

# ***Gorilla Journal***

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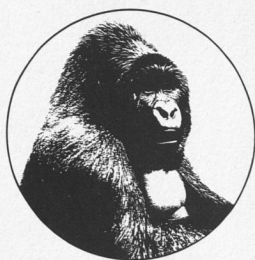


**The BRD Protests  
against the  
Amendment of  
CITES**

**A Blackback  
Called Pablo**

**The Barhwa-  
Pygmies and their  
Relations to the  
Kahuzi-Biega  
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**Basic Rights for  
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# BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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Photo: Jörg Hess





# CONSERVATION

## The BRD Protests against the Amendment of CITES

'Trade brings change', reflected the IUCN (*International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources*) and went to work. New criteria were proposed for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). The 119 member states of CITES are setting up new guidelines for the international trade in endangered plants and animals. CITES is a purely commercial agreement: endangered plants and animals can be protected - more or less effectively - by imposing trade restrictions or barring them from trade altogether.

Species which are included in CITES are listed under one of three categories, called appendices. Appendix I includes those species which are threatened by extinction through illegal trade, e. g. the elephant. The trade in any of these species must follow strict guidelines and is only permitted under special conditions. Appendix II lists those species that the member states of CITES consider to be populous enough to be traded, but under strict scientific surveillance. The import of any of these species requires CITES documents, which must specify where the animal or plant originates. The third appendix lists those species whose trade is the least controlled. Species which are not listed under any of these appendices may be sold or bought without restriction.

It is important to note that CITES only pertains to international trade. This means that during a hunting safari in South Africa rhinos may be shot, although they are listed in Appendix I of the Convention. However, as stated in CITES, no part of the animal may be imported into a CITES country.

Despite all its shortcomings, especially since it is commerce-oriented, CITES is still the most effective tool for conserving endangered species.

Another well-known but highly-disputed example is the elephant. After it was added to Appendix I and it became illegal to participate in the international trade of ivory, the market collapsed and poaching has since been drastically reduced.

Soon, new guidelines for the trade in endangered species will be set up. This may sound harmless, but there are pitfalls. Almost unnoticed by the public, a major change in international conservation of nature is taking place. And the IUCN is not totally alone in its endeavors: the omnipresent WWF is following suit.

*Larger elephant populations only have a chance for survival, if they are spaciouly protected and commercially used to a certain degree. The controlled culling of animals secures the survival of the species. Unless people learn about the importance of elephants, they will not actively protect them. The ideologies of far-away Europeans and Americans can do little to change this fact.*

These were the words of Carl von Treuenfels, president of the WWF, and he even went on further:

*We need new strategies. We need to realize that an animal can also have a market value which can be used for its own protection ... maybe it would be better to rethink our ideas about wildlife conservation, than to change the culture and way of life of other people.*

Until now, the CITES criteria were geared towards preventive protection. This means that it was more difficult to lower the level of protection for a species to be protected than to increase it. If little was known about a species, it could be excluded from trade and thus be protected from excessive exploitation.

Now, all this is to be changed. On the basis of the new CITES criteria, the preventive protection clause is to be

excluded. Moreover, species can only be listed in one of the appendices (and thus gain a certain degree of protection), if they are, in fact, being commercially exploited. At the same time, only species which have been carefully studied and for which reliable data are available can be added to the appendices. This is a prerequisite which most of the member states of CITES can not meet, above all due to financial limitations.

## Implementing the Theory

For many species, the proposed revision would entail a down-listing in the appendices of CITES. Rare animals, such as the Ganges dolphin, the tiger, the Asian and the African elephant, the orang-utan, the chimpanzee, and also the eastern and western lowland gorilla would suddenly be listed in Appendix II, although they have been listed in Appendix I until now. Of the 42 parrot species still listed in Appendix I, only 9 would remain.

This down-listing would mean that these species would suddenly be exposed to a more or less controlled trade. Some of the Appendix I parrots would even be down listed to Appendix III and consequently be exposed to uncontrolled trade.

## International Protests by Wildlife Conservation Organizations

To counteract this detrimental development, the *Species Survival Network*, a worldwide system of conservation organizations, made an appeal to the CITES Standing Committee, which is responsible for upholding the agreements of the Convention. At regular intervals, the national CITES Management Authorities meet with the Standing Committee. The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* also supported the appeal. NGOs (non-governmental organizations) from all over the world have demanded the following from the CITES Standing Committee:



## CONSERVATION

- The CITES Standing Committee should reject the new IUCN proposals as impracticable and non-implementable;
- The principle of prevention has to be maintained.

Fortunately, the German CITES Management Authority has already rejected the IUCN proposal. In defense of their decision, they mention among others:

The implementation of the new criteria would make it very difficult to add a species which was previously not listed to one of the CITES appendices. The most important flaw is the fact that the preventive protection of species is excluded. Moreover, the protection of species would be reduced to an

outdated and primarily profit-oriented level.

During the last meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in September 1993, all the objections were compiled and discussed. On the basis of this discussion, the IUCN will now draw up a new draft. Until the end of this year, the national Management Authorities will have time to submit their objections to the revised draft. The Standing Committee will then make a new provision will, therefore, not be made until the next meeting in 1994. We will keep you informed.

Ulrich Karlowski

### International Appeal to Save the Last Rhinos

The *Species Survival Network* (SSN) has initiated another appeal which the BRD supports. Nature conservation organizations from all over the world requested from Murray Hosking, chairman of the CITES Standing Committee, the following:

- The suspension of all foreign trade with China and Taiwan because they did not comply with the agreement prohibiting the trade of rhinoceros products;
- The completion of studies on the trade in rhinoceros products in South Korea and Yemen, so that the suspension of foreign trade with these countries can be discussed at the next CITES meeting;
- The authorities in Hong Kong should explain to the CITES Standing Committee which measures have been taken to prohibit the trade of rhinoceros products within Hong Kong. It is hoped that in doing so the thriving trade in rhinoceros products with China and Taiwan, as well as the trade of rhinoceros products within Hong Kong itself, will be curtailed.

These and similar sanctions are imperative. Although the rhinoceros

has been protected worldwide for several years, the five rhino species are threatened by extinction. In 1970, the global rhinoceros population was estimated at 70,000; by the end of the 1980s, their numbers had fallen to a mere 10,000. The Java rhinoceros is the most threatened, and its numbers are estimated at a low 70 to 80 animals. In Zimbabwe alone, poachers have reduced the population from 2,100 to 400 individuals over the past 3 years. In India, 55 of a total of 1,500 rhinos were killed during the first 5 months of 1993.

The CITES Standing Committee already decided in March 1993 that they would ban all trade in wild animals and plants with China and Taiwan, if these countries did not immediately cease all trade in rhinoceros products, destroy all the rhinoceros products stored in warehouses and sentence the dealers. As a consequence of a total ban, China and Taiwan would no longer be allowed to export any animals or plants to any of the 119 CITES countries.

