 6 bushmeat vendors for the equivalent of US\$ 25. The *Forestry Department*, local communities, police, and the *Afi Gorilla Research Project* moved quickly to search the mountain until the hunter was found and arrested. On November 17, he was charged in court and the Magistrate ordered him to remain in prison while the case is referred to the Department of Public Prosecution and Federal High Court.

Gorillas in Nigeria are fully protected under Federal Decree 11 and Cross River State Wild Animals Protection Act. There are only approximately 150 gorillas remaining in Nigeria. They exist in 4 isolated, small subpopulations (25–50 individuals each) in the



# GORILLAS

southeastern Nigeria-Cameroon border region. Each subpopulation is surrounded by a dense human population making transfers between them nearly impossible. The Nigeria-Cameroon population is isolated from the much larger populations of western lowland gorillas in Central Africa. Studies are underway to establish the population's uniqueness; it may be classified as a new subspecies of gorilla. This would make them the most endangered gorillas in Africa.

The Forestry Department, *Pandrilus*, *Afi Gorilla Research Project*, and others are working to establish Afi Mountain as a wildlife sanctuary. It contains the largest and most dense subpopulation (approximately 50 individuals) of gorillas in Nigeria. Yet, it remains unprotected. The other gorilla subpopulations occur within the Cross River National Park which does not include Afi Mountain. Presently, the proposal to create the wildlife sanctuary is reaching the final planning stages. Kelley McFarland, an American doctoral student, is conducting an ecological study of gorillas inhabiting Afi Mountain and is working with the For-

## Equipment for the Conservation of Nigerian Gorillas

John Oates has now found a way to ship equipment to Nigeria that he has bought with the funds we have provided. 4 tents and 4 pairs of binoculars will soon be sent to Nigeria. This equipment will help the rangers of Cross River National Park to protect the gorillas there. John Oates is planning to go to Nigeria again in January. He will take 4 GPS units, a camera and four compasses with him that he has also purchased with the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* funds.

estry Department to provide information necessary for the establishment and management of the proposed wildlife sanctuary.

Needless to say, gorillas in Nigeria are extremely vulnerable to hunting and the hunter in question is presently

the greatest threat to the survival of the gorillas inhabiting Afi Mountain. He is well known as the most prolific hunter in the area. For most of the past 12 years, he has lived and hunted on Afi Mountain. All other hunters in the area only visit the mountain periodically, never remaining for more than one night. This particular hunter also recently killed 5 drill monkeys (*Man-drillus leucophaeus*) and the skull of a female drill was recovered. Drills are another highly endangered species under absolute protection in Nigeria.

Over the past 4 years, *Pandrilus*, which established the Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center, attempted to provide the hunter with alternative employment. However, at each attempt he abandoned his duties and returned to hunting. The Forestry Department was in the midst of efforts to once again provide an alternative for the hunter when these most recent killings occurred. All involved felt that enough was enough and more serious action was needed.

It is imperative to foster Nigeria's commitment to conservation. The immediate actions taken by the Cross River State Forestry Department and police to arrest and prosecute the hunter demonstrate their commitment to conserving endangered species. Their actions will send a strong and clear message that hunting endangered species will not be tolerated. The arrest of the hunter and establishment of a wildlife sanctuary are firsts for the Cross River State Forestry Department. If these unique and special gorillas are to be conserved, it is important to support this authority as they enter into new conservation territory.

Kelley McFarland



Kelley McFarland (right) and her team on Afi Mountain Photo: John Oates

## The Ape Alliance

During 1997, organizations which fund ape conservation and welfare work began meeting periodically in London to



## GORILLAS

discuss areas of common interest and concern. The *Ape Alliance*, as this coalition became known, quickly grew into an international forum for debate and collaborative action on behalf of apes, both in captivity and in their natural habitat. *Ape Alliance* meetings are open to representatives of any organization with an interest in ape issues. Individual specialists such as fieldworkers, consultants, and officials from ape range states are also welcome to participate, by arrangement with the secretariat. At present, Ian Redmond is the Chairman of the organization.

The aims and objectives of the *Ape Alliance* are

- To provide a forum for discussion of issues relating to apes,
- To develop position papers on key issues,
- To lobby collectively for enactment and/or enforcement of legislation to improve the welfare and/or conservation of apes,
- To campaign for greater public awareness of ape issues and increased respect for apes,
- To facilitate information exchange between member groups and, where appropriate, coordinate activities to maximize their beneficial effects.

