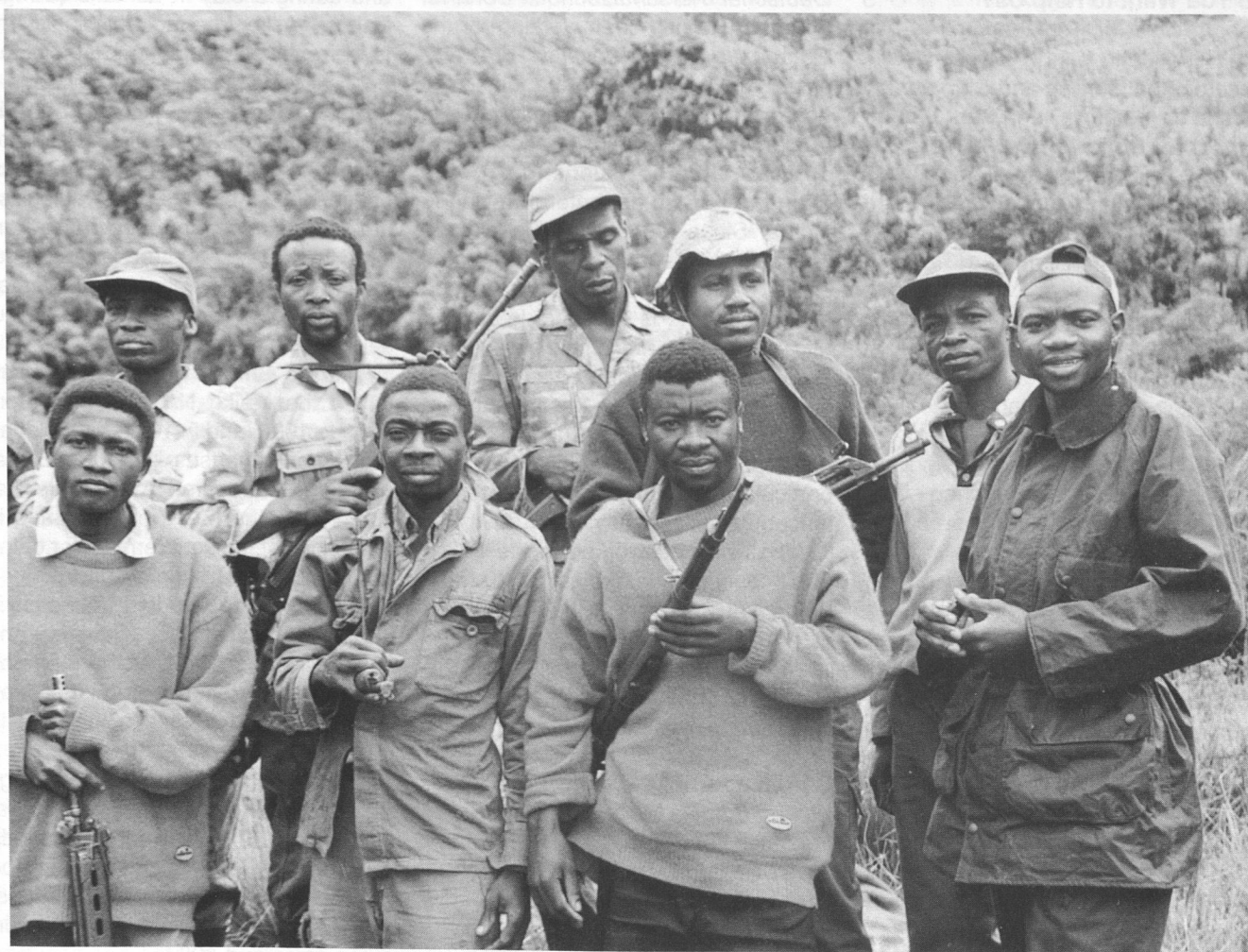




Gorilla Journal

Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe

No. 14, June 1997



**News from the
Southern Sector
of the Virunga
National Park**

**Reports from Mt.
Tshiaberimu**

**The Situation in
the Kahuzi-Biega
National Park**

**Karisoke
Research Centre**



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

CONTENTS

Congo / Zaïre	3
Conservation During the Crisis	3
News from the Southern Sector of the Virunga National Park	4
Four Virunga Gorillas Dead	4
Tshiaberimu: Not Cancelled, but Postponed	5
Do You Want to Help Us?	5
Reports from Mt. Tshiaberimu	5
The Situation in Kahuzi-Biega	7
Research on Gorillas and Chimpanzees in the Kahuzi-Biega Park	8
Appeal for Donations:	8
Support for a New Start	10
Death of a Patriarch	11
Rwanda	11
Karisoke Research Centre	12
Uganda	12
Close Encounter with Gorillas at Bwindi	13
Workshop in Uganda	14
Species Conservation	14
Bushmeat Trade: Any Progress?	15
CITES Conference in Zimbabwe	17
Who's Who ?	19
Reading	20
From the Internet	20
<i>GorillaLine</i>	20
Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe	21
Our Organization	21
Exhibition in Göttingen	21
Mountain Gorilla Festival	22
Donations	22
Changes in the Board of Directors	22

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Cover: Vital Katembo (right) with

rangers at Mt. Tshiaberimu

Photo: Vital Katembo

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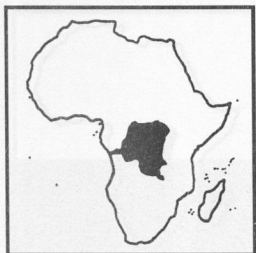
Priv. Doc. Dr. Michael Schmitt studied the social behaviour of squirrel monkeys and then specialized on criocerine leaf beetles. He was assistant at the University of Freiburg from 1983 to 1989 and a free-lance author until 1992; since then, he has worked as a curator of Coleoptera at the Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn.

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo surveyed the Maiko National Park from 1989 to 1992, and in 1994, he took part in the gorilla census in Kahuzi-Biega. In 1995, he became Attaché de Recherche for the IZCN in Goma and in 1997 chief of the southern sector of the Virunga National Park.

Nicola Uhde studied gibbons in Khao Yai National Park (Thailand) and bonobos in Lomako. At the moment, she is preparing her doctoral thesis on the social relationships of gibbons in Khao Yai.

Hope Walker is an anthropology student and the co-founder of *Gorilla-Line* (page 20). Her interests include conservation education, great ape studies and primate social groups. She has been active in primate conservation since mid-1984.

Dr. Liz Williamson studied gorillas in Gabon from 1984 until 1990, when she became director of the Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project. She was involved in surveys of gorillas in Zaire and Cameroon in 1994 and 1995. Currently, she is the director of the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda.



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Nature Conservation During the Crisis

In September 1996, war broke out between the ADFL and the FAZ in the southern region of eastern Zaire. In the second half of October, North Kivu was attacked from the Mikenso sector of the Virunga National Park and Goma was captured on 1 November 1996.

The political and military crisis swept over the whole eastern part of the country, an area particularly important for nature conservation. Six national parks (Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega, Kundelungu, Maiko, Upemba and Virunga) as well as the Itombwe and Ituri Forests are situated in this area. They are especially rich in animal and plant species and scientifically very interesting, especially concerning biogeography and evolution. All these areas, which have been the pride and joy of the country and the IZCN (now ICCN) for a long time, were abandoned by their administrators to their sad fate during the war. The war had the following effects:

- Thousands of refugees returned spontaneously to their home country Rwanda.
- The activities of various organizations and the support for nature conservation were completely halted.
- The national parks were isolated from the headquarters in Kinshasa.
- Massive streams of refugees from the conflict areas spread over the region.

A few days after the capture of Goma, the staff of the regional ICCN office returned. In spite of the difficult and insecure time, a confusing socio-economic crisis and blocked local communication, project staff expressed their readiness to resume conservation activities.

A small core of conservationists gathered around the regional director of the ICCN. Regular contact between the park, the IGCP and the DFGF was

established. We conducted a survey of the damage in the Virunga Park caused by the war. These investigations helped to inform the new political rulers of the dangers threatening the park. The international community was also alerted.

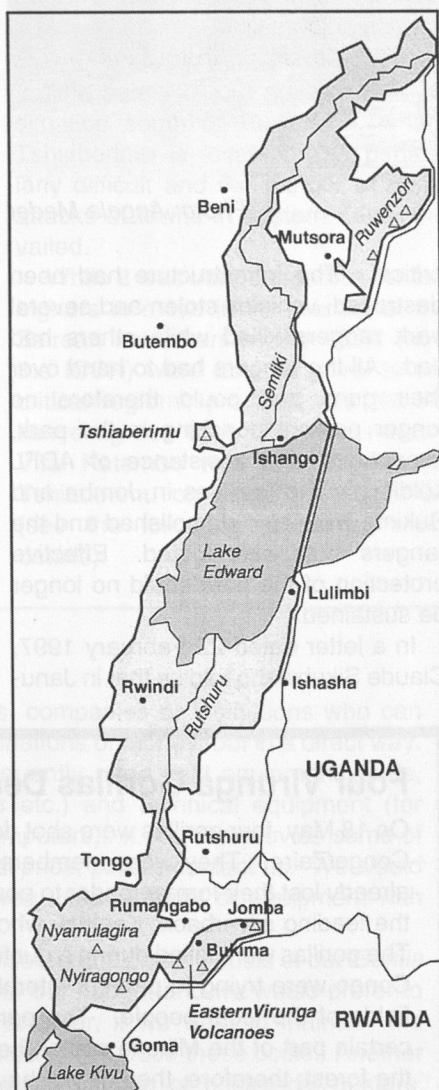
Several indisciplined armed groups had formed before war broke out in North Kivu, the notorious Mai-Mai among them. They seized control in several sectors of the Virunga National Park, which they terrorized and where

they were heavily engaged in poaching activities. The park's animals (hippos, buffaloes and antelopes) were shot in large numbers and their meat was sold in all the markets between Goma and Beni. These people made our work considerably more difficult; often we could not even negotiate with them on a passage for the car.

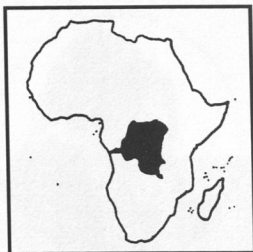
Only a few days after the alliance had taken Goma, the new political and military authorities expressed their willingness to save the Virunga National Park. Our survey showed the responsible persons of the ADFL the critical situation of the park. We were able to extend this awareness to the local population through radio programmes (Goma, Butembo and Beni) and in public places. In this context, some measures were initiated and decisions taken, among others the permission to resume the operation of the park and initiate its rehabilitation, as well as the disarmament of armed groups. In the beginning of January 1997, a preliminary park administration was reinstated according to the capabilities of the available people.