China and Taiwan are not only notorious for their trade in rhinoceros products. Almost any animal or plant product considered rare and precious can be bought there: gall bladders of bears, snow leopard fur, tiger hair, tiger bones, and also live orang-utans and gibbons. Despite the fact that China is a long-standing member of CITES, its trade in pharmaceutical products contributes to the diminution of many threatened animal species from all over the world. However, the last advisory meeting of the CITES Standing Committee did not bring much hope for change. The proposed trade suspension was not even addressed because there were so many other topics which had to be addressed, because there were so many other topics. The discussion has, therefore, been postponed to the next CITES meeting in November 1993.

Ulrich Karlowski







## RAIN FORESTS

### Destruction of Tropical Rain Forest Continues Unhalted

The latest report of the German government on the global situation of tropical rain forests is very bleak. According to the most recent appraisal by the FAO, the United Nation's organization for food and agriculture, the yearly loss of rain forest from 1981 to 1990 amounted to 16.9 million ha or 0.9% of the total area. In 1980, the yearly loss of forested land was 11.3 million ha.

#### Estimating Forest Destruction

Between 1981 and 1990, the yearly irreplaceable loss of rain forest amounted to 8.3 million ha. in Latin America (0.9%), 3.6 million ha. in Asia (1.2%) and 5 million ha. in Africa (0.8%). The total timber production in the tropics amounted to 1.5 billion m<sup>3</sup>, of which 84%, in Africa even 91%, is used for energy production. Thus, tropical wood was utilized in a different way than wood from temperate zones. Only 14% of the global timber came from tropical rain forests, although it makes up 43% of woodland worldwide.

With respect to the total wood production in the tropics (firewood and timber), only about 2% (30 million m<sup>3</sup>) was exported. Japan was the main importer of tropical timber (46%), whereas the EC imported 8% and Germany only 1%. With a total mass of 2.1 million m<sup>3</sup> and a market value of 1055.3 million DM, Germany imported 5% more timber in 1991 than the year before – despite the fact that Germany still has a good stock of wood left over from the heavy storms in 1990. At the end of 1992 the available timber, primarily pinewood, totalled 7.9 million m<sup>3</sup>.

Careful examination of the origin of timber imported to Germany shows that there has been a transition over the past few years. In 1960, most of the tropical wood came from Africa,

whereas today it accounts for only 26.1%. Most of the timber marketed in Germany comes from Asia and Oceania (59.1%).

These figures emphasize the sad fact that the destruction of rain forests has neither been stopped nor slowed down, in spite of the Earth Summit, national and international measures and agreements. It is, therefore, not surprising that the German government has come to the conclusion that bi- and multilateral developmental co-operation can do little to halt the rate of destruction.

In the meantime, a multitude of credit policies have emerged which could and should substantially contribute to the protection of tropical rain forests: bilateral developmental work organized by the Federal Republic of Germany (e. g. the pilot project for the conservation of rain forests in Brazil), EC assistance, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of the World Bank, the Environmental Action Plan (EAP), the International Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Timber Agreement (ITTA), GATT, CITES, the Agenda 21 (Earth Summit) etc.

It is, therefore, all the more surprising that the German government considers all these credit policy instruments, and in particular the Earth Summit, as a success. Although the Earth

Summit contributed to public awareness of the importance of forests on this earth, it did little to change the global rate of rain forest destruction.

Ulrich Karlowski

### Exhibition on Rain Forest Completed

The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* now has its own small exhibition on rain forests. The impetus for its completion was given by our member Peter Wittig from Bergheim, who used the Africa week of the local Ghana group to plan this exhibition. It consists of ten trade fair posters with a professional layout, each of which describes and illustrates a certain topic pertaining to the threatened rain forests. In addition, spears and snares which were collected in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park are presented.

Once again, we would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to Peter Wittig and all the people who helped to make the exhibition a success. The response to the exhibition was extremely positive and almost DM 800 in donations were collected. We will add finishing touches to the exhibition and, subsequently, we can lend it out to interested communities, clubs and institutions.

Karl-Heinz Kohnen





## ZAIRE

### The Barhwa-Pygmies in the Kivu and their Relations to the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

There is no doubt that the Pygmies of Africa represent a very old pre-negrid *Homo sapiens* group and were once fairly widely distributed. Today, they only exist in small 'retreat forest areas'. The Barhwa, who belong to the large ethnic group of the Batwa, are recognized by the hoe farmers of Kivu as the first settlers in the area. Their traditional way of life as gatherer-hunters is still practised in extensive rain forest areas.

Since the 16th century, there has been a population shift in the Kivu area, especially due to massive immigrations from the north-east. This shift has caused an increased need for agricultural land (Gorilla Journal 1/1993). Much of the forest has been systematically cleared, thereby further encroaching on the living space of the Barhwa.

#### Expulsion from the Kahuzi-Biega Area

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park was established in 1970. The preservation of this unaltered ecosystem was intended to protect the rain forest and its inhabitants, in particular the gorillas. The creation of the Park consequently forced the Barhwa Pygmies, mobile gatherer-hunters, who formerly were forced to take refuge in the Kahuzi-Biega, were again obliged to leave the mountainous forest area and settle on a 2000-meter high ridge on the western side of Lake Kivu. An estimated 300 individuals have now permanently settled in seven small camps distributed over a distance of 20 km along the edge of the Park's forest.

This was a dramatic change in the lifestyle of the Barhwa and major adjustments had to be made. In effect,

the Park and its inhabitants were meant to be protected, but the Barhwa remain dependent on its resources for their sustenance. Termites, caterpillars and beetle larvae, which are an important energetic component of their diet, can only be found within the park. It is also known that the Barhwa, although in secrecy, still hunt small mammals. As they are no longer mobile, the intensive trapping within their home range has caused great damage. The nine different traps they use do not differ from those used by their Bantu neighbours.

Today, the Barhwa primarily hunt game. Despite their sedentary lifestyle, hunting still has emotional roots and mythical meaning to them. Each small camp has a cone-shaped hunting temple or *Ngombe*. It is covered by elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpure-*

*um*) in the same fashion as the other huts which lie widely scattered, yet within calling-distance, throughout the camp. Before leaving the camp to go hunting, the Pygmies will sacrifice special goods, e. g. cassava, meat and alcohol, by placing them in a bowl within the hunting temple. Similar temples can also be found inside the forest and are used to sustain the mental and mystical bond between the Barhwa and their spiritual ancestors.

#### Agriculture

Under the influence of the Bashi and Batembo, the sedentary Barhwa cultivate their land with beans, maize, millet, *Colocasia sativa* and pumpkins. Agriculture is not extensive and very little is stored, so that periods of severe food shortage are common. This cultivation might be one reason why the



*The hunting temple (Ngombe) in Kahungu*

*Photo: Robert Kasisi*





## ZAIRE



**Cannabis plantation besides a hut**

*Photo: Armin Heymer*

gathering of food has been neglected, whereas it used to constitute 65% to 80% of the diet of these gatherers and hunters. Yet agriculture has not been fully accepted by the Barhwa and is rather considered a last resort. They do not cultivate cassava, yams, peanuts or peas, although these plants are important food sources for the Bashi. Nonetheless, they will eat cassava, and the tubers and prepared flour used for baking are purchased at the market.