A detailed review about the bushmeat trade was funded by the *Ape Alliance* and carried out by the zoologist Evan Bowen-Jones. This report and recommendations for the solution of the problem were presented in February 1998. This bushmeat report has now been updated, and the new issue is being printed. It will be presented to the press within the next months.

### What a GREAT Ape Conference!

More than 150 primatologists, conservationists and philosophers travelled to Malaysia in July 1998 for the 3rd Great Apes of the World Conference. The

theme was 'Securing Great Ape Survival into the Next Millennium'; Ian Redmond was there, representing the *Born Free Foundation* and as Chairman of the *Ape Alliance*.

Seventy sessions and poster-papers presented the latest findings from great ape researchers, and practical workshops encouraged positive action to tackle the problems facing the great apes. Subjects covered included field research and conservation, captive studies and environmental enrichment, veterinary work and ethics.

Peter Singer (author of *Animal Liberation*) led the workshop on ethics, which concluded that we have a moral responsibility to admit great apes into 'the community of equals' currently occupied by humans alone. He outlined the progress made in the Great Ape Project, which seeks to grant life, liberty and freedom from torture to all apes.

The workshop on bushmeat presented new reports from Karl Ammann and others in the field and came up with some imaginative new ways to tackle the problem, complementing the *Ape Alliance* work already under way. For example, because many bushmeat traders in Africa are women, it was suggested that international women's groups might be able to have some influence; because of the risk to human health from viruses, the *World Health Organisation* should be approached to put resources into discouraging the eating of monkeys and apes; and because most major religions teach compassion for other creatures, religious leaders should be encouraged to exert their influence.

The conference called for greater liaison between conservation organizations, governments and international development agencies – especially in response to the bushmeat problem in Africa and the forest fires in Borneo. Fears were expressed about the IMF's plan to rescue Indonesia's collapsed

economy. "If implemented in its current form, the proposed IMF bailout package for Indonesia will have devastating consequences for the orangutan and what is left of its habitat," said Ashley Leiman, director of the *Orangutan Foundation UK* and one of the conference organizers. "The IMF proposals call for the conversion of primary forest into permanent agriculture (in the form of high export value palm oil plantations) – one of the main causes of the recent fires – and for an increase in the annual timber cut."

This would exacerbate the very problems caused by the previous government's policy of squandering a potentially renewable resource for short-term economic gain. To express these fears, a letter was written to James D. Wolfensohn, president of the *World Bank*, and signed by more than 100 delegates.

There was a clear consensus that we have an ethical obligation to protect our primate relatives and their forest home. But however dedicated we are, it is impossible for conservation groups and under-funded wildlife departments to save apes (and other endangered species) in their natural habitats if we are working against international economic forces. There must be a new synergy between economists and ecologists if we are to find the political will necessary for conservation to succeed. And personal actions are the only way to make this happen.

This was the message of Tony Rose, Executive Director of the Biosynergy Institute in California. He urged, cajoled and even bullied delegates into identifying what they could personally do to benefit apes, and to make a firm commitment to do those things. It is an approach we should all adopt. The fact is that in conservation, to quote the old maxim, if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem.

Ian Redmond



# RAIN FOREST

## Logging and Tropical Forest Conservation

For nearly two decades, governments, environmentalists, and development agencies have explored a variety of approaches to curb the loss of tropical forests. Recently, the focus has shifted to market-based mechanisms such as timber certification and other more direct means of promoting sustainable forest management. However, recent years have also seen a growing criticism of sustainable forest management itself – and particularly its utility as a conservation strategy.

Now the *World Bank* is considering whether to lift its 1991 policy that bars investments in logging operations in primary tropical forests. The questions are simple: Will new investments there help to curb deforestation? Can the *World Bank* and its partners bring about

sustainable management? And, most important, will this lead to conservation? In our view, the answer to these questions is, broadly speaking, no.

### International Initiatives

The impact of international programs to address the fundamental threats to forests has by and large been minimal. In 1990, the *International Tropical Timber Organization* (ITTO) adopted an objective of bringing all tropical timber production to sustainable levels by the year 2000. Most observers now view it as unrealistic. Almost no logging in the tropics outside plantations can yet be considered sustainable. However, the overall concept of sustainable forest management remains popular.

