

Gorilla Journal

Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe

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**Four Gorillas
Killed in Uganda**

**Dangers for the
Tropical Rain
Forests**

**The Kahuzi-Biega
National Park and
the IZCN/GTZ
Project**

**Research for the
Conservation of
Gorillas in Zaire**



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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Conservation

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CONSERVATION

Good and Bad News from Fort Lauderdale

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) came into force on 1 July 1975. It controls the legal international trade in more than 8,000 species of animals and 40,000 species of plants. All countries of the EU have been CITES members since 1984. Every other year, the signatory states meet and decide on changes. From 7 to 18 November 1994, the 9th Conference took place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The trend towards increased exploitation of animal and plant species that have been protected so far was continued at this meeting. The following summarizes the results of this conference.

Death Sentence for Rhinos

The conference agreed to an application from South Africa to take up the trade in live animals and trophies of the South African white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*). The population was therefore down-listed from Appendix I (trade prohibited) to Appendix II (controlled trade permitted).

South Africa declared that the reason for this application was the aim of sustainable use of the natural resources. White rhinos were said to have increased from 20 individuals in 1920 to 6,300 because of successful conservation measures. South Africa was able to prove that it had strictly followed the conditions of CITES since the white rhino was included in Appendix I in 1976. In addition, it was pointed out that CITES protection could not prevent the merciless killing of rhinos in other African countries.

However, what sounds reasonable at first, proves to be a boomerang when scrutinized more closely. Although rhino populations, at least in Namibia and South Africa, have started to increase again, the "all-clear" cannot be given yet, as is shown by the

example of Zimbabwe. This country had to reduce its administrative structure in order to receive an IMF loan and therefore dismissed 300 rangers. Subsequently, 80 out of 90 white rhinos were shot in Hwange National Park. Rhinos have completely been killed off in Zambia and the situation in Tanzania is critical.

Although the application concerns only the southern white rhino population, it will increase pressure on all others, especially in the neighbouring countries. Poachers now have an even bigger incentive to hunt these rare animals in order to smuggle the products to South Africa and sell them legally there. According to the South African application, hair, hide, hoofs and other products will be marketed. In addition, the white rhino may be hunted by safari tourists. Even though the trade in rhino horn is not envisaged, dehorned carcasses in the African savannahs certainly will continue to point the way to the extinction of the species.

Resumption of the Ivory Trade Turned Down

About 10 million elephants lived in Africa originally; they were reduced to about 600,000 individuals by the end of the 1980s. The ivory war that had taken the African elephant to the brink of extinction within a few years was halted at the last minute in 1989 through the imposition of a worldwide ban on the trade in elephant products.

During the conference, two applications were submitted: Sudan wanted to market 10,884 tusks (about 48 t) that had been confiscated since 1988, and South Africa wanted its elephants down-listed to Appendix II in order to resume the trade in hair and hides. Reports from India, Zambia and Kenya showed that poaching had already increased since these applications were made public, and elephant products were being stockpiled in anticipation of the resumption of trade.

At first, it seemed as if at least the South African application would be agreed to. Only the firm position of many African countries that are still fighting against poaching on their endangered elephants caused both applications to be withdrawn before voting.

Norway Tries to Overturn the Ban on Trade in Whale Meat

The minke whale, the smallest of the large whales, is on Appendix I of CITES which means that no trade in its products is permitted. Norway, having disregarded the international moratorium on whaling for 2 years, put forward the application to down-list the minke whale population of the northeastern Atlantic to Appendix II. This would permit Norway to export illegally-caught whales legally, for example to Japan. Some countries supported the application, but it was rejected.

Highlights

As animal and nature conservation organisations provoked a heated discussion in the media on the resumption of the ivory trade, other important decisions of the conference went almost unnoticed. The hippopotamus, for example, was included in Appendix II because it had been killed increasingly for its teeth since the ban of ivory trade had come into effect.

Little could be achieved for the conservation of tropical rain forests. Timber-exporting countries successfully warded off any attempts to introduce protective regulations for certain hardwoods for economic reasons.

Another important topic was the criteria by which a species can be judged to be endangered (see *Gorilla Journal* 2/1993). The precautionary principle, that has been valid up to now, was saved once again at the suggestion of Germany; this means that in doubtful cases, conservation will take priority over exploitation.

Ulrich Karlowski and Denise Wenger



RAIN FORESTS

Dangers for the Tropical Rain Forests

Tropical forests usually grow in places with a minimum precipitation of 100 mm each month in general, a minimum average temperature of 24°C with the temperature never falling below 0°C. Estimates of how many species of animals and plants live in these forests vary widely. Depending on which estimate is used, 24 to 95% of the 3 to 100 million extant species occur in the humid forests of the tropics. 44% of the world's endangered mammals and birds live in this habitat.

Free nutrients are rare in this ecosystem. Therefore, most trees in the rain forests have shallow roots to be able to absorb any available minerals from decomposing organic matter and rain. Apart from volcanic soils, the fertility of rain forest soils, which consist mostly of sand or latosol, is very low. Once the dense vegetation has been removed, the nutrients are quickly washed out and the thin layer of humus is eroded. After only a few years almost nothing will grow in the impoverished soil. The trees have the additional function of slowing down strong winds, and clouds are formed through the evaporation taking place above forested areas. These clouds bring rain. The quantity of precipitation decreases in large areas once the forests are removed.

Deforestation Continues

According to calculations by FAO, 154,000 km² (0.8%) of forested area was lost annually in the tropics between 1981 and 1990. According to other estimates, this number is even higher. This means that the destruction rate of the tropical forests was considerably greater in the 1980s, compared to the late 1970s. In 1980, 37% of primary forest had already disappeared in South America, 42% in Asia and 52% in Africa. In the next decade, the

annual deforestation still increased by 68%. The speed of forest destruction was highest in West Africa, South East Asia and Central America. By the turn of the millennium, probably all forests will have disappeared from Thailand, Myanmar, East Africa, West Africa, Madagascar and the Philippines.

Causes of Forest Destruction

According to David Pearce and Katrina Brown (*The Causes of Tropical Deforestation*), one of the main causes for the destruction of forest is the fact that this ecosystem's actual value for the economy is being dangerously underestimated. The governments of many countries even promote logging of forests with subsidies and tax benefits. In South America, settlers often are forced to clear the forest to keep their land deeds.

More and more arable land is needed due to the high population growth rates. Fallow cycles have already been reduced, and the soil fertility cannot recover. According to various estimates, agriculture, especially slash-and-burn cultivation, is responsible for 61% to 94% of forest loss. It is the main cause of forest destruction in Africa. As the human population continues to grow in the tropics – in Africa at the highest rate – deforestation by smallholders will increase even further.

In Brazil, authorities often regard forested areas as useless land that has to be cleared and made economically profitable. Much of the deforested land is replaced by cattle pasture: in 1980 cattle ranching accounted for 72% of forest destruction in this country. According to Norman Myers, 15,000 km² of tropical rain forest were transformed into pastures in 1989, mainly in Central America and Amazonia.

An estimated 400,000 km² of forest will be lost by the year 2000 in Indonesia. Since 1985, some of the strain has been taken off the most densely populated islands by transmigration of



Forest patch cleared for slash-and-burn agriculture in Zaire

people to islands with low population densities that are still covered with rain forest. There they are given a piece of land to clear and farm. It is planned to move more than 1 million families in this project, which is funded by the World Bank and developmental aid agencies from various countries.

In South America and Africa, mining of mineral resources is another danger for the forest. In 1989, 10,000 km² of tropical rain forest had to give way to cash-crop plantations, road construction, mining and other activities. Deforestation is advanced considerably by the building of roads, because they make it much easier for the human population to move in and to start clearing the land. According to one estimate, 4 to 20 km² of rain forest disappear with each kilometer of road in South America. Logging companies are among the most important builders of roads.

Commercial Logging

A company that wants to extract timber in the tropics is given concessions from the government of the respective country. These are clearly defined areas of



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forest where the company is permitted to work for a certain time. The forestry law regulates which species of trees may be felled, how many and in what way. In 1989, 45,000 km² of rain forest were affected by commercial logging, two thirds of which in Southeast Asia, where it amounted to destruction. Although logging is mainly selective these days (only big logs of certain tree species), the forests are often still considerably damaged in the process.

Moreover, even selective logging opens the forests up to continuing exploitation. Between 1981 and 1985, 88% of forests where logging companies had previously worked were destroyed in the Ivory Coast. The figure for Cameroon is 28%, 36% for the Congo, 10% for Gabon, and 42% for Liberia.

In 1990, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brazil were the most important exporting countries for tropical timber. Most kinds of this timber could easily be replaced by others, but they sell well because they are considerably cheaper than timber from the temperate zones.

The *International Tropical Timber Organization* (ITTO) emphasizes in its guidelines that the exploitation of tropical forests is only justified if various rules are followed, one of them being sustainability. In forestry terms, this usually means that some kind of forest will be kept after logging, and a change in species composition (generally a loss of diversity) is accepted as a consequence. However, in ecological terms, sustainability requires that the removed species of trees should regenerate in this area.

There is hardly any evidence for any area, in tropical Africa or elsewhere, that the ecologically sustainable use of common tropical timber tree species is possible with selective logging as it is employed today. Most evidence suggests that the respective tree species do not grow back to harvestable size

over the envisaged logging cycles. ITTO itself reports that currently less than 1% of tropical timber on the world market originates in sustainable use areas. It is doubtful whether the organization's goal of marketing only such timber by the year 2000 is realistic.

Rain Forests in Africa

Compared to Asian and American rain forests, the biodiversity of those in tropical Africa is rather low. During the Ice Ages, these forests were reduced to small areas in western and eastern equatorial Africa by a decrease in temperature and humidity. About 10,000 years ago, these forest remnants expanded again and formed a continuous area which decreased again in the last 8,000 years. According to estimates by FAO, in 1990 168,630 km² of tropical Africa was covered by a closed forest; this is equivalent to 22.6% of tropical Africa's total area.