All year long, a large amount of hemp (*Cannabis sativa gigantea*) is grown adjacent to their huts and sold clandestinely and illicitly at the Bashi market and to soldiers. In addition, the dried leaves of this resinous herb are mixed with tobacco and smoked daily in pipes made from bamboo canes. It is to be assumed that this continuous use of *Cannabis* affects their health and reduces their activity levels, despite habituation. At the Bashi market, the Barhwa can also trade the hemp for low-grade alcohol, which further contributes to the overall deterioration of their health.

Respiratory diseases and rheumatism are prevalent, yet intestinal worms and digestive problems are also common. A large proportion of children, especially those between three and four years olds, suffer from kwashiorkor and measles, which apparently did not affect them to the same extent when they were mobile. The Barhwa are familiar with traditional herbal medicine and will use it to treat various afflictions. However, it is usually ineffective in treating these diseases, which have been introduced from outside. We found the same to be true for the Bayaka Pygmies living in the western part of equatorial Africa.

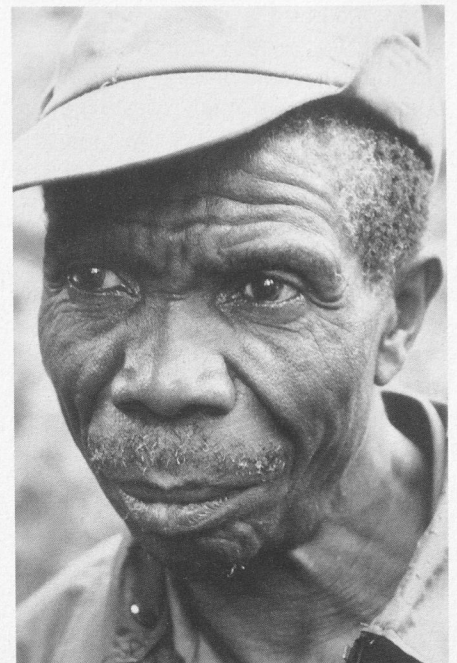
### **Tense Relations between Pygmies and Nature Conservationists**

Considering their expulsion from the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, it is understandable that their relationship to the Park is tense, if not downright negative. The sudden and forced intrusion on their original way of life which had remained unchanged for thousands of years, and the lack of support

from the local authorities both before and after their expulsion, have equally contributed to their strained relationship to the Park.

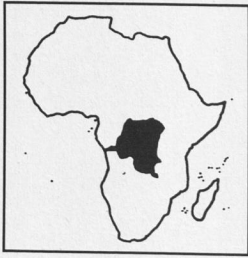
To claim that the Barhwa way of life 'aggressively' exploits nature would be completely false. Our extensive ecological and sociological investigations on other gatherer-hunter communities in the rain forest and savanna of Africa have proven that, wherever their original way of life has remained intact, the natural ecosystem has also remained unchanged. They only take from nature what they need, and thus do not disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem. These examples have taught us that for the successful protection of natural resources and land, the complete evacuation of the indigenous population is not necessary.

Unfortunately, no investigation on the socio-economic situation of the Barhwa communities living in the Park's vicinity exists to date. Previous



**Murhwa tracker who works for the National Park**

*Photo: Armin Heymer*



## ZAIRE



**Chantal Shalukoma with Pygmies**

*Photo: Mankoto*

attempts to collect data on the Pygmies have been done - for example - only on the camp near Tshibati. It is not even clear whether it is representative, as it covers 10% or less of the population. No doubt, it would be high time to get a comprehensive picture of all Barhwa camps in the vicinity of the park and determine under which conditions these people live today. It would also be interesting to consider what the Barhwa have in common with the traditional hoe agriculture of the Batembo and Bashi.

The relocation of the Pygmies from the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and their sedentarization were decided to protect all animal and plant species living in the Park. However, just the opposite occurred: these measures have led to increased pressure on the local flora, in particular due to the illegal and often careless use of resources. The fact that a few Barhwa men have been employed by park officials as guides has done little to change the Barhwas' negative attitude towards the Park.

Moreover, the expulsion of the Pygmies from the park has accelerated the decline of secondary vegetation, which normally develops through human intervention. The gorillas prefer to forage for much of their food in

this type of vegetation. Alterations in the demography and other aspects of the Pygmies' lifestyle, in addition to the decline of the secondary vegetation cannot be separated from the fate of the montane forest and the gorillas who live there.

*Armin Heymer and Robert Kasisi*

### Report from Chantal Shalukoma

Since 1992 the BRD has provided the salary for Ms. Shalukoma's public relations and educational work in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. During the second trimester of 1993, she primarily performed the following activities:

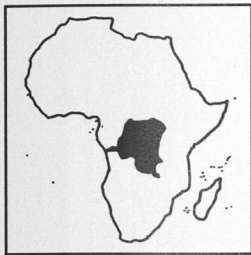
- Census and education of the pygmies living in the surroundings of the park
- Guided tours for teachers and students through the park
- Evaluation of tourist questionnaires
- Maintenance of footpaths within the park
- Study trip to Epulu



**Gorillas in Kahuzi-Biega National Park**

*Photo: Carsten Leidenroth*





## ZAIRE

### Pygmies in the Vicinity of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

The Pygmies living in Kabare are very close to the park and thus frequently hunt illegally there. Their fields are often ransacked by elephants from the park. The women contribute to the destruction of the vegetation by cutting firewood in the park and selling it.

In the Kalehe zone, the public relations team visited the Pygmies, informed them about the function of the park and questioned them about their situation and numbers. The Pygmies of Nyabibwe are primarily fishermen at Lake Kivu. Their children go to school and they are all Christians.

### Report on the Trip to Epulu

In April 1993, Chantal Shalukoma travelled to Epulu to become more acquainted with the life of the Mbuti (Pygmies living in the Ituri area). She stayed in Epulu for 20 days. The purpose of her trip was to exchange ideas with members of the public relations team in Epulu, who teach at the local school. It was also intended that Ms. Shalukoma become familiar with the ways that the Pygmies are involved in various research and conservation projects in Epulu.

The program was designed by the head conservator of Epulu and his team. It included courses at the school for teachers where both theoretical and practical information about conservation were taught, in particular regarding the Ituri Forest. Upon inquiry, it became quite clear that the Mbuti prefer to live in the forest, separately from other peoples. Their main food sources are mushrooms, caterpillars, honey and game. In contrast, the Pygmies around the Kahuzi-Biega National Park often marry partners from other peoples.

The Pygmies comprise the main labour source at the station in Epulu, because most of the work has to be done in the forest. They are involved in almost all activities.

### Road Threatens the Rain Forest and its Inhabitants

We have already reported several times before on the extension of the road between Kisangani and Bukavu, the route of which passes very close to the Maiko National Park and cuts through the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. This road was completed in July 1993 by the German construction company Strabag, which had to transfer all the machinery to Burundi, and is now passable for traffic along its full length.

The consequences of the completion of this arterial road with all the bridges are already clearly felt in Tshivanga, the headquarters of the Kahuzi-

Biega National Park. As expected, traffic has increased heavily. In addition, the traffic to Goma now goes through the National Park as well, because the road between Kisangani and Goma is impassable due to the collapse of a bridge.