The camps were cleaned up after the refugees had left them. Rubbish (plastic, paper packaging material, metal) was burned or buried so that plants could start to grow over those areas.

The new authorities consider conservation to be especially important and suggested a reformation of the structure and activities of the IZCN which they renamed ICCN. The retraining of the rangers has already started in the Rumangabo education center and includes ethical, moral, professional and military aspects according to the guidelines for national parks. Hope and life in the region have been aroused again, traffic is getting back to normal and the insecurity has decreased in many areas. Most gorillas are still alive and soon tourism will be resumed with the habituated groups in Jomba.



Parc National des Virunga



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In the Virunga National Park, 1988

Photo: Angela Meder

Among the most painful losses of this war, aside from the depletion of the park's infrastructure, are the disappearance and death of several park rangers. 21 families are affected in the central sector of the Virunga National Park (Rwinda-Rutshuru), 16 in Rumanigabo, one in Tshiaberimu and two in Lulimbi. In memory of these brave men and to encourage those who want to continue nature conservation work in the 'liberated Congo', we intend to give special support to their families during the park's rehabilitation.

*Vital Katembo Mushengezi and
Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo*

News from the Southern Sector of the Virunga National Park

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo has been informing us about the situation in this area which includes the Congolese/Zairean part of the Virunga Volcanoes. On 23 December 1996, he wrote that during a survey in late November, they had found that the situation was very

critical. The infrastructure had been destroyed, vehicles stolen and several park rangers killed while others had fled. All the rangers had to hand over their guns and could therefore no longer prevent poaching in the park, except with the assistance of ADFL soldiers. The facilities in Jomba and Bukima were also demolished and the rangers' huts were looted. Effective protection of the park could no longer be sustained.

In a letter dated 22 February 1997, Claude Sikubwabo told us that in Janu-

ary 1997 he had been promoted to chief of the southern sector of the park. At some time, he had to flee to Masisi where he hid for 3 weeks. During this time, all his belongings were stolen and part of his house ransacked.

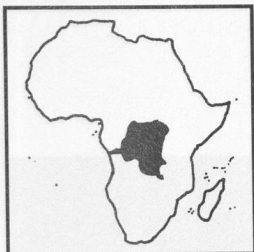
The park, especially the southern part, has suffered immensely. The gorillas could not be visited regularly. Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo and his colleagues have tried to develop strategies to convince the local population to support the ICCN in their efforts to protect the park. On 15 May, he told us that he had been staying in Rumanigabo since March in order to more efficiently supervise the work in the park – gorilla monitoring and patrols.

New Projects

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo asked the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* to provide financial support for the restoration of the Mikeno sector. Several vehicles were stolen, and out of these, only a small Suzuki has been returned, but in very poor condition. It would cost about US\$ 1000 to replace the missing parts. In addition, Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo would like to initiate a long-term study of the gorillas, much like the monitoring project in Rwanda. He would also like to monitor the activities of other large mammals, such as elephants and chimpanzees. This project would require the following equip-

Four Virunga Gorillas Dead

On 18 May, four gorillas were shot dead in the Parc National des Virunga, Congo/Zaire. They were members of the ex-Luwawa group (who had already lost their former leader to poachers in 1995). One of the victims is the leading silverback, Kabirizi, who is said to have attacked an officer. The gorillas were killed during a gunfight when the Armée de Liberation du Congo were trying to prevent Interahamwe and ex-FAR from looting the fields of the local people. The park rangers do not have access to a certain part of the Mikeno sector, because Interahamwe are presently in the forest; therefore, they do not have any news about the gorilla groups Luwawa, Ndungutse and Kwitonda.



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ment: a computer, two tents, two sleeping bags, two raincoats, two pairs of rubber boats and a camera.

However, the most important issue now is to sensitize the local people who live near the park about the necessity to protect the gorillas. This can not be done at the moment because resources are lacking. The local people must be involved in any measures to protect the gorillas. Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo has therefore developed a concept for informing and involving the local population of Goma in these efforts. Up to now, there has been no system to let the local population participate from the proceeds from tourism. This creates tension when the gorillas raid their fields or attack them. Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo is currently investigating the possibility of establishing eco-tourism with the participation of the local population. Another very urgent project he suggested is a trip by a small group of two scientists, two rangers and two pathfinders to the hills of Sarambwe. These hills border the Ugandan Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It is important to determine whether gorillas are still living in this area.

Angela Meder

Tshiaberimu: Not Cancelled, but Postponed

In the last issue of our *Gorilla Journal*, we announced that Johannes Refisch would be traveling to Mt. Tshiaberimu in March of this year. He was supposed to prepare a new conservation project of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*, provided that the political situation would allow it.

Unfortunately, the political situation did not allow such a trip at that time. When we were faced with the decision as to whether the expedition should be started, we were not able to guarantee for the safety of our colleague. The situation south of Ruwenzori, where Tshiaberimu is located, was particularly difficult and the danger of aerial attacks of towns in eastern Zaire prevailed.

While it was very dangerous for foreigners to move in the war zone, the Zairean coworkers of the IZCN (now the ICCN) were able to travel to the critical regions, provided that the Alliance agreed to it. For this reason, Vital Katembo was able to visit Mt. Tshiaberimu on behalf of the DFGF (see the following article for more details).

In the meantime, the situation in eastern Congo/Zaire has settled down; the conflicts are currently concentrated in the capital. Although bad news is published nearly every other day, militia are still hiding in the forest and the situation changes constantly, it looks much better today (more detailed information can be found in the internet – addresses on page 20). Within the nature conservation projects, the activities have again resumed and the new authorities support these efforts. What Johannes Refisch had intended to do in March, will be done by Ursula Karlowski and Iris Weiche in July: They will bring equipment to Mt. Tshiaberimu and will prepare our conservation project.

They are travelling together with an international team to the northern part of the Virunga National Park. Researchers from various countries as well as biologists and conservationists from eastern Congo/Zaire will conduct a survey of the plants and animals of Mt. Tshiaberimu – with focus on the gorillas – and assess which dangers are threatening the ecosystem and what can be done to protect it. As soon as Iris Weiche and Ursula Karlowski have returned, we will discuss with them what has to be done to ensure the conservation of this unique forest and the animals. We will report in more detail about it in the next issue of the *Gorilla Journal*.

Angela Meder

Do You Want to Help Us?

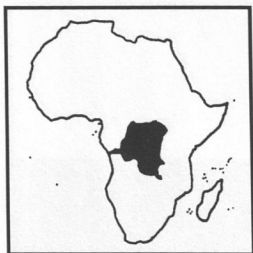
Perhaps you are one of the persons, companies or institutions who can support our activities, not only with donations of money, but in a direct way.

For our projects in Africa, we frequently need field equipment (tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, rain gear etc.) and technical equipment (for example, cameras, radio sets and computers). If you can provide some of this equipment for free or for a special price, please contact us. We would be very grateful. In some cases, even used material or equipment with minor defects are useful for us.

Moreover, we urgently need a sponsor for the printing costs of our *Gorilla Journal*. These costs are very high for our budget and we would prefer to use this money for conservation. However, if we want to maintain the quality of the journal, we cannot considerably reduce these costs. Another opportunity for sponsoring would be the printing of postcards, posters, brochures and T-shirts. We need your support!

Reports from Mt. Tshiaberimu

This special mountain is situated in the northern sector of the Virunga National Park, at the southwestern edge of Lake Edward (see map on page 3). It is nearly 3100 m high and has an especially rich biodiversity. One of the most endangered species which live there is the gorilla.



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Since 1995, several trips have been undertaken to Mt. Tshiaberimu to determine whether the gorillas and the biodiversity of this area can be protected from the negative impact of human encroachment. The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* and the DFGF have decided to support the IZCN/ICCN in their conservation efforts. The equipment which *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* delivered to the park rangers has made their patrols much easier. In September 1996, I received two radios and uniforms for my co-workers from the DFGF-Europe. This equipment will support our efforts to maintain the tracks, to support the patrols and help locate the gorillas.

We are collecting data which will help us to understand the ecology of the gorillas and plan necessary measures to protect their habitat; at the same time, we want to take the development of the local communities around Mt. Tshiaberimu into consideration. According to the first estimate, there are three gorilla groups: one lone silverback, one group comprising four and another group comprising twelve individuals.

The Situation at Mt. Tshiaberimu in December 1996

In November 1996, the North Kivu region was shaken heavily by the war. This crisis has affected the entire Virunga National Park. The senior park officials left for Kinshasa; after their departure, the situation became much more difficult.

The activities in Tshiaberimu were also disturbed. We tried to save as much as we could of the material (equipment for communication, cameras ...). In December, we visited Tshiaberimu to assess how serious the damage was and whether the situation would permit us to resume our work. In December and January we temporarily halted all field work and focused our attention on the park rangers who had



Vital Katembo with rangers on the top of Mt. Tshiaberimu

Photo: Vital Katembo

stayed in the area. The regional director of IZCN Goma, Norbert Mushenzi Lusenge, tried to convince the new political and military authorities to resume all conservation activities in the Virunga National Park.

Some rangers were still posted in Burusi and Kasimbi, and a new camp was built in the center of Tshiaberimu at Kalibina as a refuge for the rangers during insecurity. The rangers were disarmed by the ADFL. If they are not able to continue their work soon, human encroachment will probably do further serious damage to the area. To prevent this, the rangers need support. They are loyal and motivated. We need their support to ensure the survival of the gorillas in Tshiaberimu during this critical time. We must act as quickly as possible to restore the conservation measures. By collaborating with other organizations, we can save what remains and ensure the survival of this World Heritage Site.

Report from March 1997

In March, I visited the Mt. Tshiaberimu conservation area to get a general impression of the situation after the war-time in the region. I planned to spend about 2 weeks from March 12 so that I could have enough time to discuss with the park guards the possibilities to resume our activities. The trip was easy because the security was restored in different places.

When I arrived at Tshiaberimu, I received a warm welcome by a lone park ranger who was wandering around in the village of Burusi. He explained to me that the others were at the fishing village of Kiavinyonge because of the difficult living conditions in Burusi after the war. He also talked about the experience they endured during the Mai-Mai rebels attacks in January 1997. They were forced to leave the park patrol posts on 15 January and managed to survive in the neighbouring villages; some went to their native villages near Beni and Mutsora. One ranger died during the war.

While in Burusi, I sent a message to the rangers urging them to come back. They arrived together with other workers and we held a meeting to discuss what could be done after the crisis. The elder worker Kihulane speaking on behalf of the team said that they were all happy to see me back in Tshiaberimu and they were ready to start with the activities provided I could help them. He explained that out of what was stolen by the looters, they saved very little equipment. Much of the equipment that the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* had provided was lost, too.