One reflection of this is the growing interest in the initiatives of organizations like the *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC). It has set forth a program to inde-

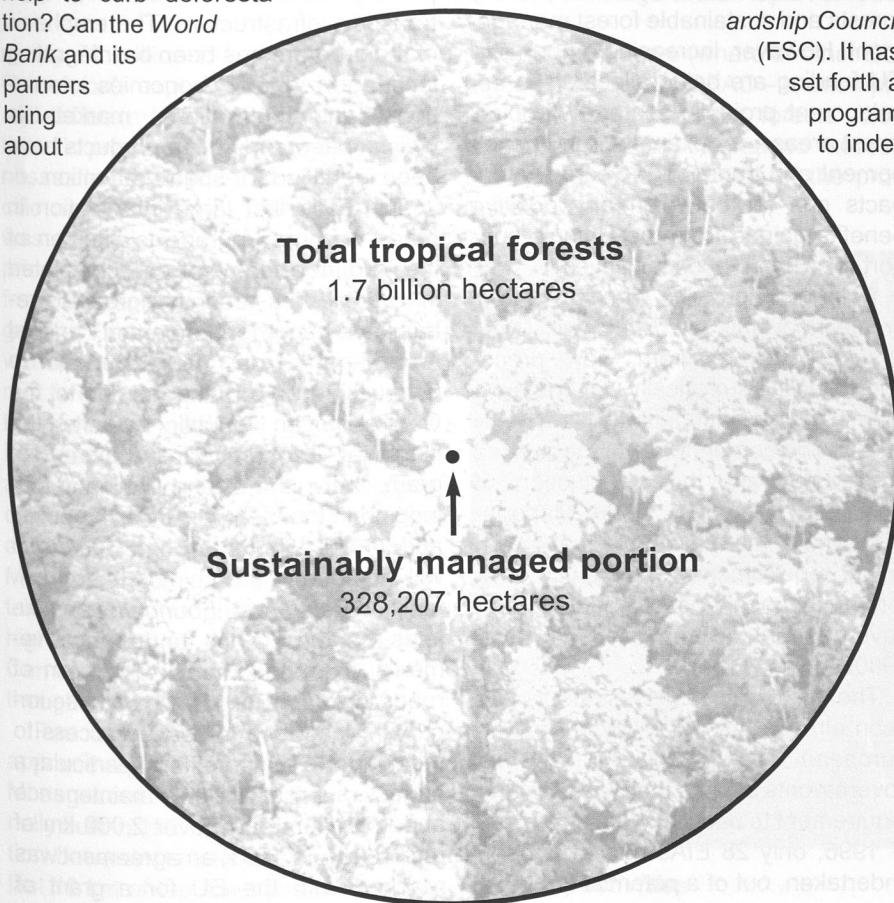
pendently certify timber production as sustainable. To date, the FSC has given its stamp of approval to logging on some 6.3 million hectares. However, the total area currently certified encompasses less than 0.2% of the world's forests, and nearly all of these operations (95%) are outside the tropics.

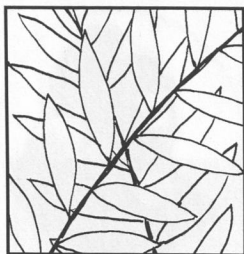
The notion that sustainable forest management can be an effective conservation tool rests in part on the premise that it can stabilize wood production in a given area. In principle, this would lead to conservation by maintaining forest cover and reducing pressures on other primary forests. However, this has rarely happened in practice.

There are steep hurdles facing broader adoption of investments in sustainable forest management. For one thing, such investments are almost always financially unattractive. 'Unsustainable' logging can produce 20 to 450% more profit. We still have to ask whether sustainable forest management does more harm than good for biodiversity. We should generally not want to subsidize the harvest of a wider variety of species (and greater volume of timber) or encourage companies to stay in remote forests to log them permanently – even in the name of conservation. Yet this is often precisely the goal of sustainable forest conservation.

This brings us back to the *World Bank* and its 1991 policy. It was adopted in an era when conservationists were arguing forcefully that *World Bank* lending was promoting, not curbing, deforestation.

In 1991, the *World Bank* pledged a thorough review of its policy once there was enough experience to evaluate. Instead, this review has been combined with a full-scale assessment of the *World Bank's* entire strategy in the forestry sector. Untold hundreds of millions of dollars have already been and continue to be spent on schemes to





# RAIN FOREST

promote sustainable forest management, with precious little to show.

## Conclusions

To us, the evident conclusion from the above is that, as a tool to further the conservation of tropical forests, increased funding for commercial logging is simply not a good idea. If our goal is to protect what remains of tropical forests, the most appropriate investment may be in protection itself: new protected areas in biologically important sites, more investment in existing parks and reserves, and creative mechanisms like corridors to link protected areas.