The West African forests have suffered the worst damage, because they were ruthlessly logged in the past. Logging companies have been playing an important role in this since the 1950s. In 1980, when only an estimated 26.5% of the original forested area still existed in West Africa, 4.8 million m³ of timber were extracted in the Ivory Coast and 5.1 million m³ in Nigeria, compared to less than 2 million m³ in Cameroon and Gabon. In 1980, 5.2% of remaining rain forest was destroyed in the Ivory Coast (20% by commercial logging); by 1990 the forest cover was so badly reduced that only 2.1 million m³ of timber could be extracted. In Nigeria, the annual harvest stayed consistently at 5.6 million m³ during the 1980s.

In 1989, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria had the highest rate of deforestation of all tropical countries with 15.6% and 14.3%, respectively. Thailand and Madagascar were next with 8.1% and 8.3%, respectively. By now, probably

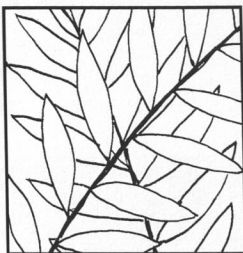
80% of rain forests have been destroyed in the Ivory Coast and about 90% in Nigeria.

The Value of Rain Forests to Humanity

The most sought after product of tropical rain forests is timber, but numerous alternative forest products are also exploited. These include rubber, rattan, bamboo, camphor, resins, tannins, essential oils, dyes, plant fibres, fruit, nuts, spices, medicinal plants, insects and bush meat. Many people living in the forests and their surroundings earn a living from these forest products. The industrialized countries are also becoming increasingly aware of the value of these resources.

To many groups, there is only one argument in favour of the conservation of rain forests: the economic value of these ecosystems. In order to provide arguments for their conservation, many attempts have been made to calculate this economic value and to compare it with the profit that can be gained by logging and deforestation. According to such a study in Korup National Park, Cameroon, the direct value of the forest (sustainable use, tourism, water resources) is 3.6 times higher than the value of the timber. In Peru, another author found that the market value of sustainably-used alternative forest products was more than twice the profit from timber plantations or cattle ranching on a comparable area, and more than six times the value of the timber that could have been harvested if the area had been cleared. In several studies in other South American countries, the same was found: the use of alternative forest products yields a higher profit than logging, agriculture or cattle ranching.

It becomes increasingly apparent that the indirect value of rain forests has to be taken into consideration in addition to their direct value to arrive at a proper estimate of their importance.



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This is especially true for the ecological and climatic consequences of the clearing of large areas. Thus, the economist David Pearce estimates the increase in the greenhouse effect caused by the quantity of carbon dioxide that is produced by the burning of 1 ha of rain forest will create costs the equivalent of \$ 1,300 per year.

In the 1980s, 22% to 26% of the greenhouse gas emissions was produced through the destruction of tropical forests. As global climate changes concern the industrialized countries as well, it is in their own interest to contribute to the conservation of rain forests.

The World Bank

One of the international organizations that have the most influence on the future of the rain forests is the World Bank. In many cases, it pushed ahead the destruction of large areas of rain forest through grants for projects that were ecologically questionable, such as dams. The introduction of Structural Adjustment Programs in 1979 has also been dangerous for rain forests in some cases. Within these programs, grants are only awarded if the recipient countries reorientate their economies. This also means the improvement of the economic climate and the capacity to attract foreign investors, reduction of government deficits through spending cuts (for example for education and medical care) as well as an increase in foreign exchange earnings by the promotion of exports. In order to increase exports, forests often have to be cleared or exploited more heavily.

As a reaction to increasing criticism, the World Bank set up the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in 1991, which is intended to fund measures towards the conservation of the environment and of natural resources as well as the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies. UN organizations support GEF, too. GEF gives grants which do not have to be re-

deemed by the recipient countries. For example, GEF funds support rain forest biodiversity projects in Zaire, Uganda (Bwindi), the Congo, the Central African Republic and Cameroon.

Tropical Forest Action Program

UNDP and FAO, both UN organizations, developed the Tropical Forest Action Program (TFAP) in 1985 as an international effort to conserve tropical rain forests. Within this program, the countries that have tropical rain forests are to develop national action plans as to how these forests can be used in a sustainable way. To implement these programs, they are supported technically and financially. The main aim is the development of forestry. In Cameroon, for example, the considerable expansion of logging was identified as a means to increase foreign exchange earnings through the export of timber products. Even areas inhabited by pygmies were to be exploited, although the consideration of indigenous peoples' needs was one of TFPA's ex-

pressed aims. In 1990, evidence was published to prove that TFAP promoted deforestation rather than prevented it. Subsequently, FAO ordered an investigation. Today, the TFAP emphasizes the following goals: education of the population about the dangers of forest destruction, planning of more effective strategies and activities and raising of national and international funds to put these plans into practice. National programs have already been implemented in numerous African countries. In most cases, they are supported by UNDP, FAO and the World Bank; in Zaire, Canadian developmental aid supports the TFAP.

There has been a national action plan in the Congo since 1994. However, the local population and the responsible authorities were not involved in the planning stage. Other points of criticism are that the TFAP represents the interests of foreign investors more than the interests of the Congo and that it does not offer a solution for the threats to the Congolese forests.



Logging concession in Northern Congo

Photo: Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart



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The TFAP still has many weaknesses and will have to be improved considerably before it can make an effective contribution to the conservation of rain forests. In any case, the cooperation of all organizations working towards this goal is necessary.

Angela Meder

Cross-Border Rain Forest Conservation in Central Africa

The destruction of rain forests does not stop at national borders. For this reason, various organizations are cooperating in a joint program to protect the rain forests where the borders of Congo, the Central African Republic and Cameroon meet. Among many endangered species, this area is also inhabited by lowland gorillas. Their number can hardly be estimated.

While no conservation project has been established yet in Cameroon, national parks have been set up successfully in the other two countries.

Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

On 31 December 1991, WCS (*Wildlife Conservation Society*) and the Congolese Government agreed to set up the Nouabalé-Ndoki Reserve in north-western Congo. It has an area of 3,866 km². The government of Congo and WCS, jointly responsible for this conservation project, installed Michael Fay and Marcellin Agnagna as directors. Two years later, the reserve was gazetted a national park.

Some construction work has already been completed. In addition, it is planned to install solar power stations, to construct houses and various facilities

for project staff, rangers and researchers, and to build an airstrip and schools for the neighbouring communities. Furthermore, the borders of the national park are to be demarcated and more rangers are to be employed.

Research

Platforms for researchers observing gorillas and other large mammals are to be set up at various locations in the park. The animals can be seen especially well in large clearings or bays that are probably kept clear from dense vegetation by the animals themselves. Tree observation platforms have already been built in such places. In this way, elephants have been observed for some time in Mokele and gorillas in Mbéli, a swampy clearing of 0.4 km². These studies are to be intensified.

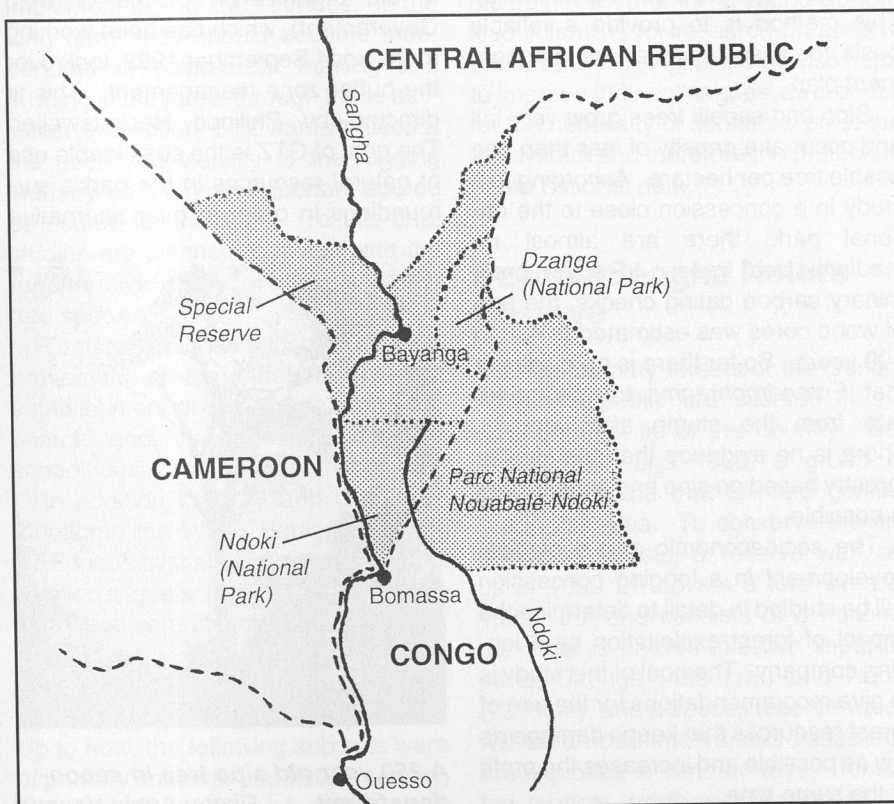
The most important subject of gorilla research is the documentation of social behaviour and social structure. Preliminary data suggest that the social structure of western lowland gorillas is more flexible than that of the eastern populations.

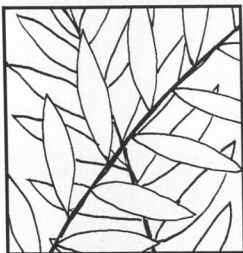
One important task is the inventory and monitoring of mammal and flowering plant populations. The floristic inventory will provide baseline data for an ecological classification of plant societies.

Threats to the Forest in Northeastern Congo

The forests in northern Congo are mainly threatened by the work of logging companies. Each year 200 to 300 km² of forest are destroyed there. The allocation of concessions is mainly a question of political connections. Logging companies often use unsuitable methods and do not follow the rules of the national forestry management plan, because compliance with the law is not controlled.