I told the rangers that the aim of my visit was to get a general view of the situation and determine what possibilities there were to resume the activities that we had started before the war. We had a wonderful celebration at the Burusi patrol post and I invited some locals to join in. I used this opportunity to



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explain that the park was not dissolved and those who were clearing the forest had to stop their activities. I visited some plots with the peasants and informed them that they were cutting the forest within the park boundaries. I told the local leaders that this anarchy must stop. It was obvious that the war has had a negative impact on the conservation efforts.

Human encroachment on the park resources has greatly increased. New forest clearings had been made in the unique montane and bamboo forests; the most damaging activities included gold mining, pitsawing and making charcoal out of felled trees. In addition, traps had been set to catch mainly rodents. On our way to the Kalibina camp site, we removed 26 rodent traps. As a result of the intense activities of villagers, many new trails had been made in the forest.

Nine gold miners had settled near the camp site and built two huts in the forest. When we arrived, they were in the river 'washing sands'. They ran away leaving all their equipment and tools behind. We caught an old man who could not escape because he was really old. He told us that they had been in the forest since the rangers had stopped working. We took the machetes, pels, hoes and basins that they were working with.

The situation of Tshiaberimu is similar to what is happening in different places around Virunga National Park. Serious conflicts are arising in the relations between the peripheral rural area and the park. This is a crucial issue for the future management of the park; a conservation approach involving the communities surrounding the park could be recommended. Success is only possible if the government formulate a viable policy of integrated rural development and puts an end to the various forms of land exploitation damaging the park integrity.

Vital Katembo

Nobody knows how the human encroachment has affected the gorillas. Two rangers observed a group with four members; it was not possible to find other gorillas.

In mid-January, new conservators were appointed for the northern sector of the Virunga National Park, but none of them has been on Mt. Tshiaberimu so far. The rangers are still waiting for instructions as to how they should continue their work. As soon as their ethical-moral retraining is completed, 20 rangers will be installed in the posts at Mt. Tshiaberimu.

The Situation in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

On 26 March 1997 I met with Mbake Sivha to learn about the current situation in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The buildings in Tshivanga still exist, but the looting was extensive. Anything useful was stolen from the GTZ office in Bukavu.

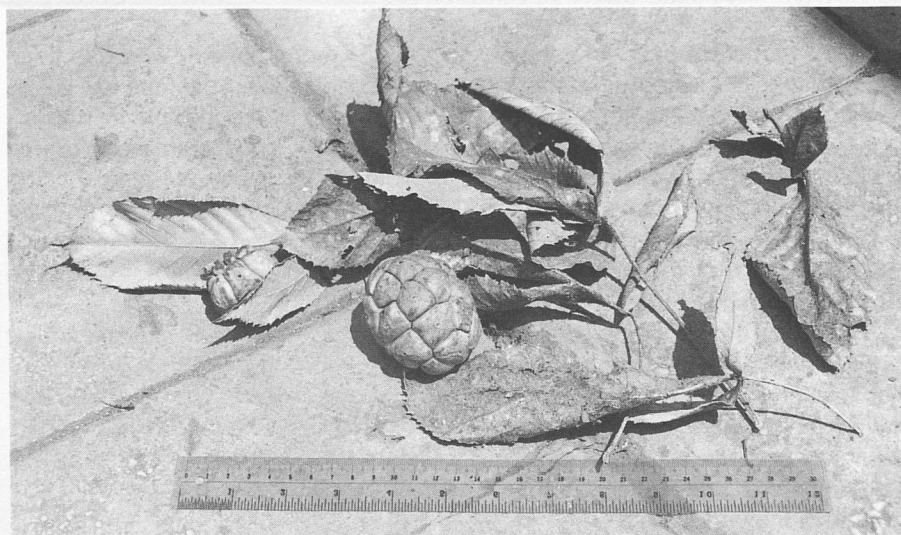
The streams of refugees and soldiers have also taken a heavy toll on



Elephant footprints in a bean field at the border of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

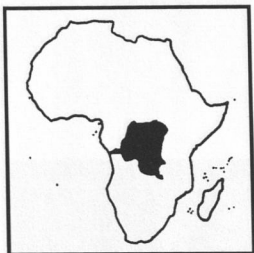
Photo: Armin Heymer

the park. In the months after the war broke out, the average poaching rate for elephants was one every few days



Myrianthus holstii – an important fruit for apes in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

Photo: Mbake Sivha



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Support for a New Start

When war broke out between the Zairean government troops and the rebels led by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, the situation of the gorilla conservation projects looked disastrous. For more than 2 years, Rwandan refugees, gathered in huge camps not far from the park, had a lasting effect on the life and nature in this region. When the war started, many refugees from these camps fled into the forest. They were poaching animals and cutting wood in the protected area, but until now it has not been possible to determine the extent of the damage.

When the situation became serious, the GTZ/IZCN project in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park had to suspend all activities. However, Mbake Sivha, the Congolese/Zairean biologist whose work we have been supporting for 2 years now, returned as soon as the situation permitted. She tried to rescue what was left of the equipment and documents and resumed contact with the outside world. She headed the project office in Bukavu, because German GTZ staff were not allowed to return to Kivu. Her continual presence and involvement certainly helped to convince the new authorities to support the continuation of the project. Subsequently, poaching in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park decreased considerably.

In the future, we do not want to restrict ourselves to supporting Mbake Sivha's research, but also to supporting other activities for the conservation of the park. Georg Dörken, the head of the GTZ project, is in contact with us and will tell us what we can do as soon as he has visited the park.

Kahuzi-Biega, a World Heritage Site, must be saved! Please help us with your donation to support Mbake Sivha and Georg Dörken in their efforts for its conservation.

Mbake Sivha during her stay in Germany

Photo: Angela Meder



in the old part of the park. In February, the ICCN/IZCN located nine elephant carcasses. Poaching started to decrease considerably as soon as armed soldiers of the Alliance accompanied the rangers on their patrols.

Gold miners and poachers were arrested in the park. The vegetation has also suffered considerably from the war; bamboo and wood had been cut as building materials and for firewood. Nobody knows what the situation looks like in the lowland part of the park, because no patrols were possible there for security reasons. Even in the old part of the park, militia are hiding in the forest.

The GTZ intends to continue the joint conservation project with the

ICCN. Georg Dörken, who has been heading this project over the few years, continues to be responsible for Kahuzi-Biega and is in constant contact with Mbake Sivha.

Juichi Yamagiwa's project in Tshibati has continued. In April his gorilla study groups were well and could be contacted every day.

Angela Meder

Research on Gorillas and Chimpanzees in the Kahuzi-Biega Park

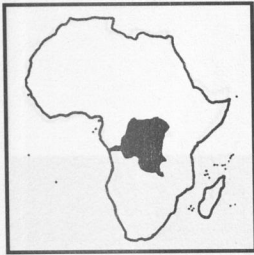
Our research in the park concentrates on primates and especially on the ecology of chimpanzees and gorillas. In

this, we cooperate with the CRSN in Lwiro, the IZCN/ICCN and the Kyoto University. *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* has been supporting this research since July 1995.

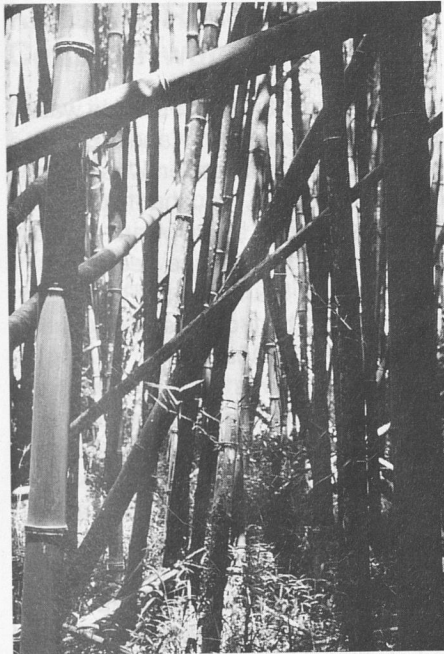
Four trackers and one ranger are working in Kasirusiru, following gorillas and chimpanzees. In Tshivanga, one tracker and one guide monitor six transects along the Bukavu-Kisangani road and one botanical transect in Kasirusiru. In Tshibati (the site established by the CRSN and the Kyoto University), four trackers follow the gorillas and chimpanzees.

In Situ Research

In October 1996, we had to interrupt our work because of the war. By mid-



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Bamboo forest in the Kahuzi-Biega Park

Photo: Armin Heymer

January 1997, we were able to resume our field work intermittently, with the approval of the new authorities, and by mid-February we resumed it on a regular basis. The two gorilla groups are slowly getting habituated to humans – currently, they can be approached within 15 to 20 m. In contrast, the habituation of chimpanzees is more difficult. However, we follow the apes on an almost daily basis and monitor their use of different biotopes. Fresh gorilla and chimpanzee tracks are marked on a map.

Gorillas often stay in clearings created by elephants that are uprooting trees, because there the gorillas' preferred food plants grow. Chimpanzee groups split into small parties while searching for fruiting trees. However, several parties of one community may meet up in some trees, especially in trees with ripe figs. These daily observations are complemented by the analysis of faecal samples in the primatological laboratory of the CRSN. We

should soon be able to show some preliminary results.

We cut transects to determine the density of trees with fruits that are eaten by apes. This research has been running since November 1994 and we are currently preparing the data for a publication.

Impact of the Road

This research was conducted to determine the possible impact of the expansion of the road between Bukavu and Kisangani on the national park. The study started in October 1993 and ended in October 1996 when the war broke out. The main targets of the study were gorillas and elephants. According to a survey done by WCS, there was a particularly high elephant density in the old part of the park before the war.

The analysis of the data is almost completed. We found that gorillas and chimpanzees cross the road in both directions in various habitats. We found traces of their activities even right next to the road. This means that

the road is no barrier for these two species and does not influence their activities.

However, a great risk to the animals is apparent from these findings. If traffic on the road is not controlled and therefore increases, there might be an increased risk of accidents and the animals' freedom of movement might be restricted. We had intended to complement these results with the census of traffic in Tshivanga; unfortunately, most of the data were destroyed during the war.