Outside protected areas, if our goal is to ensure that local communities and indigenous peoples claim real benefits from logging, then we should encourage the *World Bank* and other institutions to bring these issues forward in their policy dialogue with governments. If our concern is to conserve biodiversity in the context of commercial timber production, then we should focus on meaningful efforts to set aside pristine areas within logging concessions and retire concessions that have been lightly logged in the past. If our aim is to help meet the future demand for global wood, then the obvious step is to fast-track the transition to plantations in areas that have already been deforested.

Finally, if we believe sustainable forest management has potential for the future, we should conduct carefully monitored experiments in areas where logging is already taking place in order to better understand the real prospects for sustainable forest management in the tropics. In the meantime, let's learn from the lessons of the past, lest we do nothing more than accelerate the very process we are trying to stop.

Ian A. Bowles, Richard E. Rice,  
Russell A. Mittermeier and Gustavo  
A. B. da Fonseca  
*Summary of an Article from Science,*  
*Vol. 280, 1899–1900 (June 19, 1998)*

## The EU Aid Program and Tropical Forests

In terms of the total amount of money disbursed, the *European Union* (specifically the *European Commission* which administers the aid) is now the second largest multilateral development institution in the world, after the *World Bank*. Its global influence is therefore considerable, and this influence has grown steadily over the past few decades.

The Maastricht Treaty in 1992 affirmed the objectives of EU development policy, namely to promote sustainable (economic and social) development, to integrate developing countries into the world economy and to combat poverty. The EU has a large program of tropical forest projects, in particular the conservation of primary forests and sustainable forest management. However, increasing amounts of EU funding are being allocated to development projects located in tropical forest areas – for example, rural development and transport – where the impacts can far outweigh any positive benefits gained from the Union's support for conservation initiatives.

Following growing recognition of problems within the *European Commission's* aid program, new procedures dealing specifically with the environment were introduced in the early 1990s. The cornerstones of the revised procedures are the introduction of manuals on Project Cycle Management and on the environment although policy requirements to conduct environmental impact assessments (EIAs) have been in existence since the mid-1980s.

The use of impact assessments has been almost entirely neglected by the *European Commission* and recipient governments despite the long-standing requirement to use them. Up to the end of 1996, only 28 EIAs had ever been undertaken, out of a potential total that

would have run into many hundreds. Of the EIAs conducted, the quality has to be called into question. Some had not adequately assessed all the impacts nor consulted with all peoples and local communities affected by the project.

## EU Aid in Cameroon

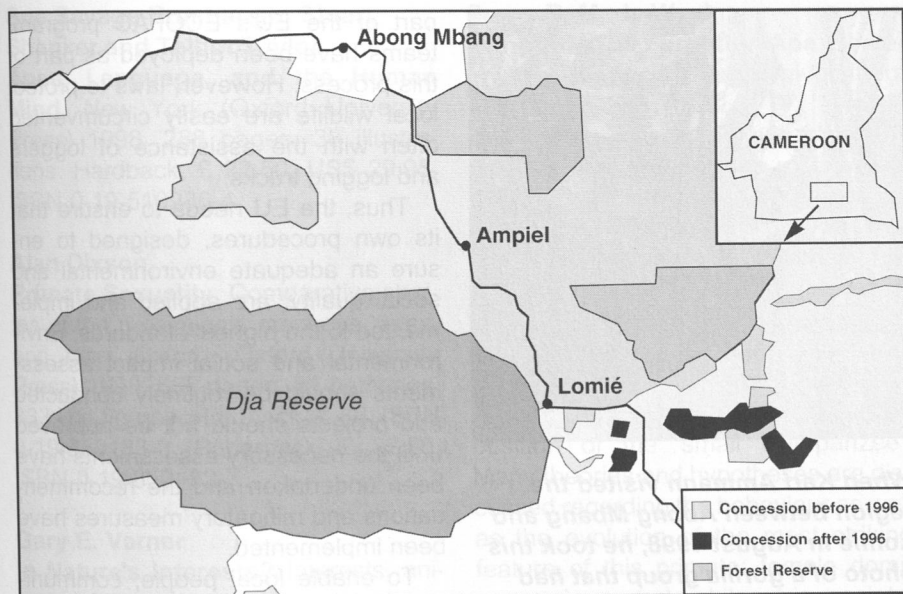
Nowhere has the conflict between EU financed forest conservation projects and EU development programs been as marked as those in the tropical forests of Cameroon. Their involvement in this sector has increased dramatically since 1990 when the Government undertook to reform the country's transport sector. In 1993, a new road maintenance policy was adopted. According to their economic importance, a priority road network of 24,690 km was identified comprising 13,738 km of primary roads and 10,952 km of rural transport infrastructure. The emphasis of the program has been on integrating local and regional economies into national and international markets in which coffee and cocoa products have been identified for special attention.