Today, 89,847 km² of harvestable forest remain in northern Congo. This is split up into 21 forestry units. Log-





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ging companies are allowed to exploit ten of these units, 43,559 km² in all. Only selective logging is permitted, but nevertheless 7% of the forest is cleared and approximately 20% of the stand is destroyed or damaged in the process.

When a logging company starts to work in a new area, the exploitation of natural resources increases dramatically. Hunting pressure becomes much more dangerous, and game numbers are reduced considerably. It is not known what effects this will have in the long term.

The logging company CIB (Congo-laise Industrielle des Bois; an enterprise of the German company Feldmeyer) is expanding its activities more and more and has set up a big camp right on the bank of the Ndoki river. This camp is already contributing significantly to the increased hunting pressure in the area. Hunting has been recorded even in immediate proximity to the national park borders. Currently, the employees of the Ndoki safari camp are the only people preventing the hunting activities of CIB employees and poachers from spreading further. Other areas are threatened by CIB, too, as the company intends to extend its work to an area adjacent to the park.

Uncontrolled hunting, which is the villagers' most important source of income, is generally a serious problem. The numbers of elephants and bongos are being reduced continually through hunting for ivory and trophies. Gorillas, whose meat is much sought after, also fall prey to the hunters. Their young are sold to dealers. Transport is facilitated considerably by roads built by the logging companies.

American scientists conducted a survey of the gorilla population in the years 1989/90. They found that the population density was much lower in the proximity of logging concessions because the animals there were under severe hunting pressure.

Conservation and Exploitation

Surveys on the markets along the river and in Ouesso, the biggest town in northern Congo, will document the extent of hunting, the trade routes and the economic importance of bush meat. Additional information will be provided from interviews. At the same time, surveys of ungulate ageing and population structure will be conducted in the forest to determine to what extent game can be harvested in the national park without putting too much pressure on the populations. In addition, safari tourism is to be introduced. Ecotourism like gorilla viewing would not be very successful because of the poor visibility in the forest.

The scientists in the Nouabalé-Ndoki project are trying to formulate methodologies for monitoring the impact of logging on the forest and particularly on the two main timber species sapelli (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) and sipo (*Entandrophragma utile*). This method is to provide a reliable basis for a sustainable use management plan.

Sipo and sapelli trees grow very tall and occur at a density of less than one usable tree per hectare. According to a study in a concession close to the national park, there are almost no medium-sized trees. In some preliminary carbon dating checks, the age of wood cores was estimated at 400 to 900 years. So far there is no evidence that *Entandrophragma* trees regenerate from the stump after logging. There is no evidence that sustainable forestry based on sipo and sapelli trees is possible.

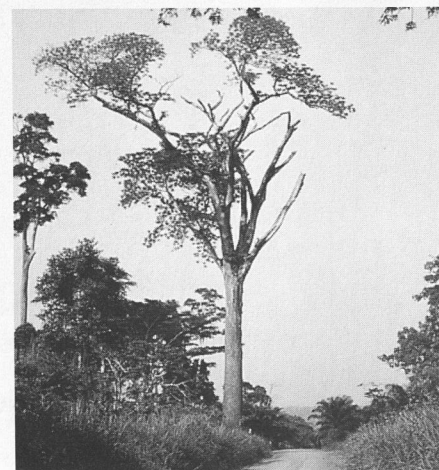
The socioeconomic and ecological development in a logging concession will be studied in detail to determine the impact of forest exploitation by a logging company. The goal of this study is to give recommendations for the use of forest resources that keeps damage as low as possible and increases the profit at the same time.

The impact of logging – and the infrastructure linked to it – on settlement in the rain forest is to be determined through satellite photographs and regular observations from planes, among other techniques.

It has already become apparent that even the conservation project has a negative impact on the forest. It is improving the economic situation of its numerous staff considerably, and consequently, more money is spent on luxury goods, the men take additional wives with whom they have more children, and thus the population density increases in the surroundings of the park.

Division of Responsibilities

After the national park had been established, the roles of the organizations involved were re-defined: while WCS was to concentrate on research and park management, GTZ (developmental aid organization of the German Government), which has been working there since September 1992, took over the buffer zone management. This is directed by Philippe Hecketsweiler. The goal of GTZ is the sustainable use of natural resources in the park's surroundings in order to offer alternative

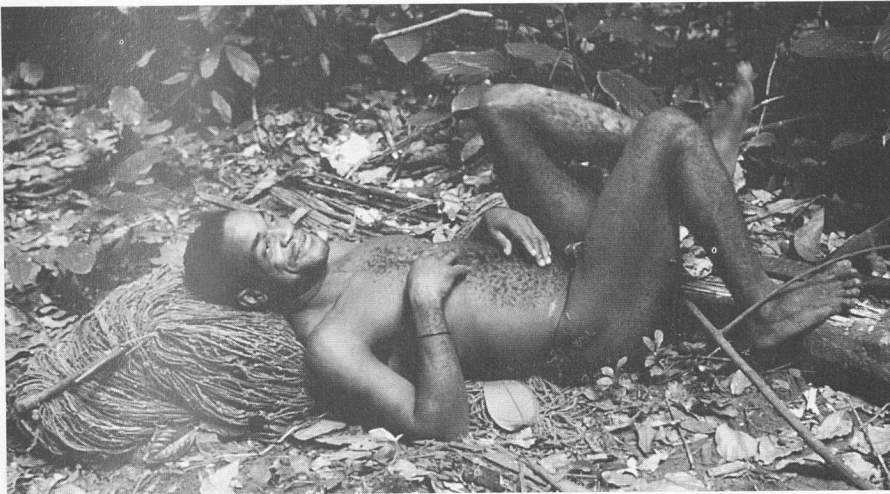


A 250 year old sipo tree in secondary forest

Photo: Armin Heymer



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Mò.Aka pygmy during a hunting break in the Central African rain forest

Photo: Armin Heymer

sources of income to the local population and thereby protect the national park. The inhabitants of the surroundings are involved in the planning and implementation of the activities. In the long term, they should become independent of commercial hunting and farming in the forest through these activities. In addition, GTZ wants to secure the economic viability of the logging industry as the most important source of income for the state. To this end, studies are planned to investigate the regenerative ability of various timber tree species.

To date, GTZ has supported the improvement of the infrastructure, the establishment of a research camp, research and the construction of a schoolhouse, among other things.

In addition to WCS and GTZ contributions, the World Bank has made GEF funds available. One of this organization's goals is the support of forestry and safari hunting.

In 1987, Japanese zoologists together with Congolese scientists started to study gorillas and chimpanzees. Up to now, the following subjects were of primary concern: population density, food plants, utilization of various types

of vegetation, tool use (by chimpanzees) and competition between the two ape species. In the future, the Japanese primatologists want to increase the training of promising young Congolese scientists for research on apes in the forest. In doing this, they also hope to improve their colleagues' awareness for the necessity of conservation of the ecosystem and therefore the protection of the national park.

Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve

The last primary forests of the Central African Republic are situated in the southernmost tip of this country. Between 1987 and 1989, a group of scientists found that lowland gorillas live in this area. To conserve the endangered forests, a reserve was set up in 1990. It covers a total area of 4,569 km² and consists of a national park that is divided into two separate parts, Dzanga (495 km²) and Ndoki (725 km²), and a special reserve which will be divided into various zones that are exploited in various ways – for safari tourism, traditional hunting of the

local population, forestry, agricultural development and game farming. 98% of the total area is covered by forest, mostly primary forest.

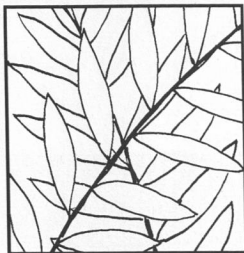
The nature reserve has been directed by the WWF Dzanga-Sangha project since 1988. It receives additional funding from USAID, the World Bank, GTZ and other organizations. In the first phase, the WWF concentrated on the protection of the park, but in the future measures towards rural development, environmental education, support of self-help and the development of tourism will be increased with financial aid of GTZ, USAID and the World Bank. Regional authorities and the local population are demanding the establishment of schools, hospitals and wells as well as a general improvement of living conditions. This is one of the tasks of GTZ. In addition, GTZ wants to create alternative opportunities for work and sources of income. One of the activities in which GTZ plays a major role is the establishment of tree nurseries in the village of Bayanga and various developmental projects in the surroundings of the park.

Locally produced food can not fulfill the nutritional demands of the population adequately, and the fields are often damaged by elephants. GTZ is, therefore, trying to improve agricultural methods.

Just as in the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, there are clearings in the forest in the Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve, where animals can be observed especially well. A study of elephants has already been conducted there. In cooperation with the research project in the Congo, identified animals' migrations within the cross-border reserve will be documented. In addition, gorillas have been studied on a clearing for 2 years.

Hunting and Poaching

Pygmies (Bayaka) also inhabit the region. They hunt in the nature reserve



RAIN FORESTS



Clearing in the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve Photo: Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart

in their traditional way, i.e. with nets, crossbows and spears, and sell about a third of their prey. These methods hardly damage the animal populations. However, this is illegal: a high fee per kill has to be paid according to the hunting law. This fee is much higher than the value of the meat.

Much more dangerous for animal populations is hunting with snares and firearms, as it is practised by the rest of the population. Dealers buy the animals that have been killed and take them to the markets. Even elephants, bongos and gorillas are hunted although they are completely protected by law. Elephant poachers use large-calibre guns. They are united in an organization similar to the Mafia. The tusks are taken from the CAR via Cameroon to Douala, Kinshasa and South East Asia, where they are processed. About 10 to 30 elephants a year fall prey to this type of poaching in the nature reserve.

Logging

There are hardly any opportunities to earn money in the region. Only a few workers find jobs in the mining of diamonds (outside the reserve) and in the timber industry. People are willing to move to where the jobs are, and dif-

ferent ethnic groups settle in these places.