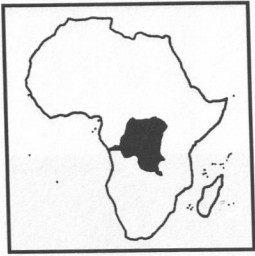
Other Research Activities

WCS, IZCN, CRSN and the Kyoto University conducted a joint survey of big mammals in the old part of the park from 18 May to 25 July 1996. Within the comprehensive survey of *Gorilla gorilla graueri*, one goal of this joint survey was to estimate the number of gorillas and to compare it with earlier surveys. Another aim was to determine the extent of utilisation of different habitats. In addition, signs of elephants, chimpanzees, monkeys, dui-



Nindja

Drawing: Chisato Abe



CONGO / ZAIRE

kers, forest hogs and carnivores were noted. Another important subject was the impact of humans on the populations of these animals. The number of gorillas was estimated to be 247, which is approximately what had been found in earlier surveys (1978/1979: 223 to 258; 1990: 258). They were living in 25 groups with 2 to 24 animals per group. In addition, there are two solitary silverback males.

After the destruction of large forest areas in the corridor between the two parts of the park in 1995, the elephants could not leave the old part of the park any more and raided the fields in the border zone of the park more frequently. To find a solution for this problem, the Cameroonian expert Martin Tchamba analyzed the conflict between elephants and humans. He made various suggestions on how to prevent elephants from raiding the fields and on how to support the human population.

Outlook

We suggest that the following studies be conducted in the future:

- Utilization of bamboo and the impact that a disease which kills the bamboo may have on gorillas and the park in general. This research would also be important for chimpanzees and elephants, two species that consume lots of bamboo as well.
- Monitoring (visits at regular intervals) of various key species. This study should run for at least 5 years. The involvement of local employees could decrease the costs considerably and increase the quantity of collected data.

As the national park's fauna and flora have been damaged considerably since last autumn, we need to reconsider our priorities. We are hoping to continue our activities in spite of the difficult situation. The staff are very motivated, especially because they are paid regularly and because they re-

Death of a Patriarch

The famous silverback Mushamuka disappeared on 18 April 1997. He was the leader of one of the first two Grauer's gorilla groups in Kahuzi-Biega National Park who were habituated to humans. The habituation was done by the late Adrien Deschrijver between 1965 and 1971. Mushamuka has been known since 1971. Deschrijver estimated him to be 20 years old at that time. When Kelly Stewart met the silverback in 1972, she decided to become a gorilla researcher and later worked at Karisoke in Rwanda. Tourists also remembered him because he used to bluff charge during the visits. He also was shown in the movie *Gorillas in the Mist*.

The first zoologist to study Mushamuka's group was Alan Goodall in 1972. The group had 20 members at that time. It continued to grow during the following years; when Juichi Yamagiwa observed it in 1978; at that time, Mushamuka was the leader of an extremely large group with 42 individuals. This is the largest gorilla group ever reported. In 1990, the group consisted of 21 members, in 1993 of 19 members.

Mushamuka was an extremely successful silverback. Many of his sons left his group and established their own – recently, Bwana in 1992 and Lambchop and Mintsauce in 1995. Nindja, an older son, can also be visited by tourists. The last offspring Mushamuka sired was born in 1994 but it died when it was only 1.5 months old. The group is now led by a young male, probably a son too, and seems o.k. It can be visited by the rangers.

Mushamuka was the second famous Kahuzi-Biega silverback to die within only a few years (in 1993, Maheshe had been killed by poachers; he was possibly also a son of Mushamuka). However, unlike Maheshe, Mushamuka was not killed by poachers. He was estimated to be 43 to 46 years old and had lost many teeth. His remains have not yet been found.

Angela Meder



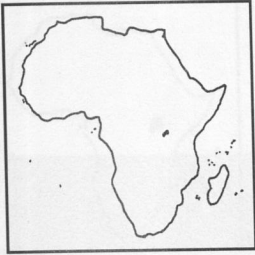
Mushamuka

Photo: Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart

ceive the necessary equipment. Of course, the equipment has to be replaced regularly, too, but Mbake Sivha has been able to purchase some high-quality equipment for the team's field work during her stay in Germany.

Mbake Sivha told us on 9 June that her team had no more been able to visit the

gorilla group that they used to observe for more than a month. The group has moved to the center of the forest, and the ICCN employees are not allowed to go into the forest because of the militia who are still hiding there. Moreover, the conflict in Nindja, where the local rulers are opposed to the national park authority, has started again.



RWANDA

Karisoke Research Centre, Rwanda

Given the logistical constraints which Karisoke staff were subject to in 1996, we were able to spend a good deal of time with the gorilla groups, and the trackers missed very few days during the year. We continue to drive between Ruhengeri and Bisoke at considerable cost in time and wear on the vehicle.

Several researchers plan to return to Karisoke in 1997, but whether or not these studies are carried out will in part depend upon the availability of accommodation within walking distance of the gorillas. In view of the immediate need to establish a base closer to the Park, the DFGF proposed to build an outpost close to the edge of the Parc National des Volcans, where we will lodge trackers, patrols, visiting researchers and students, and thus avoid travel by vehicle.

Meanwhile monitoring of the gorillas has continued seven days a week, with trackers walking to work from their homes outside the park. The number of hours we were able to spend in the field increased as security conditions improved during the year.

The three research groups now comprise 80 individuals: 5 silverback males, 28 adult females, 10 blackback males, 6 subadults, 10 juveniles and 21 infants. There were nine births in 1996, six of these are surviving, five in Pablo's group and one in Shinda's group. We were unable to recover the bodies of two babies which died at 2 and 4 weeks of age respectively until they were in an advanced state of decomposition, thus the causes of death were not determined.

The Parc National des Volcans is protected by Rwandan and international laws, yet poaching of buffalo, bushbuck, duiker, bamboo and wood remains a problem. Early in the year, the anti-poaching patrols had to limit

the extent of their patrols to avoid areas close to the border with Zaïre. Nonetheless, Karisoke staff collected 941 snares during 1996.

Fortunately, no veterinary interventions to remove snares were necessary in 1996, although two incidents occurred in the research groups: in March, Rukundo, the 17-month-old son of Maggie, was trapped by a rope snare. The groups' trackers held off other members of Pablo's group whilst the snare was cut from its attachment. In July, 21-month-old Giraneza was also caught in a rope snare but was released by Karisoke trackers.

Developments since the beginning of 1997 have not been as positive. The security situation in Ruhengeri resulted in expatriate staff moving back to Kigali on January 19. At the time of writing, weekly trips to Ruhengeri were being made in convoys with military escorts. A demonstration of increasing activity by poachers is that two snare removals were necessary in January. The MGVC veterinarians, Jonathan Sleeman and Antoine Mudakikwa, removed wire snares from an adult female in

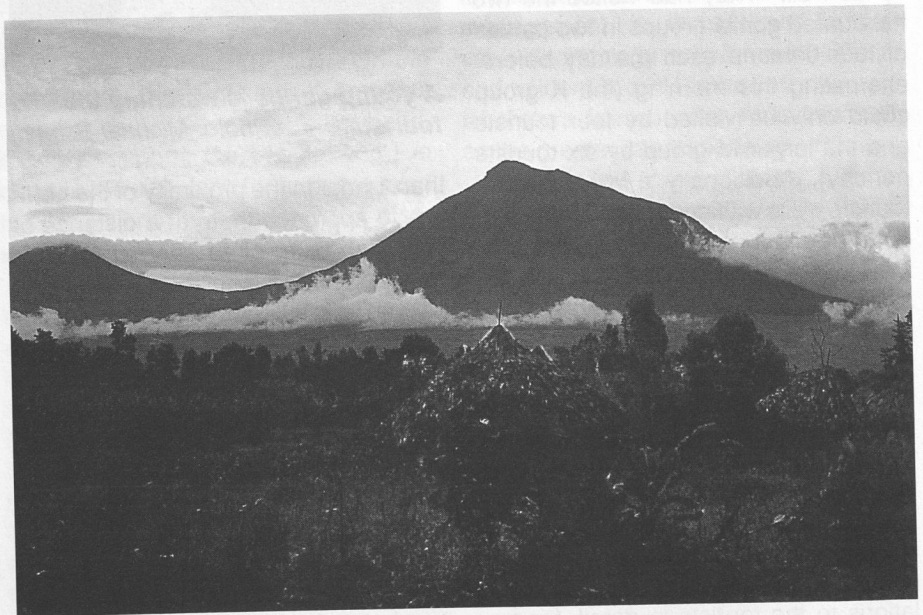
Group 13, and from a 3-year-old in the Sabyinyo Group.

Despite renewed difficulties, the dedicated Karisoke staff continue their work almost unhindered, and we hope that the situation will improve sufficiently to allow our return to Ruhengeri in the near future.

*Liz Williamson
(modified edition of an article which was originally written for the Gorilla Conservation News).*

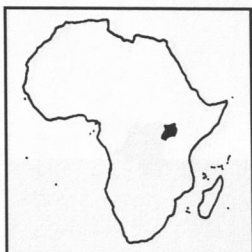
In a message dated 30 May, Liz Williamson told us that the security situation in the park had deteriorated in early May and that she had not visited the gorillas for 3 weeks. However, the Karisoke trackers still followed them every day at that time. In a mail dated 24 June, she told us that they had to stop following the gorillas in mid-June.

For most of 1996, tourism to the gorillas has been at maximum capacity and the numbers dropped slightly with the troubles in Ruhengeri. Meanwhile, tourism has been suspended. The Sabyinyo group has not been visited since April and visits to the Susa group were stopped at the beginning of June.



Muhavura (right) and Gahinga from the east, 1963

Photo: Fritz Dieterlen



UGANDA

Close Encounter with Gorillas at Bwindi

During January/February 1997, I spent 2 weeks in the Budongo Forest in Uganda participating in a project to study canopy arthropods. Afterwards, I was looking for a possibility to take part in a mountain gorilla tour to the Bwindi Forest.

There are more expensive and less expensive ways of doing this. The cheaper possibility (going on your own to Buhoma, buying a permit at the park office and staying at a simple banda with African style bathroom) involves the risk of having to wait there for several days until a permit is available. As my return flight was already booked, I decided to spend more money just to be on the safe side. I did not regret my decision in any way.

On 30 January, I travelled with a 'special hire' matatu (which means that I was the only passenger) from Kampala via Kabale to Buhoma, the tourist headquarters of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. On the morning of 31 January, eight Americans showed up as well. They had visited the two habituated gorilla groups in two parties of four persons each the day before, alternating this morning (the K group could only be visited by four tourists and the larger M group by six tourists per day). Additionally, a few backpack tourists were waiting for their chance to get a permit for one of the groups. Finally, an Australian student, who had already been waiting for 3 days to get a permit, was able to accompany us – myself and four people of the American travel group – to the M group.