The EU's first large intervention in roads was the upgrade to bitumen of the Yaounde to Ayos road completed in 1994. It has recently agreed to rehabilitate another important arterial route – the road from Bertoua to Geroua Boulai on the border to the Central African Republic. As part of the Regional Economic Integration Program, there is a strong likelihood that logging in the Central African Republic and timber exports through Cameroon will increase.

The *Rainforest Foundation* calculates that the EU has funded 'improvements' to approximately 3,000 km of roads in Cameroon. Some of these improvements have increased access to the country's rain forests, in particular a project supporting the maintenance and improvement of over 2,000 km of rural roads. In 1991, an agreement was reached with the EU for a grant of



# RAIN FOREST



**The EU funded road from Abong Mbang to Lomié and the development of logging concessions**  
Redrawn from Regenwald Report 3/1998

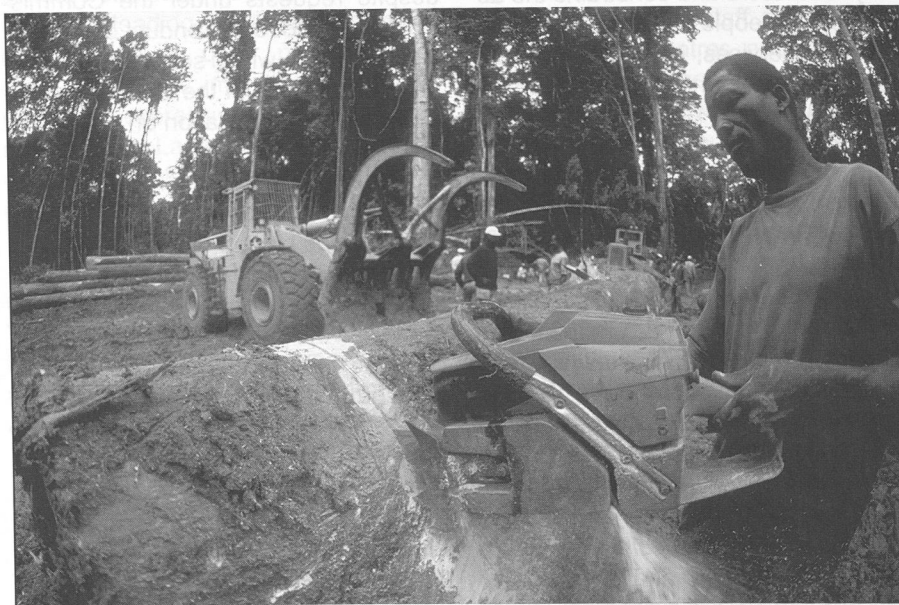
nearly 70 million ECU for the loss of Cameroon's export earnings for cocoa and coffee (mainly due to the sharp fall in world prices and the structural weaknesses in production). One of the specific actions for the 1991 agreement was to assist with rural roads used principally to collect coffee and cocoa from the small farms in which it is grown. These roads largely coincide with the areas in which Cameroon's rain forests are found. The activities of the project in Haute Nyong Department is of particular significance, as it is an area that is being opened up to logging companies, and includes the ecologically sensitive route between Abong Mbang and Lomié. The area also contains what is thought to be one of the highest densities of Baka pygmies in Cameroon, of whom about 3,000 are thought to live in the vicinity of Lomié.

Part of the EU project includes approximately 54 km of the Abong Mbang–Lomié road (which was originally built in 1927), specifically the section between Ampiel and Lomié. The last 10 km of the road borders the Dja

Biosphere Reserve (where another EU funded project – ECOFAC – is attempting to help protect the forests' biodiversity) and has increased accessibility to the eastern side of the protected area.

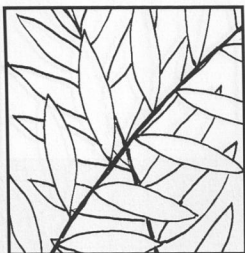
In 1993, the African Development Bank refused funding for the rehabilitation of this same road, having conducted an EIA which showed that the project would have detrimental environmental and social impacts to the rain forest and its inhabitants. Only then, it appears, did the Cameroon Government request funding from the EU. Despite the existence of a full and thorough EIA, showing the project's likely impacts, the EU approved financial support for it, apparently ignoring their own Environment Manual and the Project Cycle Management manual in the process. Research conducted by the *Rainforest Foundation* into the environmental and social impacts of the project, one year after the road had been completed, found that:

- There had not been adequate consultation with local peoples and communities,
- There had been an increase in logging activities,
- In early 1998, the site for a new sawmill was established near Lomié. Preparation involved the destruction of a Baka village inhabited by 200 people.