The logging industry causes the biggest problems for nature conservation. For 25 years, a Slovenian company has been extracting timber in the Bayanga region. Sipo and sapelli trees account for 90% of that timber. Currently, Sylvicole Bayanga (as the company is called today) extracts 1,500 to 1,700 m³ a week. The remaining harvestable volume of these two tree species is estimated at 1.8 million m³ in the nature reserve. In addition, 0.7 million m³ of other commercially exploitable timber trees exist there; however, the exploitation of these species is more expensive. As the fixed costs of the company have decreased considerably since the CFA (Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine) was devalued in 1994, it is to be feared that the company will extend logging to these species and thereby damage the forest more severely in the long term.

Most of the 3,076 km² which Sylvicole Bayanga may currently exploit (70% of which is in the reserve) has already been exploited, and the remainder should keep them going for another 9 years. Sustainable use of the natural resources is not possible with the methods currently employed.

As the operators of Sylvicole Bayanga feared that their work could be threatened by the WWF project, they tried to prevent the establishment of a reserve. Although they were not successful, the two organizations are fighting a legal battle.

A French logging company, SE-SAM, has been operating in the region since 1991. This company has agreed to cooperate with the conservation project.

Alternative Exploitation

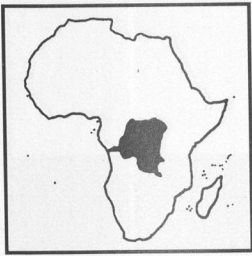
Promising sources of income are ecotourism and safari hunting, which take advantage of the high population densities of animals in the Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve. Due to the high hunting pressure and the dense vegetation, it is very difficult to habituate gorillas. Gorilla tourism will, therefore, not be established in the foreseeable future.

Up to now, about 1,000 tourists a year visit the area, still well below the capacity. Improvement of the infrastructure and coordination as well as advertising could promote tourism. WWF has already developed detailed proposals for the exploitation of the park through tourism.

Two organizations are permitted to offer hunting safaris in certain areas of the nature reserve. About 30 hunters a year visit these areas with the sole purpose of hunting bongos. According to estimates, only 20 to 25 animals a year should be killed to avoid placing the population at risk. Most of the income from safari hunting goes straight to the treasury; certain political circles even demand that the region should not receive any part of it.

Angela Meder

I would like to thank Ndinga Assitou (IUCN Central Africa), W. Scheckenbach (GTZ) and Reinhard Behrend (Rettet den Regenwald e. V.) for providing essential information for these rain forest articles.



ZAIRE

Survey of Grauer's Gorilla

As already reported in the last two issues, a survey of Grauer's gorillas and other large mammals was started in Eastern Zaire last year. The results of this first phase have not yet been fully analysed. Accompanied by other survey participants, Jefferson Hall visited another area from February to May 1995. This time he focused on the region around Kasese, about 180 km west of Itebero (see map on page 12).

Gorilla Census on Mt. Tshiaberimu: Preliminary Report

Mt. Tshiaberimu (1,850 to ca. 3,100 m high) is located off the northwest corner of Lake Edward in eastern Zaire (see map on page 12). This roughly 60 km² of montane forest is all that remains of what were more than 450 km² of forest earlier this century. Mt. Tshiaberimu, which once held a large population of gorillas, is part of the Parc National des Virunga but the corridor connecting it to the main portion of the park has been encroached upon and destroyed. Conrad Aveling undertook a survey of Mt. Tshiaberimu in 1986 and concluded that no more than 20 gorillas remained.

From 30 May through 7 June 1995 we undertook a census of the gorillas there, examined their habitat, and assessed the threats to the area. This work was undertaken with considerable cooperation and assistance from the park wardens and rangers, and other personnel of the IZCN (*Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature*). Funding was provided by the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* and Zoo Atlanta.

Three teams of guides and researchers searched suitable habitat for gorillas for seven consecutive days. Groups of 4 and 11 gorillas, plus one lone adult male, were located during

this intensive search. We believe that the total number of gorillas remaining on Mt. Tshiaberimu is 16 to 18 and that only two groups occur. They use an area of approximately 18 km² at 2,800 to 2,900 m in the southwest corner of Mt. Tshiaberimu. This is an area dominated by high bamboo (*Arundinaria alpina*) and large *Podocarpus latifolius*, intermixed in some places with *Galiniera saxifraga*, *Ilex mitis*, *Rapanea melanophloeos*, *Xymalos monospora*, *Mimulopsis* spp. and *Serico-stachys scandens*.

For as far as one can see from the high points on Mt. Tshiaberimu, there is no natural forest remaining in the region except for a few square kilometres of forest on some of the higher, distant ridges. Even these are, however, being felled and will probably be completely destroyed within the next few years. There is extensive agricultural encroachment around the entire boundary of Mt. Tshiaberimu and this is, undoubtedly, the greatest single threat to the area and its gorillas. In some places, the forest has been completely removed for a distance of more than 1 km inside the boundary. Pit-sawing is another serious problem. We estimate that more than 500 large *Podocarpus* have been pit-sawn during the last few years. There is ample evidence that gold mining along the rivers was at a high level in the recent past as there is much damage to the river bed, river banks and bordering forest. This activity appears to have declined considerably in recent years.

Poaching is at a very low level at this time but was probably much more prevalent in the past. Only one active trap was found although several old traps set for blue monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*) and L'Hoest's monkey (*Cercopithecus lhoesti*) were located. Black-fronted duiker (*Cephalophus nigrifrons*) and yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus sylvicultor*) are still present but at extremely low densities. It

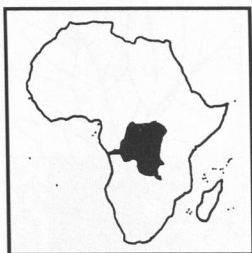
may be that poaching is not a worthwhile activity given the low densities of prey. There was no evidence that gorillas are hunted on Mt. Tshiaberimu and the park rangers with whom we worked claimed to have never heard of gorilla hunting in the area.

Signs of elephant were abundant throughout the area between 2,600 and 3,100 m. The rangers estimate that about 30 elephants remain on Mt. Tshiaberimu. There is almost certainly no movement of elephants between this area and other parts of the park as the former corridor is densely populated by people.

During the survey, one of us (TMB) collected data on the avifauna between 2,550 m and 3,100 m. 15 of the 33 Albertine Rift Afromontane Region endemic bird species and subspecies were observed. Only a few of the regional endemics not seen would be expected to occur above 2,500 m. Two species not previously known to be present in the highlands to the west of Lake Edward were found, the Kivu ground thrush (*Zoothera tanganicae*) and Shelley's crimson-wing (*Cryptospiza shelleyi*). It is likely that a few other regional endemics occur but were over-looked during this short survey. Mt. Tshiaberimu has a rich avifauna with several species of particular conservation concern.

It is clear that the forests of Mt. Tshiaberimu, and the important biodiversity they support, are under severe threat from the surrounding human population. Conservation inputs from outside of Zaire to IZCN are urgently needed if this area is to have any long-term future. We recommend that (1) immediate material and logistic support be provided to the twelve park rangers working to protect Mt. Tshiaberimu and (2) that a multi-faceted, long-term conservation project for this area be initiated no later than 1996.

Thomas M. Butynski
and Esteban Sarmiento



ZAIRE

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the IZCN/GTZ Project

This national park is situated in the Kivu district, one of the most densely populated areas in Zaire. It is also one of the most fertile regions. The park's natural resources are under severe pressure.

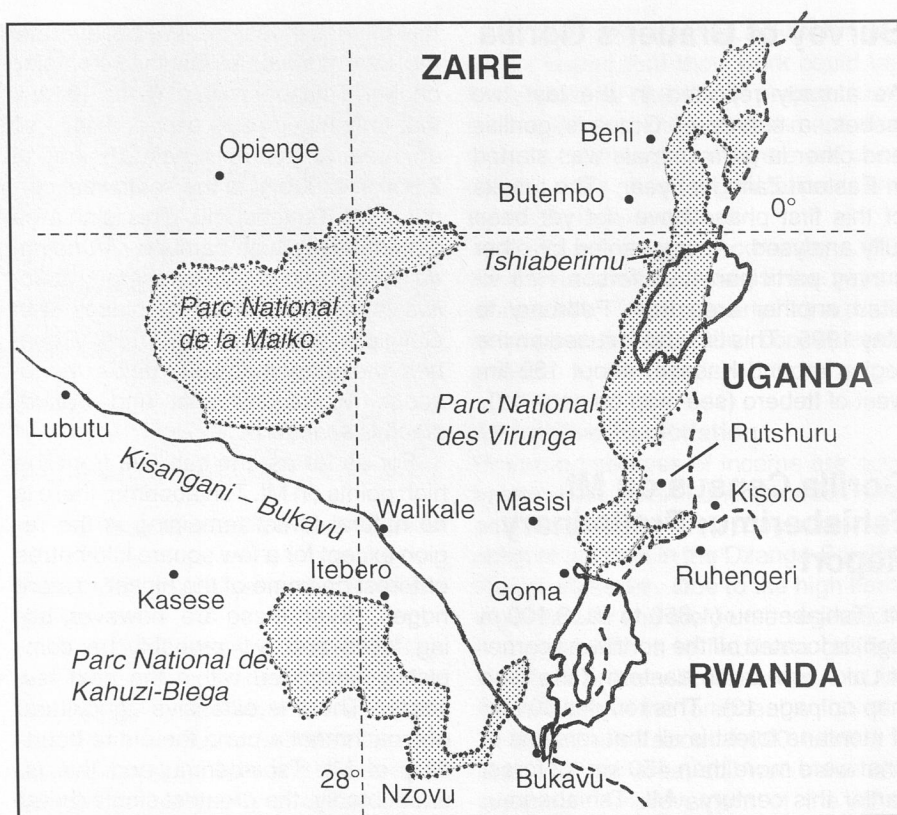
Originally, one part of the present park was a forest reserve. In November 1970, it was gazetted a national park in order to protect the eastern lowland or Grauer's gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*) which was seriously threatened even at that time. In 1975, the park's size was increased from 600 to 6,000 km² to protect the transitional vegetation formation between montane and lowland rain forest.