I had a very positive impression of the local tourism organisation as well as of the national park administration. I was surprised how punctual and conscientious the rangers and tourist guides were. They explained the regulations to the tourists in detail, for example: It is not permitted to stay longer



A young gorilla is watching the tourists. Photo: Michael Schmitt

than 1 hour in the proximity of the gorillas, to approach them at a distance of less than 5 m, or to attempt to have physical contact with them. They told us that it is also strictly forbidden for people with infectious diseases to take part. Using a flash when taking photographs, making wild movements and talking loudly should be avoided. In addition, all instructions of the park personnel had to be followed.

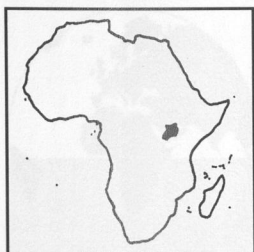
We were lucky to find the M group after only 1.5 hours of trekking. Indeed, I was not the only one who was deeply touched by these black-haired creatures who seemed to have ex-

pected us with unbelievable confidence. We did not have to be reminded at all to keep silent.

However, I was shocked about the American tour operator ('Dick'), based in Cape Town, who offered gorilla tours for small groups. He did not hesitate to lead his customers closer to the gorillas, in spite of the guides' instructions. Luckily, the tourists themselves were hesitant enough not to approach the gorillas any closer. He complained to me that the Ugandan organisation was so sloppy and chaotic and that there were by far not enough permits available. If he got more permits, he would be able to offer far more gorilla tours. According to his words, everything was much better in Zaire and the gorilla groups were much larger. Unfortunately, he told me, he was not able to take tourists there at the moment because of the war.

That conversation spoiled my pleasure somewhat, but on the other hand, it was good to hear that our guide (Joseph) was obviously very proud of their concepts for revenue sharing and conservation concept in place (12.5% of the revenue from the permits is given to the communities close to the national park and can be used for local projects determined by the local people). Additionally, controlled utilization of the park's resources is permitted in certain zones of the park, for instance to gather medicinal plants and material for certain purposes. The national park also employs more than 60 people, and many more earn their income in some way from tourism.

I was very happy to see that picture postcards of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* are presented at the national park office. It is good to see that occasionally a European name appears in a business dominated by North Americans (at the office of the *National Board of Tourism* in Kampala, the name of *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* can be found as well).



UGANDA



Mountain Gorilla Workshop in Uganda

From 8 to 12 December 1997, a population and habitat viability analysis for the mountain gorilla (which includes both the Virunga and the Bwindi gorillas) will be held in Kampala, Uganda. It is being organized by UWA, the Uganda Forest Department, the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group.

The focus of this workshop will be a comprehensive analysis of species viability using available demographic, genetic and environmental data on the mountain gorilla. Biologists and wildlife managers from Congo/Zaire, Rwanda and Uganda will work together to formulate priorities for a practical management program for survival and recovery of the mountain gorilla in its habitat, to develop a risk analysis and population simulation model for the mountain gorilla which can be used to guide and evaluate management and research activities, to identify specific habitat areas that should be afforded strict levels of protection and management, to identify and initiate useful technology transfer and training, and to identify and recruit potential collaborators from central Africa as well as the greater international community.

Only a few presentations will be given to inform the participants about the process for PHVA workshops and the present conservation status of the mountain gorilla; most of the time will be reserved to the workshop itself.

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A young gorilla of the M group in Bwindi pulls the clothes of visitors.

Photo: Michael Schmitt

My visit to the gorillas was unbelievably splendid and inspiring. I would never have thought that gorillas can look so different from the ones at the zoo (it is not the way they look like, it is more how they look at you). We were able to approach the gorillas to a distance of up to 5 m. Some of the subadult and juvenile gorillas, however, came even closer to us. One adolescent male pulled on my clothes; he obviously wanted to get hold of my camera. Finally, one of the guides literally rapped his knuckles. The youngster approached the visitors and park personnel several times up to an arm's length and touched their clothes and objects.

We hardly could see the silverback and the adult females who stayed in the background. The juveniles and adolescents, however, obviously had a lot of fun with us. Of course, this can become a serious problem as soon as

such a habituated gorilla weighs about 150 kg – besides all the diseases he can catch from us. At any rate, in my opinion it is more than justified that I had to pay that much money. On the one hand, the high price prevents mass tourism, and, on the other hand, it partly supports the people who live close to the park (and furthermore, also the Ugandans in Kampala and elsewhere).

When the guide called for us to return after we had spent exactly 1 hour with the gorillas, we departed in a very melancholy mood. We walked back through the slippery underground to the camp, first silently, then whispering. After the emotion and tension had relaxed somewhat, we exchanged our lively impressions. A young stock broker from New York even said, with tears in his eyes, "this was like a climb into paradise".

Theo Michael Schmitt



SPECIES CONSERVATION

Bushmeat Trade in the Rain Forest: Any Progress?

We reported in the *Gorilla Journal* 12 (June 1996) about the bushmeat trade in the African lowland rain forests, which also affects the apes. All great apes are listed as endangered and hunting these species is prohibited.

Before the *Gorilla Journal* published material on this topic, the media in Europe and the USA had already reported extensively on this subject and showed shocking photographs and films taken by Karl Ammann, which did not fail to work. Through the WSPA, which started a campaign, the photographs were widely distributed and surely reached every lover of animals.

Karl Ammann became famous for his photographs. He received the Dolly Green Award on the 5 April 1997 in Los Angeles, because he had made the slaughter of the great apes known world wide. Since then, more than a year has passed, articles are still being published concerning the problem with the bushmeat trade, particularly in connection with great apes. However, these reports are mostly the same as those at the beginning of the campaign. Therefore, I have tried to find out whether the publications had any effect.

The Causes

In Africa, bushmeat has always been consumed, but the trade increased tremendously within the last few decades, and nowadays many species are severely threatened. The inhabitants of the rain forests depend on bushmeat in many areas, as it is the only available source of protein. Keeping livestock in the tropics is often impossible due to the tsetse fly and numerous epidemics.

The opening up of the rain forests by the logging companies has a particularly strong impact on the ape populations. Numerous workers together with

their families are drawn, in their search for a job, to the primary forest where only pygmies used to live. This way large towns develop, which are supplied with bushmeat. In the *Isoroy* camp (a subsidiary of the German timber company *Glunz*) in the Bee Forest, Gabon, observers discovered that the provisions for the workers included 35 chimpanzees and three gorillas within a period of 2 months.

Many workers increase their income through hunting, and sell the meat to professional dealers. After the logging companies depart, some of the workers stay in the forest and many of them continue with professional hunting. In southeastern Cameroon, 75% of the hunters are former employees of the logging companies.

For several years now, not only has the local population been supplied with bushmeat, but also the inhabitants of big cities far away. These markets can be supplied with bushmeat from the forests as a result of the development

through the new roads and the regular traffic. Logging companies play a particularly important role in this respect. In a study published in the new issue of *African Primates*, Léonard Usongo and Brian Curran found that in southeastern Cameroon, 85% of the bushmeat is being transported from the poachers' camps with vehicles which belong to the logging companies.

In the vicinity of towns and the camps of professional hunters, the forests are virtually empty after some time; especially the larger mammals are gone. The pygmies who still live in the traditional way as hunter-gatherers are particularly affected; no animals are left on their hunting grounds. The government authorities responsible for forests and wildlife can do nothing against these excesses because of the lack of sufficient funds.

What Happened in the Meantime?

Great apes had been shot with particular cartridges of a Congolese company. In April 1996, after international protests, this company decided to halt the production of this ammunition for the next 2 years. Evidently, gorilla hunting has been reduced in Cameroon since then. The hunters also became more cautious because they know that apes are protected. Otherwise, the campaign apparently did not have much success in the fight against the professional bushmeat trade. One result is, however, that logging companies were forced to increase their efforts to find a solution for the problem.

The companies are not only responsible for road construction but also for the transportation of hunters and meat in their vehicles. Therefore, they have to take responsibility, in addition to the local authorities of the country concerned, to control the bushmeat trade. Since they also work on the spot, they can effectively take action.

One of these companies is CIB, a subsidiary of the German timber com-



Two little gorillas in the Brazzaville orphanage Drawing: Chisato Abe



SPECIES CONSERVATION

pany *Hinrich Feldmeyer*. In Congo-Brazzaville, CIB is working in Pokola, close to the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park. Hinrich Stoll, the company's director, told me that CIB has been trying for several years to restrict poaching in its concessions. In cooperation with Michael Fay (WCS) in Ndoki and various other organizations, studies were initiated concerning the sustainable use of game animals.

CIB explained to the inhabitants of Pokola that there will not be any game left if they keep supporting professional hunters. It is no more permitted to sell the meat of great apes and elephants at the market. Instead, CIB imports cattle for the workers. This meat has been accepted now, with the exception of the pygmies. In December 1995, the council of elders of the Pokola and Ndoki communities decided to stop the export of bushmeat from the concession and the hunting of endangered species. Furthermore, it is not allowed to transport meat in the vehicles for timber transport, if the meat is not for the provision of the workers' families. Whether these measures have any effect is not clear; an independent study has not yet been conducted.

A Difficult Task

Although the timber companies can contribute considerably to the restriction of the bushmeat trade, the larger part of the task rests on the countries themselves. As their own wildlife is threatened, they should fight for the survival of the endangered animals – otherwise the biological diversity of their countries will be reduced. However, the rich countries are also interested in the conservation of the African apes (and they have the necessary funds for this) and they should do everything in their power to support the authorities of the countries concerned. As always, the most difficult task is not talking about the problem, but implementing effective measures to solve it.



Gorillas in the Brazzaville orphanage

Etching: Chisato Abe

Crowded Orphanages

One result of publishing articles on the bushmeat trade, which of course does not solve the actual problem, is the increasing support of orphanages for apes whose parents were killed. Several sanctuaries take in the little ones and try to feed them. Since the problem has been published widely, they are getting more financial support and therefore it is now possible to provide better care for these gorilla and chimpanzee infants in various facilities in Congo-Brazzaville and Cameroon. Nevertheless, the majority of them die very soon because they arrive in a miserable condition.

Angela Meder

'Exchanging Whales for Elephants' – CITES Conference in Zimbabwe

The last specimen of *Partula turgida*, also called 'Turgi', died in a plastic box in the London Zoo in 1996. This Poly-

nesian tree snail moved only 70 cm a year – not enough to escape its most dangerous enemies: terrestrial snails, which had been imported to Polynesia by settlers around 1900, developed a dietary preference for tree snails.

It is unlikely that many of the more than 1000 delegates at the 10th CITES conference in Harare, Zimbabwe (9 to 20 June) were touched by the extinction of this lethargic snail. Contrary to common belief, CITES is not a conservation convention, but exclusively concerned with international trade. It was signed in March 1973 in Washington and is based on the fact that commercial trade can threaten species with extinction. Meanwhile, 136 countries have signed the convention. This makes CITES the largest institution for the conservation of global biodiversity.