The improved infrastructure also facilitates the trade in black market products. Recently, 150 parrots were confiscated in Tshivanga - they come from the lowland rain forest and were about to be smuggled out of the country. The road also facilitates the trade in ivory considerably.

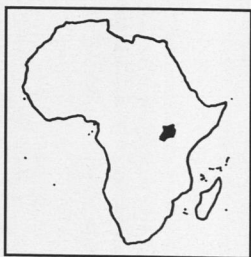
*(From reports by Johannes Refisch, Fritz Dieterlen and Carsten Leidenroth, October 1993)*

### Donors Needed for a New Project

WCS, the organization directing the project, decided to conduct a more comprehensive census after studying the conditions for a survey of gorillas in the Maiko National Park. The current plan is to estimate the total number of the seriously threatened eastern lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*), who lives exclusively in eastern Zaire, and other large mammals as well. Until now, such a survey has not been undertaken. The project will be directed by Jefferson Hall, who has already visited and surveyed part of the area in which the gorillas live several times and has thus already prepared the census. Claude Sikubwabo, the director of the Maiko project, will also participate.

The geographical range of this gorilla subspecies is partitioned into small isolated forest islands, distributed over an area totalling about 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>. To examine this enormous area, several research teams must travel around, conduct interviews and walk through the forest searching for gorilla spoor. The participants will meet in January 1994 for a methods standardization workshop. Afterwards, the first phase of the census should begin in the extension of the Kahuzi-Biega Park and its surroundings.

Substantial funds will be required for the expenses and equipment of the scientists. In August and September 1993, Angela Meder, Karl-Heinz Kohnen and Ursula Karlowski met with Jefferson Hall to discuss how the BRD could participate in the large survey. We agreed to meet the costs of several researchers who want to participate: Thomas Butynski, Ursula Karlowski, Juichi Yamagiwa and Johannes Refisch. Although we can put aside a few thousand DM from our current budget, we badly need additional means of support to be able to conduct this important project effectively. Please support us therefore with a donation. If you wish the money to go specifically to this project, please mark your cheque 'Grauer's gorilla'.



# UGANDA

## Report by Klaus-Jürgen Sucker from Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

July 1992 to June 1993

Important progress was made regarding the development and management of the park. The external conditions have improved considerably: the ceasefire in Rwanda was signed, an area of almost 10 km<sup>2</sup>, which was previously illegally utilized, has now been incorporated into the National Park, and the cooperation between the Park management and the Government, the local administration and the security organs is excellent.

### Projects on Behalf of the People in the Vicinity of the Park

In May 1993 the 1,318 settlers received compensation who had previously illegally settled in zone 2 of the National Park, but subsequently left it. UNP had provided the necessary funds through USAID. The *Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Advisory Committee* met for the first times to carry out important tasks including the supervision of the compensation issue. This committee

intends to involve the people who live around the park in the park's management. A water supply project supported by CARE and UNICEF was initiated in May 1993. It will ensure that the population will receive sufficient drinking water from sources within the park without actually having to enter it. The first new water supply system is on the way to being established by April 1994 in the western part of the National Park.

### Clear Boundaries

A total length of 14.5 km of the National Park boundary has been demarcated, along the altitude line of 2,500 m. Local employees constructed 180 rock piles, later substituted by cemented rock pyramids, and installed signs saying 'Mgahinga Gorilla National Park'. Since then, a hedge of thorny bushes has been planted along the rock pyramids. It is intended to prevent wild animals from leaving the park and to provide a clear view of the park boundary. The *Deutscher Tierschutzbund* (German Animal Protection Society) funds this border demarcation.

In March and July 1993, the Mechanised Regiment of the Ugandan army

together with the National Park's staff removed explosives resulting from the Rwandan civil war; it was again possible to enter the park without risk, and the Rangers were able to resume their regular patrols. Two simple camps were built for the Rangers on the National Park's border on the volcanoes Muhavura and Sabinyo. In addition, the former main camp was moved to the new park border and re-opened as the new Headquarters of Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. The Ranger stations and the National Park's administration received walkie-talkies which make the work considerably easier.

### Introduction of Tourism

In August 1993, the Ugandan government gave the go-ahead for the introduction of eco-tourism in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Since that month, tourists have been allowed to visit the park; to date they may climb the volcanoes Muhavura and Mgahinga, walk a self-guided nature trail on the Sabinyo and visit a cave. Gorilla tourism started at 15th January 1994. The visitors will be led to a habituated group that, however, only occasionally lives in Uganda. At other times, it lives in Zaire.

## A New Monopoly of Visits to the Mountain Gorillas?

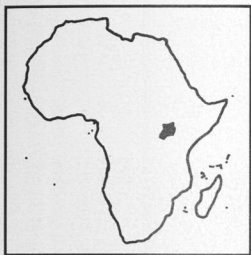
According to a report in the magazine *Uganda Confidential* (4th to 11th October 1993), there seems to be a disagreement between a worldwide tour operator and *Uganda National Parks*. In the beginning of 1993, this operator was granted the permission from *Uganda National Parks* to build a luxury lodge in Buhoma, the starting point for visits to the gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

The disagreement concerned the daily number of permits (to visit the gorillas) that were promised to this tour

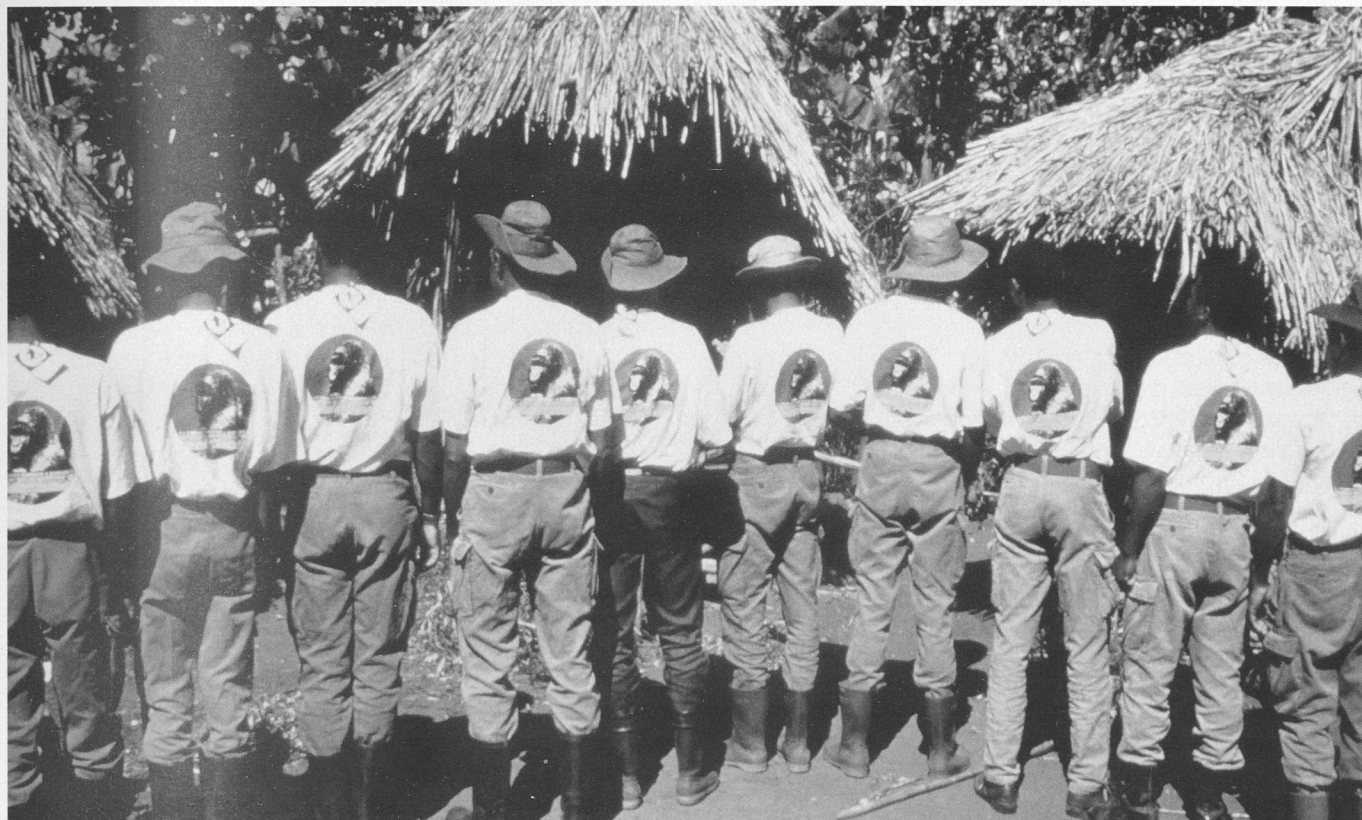
### Illegal Activities Stopped in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Month (July 92-May 93)	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
Killed animals	2	—	1	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—
Arrested poachers	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tree/bamboo felling	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	—
Cattle herds in zone 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cattle herds in zone 2	10	5	5	15	14	2	5	1	2	—	2
Smuggling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire	15	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Confiscated											
guns	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
axes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
hoes	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	8	16	—	—
spears	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
knives	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
snares	31	126	183	150	582	621	723	888	858	1	43