The park was given the name of two extinct volcanoes in the original section: the Kahuzi (3,308 m) and the Biega (2,790 m). The original park section contains various types of vegetation: bamboo forest, primary and secondary montane forest and cyperus swamps. The larger new part is covered by lowland rain forest. The whole park has an exceptionally high diversity of plant and animal species characteristic of each type of vegetation.

In the old part, four groups of gorillas have been habituated to people; they are the most important tourist attraction. Ecotourism is the principal source of income for the park. Due to its ecological importance, the Kahuzi-Biega National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

Conflicts with the Surrounding Population

Before we introduce the work of the IZCN/GTZ project, it is necessary to give a brief description of the conflicts between the park and the local population in its surroundings. The people consider the national park laws that prohibit any human activity in these



areas to be too severe. Conflicts arise between the habitual rights of the people to use certain areas and the right of the state to protect these areas.

The people around the old part of the park live in poor conditions and at high density (ca. 300 people per km²). Although the local population knows more or less where the park borders are, they exert severe pressure on the park mainly through their need for new fields, pastures and forest products (firewood, timber for building, game, mushrooms, medicinal plants).

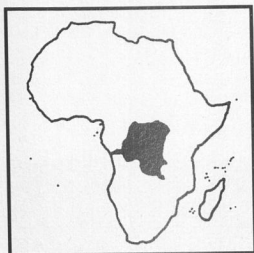
A corridor of 7.5 km breadth connecting the mountain forest with the lowland rain forest partly belongs to the Nindja community. 30% to 35% of this community are inside the park. Before the park was extended, the government did not negotiate with the local population about their habitual rights. Today, about 15,000 people are living within the national park, in Nindja 2,300

persons. It is hoped that compensation measures will be an incentive for them to leave the park voluntarily.

The new part of the park contained several villages before it was added. In this zone the population density is less than 10 people per km² except for some concentrations in mining areas. The people still living in the park continue to exploit the park in their traditional way by farming, keeping livestock, hunting, and mining for precious metals. The inhabitants of villages in close proximity to the park farm within its borders. As this area is so remote, the local population did not know that they were living close to a national park for a long time, and they were told about its extension only a few years ago by the authorities.

The Project and its Activities

In view of the complexity of the problems mentioned above, IZCN, the



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Zairean nature conservation authority, looked for a foreign partner to assist with the biodiversity conservation of the national park. To this end, IZCN together with GTZ (German Society for Technical Cooperation) initiated an integrated conservation project in 1985. Its goal is the protection of the park and, at the same time, the sustainable development of its surroundings. In February 1995, the achievements of the project were assessed and it was subsequently decided to continue it from October 1995 for another 3 years.

In the course of their work, project staff has been confronted several times by social and political problems in the area. They interfered with the work considerably in one way or another. For instance, in October 1991, the GTZ funds were frozen because of the political crisis in Kinshasa. From then until the beginning of 1995, when the ban was lifted, the project worked with considerably reduced resources. When hundreds of thousands of refugees arrived in Bukavu from Rwanda in July 1994, activities had to be reduced even further as all project staff were occupied with emergency help for the refugees in the second half of 1994.

In the first phase of the project, the most important objectives were the im-

provement of park protection, the expansion of the infrastructure for tourists and research. Since 1988, the project has increased its efforts to find long-term solutions for the integration of conservation with the interests of the surrounding population. This is to be achieved mainly by decreasing human pressure on the natural resources.

The following measures were taken towards this goal:

- Improvement of park boundary demarcation, increase of patrols in the park and more efficient controls on the road passing through the park
- Initiation of small projects that increase confidence and support the development of the park's surroundings in order to decrease the population's dependency on the park's resources (building of water pipes, medical support, road restoration)
- Increasing the proceeds from tourism by maintaining facilities and producing advertising material
- Education of the population regarding the necessity of nature conservation in the national park and on economic systems that decrease the dependency on the park's resources.
- Improvement of the project administration through more effective planning, employment and training of local staff

and the acquisition of equipment that will facilitate the work of the technical staff.

The activities are concentrated in various areas, depending on the pressure exerted by the local population. Up to now, attention has focused in the old part of the park on the critical zones Kalonge, Nindja and Tshibati as well as the station Tshivanga. In addition, work has now also started in the surroundings of Itebero. Nzovu will be included in autumn 1995.

Conclusions and Prospects

Since 1985, the IZCN/GTZ project has consistently pursued its goals, even if progress was slowed down at times due to the circumstances. Currently, the continuation of the activities will depend very much on the improvement of the political and economic situation in Zaire and on the situation of the Rwandan refugees in the area.

We wish to take this opportunity to ask the international community to assist Zaire as far as possible to prevent the trade in animal species included in Appendix I of CITES. As a consequence of the alarming economic situation, this trade has become an important source of income. Currently, every other month a chimpanzee or a gorilla baby is confiscated from dealers by government authorities. If this continues, the establishment of an orphanage in Zaire could be considered.

Mbake Sivha

Sensitization

Mbake Sivha and the Belgian Geneviève Trépant together with their team were essentially responsible for this task. Among their activities in 1994, the following should be mentioned:

- Designing a poster for the park
- Setting up signs within the park
- Editing the magazine *Kacheche*
- Organizing the celebrations for the reforestation day



Park entrance at Tshivanga in 1993

Photo: Johannes Refisch



ZAIRE

- Developing a teach-path for pupils
- Organizing a seminar for teachers
- Elaborating and conducting radio programs
- Organizing a harvest of agroforestry seeds and preparing tree-nurseries at eleven schools.

In the meantime, the sensitization activities, which were originally limited to the area around the old part of the park, were extended to the new part near Itebero and will soon include Nzovu.

This summer a study is planned that will determine how the work with the

pygmies can be improved. Once this has been established, a new and highly qualified team will be selected for this task.

Mbake Sivha's Past and Future Activities

The biologist Mbake Sivha has so far carried out all the research and she led the sensitization team in Kahuzi-Biega National Park. Since 1993 she has been collecting data for a research project which she analyzed in a report

completed in December 1994. The following is a summary of this report.

Maintenance of the roads in the park and its surroundings enhances the ability to control the park, provides the infrastructure for tourism and contributes to the development of the park's surroundings. However, the roads also contribute to the park's destruction.

Several studies have dealt with the impact of the Kisangani-Bukavu road which transverses a part of the park. These studies provided suggestions for reducing the destruction of the park's flora and fauna. This is also one



The road passing through the national park in 1986

Photo: Rolf Brunner

In 1993, the Zairean biologist Mbake Sivha began a study aimed at assessing the long-term impact of traffic on the distribution of great apes in the area. Several years of continuous research will still be necessary before she has enough data to analyze the apes' utilization of the different forest types, ranging patterns and demography. Ultimately, she hopes to develop concrete suggestions for improvements in the protection of both chimpanzees and gorillas in the old part of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. In this area, the number of gorillas was estimated at 258 to 284 individuals and the number of chimpanzees at 60 in 1990.

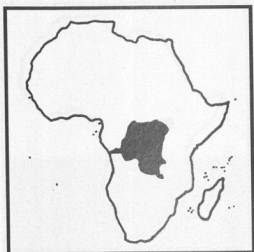
Mbake Sivha works for the IZCN and the GTZ. BRD supports her research by financing her equipment and paying the employees on location. Our contribution will amount to a maximum of 12,000 DM per year for the duration of 3 years from July 1995 on.

We need your support for this project. With your contribution you can help to protect the great apes of eastern Zaire!

Call for Support of our Project to Protect Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees

In several issues of our journal, we have informed about the road between Bukavu and Kisangani in eastern Zaire that was partly constructed by a German company. 18.4 km of this road pass through the old part of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. For many years, conservationists have demanded a diversion of the road, as they are certain that it poses a threat to the park. Various experts have tried to assess the feasibility of such a diversion, but were unable to reach unanimous conclusions. This showed that long-term studies are necessary to collect sufficient data for a reliable expertise.





ZAIRE

of the aims of the present study, which investigates the long-term impact of traffic in the park.

Large Mammals Near the Kisangani-Bukavu Road

The road transverses 18.4 km of the old park section. Along this stretch the following plant communities can be seen: 10.6 km of secondary forest (*Ha-genia* and *Myrianthus*), 2.8 km of bamboo forest, 2.7 km of swamp, 2.3 km of mixed forest (secondary and bamboo). Elephant and gorilla tracks as well as sightings of these animals were recorded on six transects (1 km long, with 500 m on each side of the road). Three transects were in the secondary forest, one in the mixed forest and two in the bamboo forest. From October to December 1993, the transects were patrolled by a guide and a tracker once a week, and from the end of January 1994 on a biweekly basis.

From November through May, the gorillas spent most time in the secondary forest. There they moved less than in the bamboo forest. From May to the end of August, the dry season, they primarily stayed in the secondary forest and swamp. From September to the first half of December, they preferred the bamboo forest. Gorillas frequently transverse the road, but not as often as elephants do.

Continuation of Research

In the future, Mbake Sivha will completely concentrate on her research work and continue to investigate the impact of traffic on gorilla and chimpanzee reproduction, mortality and ranging. She is employed by the IZCN and receives some additional financial support from the GTZ. Her two co-workers are also supported by the GTZ.

In agreement with Georg Dörken, director of the GTZ project, the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* will support Mbake Sivha's research. We will fund the equipment as well as the sala-

ries of local scientific assistants. We intend to support the work for 3 years.

Report from Chantal Shalukoma

Sensitizing the pygmies for the importance of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park has proven to be a difficult and tedious endeavor. We are therefore still in the experimental phase of the project, continuously increasing our knowledge. Our efforts to alleviate the hardships of the pygmies are primarily focused on two aspects: opportunities for earning money (maintenance of roads and other projects in the park) and support in agriculture. For road maintenance, a total of 62 pygmies were employed in 1994 for more or less extended periods of time. The seeds for agriculture (beans, corn and potatoes) were provided by the project. However, due to various reasons, the yield was fairly meager.