Representatives of the member countries meet every other year to update and regulate the conservation status of various species. For this purpose, the species are listed in appendices. Appendix I contains animal and



SPECIES CONSERVATION

plant species threatened by extinction which may only be traded for scientific reasons in exceptional cases. Appendix II contains species which may be traded in a controlled way. Finally, Appendix III contains species protected by special trade restrictions issued by the countries of origin. In 1973, about 660 animal and a few dozen plant families were listed, but prior to the conference in Harare, the appendices contained over 8000 animal and 40,000 plant species. This inflationary increase underlines a serious problem: in spite of CITES, it was not possible to stop the worldwide loss of species.

This drastic increase of appendix entries has been caused partly by an improved methodology for the identification of threats, and partly by a decrease of numbers through habitat destruction. However, the example of certain spectacular species, such as the tiger, prove that CITES is helpless without the good will of its member countries. In spite of the strictest trade ban, the danger of extinction is approaching the largest cat species on earth. As long as the smuggling of tiger bones, rhino horns and the gall bladders of bears remains unrestricted in South Korea, Taiwan and China, CITES can only stand by and watch the demise of threatened species.

Sometimes CITES is its own enemy. Only five out of eight bear species are listed in Appendix I. However, the gall bladder of the strictly protected Asian black bear cannot be distinguished from the gall bladder of a black bear, a species which is hunted legally in North America. Thus, according to the IUCN Bear Specialist Group, all bear species are threatened by the trade in various sought-after organs, the value of which – in terms of weight – is frequently greater than gold in southeastern Asia.

In contrast, the all clear signal can be given for many crocodile species. Together with the African elephant,

they are among the few great successes of CITES. In 1969, all 23 crocodile species were threatened by extinction; today, two thirds have recovered. Controlled utilization of some species can even be considered safe.

When the worldwide trade ban on ivory was imposed in 1989, the market for 'white gold' collapsed. The elephant populations, which had decreased from approximately 1.2 million to 600,000 in 10 years, started to recover.

In view of the frequent politically motivated interests in the utilization of natural resources, CITES conferences sometimes degenerate into a conservation gamble. CITES is the only way to endorse an animal or plant species in the growing trade market, which had a turnover of about US\$ 20 billion in 1996, legally and illegally. Hence, Norway and Japan want to have the strictly protected minke whales included in Appendix II rather than Appendix I. For this purpose, they have initiated an ingenious exchange deal with African countries: they are to help each other to move elephants and minke whales from Appendix I. Even if the whalers' proposals probably have no chance of success – the *International Whaling Commission* is responsible for the regulation of whale hunting – this exchange deal points out a weak spot. For countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe or Botswana, the ban on ivory is a heavy burden. Their elephant herds have recovered well because of exemplary conservation, but their utilization is still prohibited. Zimbabwe alone had a stockpile of ivory with a value of US\$ 4.7 million in 1993. The situation is similar in South Africa, which also wants to trade in white rhino horns.

On the other hand, conservationists and countries such as Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania are concerned that a legal market for ivory and rhino horns may cause poaching to increase which would have adverse effects on tourism. It is becoming clear that inflexible trade

bans do not offer a satisfactory solution. Many countries feel that this is a new form of colonial patronage. Even weeks before the delegates were to meet in a huge tent in Harare, the discussion about the 'holy cows' of conservation flared up. This may push other important proposal into the background, as was the case 2 years ago.

While distancing itself from inappropriate proposals, such as the one from Cuba to transfer its population of hawksbill turtles from Appendix I to II in order to be able to sell the carapaces to Japan, Germany supported improved species conservation with 12 proposals. While the Cuban proposal had no chance of approval because there are no populations of the rare sea turtle in Cuba itself, Germany wanted the trade in seven severely threatened parrot species to be banned. Moreover, Germany wanted to include 23 sturgeon species in Appendix II in an effort to control the trade in caviar. By contrast, proposals protecting sharks have fallen by the wayside, although they are severely threatened by over-fishing and therefore by trade, and although IUCN already has included three shark species on the red list of species threatened by extinction.

During the 12 days in Harare, the fate of more than 100 animal and plant species was decided upon. During the same period, almost 900 animal and plant species were becoming extinct, according to the American biologist Edward O. Wilson. However, trade probably is only responsible for a few cases of extinction. This is also true for the tree snail 'Turgi', for which scientists intend to erect a gravestone with the inscription 'From 1.5 million B.C. until 1996'.

Ulrich Karlowski
Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe won the right to trade in ivory from 1999 on – the African elephant was downlisted from Appendix I to Appendix II during the Harare conference.



WHO'S WHO?

Who's Who?

ADFL	(French: AFDL) <i>Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire</i> . Rebel group composed mainly of Banyamulenge, Simba rebels, Bashi and rebels from eastern Kasai; led by Laurent-Desiré Kabila	DTC	<i>Development Through Conservation</i> . Project for the people who live near national parks in southwestern Uganda. Carried out by CARE, supported by USAID.
AWF	<i>African Wildlife Foundation</i> . Conservation organization which specializes in Africa. http://www.awf.org	ECOFAC	<i>Conservation et utilisation rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique Centrale</i> (Conservation and Rational Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa). An EU program that supports seven projects in seven African countries
Bahunde	Bantu people in eastern Congo/Zaire west of Goma	ex-FAR	<i>Forces Armées Rwandaises</i> . Former army of the Government of Rwanda, composed mainly of Hutu soldiers
Banyamulenge	Tutsi who had settled in North and South Kivu, especially in the Masisi region, and were driven out of their homes by the Zairean government	FAO	<i>Food and Agriculture Organization</i> . UN organization for food, agriculture, forestry and fishery. http://www.fao.org
Bashi	Bantu people in eastern Congo/Zaire to the southwest of Lake Kivu	FAZ	<i>Forces Armées Zairoises</i> . Zairean army (when Mobutu was president)
BMZ	<i>Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung</i> (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). http://www.government.de/bmz	FFI	<i>Fauna und Flora International</i> (originally: <i>Fauna and Flora Preservation Society</i>). British conservation organization
CARE	<i>Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere</i> . American aid organization which is privately maintained; subsidiary organizations in many countries. http://www.care.org	FUT	<i>Freundeskreis für Ugandas Tierwelt</i> (Friends of Ugandan wildlife). German NGO; supports conservation projects in Uganda, especially in the national parks
CIB	<i>Congolaise Industrielle de Bois</i> . Subsidiary of the German timber company Hinrich Feldmeyer in Congo-Brazzaville	GEF	<i>Global Environmental Facility</i> . World Bank program for the environment. http://www.worldbank.org/html/gef
CITES	<i>Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species</i> . Convention which prevents the international trade in endangered plants and animals as well as products made from them. http://www.unep.ch/cites.html	GTZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit</i> (Society for Technical Cooperation). Developmental aid organization of the German government. http://sunrise.gtz.de/home/english
CRSN	<i>Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles</i> (Center for Scientific Research). Research center in Lwiro in eastern Congo/Zaire	ICCN	(originally: ICZN) <i>Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature</i> (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation). National park authority in Congo/Zaire
DFGF	<i>Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund</i> (originally: <i>Digit Fund</i>). Organization founded by Dian Fossey. Since its foundation, it supports the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda, the rangers who patrol the area and the monitoring of the gorilla groups habituated for research. Today, DFGF also is working in Congo/Zaire. DFGF International: http://www.gorilla.rutgers.edu	IGCP	(French: PICG) <i>International Gorilla Conservation Program</i> . Successor of the <i>Mountain Gorilla Project</i> which managed gorilla tourism in Rwanda. Funded by FFI, AWF, WWF; headquarters: Nairobi. http://www.panda.org/research/igcp/igcp.htm
		IMF	<i>International Monetary Fund</i> . http://www.imf.org
		Interahamwe	Hutu militia who prepared their villages for the genocide in Rwanda in 1994; they organized most commune and village killings.
		IPPL	<i>International Primate Protection League</i> . International organization for the protec-



WHO'S WHO?

	tion of primates. http://www.sims.net/organizations/ippl	RPF	(French: FPR) <i>Rwandan Patriotic Front – Front Patriotique Rwandais</i> . Army of Paul Kagame
ITFC	<i>Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation</i> . Institute of Mbarara University which coordinates research in the national parks of southwestern Uganda.	Simba rebels	Supporters of the former Congolese president Patrice Lumumba who was toppled by Mobutu
ITTO	<i>International Tropical Timber Organization</i> . Union of countries which export or import timber. http://www.itto.or.jp	SSC	<i>Species Survival Commission</i> . IUCN commission which develops and carries out programs for the conservation of biological diversity. http://www.iucn.org/ssc
IUCN	(French: UICN) <i>International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</i> . Union of more than 800 governmental and non-governmental organizations. Headquarter: Gland, Switzerland. http://www.iucn.org	SSN	<i>Species Survival Network</i> . Union of numerous NGOs that work together to achieve a better implementation of the legislation for species conservation
IZCN	(now: ICCN) <i>Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature</i> (Zairean Institute for Nature Conservation). National park authority in Zaire	UNDP	<i>United Nations Developmental Programme</i> . http://www.undp.org
KfW	<i>Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau</i> (Credit Institute for restoration). Central German institution that provides loans; funded by the federal and land governments	UNESCO	<i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</i> . http://www.unesco.org
MAF	<i>Morris Animal Foundation</i> . American veterinary organization	UNHCR	<i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i> . http://www.unhcr.ch
Mai-Mai	Guerrilla warriors; originally Bahunde who were led by Patrice Lumumba. They joined the ADFL after those had taken eastern Zaire.	UWA	<i>Uganda Wildlife Authority</i> (originally: UNP – Uganda National Parks). Ugandan authority for wildlife conservation
MGVP	<i>Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project</i> . MAF project in Rwanda for veterinary work in the Virungas and Bwindi. http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/MGVP	USAID	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i> . Developmental aid organization of the USA government. http://www.info.usaid.gov
MsF	<i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> (Doctors Without Borders). International organization of medical doctors who do volunteer relief work. http://www.msf.org	WCS	<i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> (originally: WCI). American conservation organization; headquarters: New York, Bronx Zoo. http://www.wcs.org
NGO	Non-governmental organization	WFP	<i>World Food Programme</i> . UN relief program. http://www.wfp.org
Peace Corps	US-American organization for developmental aid volunteers; founded by John F. Kennedy. http://www.peacecorps.gov	World Bank	Special UN organization which gives loans to projects in developing countries. http://www.worldbank.org
ORTPN	<i>Office Rwandais du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux</i> . Rwandan national park authority	WSPA	<i>World Society for the Protection of Animals</i> . Animal protection network of more than 300 member societies in over 70 countries. http://www.way.net/wspa
Oxfam	<i>Oxford Committee for Famine Relief</i> . British relief organization. http://www.oneworld.org/oxfam	WWF	<i>World Wide Fund for Nature</i> . International conservation organization. Headquarters of WWF International: Gland, Switzerland. http://www.panda.org . Numerous national organizations; WWF USA: <i>World Wildlife Foundation</i>
PIN	<i>Primate Info Net</i> . Comprehensive internet resource of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center in Madison. http://www.wisc.primate.edu/pin	ZGF	<i>Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V.</i> (Zoological Society of Frankfurt). German conservation organization; headquarters: Frankfurt Zoo



READING

Susan Freedman

Dian Fossey: Befriending the Gorillas. Austin, Texas (Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers) 1997. US\$ 25. ISBN 0-8172-4405-0.