## UGANDA



operator. The company first asked for 90% of all the permits, and finally settled for 50%. In other words, this operator has been granted three out of six daily permits, which means that smaller operators will either have to cooperate with this company and accept their prices or they have to take the risk of offering trips on the off-chance, hoping that there will be cancellations.

*Karl-Heinz Kohnen*

### A New King for an Old Kingdom

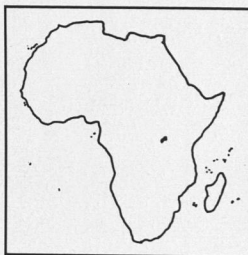
Before the colonial period, the area of Uganda contained several kingdoms. The largest of these was the kingdom of Buganda. The people of Buganda, the Baganda, represent a large part of the Ugandan population. 27 years ago,

the monarchy was abolished by the regime of Milton Obote, and the king forced into exile. In 1993, the present head-of-state, Yoweri Museveni, allowed the Buganda people to re-install a Kabaka (king). On 31 Sept. 1993, Ronald Muwenda Mutebi, the son of the overthrown monarch, assumed the throne in a magnificent ceremony. 200,000 people celebrated enthusiastically, Museveni among them.

The new Kabaka of Buganda was born in 1953, the 13th of 16 children, and was chosen very early by his father for the succession and prepared as the new ruler. He was sent to England for schooling. His father died when he was 14 years old, and the supporters of the deposed monarchy declared Ronald Mutebi his successor. Obote forbade the king to return to Uganda. He did not return until 1986, when Museveni came to power.

His western upbringing has created a new Kabaka; he sees himself as a modern man and stresses the necessity of modernization, if his country is to survive. Officially, however, his function is purely that of a cultural leader, and he must follow all the political decisions of the Ugandan government. Numerous Baganda are criticising the re-installation of the Kabaka, claiming this is out of time in modern Uganda; in contrast, others would like the king to become a political leader and Buganda to develop into an independent monarchy, separated from the rest of Uganda. The re-appointment of the king of Buganda opens the door for recognition of all the other former kingdoms in Uganda: Busoga, Toro, Ankole, Bunyoro, and so on.

*(from a contribution by Anver Versi, and a correspondent's report, New African, September 1993)*



## RWANDA

### News from Rwanda

On August 4th, 1993, the government of Rwanda and the RPF signed a peace treaty in which the responsibilities of army personnel are regulated in a new way and political reforms are planned. According to this treaty, rebels of the RPF are to receive several ministerial posts. A joint army is planned 60% of which will consist of government troops and 40% of RPF fighters. However, the demobilization of approximately 25,000 government soldiers may cause problems. Their integration into civilian life will be supported financially and they will be given professional training. Without help from abroad, however, it will be difficult to implement these measures in a country that is economically disrupted. Provided the domestic political situation remains stable, free elections are to be held 2 years from now.

At the beginning of September of this year, Uganda and Rwanda took another step towards peace. The presidents of both countries, Yoweri Museveni and Juvenal Habyarimana, agreed during a meeting in Entebbe to end the hostilities. Rwanda had formerly accused the neighbouring country of supplying weapons to the rebels who invaded from Uganda. In a joint declaration, the heads of government announced that all Rwandan refugees can now return to their home country.

*Ulrich Karlowski*

### Return to Normality in Karisoke

The Karisoke Research Center has already resumed its work. The former director of the center, Dieter Steklis, returned to Rwanda in July 1993 to re-establish the camp within 3 weeks. In the meantime, the RPF returned the jeep which they had taken during the unrest and it even contained compu-



*Mother and infant from group 5*

*Photo: Jörg Hess*

ters, printers, radios and sleeping bags which had been removed from the center.

Pascale Sicotte is the new director of Karisoke. She already worked there several years ago. One of her most important tasks will be the control of poaching which has increased dramatically since the beginning of the civil war. One of the reasons for this are the many refugees who camped near the park and were in need of food. Last summer, two gorillas were caught in the snares. In spite of this, the gorillas seem to be doing well; in recent months, three infants were born in the study groups.

In the meantime, group 5, the family of Ziz, who died in April 1993, has split up. Pablo, the oldest of the remaining males, is now leading a group of 20 members, while Shinda, the second oldest, is a head of a group of 17 indi-

viduals. Jörg Hess, who observed Pablo in 1986, when he was still a blackback (see article below), will describe the history of this famous family in the next issue of this journal.

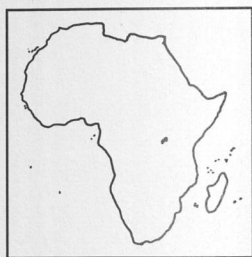
*(from reports in the DFGF-newsletters Autumn 1993 and Winter 1993/94)*

In the last issue of our journal, we asked for donations to help continue research in Karisoke and to ensure the survival of the gorillas in Rwanda. Many of our members and friends supported us, and we transferred DM 5,000 to the *Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund* (DFGF) which funds Karisoke. We are very grateful to all donors!