**Logging activities**

Photo: Karl Ammann



## RAIN FOREST

– There has been an increase in poaching and a rise in the number of hunting camps in the Dja Reserve. 27 camps up to 50 km inside the reserve have been observed. The amount of wild game killed in the area is estimated at about 10 t/week.

– There has been an increase in the amount of dust in the air, causing both respiratory problems and damaging crops adjacent to the roadside.

– Overall, according to the *Rainforest Foundation's* survey, the local population thought that the negative impacts outweighed the positive.

Other NGOs have also visited the area since the road was completed and confirm the dramatic increase in logging, poaching and hunting. The *World Bank* – which recently described the Abong Mbang–Lomié route as a pure and simple logging road – visited the project area in March 1997, only a few months after the improvements to the road had been completed. They found that the road now included a high proportion of overloaded logging trucks and had already deteriorated. It thus still presented a major hazard to ordinary road users and constrains the access of the people of the region to markets and services, i.e. precisely those people the EU-funded road was supposed to benefit.

In early 1999, the EU will put forward another road maintenance program for approval (55 million ECU), the framework for which has been the *World Bank* supported Cameroon Transport Sector Project. The EU itself has not conducted an EIA but relied on a sector environmental assessment conducted by the *World Bank*. Despite requests for information by the *Rainforest Foundation* regarding this project (for example, the precise location of roads that the EU will finance), this has been denied. As the *Rainforest Foundation* discovered during its investigation into the EU's aid program, a veil of secrecy still surrounds much of the



***When Karl Ammann visited the region between Abong Mbang and Lomié in August 1998, he took this photo of a gorilla group that had been slaughtered during one night. Commercial hunters provide all kinds of bushmeat including gorillas to the employees of timber companies logging in this area.***

*European Commission's* work. Requests from the *Rainforest Foundation* for project documentation were usually denied. Copies of EIAs were refused, despite requests under the Commission's own Code of Conduct on access to documents, which sets out a requirement on the part of the Commission to provide such information on request.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The EU lags behind other donors in its consideration of the environmental and social impacts of its projects. New roads, or the rehabilitation of existing ones, is well known to facilitate increased economic activity and provide access to illegal hunting and poaching. The impacts in Cameroon were predictable, and predicted by the African Development Bank; nevertheless, the EU proceeded to fund the project.

Various initiatives have been implemented to prevent illegal hunting and poaching around the Dja Reserve; as

part of the EU's ECOFAC program, teams have been deployed as part of this process. However, laws to protect local wildlife are easily circumvented often with the assistance of loggers and logging trucks.

Thus, the EU needs to ensure that its own procedures, designed to ensure an adequate environmental and social quality, are applied and implemented to the highest standards. Environmental and social impact assessments should be routinely conducted and projects should not be approved until the necessary assessments have been undertaken and the recommendations and mitigatory measures have been implemented.

To enable local people, communities, NGOs and other 'stakeholders' to have a chance to play a meaningful role in projects, they need access to information about the *Commission's* projects, preferably from the earliest stages of project design. Documents such as project identification, the feasibility study, impact assessment, and the financial proposal should be open for consultation before projects are given approval. EIAs conducted by other agencies, such as the *World Bank*, are routinely available to interested stakeholders before the project is even submitted for approval.

*This is a summary of an investigation by Tim Rice for the Rainforest Foundation. The complete report Out of Commission is available on the Rainforest Foundation's website at <http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org>*

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## READING

**Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, Stuart Shanker and Talbot Taylor**  
**Apes, Language, and the Human Mind.** New York (Oxford University Press) 1998. 288 pages, 38 illustrations. Hardback, £ 22.50, US\$ 29.95. ISBN 0-19-510986-4.

**Alan Dixon**

**Primate Sexuality.** Comparative studies of the prosimians, monkeys, apes, and man. Oxford (Oxford University Press) 1998. 656 pages, 81 halftones, 333 line figures. Hardback, £ 80, ISBN 0-19-850183-8. Paperback, £ 32.50, ISBN 0-19-850182-X.