Another task has been sensitizing womens' organizations in the surroundings of the park. In 1994, the organization *Amajambere* in Tshivan-

ga was visited. For 2 years, the wives of the park employees have been meeting there to discuss subjects like opportunities for earning money (retail business etc.), knitting, embroidery, establishing a nursery school and hygiene. In the beginning of 1995, the women were also informed about the methods of birth control.

644 persons were guided through the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in 1994, of which 488 were Zaireans and 116 Germans. An analysis of questionnaires shows that they were generally content with their visit.

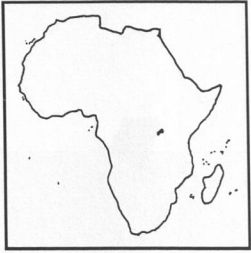
The Situation in Eastern Zaire

A camp was set up near Bukavu for the refugees from Rwanda in 1994. The Kahuzi-Biega National Park has largely been spared deforestation so far, and presumably no gorillas were harmed in the old part of the park. One of the reasons for this is the fact that all rangers were assigned to the eastern boundary of the park, where they firmly prevented people from entering. When



Pygmies repairing a dirt road

Photo: Chantal Shalukoma



RWANDA

50,000 Rwandan refugees were to be transferred to a camp close to the corridor, this was finally averted by the IZCN/GTZ-project, the UNESCO and the GTZ headquarters. In 1995, an additional 30 rangers are to be employed, thereby ensuring that 130 rangers will protect the Kahuzi-Biega Park.

The situation is less promising in the southern part of the Virunga National Park, which includes the Zairean part of the Virunga Volcanoes. Much of this region has been deforested, including part of the montane forest of the volcanoes. Soldiers of the former Rwandan army, who rule by force over the refugee camps in Zaire, send people into the forest to cut wood which they sell. This forced the gorillas to retreat. The UNHCR has not yet succeeded in preventing refugees from entering the park and cutting wood. Several organizations are trying to protect the area, but unless the refugee problem can be solved, these efforts will be in vain.

Very few refugees have returned to Rwanda. In spring 1995, each day 800 to 1,000 of the 750,000 refugees left the camps near Goma. Far fewer are leaving other camps, as they are being forced to remain by the Rwandan militia. In Bukavu a bus with refugees designated to return to Rwanda was even set on fire. There are no indications that the situation will improve.

Hope for the Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda

70% of the present Rwandan population are refugees, mostly Tutsi, who fled the country 35 years ago and have now returned. They traditionally own large herds of livestock which they brought with them upon returning to Rwanda. Uganda registered 23,000 emigrants, accompanied by approximately 1 million cattle. Several hundreds of thousands of cattle are now threatening the Akagera National Park



Montane forest on the Virunga Volcanoes, Zaire, in 1989

Photo: Angela Meder

in northeastern Rwanda and compete with wild animals for grass.

The situation is more promising in the Volcano National Park, home of the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. By the end of 1994, about 25 rangers and other park employees returned to the park from Zaire and resumed regular patrols. José Kalpers from IGCP (*International Gorilla Conservation Programme*) was able to obtain funding to provide the rangers with salaries, rebuild the national park's headquarters in Kinigi and organize equipment and a 4x4 vehicle for protecting the park. Nevertheless, it is still very dangerous to work in the park. A few months ago, poachers fired at unarmed rangers who were on an anti-poaching patrol.

The gorillas survived last year's unrest astonishingly well. Dieter Steklis from the DFGF (*Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund*) visited Karisoke in January and February 1995, at which time he and his colleagues were pleased to note

that the three research groups Beetsme, Pablo and Shinda were doing well.

The expatriate staff of the Karisoke Research Center still live in Kigali, but the center, which was ransacked and destroyed during the war, shall be restored within the next few months. In addition, the DFGF would like to increase its support for ORTPN, the Rwandan National Park Authority, so that they can enhance their anti-poaching program and education efforts, and a Virunga-wide census of the mountain gorillas is planned. The last census was conducted in 1989.

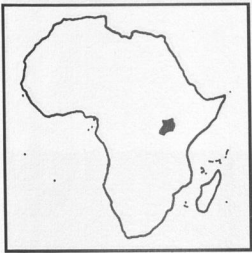
John Cooper, head of the Volcano Veterinary Center in Kinigi, carried out post-mortems on two gorillas who died in March and April 1994. In both cases, the cause of death was pneumonia. Moreover, John Cooper treated a juvenile gorilla in Zaire who had a wire snare around his foot. The gorilla was immobilized and the snare removed.

Death by a Land Mine?

In December a note was published by José Kalpers, coordinator of the IGCP, reporting that a gorilla named Mkono had been killed by a land mine last November. Mkono is a lone silverback with a hand missing. However, the Rwandan Government emphasized that it has no indication of his death.

For some time now, the Rwandan army has removed thousands of mines from the national park, primarily from areas frequented by tourists. Nonetheless, due to the numerous poachers equipped with machine guns who also shoot at people and because of raids through the park staged by Zaire-based Hutu militias, it is still not permitted to enter the park unless accompanied by armed soldiers.

The above was compiled from a report in the Digit News, Gorilla Conservation News and a communication from the Morris Animal Foundation.



UGANDA

News from Uganda

Since the publication of the last English *Gorilla Journal* several things happened more or less simultaneously: Philip Johnston, director of CARE USA delivered an ultimatum. He imposed upon us a deadline for the end of March: until then the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* was to take back all allegations against the CARE employees and issue an apology to CARE in which all accusations are retracted that were made implicating CARE and its employees in the death of Klaus-Jürgen Sucker. If we did not meet these requests by the set deadline, Johnston announced to forward this matter to CARE's German counsel for immediate action. In his opinion, the BRD has an obligation to help repair the damage that it has caused to CARE.

We took this threat very seriously and asked Johnston to clarify his allegations in order to meet his demands. We also suggested an enquiry by an independent agency or council in order to re-evaluate the outcome of BRD's investigation. During this re-evaluation everybody involved from CARE, USAID and UNP (*Uganda National Parks*) as well as people from IGCP (*International Gorilla Conservation Programme*), BRD and others should be questioned. We backed this proposal by stating that if CARE's staff really has nothing to hide and there has been no wrongdoing on their side, then it should be no problem for him to accept this re-evaluation.

Just 10 days before Johnston's threat, the BRD had received a letter from Eric Edroma, director of UNP, dated 6 March 1995. Edroma also was quite upset about the article in the *Gorilla Journal*. He wrote:

... the article in the journal has caused concern which is breeding regrettable consequences to unnecessarily many parties concerned. The article was uncalled for, un-

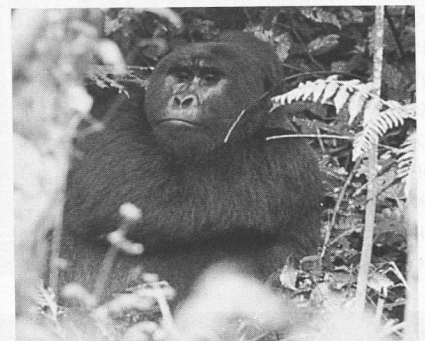
Four Gorillas Killed in Bwindi

In mid-March 1995, poachers killed four gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, near Ruhizha, with spears. The gorillas killed were an adult female, a blackback male and two juveniles. The first carcass was found on 19 March, the others later. Some of them were partially mauled by dogs that probably had accompanied the poachers.

The gorillas belonged to a group of 18 animals, called the Kyaguli group, that had been under habituation for some time for scientific research. Therefore, every group member was individually known. As two gorilla babies were missing after the incident, it is assumed that the poachers wanted to capture the babies for smuggling them. To do that, they had to kill the older animals who defended their young.

Reports on the discovery of the carnage are contradictory. On the one hand, the animals were reported to have died on 15 or 16 March. According to other sources, field assistants of the ITFC (Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation) sighted poachers with spears and dogs on 18 March and passed on this information, but the rangers did not show any concern because poachers were regularly in the area. (Already in November 1994, Jaap Schoorl, the technical advisor of CARE in Bwindi and the responsible person for anti-poaching measures, had shown us a map of the national park with multiple-use zones and areas of increased poaching; they overlapped nearly completely.)

Three suspects were arrested on 24 March; five others were still at large. President Yoweri Museveni ordered that top criminal investigators should be sent to Kabale. The arrested persons are probably not the ones who had planned the crime. Employees of the national park may have been involved in leading the poachers to the gorilla group, which was not easy to locate.



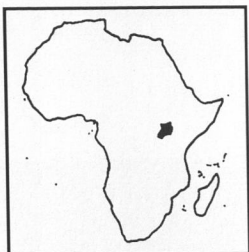
From articles by Ndyakira Amooti in New Vision

Rwandisa, silverback male of the M-group Photo: Jane Dewar

professional and unethical. ... We must now take a deep breath and review the programme for gorilla conservation in Mgahinga. I am afraid it will take a while before a firm decision is taken. In the meantime the consent I signed ... to carry out a short study on multiple use in Mgahinga is regrettably suspended immediately. ... Once the Board of Trustees meets to take a decision

on the unfortunate and uncalled for situation, I will get to you and your other partners like Deutscher Tier-schutzbund.

Thereby Eric Edroma took back the recommendations of the "November negotiations" (*Gorilla Journal* 2/1994, page 9), including the important study on the impact of multiple-use projects on the mountain gorillas and their habitat. This decision is a major setback



UGANDA

for the protection of the Ugandan gorillas. Despite several attempts by us and the *Deutscher Tierschutzbund* to resume gorilla conservation work in Mgahinga, Edroma has not given an answer so far. Up to now, he has still not approved of any German NGO resuming the support for Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. The reason is obviously the still unresolved conflict between CARE and the BRD. Nevertheless, it is very strange that Edroma is delaying financial and personnel involvement of NGOs like the *Deutscher Tierschutzbund* that are not involved in the conflict with CARE.