There are about half a dozen books currently published on Dian Fossey. Susan Freedman contributed to the array. Her book offers a unique perspective on a pioneering primatologist. It covers the span of Dian Fossey's life starting in California in 1932 to her murder at the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda (December 1985). The author also briefly covers current mountain gorilla conservation efforts.

New written material is somewhat lacking in Susan Freedman's book; however, the photographs within its pages are stunning and many of them are in print for the first time. DFGF contributed many of these photographs from its 'Fossey Archive'. The photographs alone make the acquisition of this book a rewarding purchase. It was written for a younger audience and is classified as 'Junior Literature'.

Overall the book is an excellent addition to any library, and would be an effective tool in working with youth regarding pioneers such as Dian Fossey in mountain gorilla conservation.

Keith C. Kruse and Hope Walker

Noel Rowe

The Pictorial Guide to the Living Primates. East Hampton (Pogonias Press) 1996. 274 pages, 500 colour photos, 16 drawings, 235 maps. Hardcover US\$ 79.95, ISBN 0-9648825-0-7. Paperback US\$ 59.95, ISBN 0-9648825-1-5.

Elizabeth Kemf and Alison Wilson

Great Apes in the Wild. A WWF Species Status Report. 1997. ISBN 2-88085-207-2.

Janette Wallis

Primate Conservation: The Role of Zoological Parks. *American Society of*

Primatologists 1997. More than 250 pages. ISBN 0-9658301-0-1. Can be ordered from: Steve Schapiro, American Society of Primatologists, UTMD Anderson, Science Park, Rt. 2, Box 151-B1, Bastrop, TX 78602, USA. US\$ 25 (US shipping add US\$ 2.50, non-US shipping add US\$ 5).

This volume provides details of primate conservation projects conducted or sponsored by U.S. zoological parks. All profits from sale of this book go to the *American Society of Primatologists Conservation Fund*.

Eberhard Fischer

Die Vegetation des Parc National de Kahuzi-Biéga, Sud-Kivu, Zaïre (in German). Stuttgart (Franz Steiner Verlag) 1996. 240 pages, hardcover. ISBN 3-515-06986-0.

Hans Martin Hirt and Bindanda M'Pia

Natural Medicine in the Tropics. La Médecine Naturelle Tropicale (the book is available in German, English and French). Healing and care with tropical plants – how to produce medicine and cosmetic products yourself. With experiences from Zaïre. Winnenden (ANAMED) 1996. 126 pages, paperback, many photos and drawings. For further information contact: ANAMED-Buchversand, Schafweide 77, 71364 Winnenden, Germany.

FAO

State of the World's Forests 1997. Available in English, French and Spanish. The text can be downloaded from the internet at this address: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/SOFOTOC.htm>

IUCN and WWF

Forests for Life. Gland (WWF International) 1996. £ 5. Available from: The Forest Unit, WWF International, Avenue du Mont Blanc, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41-22-364-9520,

Fax +41-22-364-8219. E-mail: odette.jonkers-hueber@ian.wwf.ch

Thomas T. Struhsaker

Ecology of an African Rain Forest. Logging in Kibale and the Conflict Between Conservation and Exploitation. Gainesville (University Press of Florida) 1997. 456 pages, 103 figures, hardcover. US\$ 39.95. ISBN 0-8130-1490-5.

L. J. G. van der Maesen, X. M. van der Burgt and van Medenbach de Rooy (Hrsg.)

The Biodiversity of African Plants. Proceedings XIVth AETFAT Congress, 22–27 August 1994, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Dordrecht (Kluwer Academic Publishers) 1996. ISBN 0-7923-4095-7.

Ulrich Lüttge

Physiological Ecology of Tropical Plants. Berlin (Springer) 1997. Appr. 400 pages, 235 figures, 42 tables. Hardcover, US\$ 49, £ 29.50.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

Sowing the Mustard Seed. The struggle for freedom and democracy in Uganda (autobiography). Basingstoke (Macmillan Education). 248 pages, 20 black and white photos. Paperback £ 7.95, hardcover £ 12.95.

John McIlwaine

Maps and Mapping of Africa: A Resource Guide. Oxford (Hans Zell Publishers) 1997. 400 pages. About £ 60, US\$ 100. ISBN 1-873836-76-7.

Hope Walker

Undiminished: A Bibliography of Dian Fossey.

This eleven-page bibliography includes articles, books, organizations and internet web pages which cite information on Dian Fossey. The extensive collection of sources was developed due in part to an overall lack of



READING

a current, comprehensive source list when searching for documentation on Dian Fossey. It is the author's hope that the general public as well as students of all ages will find this list to be of assistance with various research projects. The author requests that all parties interested in a copy of the bibliography forward US\$ 2 to cover the cost of reproduction and postage.

For further information or a copy of the bibliography contact:

Hope Walker
18917-107th Avenue NE
Bothell, WA 98011-3010, USA
E-mail: bb916@scn.org

From the Internet

Gorilla links can be found at the *Kilimanjaro Travel Gorilla Help Site* (<http://www.kilimanjaro.com/gorilla>) and at the Gorilla web site designed by Tim Knight (<http://www.selu.com/~bio/gorilla>).

Information about primates in general is available at PIN (<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin>).

Many web sites provide news from the great lake region (Congo-Zaire/Uganda/Rwanda/Burundi and neighbouring countries) and links to other sites, for example: the *Reliefweb*, a site kept by DHA – the UN organization for humanitarian affairs (<http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc/greatlak/latest.html>), the Congo/Zaire site designed by Dirk Peters (<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1243/zaref.htm#internet>), the Eldis web site dealing with the great lake crisis (hosted by: *British Library for Developmental Studies* – <http://www.ids.ac.uk/eldis/lakes/grlake.html>), Karen Fung's web site (<http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/zaire.html>) and the *New Congo Net*, formerly *Zaire Watch* (<http://www.marekinc.com/NCN.html>). Articles collected from the African press are

listed at the PANA – *Panafrican News Agency* site (<http://www.africanews.org/PANA/news>) and *AfricaNews On-line* (for eastern Africa: <http://www.africanews.org/east/eastafrica>; for Congo/Zaire: <http://www.africanews.org/central/zaire>). CNN publishes very detailed and current reports from the Great Lakes region (<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD>).

A list containing internet web sites for developmental organizations is provided for example by USAID (<http://www.info.usaid.gov/resources>), a list of refugee and relief organizations can be found at the site of the library and the *Center for African Studies* of the University of Florida at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/refugee/index.html>. Oxfam Australia has a special web site for Congo/Zaire: <http://www.caa.org.au/world/africa/zaire>. Human rights organizations are listed by the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* at <http://shr.aaas.org/HRDIR.nsf> and at <http://www.igc.org/igc/conflictnet>. An organization especially occupied with the situation in the Great Lake region is *Human Rights Watch* (<http://www.hrw.org/home.html>). Links to organizations that deal with indigenous peoples are given at <http://www.igc.org/igc/issues/ip/or.html> and links to rain forest organizations at the site of the *Rainforest Action Network* (http://www.ran.org/ran/tribe_links).

For an extensive web site list of environmental and conservation organizations you can for example consult WWF (<http://www.panda.org/index>). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is provided by the *World Conservation Monitoring Center* (http://www.wcmc.org.uk/data/database/rl_anml_combo.html).

You can find the new issue of *African Primates* (2.1) in the internet at <http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/news/apn2.1.html>. The first two issues are also available there (at

[apn.html](http://www.apn.html) and [apn1.2.html](http://www.apn1.2.html)). The new issue of the *Gorilla Conservation News* has been published recently. It can be read in the internet at <http://anthro.ucdavis.edu/gcn>.

Angela Meder

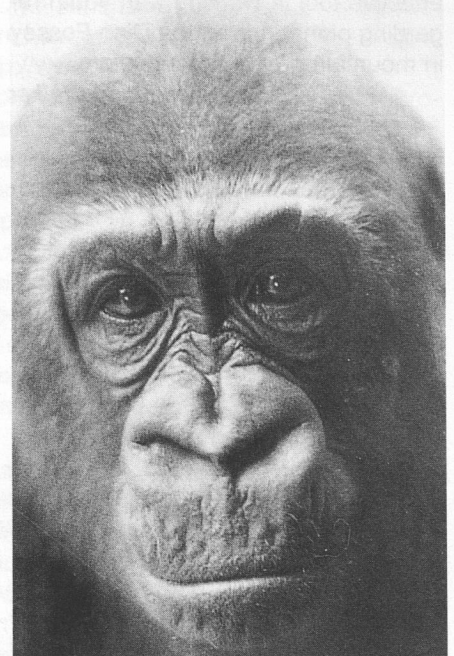
GorillaLine: A New E-mail Discussion Group

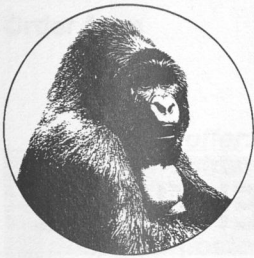
GorillaLine was founded by Hope Walker to facilitate communication regarding all facets of the research and conservation of gorillas. This e-mail discussion group is wide open to all interested persons. To subscribe to *GorillaLine*, send an e-mail message to gorillas@Olympus.net. This message should include your name and any affiliation you may have.

We hope that this discussion group will assist professionals and interested persons from around the globe in their individual work and fascination with gorillas.

Hope Walker

bb916@scn.org (personal e-mail)
gorillas@olympus.net (*GorillaLine*)





BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

During the last few months, we increased our efforts to publicize the situation in the area where the mountain gorillas live as well as the work of our organization. For instance, Angela Meder gave talks in the Rostock Zoo and at the Gorilla Workshop in Pittsburgh.

On 3 February, the Leo Club organized an event in Voerde together with Johannes Refisch. He taught high school students on the social behavior of apes and gave an evening talk about his experiences in Zaire. For one week, our rain forest exhibition was shown in one of the high schools.