**Gary E. Varner**

**In Nature's Interests?** Interests, animal rights, and environmental ethics. Oxford (Oxford University Press) 1998. 192 pages. Hardback, £ 27.50, US\$ 39.95. ISBN 0-19-510865-5.

**Tim Caro (ed.)**

**Behavioral Ecology and Conservation Biology.** Oxford (Oxford University Press) 1998. 598 pages, many line figures. Hardback, £ 65, US\$ 90, ISBN 0-19-510489-7. Paperback, £ 37.50, US\$ 55, ISBN 0-19-510490-0.

**David B. Weaver**

**Ecotourism in the Less Developed World.** Wallingford (CAB International) 1998. 288 pages. Hardback, £ 37.50, US\$ 70. ISBN 0-85199-223-4.

**Craig B. Stanford**

**Chimpanzees and Red Colobus.** The ecology of predator and prey. Cambridge, Mass., London (Harvard University Press) 1998. 352 pages, 83 illustrations, 37 tables. Hardback, US\$ 35, £ 21.95. ISBN 0-674-11667-4.

**The Psychological Well-Being of Nonhuman Primates.** Washington, DC (National Academy Press) 1998. 184 pages, hardback, US\$ 35, £ 25.95. ISBN 0-309-05233-5.

**Frans B. M. de Waal**

**Bonobo – The Forgotten Ape.** Berkeley/Los Angeles/London (University of California Press) 1997.

The subtitle reveals the author's intention, which is to prove the uniqueness of bonobos. De Waal substantiates his ode to the ape species which was described as the last with up-to-date scientific information. He makes interesting comparisons to his own scientific work on chimps; his study of the different social structures will definitely clear up any remaining doubts about the position of the 'small chimpanzee'. Many theories and hypotheses are discussed regarding the behaviour as well as the evolution of the most striking feature of this primate: female dominance in a male-philopatric society. Explanations for this, based on prolonged sexual attractiveness, as final counter strategy to infanticidal males, give interesting points for further discussions and research. Zoo and field research results are excitingly illustrated; interviews with the corresponding scientists provide additional insights. Special interest is given to sexual behaviour – the term is somewhat misleading because proximate reproduction is often not intended. Every chapter is impressively accompanied by expressive photos of the famous Frans Lanting. This attractively designed book will interest both laymen and scientific readers.

*Iris Weiche*

**Carla Litchfield**

**Treading Lightly.** Responsible tourism with the African great apes. Foreword by Jane Goodall. Adelaide (Travellers Medical and Vaccination Centre) 1998. 48 pages.

In this booklet tourists are introduced to gorillas and chimpanzees and to the sites where they can be visited in Uganda. By explaining the rules for tourists who visit the apes, Carla Litchfield tries to sensitize the visitors to the

apes' behaviour and the problems of their conservation. Monies raised from the sale of the booklet will go to great ape projects in Uganda.

It can be ordered through the publisher's website: <http://www.tmvc.com.au> and enquiries can be made to Emily Fewster at the following e-mail address: [efewster@tmvc.com.au](mailto:efewster@tmvc.com.au). It costs Australian \$ 7.95 + postage (Australian \$ 3 for one copy by air mail).

## News from the Internet

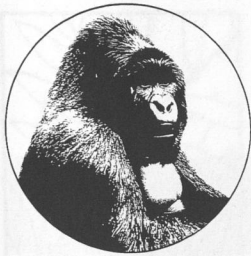
A web site for those who are interested in the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo is *Congonline* (<http://www.congonline.com>).

A collection of links can be found on the *Nifty primate-related web sites* by Robert Lewis at <http://users.nye.net/~macaque/primatewebsites1.htm>.

## Primate-Science

After closing down *Primate-Talk*, the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center has opened the new e-mail discussion forum *Primate-Science*. It is restricted to the international primatological research community. *Primate-Science* is open to staff at research-based primate centres and laboratories as well as to people in academic institutions or zoos who are doing primate research. The purpose of the listserve is to provide a factual, science-based exchange of ideas and information about non-human primates. As they relate to primatology, the topics covered are: biomedical research, primate conservation, primate husbandry and enrichment, veterinary medicine, zoo research and field research.

To participate in *Primate-Science*, an e-mail address is necessary. Fill in the application form at <http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/ps/pscientry.html> or request an application form by sending a message containing *subscribe primate-science* to [primate-science-request@primate.wisc.edu](mailto:primate-science-request@primate.wisc.edu).



## BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

### Activities of BRD

Public relations is a top priority for our organisation. Although gorillas in general are frequently in the media, only a few people know anything about the species' current situation in its natural habitat. Of course, we also try to make our organization more popular and to attract new members and donors who help us to act more effectively towards the protection of gorillas.