### A Blackback Called Pablo

A damp, bitter-sweet smell, breaking plant stems, chewing sounds and deep, friendly growls means that my dreams have come true. I am with a





## RWANDA



**Pablo**

*Photo: Jörg Hess*

sweater and shirt, then straightens himself up and runs into the dense vegetation for a distance of 15 meters without loosening his 'collar grip'. He is incredibly strong and there is no way of resisting him. It feels like being carried off like a laundry bag and the best thing is to behave like one, too. At the end of the short but impressive trip, the 'male-factor' simply abandons his burden and disappears. The rest of the day passes quietly. Only youngsters pay me an occasional visit out of curiosity and, apart from that, I obviously do not merit any more special attention from the family.

That was my first dramatic encounter with Family 5. In those hours, I doubted whether my decision to observe wild gorillas was right and you may understand that. Only back at the camp that evening did I learn from David Watts, who could not suppress a sympathetic arch smile, that I had met Pablo, the blackback. Such performances towards the observers were his speciality and you had to expect them every now and then. It was a weak comfort to hear that such attentions from Pablo certainly were not meant to harm anybody. I realized that I had to learn to live with Pablo.

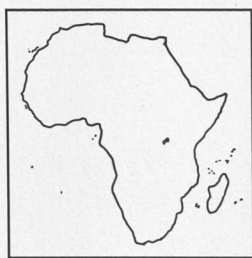
Young adult male mountain gorillas between 10 and 13 years old are called 'blackbacks'. They are sexually mature, but not yet full-grown. Their behaviour and status in the family are mainly determined by their age, size and strength. A few traits are very characterized of this age class. The blackbacks' social position within the family is difficult. They have grown out of the community of mothers and infants, and the latter back off a little bit, because the blackbacks have become too strong, too rough and too pugnacious. The silverback, who is the head of the family and whose position the blackbacks approach with growing age, does not always tolerate them in the center of the family, does not take them

wild mountain gorilla family in the forests of the Virungas, one of the groups studied by the Karisoke Research Center. The group I have chosen is called 'Family 5', and I wonder how they will accept my presence.

Behind the sunlit green filigree of vegetation, the black shape of a mountain gorilla can be distinguished. He sits, plucking and eating leaves of wild celery. I settle down 10 meters from him and wait. After 5 minutes, two female gorillas approach. They gaze at me earnestly, then sit down by my side, touch me quickly and gently, smell my clothes and then turn round again to look for more food. It seems that I have passed the first test, but apparently I have not created much of an impression; they only stay for a few minutes.

Now, unexpectedly, a young male stands only 3-4 meters in front of me. I neither saw nor heard him coming. He

is black, massive and impressively built, conveying a sense of strength. His behaviour suggests that he is about to display. A green leaf protrudes from between his compressed lips, his back is straightened out and his arms and legs are stiff and held in a slight angle. All of a sudden, he runs over me and, while I am still in a prone position, I can see his turning towards me again. I do not really feel particularly comfortable any more and my knees are shaking. Now he moves towards me in a relaxed way, takes his stand in front of me, puts his heavy hand on my knee and his amber-coloured eyes look into my face as if he were searching for admiration of his impressive performance. However, my hesitant gaze does not seem to be the expected answer; he grabs me by the neck, tightens his grip around my knapsack strap and the collars of my jacket,



## RWANDA

seriously in many respects and often even ignores them completely. However, he still keeps an eye on their behaviour and, if necessary, puts them in their place. Therefore, blackbacks often live somewhat 'homelessly' on the border of their family groups. Their remaining daily interactions occur with older juveniles and young adults, who get involved in their vigorous blackback games every now and then and enjoy them. Blackbacks also feel secure with these age groups because there they find the admiration and attention which all young and juvenile gorillas express for the bigger and older ones by trying to imitate them in everything they are doing. Only the silverback is superior to the blackback as a figure for younger gorillas to identify with. Pablo is the only blackback in family 5 and there are only three companions available to him: the prospective blackback Shinda, the somewhat younger male Cantsbe and the young adult female Maggie. This lack of companions is probably the reason why Pablo simply integrated me and previous observers into the circle of his favourite 'wrestlers'. It did not disturb him that I could not stand up to him at all. I experienced the scene I described in the beginning with Pablo again and again. From Shinda and Cantsbe I learned to make a deep, increasing and decreasing growling which served to ask Pablo to refrain from his intention when I did not feel like wrestling. If that did not help, I moved into the secure 'social shade' of Ziz, the silverback and leader of the family.

Of course, it was necessary to give in to Pablo's play invitations every once in a while, but it was, after all, possible to have a say in the time and place of such encounters. The comforting words of David Watts were confirmed, too - not a single time during my whole stay with Family 5 did Pablo treat me so roughly that I was harmed. If you know blackbacks, you can predict this.



*Effie with Baby* Photo: Jörg Hess

They are very conscious of their strength and know exactly how to mete it out when they have a playmate who is smaller or weaker. This always became obvious when Pablo had the opportunity to play with a small infant that was still dependent on its mother. In these cases, he was amazingly gentle and cautious so that the little ones never had to call for their mothers. If a blackback was inconsiderate, he would lose even his last playmates in the family.

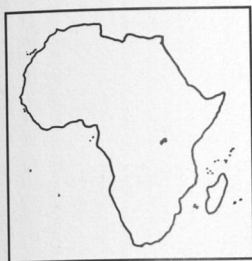
In order to do Pablo justice, you have to add that not all his approaches turned out to be such playful jostling. Sometimes he was just looking for a short, peaceful contact or he wanted to satisfy his curiosity and inspect one of my pieces of equipment and my clothes.

Another social challenge for a blackback is his sexuality. He is sexually mature and therefore very interested in any sexual events in the family. If a gorilla female comes into oestrus and is courting the silverback, the blackback feels solicited, too. But he cannot just act out his wishes because the silverback has a privileged claim on females who are ready to mate and he guards this right. However, even he has to wait for the invitation of the

female when she is receptive. But the oestrous female also seems to prefer the silverback as mating partner. The blackback is at best her second choice, if he is considered at all. All these are 'basic rules' which are, however, interpreted very tolerantly by everybody concerned in typical gorilla fashion. This tolerance is the blackback's elbowroom. If he wants to have a chance, he first has to win his prospective partner over. In most cases, he tries his luck furtively when the silverback is out of sight. However, as matings are connected with unmistakable sounds that carry over long distances, he cannot simply conceal them. If the silverback hears these sounds, he loses no time in hurrying to the spot. In doing that, he tramples the vegetation noisily and even from a distance you can hear his indignant coughing vocalizations with which he reprimands the 'male-factors'. These signs are usually sufficient to separate the couple before the head of the family has reached them. Even during direct encounters, violent clashes between the concerned animals are very rare. Pablo copes with such situations in his own way. If he hears Ziz approach during a secret mating, he interrupts the contact immediately, sits down near food plants and starts to eat, making accentuated movements and smacking his lips in an exaggerated way. There is no doubt that he is trying to mislead Ziz with this behaviour. These gestures may be 'translated' as follows: You see, I am busy feeding here and I do not have anything to do with what you heard. But Ziz knows who he is dealing with and is not taken in; he drives the 'sinner' off with threatening gestures and a staccato of cough vocalizations.