In addition, the land-buying project for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was apparently discontinued by Liz Macfie (IGCP). Karl-Heinz Kohnen had negotiated this project with her in November last year, a memorandum of understanding was drafted and we asked for some amendments. After that, we never heard from Liz Macfie again. Instead, we were informed that she refuses to carry on with this project because of the article in the *Gorilla Journal*. In May, we again asked her for an approval of this project but received the reply that she was away for 2 months. In addition, we had to cancel a delivery of ranger field equipment for



Bamboo cutting in Zone 1

Photo: Ulrich Karlowski

Bwindi because of CARE's threat to sue us. This decision had to be made as we wanted to put away these funds for the possible legal costs that CARE might cause us.

At the beginning of May 1995, we asked CARE to renegotiate everything in order to find ways to develop a mutual partnership in gorilla conservation work in Uganda. Finally, nearly

at the end of June, there was an answer. It was again Philip Johnston who this time saluted BRD's interest in the well-being of Ugandan gorillas and in wildlife throughout the world, and who stated "... we feel it necessary to point out that the choice of promoting a multiple use strategy in and around the parks has been made by the Ugandan government". And he explained that CARE would be willing to join a meeting called by UNP at which the BRD is present to discuss UNP policy on multiple use and its implementation in Bwindi and other national parks. This statement must be regarded as a positive sign.

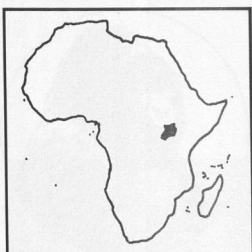
We have now sent a petition to the President of Uganda, Yoweri K. Museveni, asking him for his help in the re-establishment of our support for Mgahinga and Bwindi National Park. In addition, we asked Eric Edroma to call a meeting where everybody involved would be present in order to find ways for a common strategy in gorilla conservation.



Rangers of Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Photo: Ulrich Karlowski

Ulrich Karlowski



UGANDA

Bird Check-list of Bwindi

Jan Kalina and Thomas Butynski produced a check-list of the bird fauna of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It will be published by the *East Africa Natural History Society* as a part of its new series of check-lists for East African animals and plants. Both have been working for nature conservation in Bwindi from 1986 to 1992, and one of their tasks were the supervision of Ugandan scientists in Bwindi. During that period they also studied the bird fauna of that region.

Most of the check-lists shall be sold to tourists in Uganda, and the proceeds will be used to fund current conservation measures for the mountain gorilla habitats in Uganda. The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* will fund the production costs, and our logo will be printed on the list. For the title page, Jonathan Kingdon will provide the drawing of a bird.

Similar check-lists will also be prepared for the bird fauna of the Virunga Volcanoes (Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and the two adjoining parks in Rwanda and Zaire) and of the Kibale Forest in Uganda.

Ursula Karlowski

Mgahinga Project Vehicle Used for Chimpanzee Project in Uganda

In the former Entebbe Zoo – which is now called Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) – 28 chimpanzees are kept under disastrous conditions. Most of them had been confiscated by the authorities from illegal dealers. So many chimpanzees can not be kept adequately in Entebbe for very long, as funds are lacking for the necessary renovations. A plan to release them on an island in Lake Victoria could not be realized either because of financial and logistic problems.

Support for the Rangers in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

After the death of Klaus-Jürgen Sucker in June last year, the financial support for the rangers in Mgahinga Park was stopped. We reported this in *Gorilla Journal* 2/1994. In that issue, we called for donations to enable the rangers to continue their conservation activities in the way Klaus-Jürgen Sucker had initiated. With these funds, the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* was able to pay to the rangers their usual top-ups for the second half of 1994 before Christmas, as we had promised. These pre-Christmas payments caused great joy, because nearly all the rangers had continued with their daily work just hoping to receive their payment.

We express our gratitude to everybody who supported our plan, especially to the *Förderkreis für Ugandas Tierwelt* (FUT). Never before have we received a similar amount of donations in such a short period of time!

Ursula Karlowski

Statistic/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	1994
Gorilla Groups recorded	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Gorillas recorded	15	10	6	6	10	10	10	10	11	11			
Golden Monkeys seen	37	52	37	36	28	353	139	10	504	324			
Bushbucks seen	26	37	61	14	20	61	65	65	36	52			
Deers seen	35	48	22	36	25	22	22	22	19	37			
Deers seen	36	22	26	30	20	14	52	11	25	30			
Golden Cals seen	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Elephant Group	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
SERVAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Antelope Hyena	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	1			
Procyonids seen	1	4	16	10	7	-	1	6	4	3			
Genets seen	-	1	2	-	1	-	5	2	2	1			
Jackals seen	15	3	4	13	12	8	6	7	3	14			
Number of patrols	101	89	106	39	27	91	97	67	90	93			
Animals confiscated	112 (10)	36	78	15 (10)	1	6	11	-	2	6			
domestic animals	1	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Peacocks arrested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Parrots collected from	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Parrots at Mgahinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
More seen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			

Blackboard in the National Park Office in Kisoro with the records of the Mgahinga rangers (November 1994)

Photo: Ulrich Karlowski

Finally, Jane Goodall and Wilhelm Möller, the former director of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, developed an idea to find another place to live for at least some of the animals. They decided that eight of them could be housed on the island Isanga in Lake Edward. The area of this island is about 5 ha. It is partly covered by forest and has some caves. On the whole the island is ideal for a chimpanzee group of that size. As soon as the animals are accustomed to their new home, they are

to be visited on a daily basis by tourists who will be able to observe them from platforms especially designed and constructed for that purpose.

As Wilhelm Möller urgently needed a 4x4 vehicle for transportation of equipment and of the chimpanzees, the BRD and the *Deutscher Tierschutzbund* made the Mitsubishi Pajero of the Mgahinga National Park Project available to him because of the temporary suspension of the project.

Ulrich Karlowski



READING

A New Journal: *African Primates*

The first issue of *African Primates* will be published these days. It is the journal of the Africa Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group and deals with the ecology, behaviour, distribution and conservation status of the 65 extant primate species on the African continent. The journal will be published bi-annually and distributed free-

of-charge to all interested persons. *African Primates* will facilitate the rapid exchange of information and ideas among primatologists and conservationists working with primates in Africa. It is hoped that this newsletter will enhance the conservation of the animals.

Contributions for the forthcoming issues – research findings, field survey results, advances in field and laboratory techniques, field action alerts, book reviews, events, job announcements,

funding possibilities and recent publications – should be sent to the Editor at the address below. They should be written in English or French.

We will receive 50 copies of the newsletter. Interested persons can order a copy for \$ 5 (to cover the costs of postage) from us.

African Primates
Tom Butynski
Zoo Atlanta
P.O. Box 24434
Nairobi, Kenya

The Beauty of Nature

It is good to live in this world of technology
but one must never forget the beauty of nature.
The breeze touches my face
like the caressing hands of lovers.
The grass with the deep green colour
is fit for the sharp teeth of a cow.

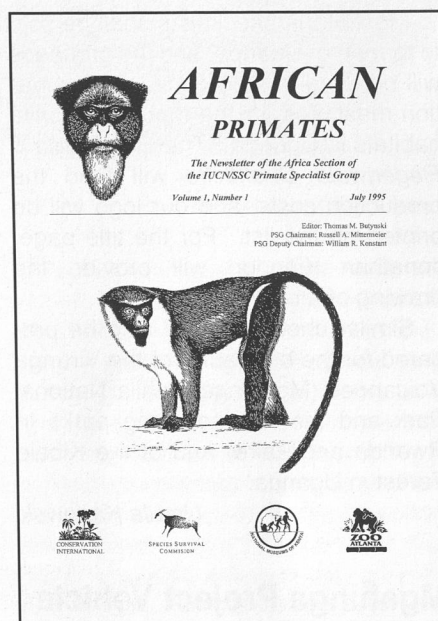
Oh how beautiful are the mountains
that have the patience of the devil.
When I was a young boy,
they still waited for me and now I am a man.

We share together the warmth of sun,
birds of the blue sky come,
they twitter above my head
that I may understand the better part of myself.

Ants and all creatures of the still earth,
your company has become part of myself.
Divers that flow downstream into the blue ocean
are a blessing to farmers and pleasure to all.

The beauty of nature knows no ending
as God himself knows none!

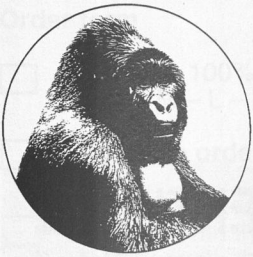
Sam Mashaba
Mkhaya Game Reserve
P.O.Box 234
Mbabane, Swaziland



Katrina Brown, David Pearce (eds.)
The Causes of Tropical Deforestation. London (UCL Press) 1994.
338 pages, many tables.

The World Bank and the Environment 1994: making development sustainable. Washington (World Bank) 1994. 286 pages.

Marcus Colchester
Slave and Enclave: the political ecology of equatorial Africa. Penang, Malaysia (World Rainforest Movement). ISBN 967-99987-6-2.



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

Important Notice for our Readers

Each year many of our journals are sent back to us because the recipients have changed their address. Journals are also probably lost overseas and we never are informed about this. Therefore, we urgently ask you to inform us of your new address if you move. If you do not want to receive the journal any more, we would also be grateful if you could inform us. You find our address and fax number on page 2 of this journal.

Public Relations of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*

In spring 1995, Ulrich Karlowski and Angela Meder tried to promote the publicity of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*. On 8 March, they sold

T-shirts, postcards and books at a slide show by Michael Murza on East Africa that also introduced the Mgahinga Project. In addition, brochures and journals were distributed and visitors' questions answered.

On 8 April, Angela Meder gave a talk at Münster Zoo about the situation of captive gorillas and mountain gorillas in the wild. She also described the activities of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*. At the same time, an information board was hung on the wall of the monkey building of the zoo and will be displayed there probably until September 1995.

We would be very grateful for suggestions of our members and friends that give us ideas of how we could become more widely known. As the members of the board of directors do not have the time to travel to all important events, we would be glad if some other collaborators could present our organization there – especially in

other countries. However, we need your suggestions. One example for such a cooperation is the working group *Gorillas im Rahmen* (see also page 22). Similar projects could be initiated with your support!