At the end of May, the ranger equipment donated by Volker Jährling from Bünde and several companies was officially handed over to us. Several journalists were present and 3 local newspapers published articles covering the event. Advertisements were designed by Mr. Hörndl free of charge and were sent to German newspapers and magazines with the request to print them for free. One magazine and one publisher have already done so.

Some of our members were actively involved with information and sales stalls. Dieter Schmitz presented our material at the Frankfurt airport and at the Horticultural Show in Plochingen. Peter Zwanzger and Ellen Krebs approach visitors of the Cologne Zoo with information about our organisation and some of our items for sale.

Thanks to the involvement of Dr. and Mrs. Czeska and the Zoological Society of Saarbrücken, our rain forest exhibition can be seen in the ape house of the Saarbrücken Zoo. Some items can be bought at the gift shop. BRD also set up an information stall during the zoo's 'Open House Day'. For this occasion, Dorothea Gierra, who is now in charge of our activities for young gorilla friends, designed an information sheet on mountain gorillas for children (in German) and a colouring sheet. Both were well received. However, the absolute hit among the youngsters was our choice of monkey stamps which were used to decorate paper and hands. This was also very

popular at an information stall during the 'Zoo Day' at the Stuttgart Zoo.

Special actions are being planned in Neuss: the shop *Gorilla Tattoo*, which offers skin decorations (gorillas among others) and airbrush, has dedicated its window to the gorillas and is planning to appeal for funds for us.

We want to express our gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and support and hope that many others will follow their example!

*Iris Weiche*

### Finances

#### Income Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1998

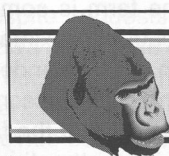
Subscriptions	16,785 DM
Donations	12,218 DM
Sales	3,978 DM
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,981 DM</b>

#### Expenses Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1998

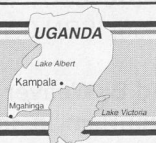
Claude Sikubwabo	400 DM
Equipment	3,623 DM
Freight + handling costs	8,933 DM
Travel costs Lübbert	408 DM
Travel costs Karlowski	984 DM

Journal	11,389 DM
Tourist folder	400 DM
Items for sale, postage	5,965 DM
Exp. board of directors etc.	1,599 DM
Subscriptions	540 DM
Administration	875 DM
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,116 DM</b>

We thank each person and company who have supported us during the period from June 1 to October 31, 1998. Larger contributions were given by *Abercrombie & Kent*, Edward Bourne, Rolf Brunner, Karla Großberg, *Hauser International*, Sabine Hoyer, *Karawane Studienreisen*, Hans-Henning Kleß, Hans Kummer, Paula Leuer, Angela Meder, Erwin Rosenkranz, Pamela Ruoff, Gundi and Heinz Scharpf as well as Ilka Westerville. Volker Jährling provided equipment and Erwin Fidelis Reisch (*Gentner Verlag Stuttgart*) took charge of the costs of reproduction and composition for the journal. Many thanks to all the above mentioned and all the other donors for their confidence in our work. We hope that you will continue to support us in 1999.



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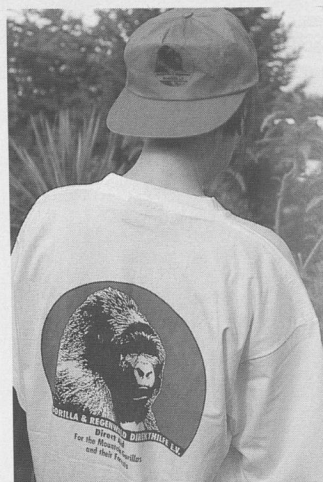
☐ **Baseball caps.** Green with BRD logo in black (see photo). US\$ 10

- ☐ **Picture postcards.** US\$ 1 per piece
- ☐ Number with feeding Rwandan gorilla by Gabriele Holzinger
  - ☐ Number with mountain gorilla by Markus Weiss
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  - ☐ Number with Bwindi gorilla mother and young
  - ☐ Sets with 20 postcards (10 Mushamuka, 10 Bwindi). US\$ 15.

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All prices include postage and shipment. Please send a cheque together with your order.

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If you become a member, you will receive the journal regularly. If you want to subscribe without becoming a member, we would be grateful if you could make a donation to cover our costs. The costs to send the journal overseas are about US\$ 20. Please send your application with a cheque to Rolf Brunner (address below).

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