Not always, though, do these encounters go this way. Sometimes Ziz remains tolerant and simply ignores Pablo's challenges or even observes him from a close distance without interfering. This, for example, is the case





## RWANDA

when Pablo shows interest in Maggie, a young adult female who has been coming into oestrus for the first few times. In this way, even blackbacks can occasionally live out their sexual needs in Family 5.

The fringe existence which blackbacks lead in their families is probably an early adaptation to their later way of life. Once they have grown into silverbacks, they normally leave their families and lead a solitary life that often lasts for years. In big families that are able to provide a social environment for more than one silverback, the leading male may tolerate younger silverbacks, but this depends on his personality.

It is the conditions of life which dictate to the blackback his position in the family, not his lack of a need for social contacts. This can be easily seen from Pablo's behaviour. Occasionally, he takes up a friendship with a mother and her infant for several days - all the mothers of Family 5 are caring for small infants. In this case he accompanies the two of them all the time, rests together with them, grooms his short-term partner, guards her baby and plays with it a lot.

Pablo experiences his best time when Ziz allows him for to remain in the center of the family for a short while. His character then changes visibly, he behaves towards everybody in a friendly and reserved, sometimes even servile way. There is no doubt that he enjoys this privilege and tries to make

sure with conspicuously good behaviour that he does not forfeit the favour of being tolerated.

When he is really self-confident, he even tries to persuade Ziz to a playful jostle. If he succeeds, deep chuckles accompany the jostling rounds which are interrupted by short breathers. On such occasions, the two players can be certain that they have a big audience which lines the border of the ring at a safe distance. But even in this situation, Pablo never seems to be absolutely sure of Ziz' exclusively peaceful intentions. Shy, assuring glances at Ziz' face and hesitant movements show his insecurity and he is always prepared to stand back.

Similarly, Pablo gets his chance when Ziz lies down a little distance away from his family to rest during a siesta. Then Pablo becomes the center of family activities, a chance which he hardly ever lets slip by. He uses the time to get the feeling of being the boss and does everything that Ziz would do. He grooms his female resting partners, is groomed by them, sensitively takes care of the small infants, allows the older ones to ride on his back and is tolerant even towards the juveniles when they chase each other over resting family members and tumble over sleepers during their wild games. These are probably the times in a blackback's life when he makes up for his otherwise somewhat colourless social life.

I may have created the impression that Pablo is occasionally resisted only by Ziz. But this is not the case. Effie, for example, who is the dominant female of the family, is an imposing personality. She is exceedingly self-confident and knows that she has the strong clan of her three daughters behind her. Pablo knows Effie's 'power'. He avoids her and takes pains not to provoke conflicts with her. With some other members of the family Pablo has to show similar care and caution. He knows exactly how far he can go and what he may or may not do. He is a skillful social strategist: he walks on the tightrope between the need to show off and to provoke on the one hand and the necessity to secure the benevolence of dominant family members on the other hand. This requires even from a blackback a certain degree of 'politics'.

Inside the family, Pablo can hardly rely on support when he gets into difficulties. Although Lisa, his mother, lives in the group, she left it at some point in the past (unlike Pablo) and returned only years later. Therefore, she has quite a low rank and could not stand up for her big son even if she wanted to.

Jörg Hess

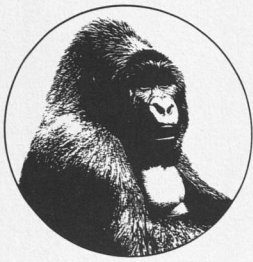
*(This article was published in the German magazine Das Tier. The author gave a detailed description of his experiences in German in the book Familie 5, which has been reprinted and is now for sale again.)*



**Wrestling play between Ziz and Pablo**



*Photos: Jörg Hess*



## GREAT APES

### Basic Rights for Great Apes?

Peter Singer, an Australian bioethicist and radical defender of animal rights, recently received much publicity when he demanded that certain human rights should be applied to great apes as well. Singer initiated a campaign which culminated in a *Declaration for the Great Apes* and a book containing contributions from numerous scientists (see page 18). The authors defend their demands by stating that the genetic difference between humans and chimpanzees was minute and that they therefore deserve the same moral status as human beings – especially because we share so many social and psychological similarities.

This reasoning does not necessarily hold ground, as there are clear differences between humans and chimpanzees, but not so between great apes and other primates. It was certainly not the intention of the authors to make such a clear distinction, however. Rather, they want to change the attitude of humans towards their non-human relatives, starting with the chimpanzees, who so often must suffer because of their similarity to humans.

On ethical grounds, Peter Singer and his co-defendants hope to prohibit the misuse of chimpanzees in the entertainment business and in research. In the USA alone, approximately 1,300 to 1,600 chimpanzees (no gorillas or orang-utans) are housed in laboratories.

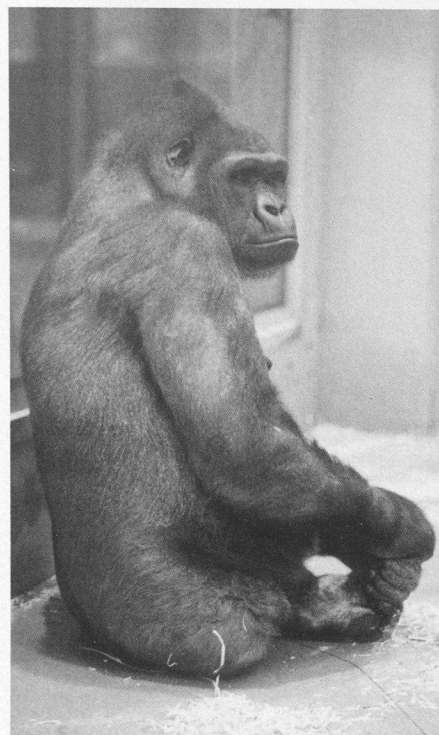
Normally, chimps in the entertainment business can only be used for a few years, because at a certain age they become too dangerous to handle. Likewise, chimpanzees infected with diseases can not be used in other experiments. Tragically, many animals, in particular those used in AIDS research, must remain isolated from healthy conspecifics and humans for the rest of their lives.

What is the fate of these animals whose normal life-expectancy in captivity lies between 30 and 40 years? The *Declaration for the Great Apes* aspires for these animals to be kept under humane conditions, be treated with respect and not as property. These demands are, by no means, easy to meet. Chimpanzees who have grown up, for example, in circuses are generally imprinted on humans, as this facilitates their training. Many chimpanzees in research are housed in sterile cages without access to other animals or appropriate diversion. It requires commitment, compassion and monetary means to turn these psychologically crippled animals into 'normal' chimps who can be housed together with conspecifics in larger enclosures. The keeping of one animal costs \$ 25,000 to \$ 30,000 per year. Although their resocialization is very arduous, some people, for example Jo Fritz, have shown that it can be done indeed. Even some individuals who had never seen

a conspecific before were successfully brought together to a group.