Angela Meder

Donations

We would like to thank each person and organization who have supported us so generously during the period from 7 October 1994 to 31 May 1995. Larger contributions were given by Gertrud Bauer, Peter Bensberg, Kerstin Berg, Eleonore Berger, Georges Breny, J. Dönges, Gertrud Ecker, Jürgen Friederich, Michaela Hafner, Helmut Hochbaum, Elisabeth Hoppe, Ulrich Karlowski, E. Kipka, Hartmut Knorr, H. P. Leuer, Angela Meder, Dr. Kurt Niemeyer, H. J. Reich, Jörg Schaaf, Pfarrer Schindelin, Dr. Semmelroch, Bernd Tast, Jolanda Willi, Foto Wolff and Allwetterzoo Münster. Erwin Fidelis Reisch (*Reisch Tours*) once again took charge of the costs of reproduction and typesetting for the journal. Jörg Hess made photos for our exhibition available.

We are grateful to all the above mentioned and all the other donors for their confidence in our work, and we hope that you will continue to support us in the future.

New T-Shirts

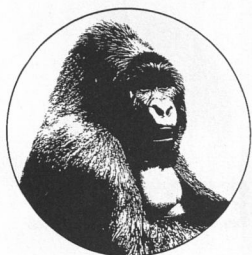
We have only a few of our old T-shirts left, and we want to wait with reprinting them until we can deliver a large quantity to Africa again. As we had originally produced the T-shirts as equipment for the rangers in national parks, they had to be very robust and were rather expensive.

Many members and friends have been asking us to sell less expensive T-shirts. Now we have chosen a new motif for such T-shirts which we are



Jörg Adler and Angela Meder in Münster Zoo

Photo: Ulrich Karlowski



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

presenting here. With this new T-shirt design (colours: black, red and gray), we want to enlarge our supply, and we also want to find out how great the demand for cheaper T-shirts is among our readers. If we are successful, we will design more motifs for the winter issue of our journal, and we will print sweat-shirts additionally.

However, as we must know how many sweat-shirts we should produce, we ask you to let us now know if you are interested (opposite page). We also would be very grateful if you could tell us about your wishes and expectations regarding motifs. If you have any pictures, good ideas or designs that you developed and that may be suitable for our purpose, please send them to us.

Angela Meder

Sind

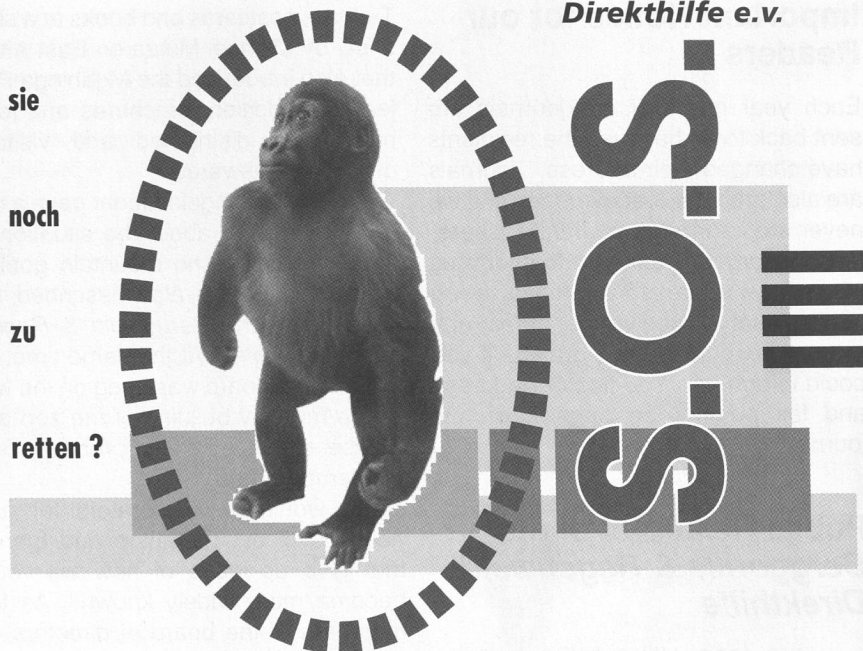
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**Berggorilla & Regenwald
Direkthilfe e.v.**



Art Exhibition for Mountain Gorilla Conservation

The working group *Gorillas im Rahmen* (*Gorillas in Frames*) is organizing an exhibition with works of art that deal in some way with the subject "gorillas".

As early as 1990, some of the members of the organizing committee organized a "Rain Forest Week" in the city of Bergheim near Cologne. The "Rain Forest Week" gave all kinds of information about rain forests as well as works of art from local artists. Selling and auctioning the artwork considerably contributed to the overall success of the exhibition and the proceeds which exceeded DM 10,000 could be given to Klaus-Jürgen Sucker for the Mgahinga Project.

The idea for the *Gorillas in Frames* art exhibition is based on that experience. The contact to Klaus-Jürgen Sucker and his tragic death reinforced our wish to organize an exhibition with gorillas as the sole subject. Of course, each artist is absolutely free on how to deal with the theme; but we hope that contributions will come from as many different fields of art as possible. The proceeds from sale and/or auctioning the artwork will exclusively be used for the gorilla conservation projects of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*.

The exhibition is scheduled to be shown for several weeks in 1996 in the natural history museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn. The exhibition will also contain a special information exhibit which will give an insight into the overall situation of the gorillas in Africa. In addition, a small extra exhibition is planned with commodity articles like mugs, soap or T-shirts with gorilla motives on them.

Artists who are interested in this project or want more detailed information should contact us.

Uschi Burtscheid and Peter Wittig

Please contact:

Peter Wittig
Pfarrer-Keuter-Str. 14
50129 Bergheim
Germany
Tel.: +49-2271-65300

Uschi Burtscheid
Annostr. 17
53773 Hennef
Germany
Tel.: +49-2242-80227
Fax: +49-2242-866811



Order form

- ☐ **T-shirts.** 100% cotton, light gray. With print in black, red and gray (motif on page 22). \$ 25 per piece
Sizes: M – L – XL – XXL. Number and sizes ordered:
- ☐ **Advance order for sweat-shirts.** Motif on page 22. Sizes: M – L – XL – XXL. Number and sizes:
- ☐ **Sticker postcards.** With BRD logo in green, yellow and black. \$ 5 per piece
☐ Number with the print *Mgahinga Gorilla National Park*
☐ Number with the print *Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation*
☐ Number sets of sticker postcards (2 *Mgahinga* + 2 ITFC + 10 with incorrect colour). Special offer, \$ 12.
- ☐ **Infoe study.** Deforestation and the Forest Peoples of Central Africa. \$ 7.
- ☐ **First issue of *African Primates*.** Free-of-charge (only \$ 5 for postage).

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Suggestions, ideas and criticism:

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Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

Birthdate — — — — — male ☐ female ☐

Date and signature _____

Yearly subscription (please mark)

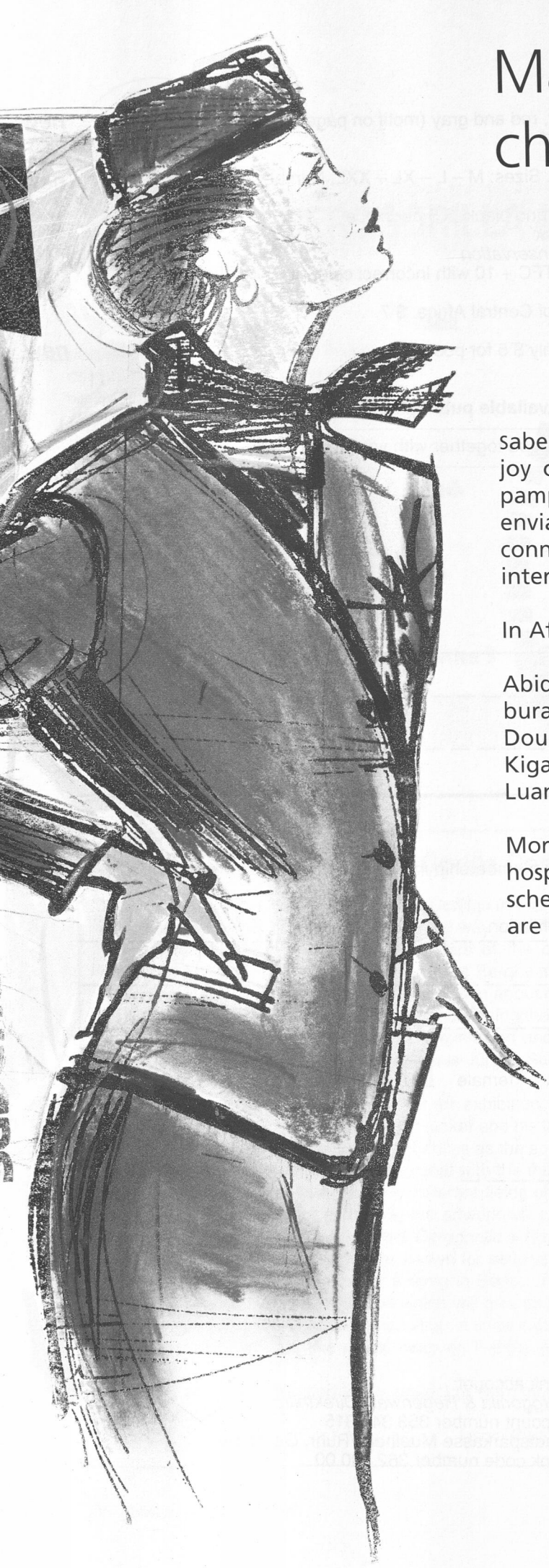
- ☐ \$ 25 (Student)
☐ \$ 60 (General member)
☐ \$ 100 (Family)
☐ \$ 150 (Donor)

Please send to:

Rolf Brunner
Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe
Lerchenstr. 5
D-45473 Muelheim/Ruhr, Germany

Bank account:

Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe
Account number 353 344 315
Stadtsparkasse Muelheim/Ruhr, Germany
Bank code number 362 500 00



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