In Göttingen and in Nuremberg, groups of active members arranged events for the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*. In the following contributions they report about their experi-

ences. Though the success was not always as expected – we would like to warmly thank all of them for their efforts and energy. We all learned a lot and hope the mountain gorillas will also find such support at other places.

Exhibition in Göttingen

As published in the last issue of the *Gorilla Journal*, the rain forest exhibition was presented in the Göttingen town hall from 10 to 20 December 1996. This event was organized by Ulrike Apelt, Klaus Hirzel, Domingo Mendoza, Julia Ostner, Nicola Uhde and several other helpers. The main event was a slide show by Angela Meder on 15 December in the Botanical Institute of Göttingen University about the situation of the eastern gorillas and

the work of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*.

In agreement with the board of directors, we designed a poster and had it printed (Photo: Christoph Lübbert; Text: Nicola Uhde). This poster can be used for further events and can be ordered from the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*, which funded most of the printing. The remaining printing costs and all other expenses for the exhibition (handouts, stationery, copies, mailing, beverages, transport of the exhibition and articles for sale) were financed by the Göttingen Kulturamt, by the sale of beverages and posters and by ourselves. Angela Meder's talk was attended by 300 people, which demonstrates the interest of the local public and the success of our advertising by posters and handouts.

The exhibition itself was attended by 15 to 45 visitors daily. This led us to the conclusion that it would be better if the exhibition were held at a site where people have more time to spend looking at the posters. Altogether, the event was a success. We had a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. In addition, a

The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*

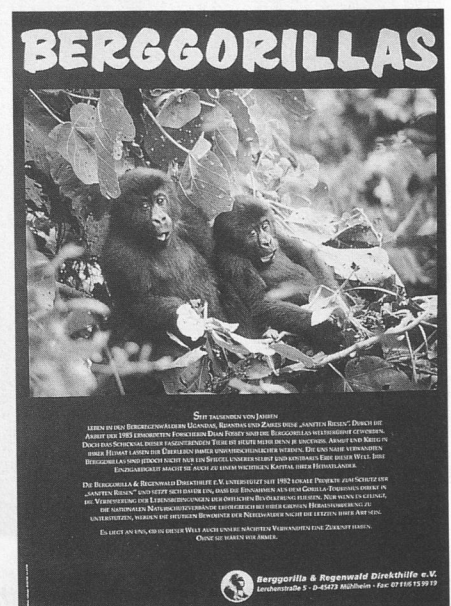
Our organization was established in 1991; it replaced the *Berggorilla Patenschaft*, which had been working for the protection of gorillas since 1982.

The board of directors consists of three members who are working on a volunteer basis and contribute skills and experiences from different backgrounds. This is important, because we are convinced that effective conservation includes not just biological, but also social, economical and political aspects of the areas where we are committing our efforts.

We support – in cooperation with other organizations – projects which contribute to the protection of the rain forests where gorillas live. At the moment, we are concentrating on eastern Congo/Zaire. We depend on the cooperation of local people; therefore, we also want to support them.

Another important aim of our work is to inform the public about our activities, the situation in the gorillas' distribution areas and the background of conservation efforts. The medium for this is our newsletter which has been published twice a year since 1991; it has been called *Gorilla Journal* since 1993. It is published in German and English. Most articles are also provided in the internet on our web site (<http://www.kilimanjaro.com/gorilla/brd>). Nowadays this journal is not just a newsletter for friends and donors of our organization, but also a forum for experts all over the world to present their news reports and research results and express their opinions.

Our work is funded by member contributions and donations. After deducting administration expenses, this money is spent to support the projects in Africa and to publish information. Even small contributions are used effectively – often in situations where other organizations cannot act immediately.



The poster designed in Göttingen



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

poster – in our opinion a nice one – was created.

Nicola Uhde and Domingo Mendoza

Mountain Gorilla Festival in Nuremberg

After many weeks of preparation, the day arrived: 3 May, the day of the Mountain Gorilla Festival. In the bright sunshine and summer weather, we finalized the last preparations. At 4 p.m., the first guests arrived. Karl, our champion drummer, started the childrens' drum workshop, which was sadly attended only by six children. Nevertheless, they had a lot of fun.

We had planned to show documentaries at 5 p.m., but there were only very few visitors, and we postponed it. The first film was finally shown to about 20 people, and after a short opening talk by Angela Meder, most of them stayed to watch the second film, too.

We hoped that in the evening more people would visit the party, but unfortunately we were wrong. At about 9 p.m., when our band, the *African Beat Stars*, started on the stage, the place filled up a bit. At other events, hundreds of people crowded in the hall, but this time there were just a handful of dancers.

As if bewitched, nearly everything went wrong. Our cook, who usually prepares the most delicious African buffets, went to Africa 4 weeks prior to the event and missed her plane back, so we quickly had to hire another African woman. At 11 p.m., we started the lottery. Instantly, our first prize was won – a trip to Kenya for two persons which had been kindly donated by the *African Safari Club*.

Deeply disappointed, we packed our stuff at 2 a.m. and went home. In spite of this experience, we are already planning the next festival, this time in November, and we hope that the

weather will be on our side with storms and snow.

Brigitte Ferchland

Donations

We want to thank each person and organization who supported us during the period from 1 November 1996 to 31 May 1997. Major donations were made by Peter Baumann, Claudia Eichholz, Mioko and Hermann Feldmeier, FUT, Brigitte and Manfred Hartwig, Gabriele Holzinger, Hartmann Knorr, Kölner Zoo, Angelika Kraus, Leo-Club Voerde, Angela Meder, Kurt Niemeyer, Photo Wolff, H. J. Reich, Sylvia Ruoff and Hiromi Uzu. Erwin Fidelis Reisch (*Reisch Tours*) again took charge of the costs of reproduction and composition for the journal. Many thanks to all the above mentioned persons and all the other donors for their confidence in our work! We hope that you will continue to support our efforts for gorilla conservation.

Changes in the Board of Directors

At the beginning of the year, Ulrich Karlowski decided to resign from the board of directors, though he will continue to actively support us whenever possible. His activities have been taken over partially by Iris Weiche, who has been studying the social behaviour of gorillas for several years. She also took part in the first phase of the Grauer's gorilla survey.

During a meeting of the expanded board of directors on 10 May, we discussed the functions that each member will take over in the future. Among other things, Iris Weiche will concentrate on public relations, sponsoring and the coordination of our rain forest exhibition. Christoph Lübbert is going to take over the responsibilities for our activities in the Kahuzi-Biega Park.



The extended board of directors of the Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe: Angela Meder, Iris Weiche, Karl-Heinz Kohnen, Ursula Karlowski, Rolf Brunner (left to right)

Photo: Christoph Lübbert

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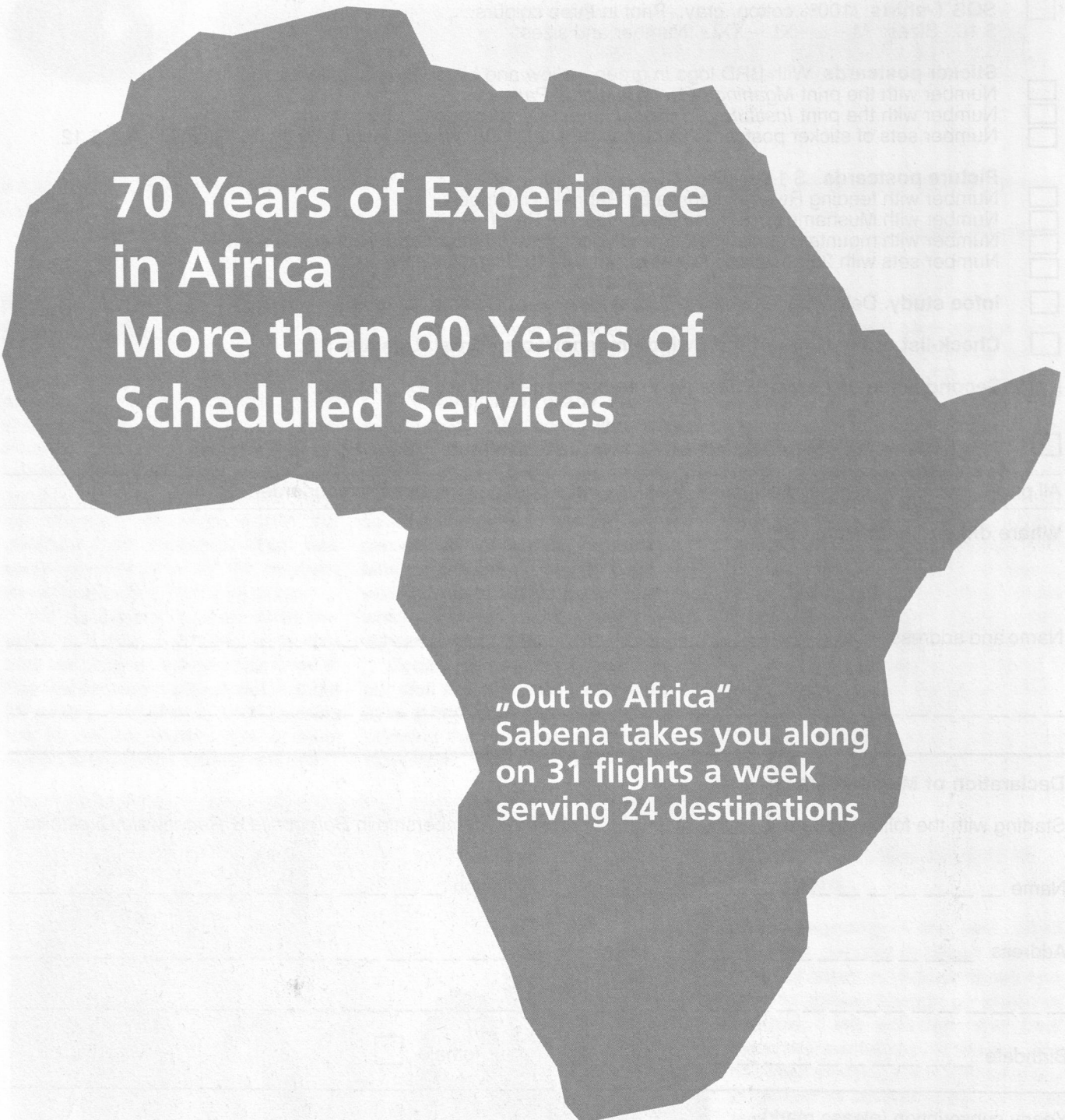
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Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe
Lerchenstr. 5
45473 Muelheim, Germany
Fax +49-208-762447

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