Captive great apes are not only found in circuses and laboratories, but also in zoos. Worldwide, approximately 700 gorillas are kept in zoos today; an estimate of the number of orangs and chimps is not known to me. Even if the proponents of the *Declaration for the Great Apes* are against maintaining animals in captivity, they must accept that these animals can never be returned to their natural habitat. Previous attempts to reintroduce chimpanzees to their native habitat in Africa were discouraging: the animals usually only survived on islands without contact to wild conspecifics and remained dependent on supplementary feeding. Gorillas have not been reintroduced to the wild so far. From a financial, biological and medical standpoint, it would be much more feasible to concentrate on the protection of animals still living in their natural habitat and to provide the best possible care for those currently kept in zoos.

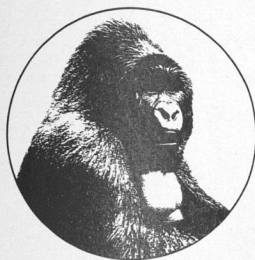
Angela Meder



***The lowland gorilla female Xara is an example for the effects that captivity can have on an ape. She was caught in the wild and came to Rotterdam Zoo in 1976. At that time she had already severe psychological problems and constantly wounded herself. She had gnawed off much of one leg, and euthanization was even considered. Xara was saved thanks to the patience of several keepers, who spent many days and nights with her to prevent her from continuing her auto-mutilation. Her right leg had to be amputated, however. Later she was integrated into a group and recovered from her problems. Meanwhile she has given birth to two infants that she reared herself. She is completely accepted by the other gorillas.***

Photo: Angela Meder





## BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

### Finances

#### Income Jan. to Oct. 1993

Subscriptions	DM 9,800.00
Donations Karisoke	DM 2,843.53
Other donations	DM 12,424.59
Dispatch	DM 4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>DM 29,068.12</b>

#### Expenses Jan. to Oct. 1993

Administration	DM 3,874.00
Subscriptions	DM 120.00
Exp. board of directors	DM 1,641.00
Banking fees	DM 200.00
Dispatch Journal	DM 550.00
Donation Karisoke	DM 5,000.00
Salary C. Shalukoma	DM 2,400.00
Equipment Mgahinga	DM 2,002.40

Equipment Maiko	DM 71.93
Freight costs	DM 870.00
Travels J. Refisch	DM 800.00
Production T-shirts	DM 1,653.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>DM 19,182.33</b>

We would like to thank each person and organization who has supported us so generously during this period. Larger contributions were given by Roswitha Cossel, Jane Dewar, Benny van Dyck, Fritz Friedel, Dr. Rosl Kirchshofer, Hans-Joachim Reich and Pfarrer Schindelin.

Erwin Fidelis Reisch (*Ivory Reisch Tours*) once again undertook the printing of the journal, and Reader's Digest Germany donated 90 books about na-

ture which we will distribute in raffles or on similar occasions. Karsten Otte was able to obtain six excellent binoculars from the German Ministry of Defense for the Mgahinga project. We would have been happy to pass on a donation of equipment from the USA to the Kahuzi-Biega National Park; however, the quality of the objects (secondhand clothes) was not good enough to be worth the transport.

### Obituary: Hans-Otto Kopff

Hans-Otto Kopff was born on 8 May 1954. He studied biology in Heidelberg and his master's thesis dealt with the management of gorillas in captivity. His Ph.D. thesis, which he did not have the time to complete, dealt with transfers of captive female gorillas between groups. However, he always had a yearning to conduct field research in Africa. During his visit to Zaire and Congo in 1991, he also visited the gorilla orphanage in Brazzaville and some months later started to work there. His task was to prepare the reintroduction of orphans to the wild - the first attempt ever to reintroduce captive gorillas to their natural habitat. In the summer of 1993, Hans-Otto Kopff planned to move to Africa with his wife, whom he had married shortly before. On June 26th, he unexpectedly died of cancer.

Angela Meder

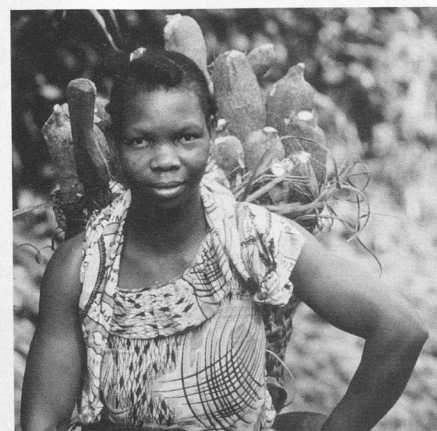
### Rounding up the Old Year and Looking ahead to 1994

#### Projects Supported by BRD in 1993

- We sent equipment for the Rangers to the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Project (sleeping bags, torches, belts etc.), and organized this transport and other shipments.
- At the beginning of this year, we continued to buy land in the surroundings of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park near Buhoma.
- We paid the Chantal Shalukoma's salary.
- No new costs emerged for the Maiko project, as plans were changed by WCS, and this project was included in a more comprehensive census of gorillas and other mammals.
- For the first time we financially supported to the travels of a biologist, Johannes Refisch. He visited Uganda and Zaire to clarify important problems in the gorilla projects.
- We now distribute our journal in all the projects that we are supporting, as well as to interested persons, embassies and other institutions. Sabena distributes the German and English journals on flights to East Africa.

#### Plans for 1994

- The rent for the office of Mgahinga National Park in Kisoro will be paid.
- To improve the infrastructure in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, we want to contribute to the construction of certain buildings for the park management.
- Land purchase will continue with our support.
- We will continue to pay Chantal Shalukoma's salary.
- *Wildlife Clubs of Uganda* will print T-shirts in Kisoro with our help.
- We will pay for equipment, expenses and salaries for several collaborators at the Grauer's gorilla census.





## READING

**Paola Cavalieri and Peter Singer (eds.)** The Great Ape Project. London (Fourth Estate) 1993. 312 pages, no pictures. £ 9.99. ISBN 1-85702-126-6.

This book contains contributions of various authors and a 'Declaration for the Great Apes'.

T. C. Whitmore and J. A. Sayer (eds.) **Tropical Deforestation and Species Extinction.** London (Chapman & Hall) 1992. 156 pages. £ 14.95. ISBN 0-412-45520-X.

E. B. Barbier **Economics and Ecology.** London (Chapman & Hall) 1993. 208 pages, hardcover. Ca. £ 35. ISBN 0-412-48180-4.

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The author describes his experiences with Pygmies in the Central African Republic. He had studied them, espe-

cially their music, and lived with them in their camp.

Elizabeth Kemf (ed.)

**The Law of the Mother.** Gland, Switzerland (IUCN) 1993. 320 pages, 64 coloured pictures. \$ 25. ISBN 0-87156-451-3.

Scientists, conservationists and representatives of several international organizations contributed to this book, which was edited by WWF and IUCN. It gives hints how conservation projects can satisfy the needs of local people.

Lisa A. Schwartz and Jacob Kampen **Agricultural Extension in East Africa.** Washington (World Bank) 1992. 72 pages. \$ 6.95. ISBN 0-8213-1989-2.

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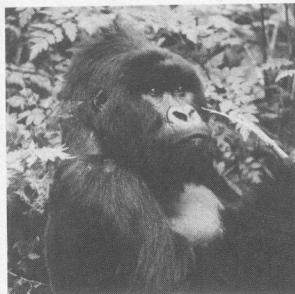
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