



Gorilla Journal

Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe

No. 26, June 2003



**An Initiative to
Resolve Conflicts
between Park and
Populace**

**UGADEC and
Community
Conservation**

**Gorillas Threat-
ened by Ebola**

**Zoos Fight the
Bushmeat
Problem**



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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Cover: Pygmy children at school near the Kahuzi-Biega National Park
Photo: Carlos Schuler

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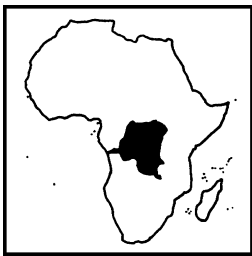
Carlos Schuler first worked as a typesetter, then became a windsurfing and skiing teacher. In 1983, he visited Bukavu. There he saw gorillas in the wild for the first time. Since 1994 he has been working for the GTZ (*Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit* – German technical aid).

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo conducted a gorilla survey in the Maiko National Park from 1989 to 1992, and in 1994 he took part in the gorilla census in Kahuzi-Biega. From 1995 he worked for the ICCN in Goma; now he works for the IUCN program PPP (*Peace Parks Project*) in Goma.

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Iris Weiche started her work with primates, in the wild and in zoos, in 1990. She is just finishing her doctoral dissertation on female gorillas in zoos. Since 1994 she has been active for the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*, and from 1997 to 2002 she was on the Board of Directors.



D. R. CONGO

Good News from Kahuzi-Biega

Early in May, troops of various factions moved into the highland sector of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and around the park. Fortunately, the troops that had been living within the range of the habituated gorilla families for seven months have now withdrawn without serious fighting. Thanks to an intense campaign to increase the awareness of all sides (warring parties, chiefs, UNESCO, MONUC and others), a solution has been found that safeguards the survival of the gorillas. Now they have their habitat to themselves again. The chiefs showed great understanding – with a remarkable far-sightedness – to save the World Heritage Site for the future as a main pillar of tourism and of the economy in general.

In the meantime, the patrol posts of Mugaba and Kasirusiru have been put into operation again by the rangers, and other patrol posts will also be back in operation again soon. Every day the gorillas are monitored, and no losses have been recorded among them so far. Since 12 May the Tshivanga station has had electricity – a big relief for the employees of the



Kahuzi-Biega rangers with equipment donated by us with funds from the EAZA bushmeat campaign

Photo: Carlos Schuler

Infanticide in Grauer's Gorillas?

According to park employees and Carlos Schuler (GTZ), a fight broke out between the two young silverbacks Mugaruka and Chimanuka in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in September 2002. In the course of this clash Mendeleo, a baby approximately 6 months old, was killed. His mother Mwinja, previously in Mugaruka's group, transferred with most members to the Chimanuka group. The clash itself was not directly observed by the rangers.

Infanticide is a male reproductive strategy: the male invests only in his own offspring. This has so far only been described unequivocally for the Virunga gorillas (and other primate species). Possibly it is connected to a scarcity of available females or even to safe ranges with good food sources.

Iris Weiche

park and the park management in general.

Iyomi Iyatshi and Carlos Schuler

Children Fight for Gorilla Conservation

Children – about 2000 of us – invaded the swimming pool of the Hotel Riviera in Bukavu on February 8th, 2003, to mark the sociocultural festival and draw attention to the resolutions from the Children's Symposium-Festival of Solidarity for the Protection of the Gorillas of the Parc National de Kahuzi-Biega (PNKB). The symposium was held on the 7th and the morning of the 8th of February, with 100 participants, the majority being children who



CARECO members during the discussion

Photo: Carlos Schuler

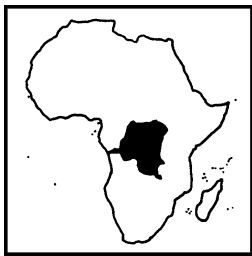
poured in from all parts of the town and from rural areas around the park.

Our demonstration had the effect of raising community awareness and began to change children's attitudes, as well as those of the warring forces occupying the park and those of local communities, which we hope will induce them to protect the remnant gorilla populations still living in the PNKB.

Those of our fellow students from rural areas adjoining the park who participated in these events are now going on to make reports to their communities, and they are also meeting with the politico-administrative authorities to make them aware of the widespread concerns that exist for the protection of the gorillas and all other resources of the PNKB. The authorities must listen very seriously to what we, the children, have to say to them, and recognise that the education system should also aim to inculcate us with respect for the natural environment.

As for us, the children of the town of Bukavu, we are going on to challenge those who are keeping wild animals in captivity, and urge them to return them to the park via the agents of the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN).

The warring parties are gradually being made aware of the fact that their presence in the PNKB is a violation of this World Heritage area. They have promised to evacuate the park quickly, and to let the ICCN agents secure



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the monitoring or the continuous surveillance of the gorillas and the other natural resources of the park without disturbing them. Perhaps they are beginning to understand that they have no business to be in the park and that they must leave.

The indigenous peoples need to be taught methods of construction that allow them to stop using bamboos (precious food of gorillas), to be furnished with sources of home energy for cooking so that they need not seek firewood in the park, and to be trained in agropastoral techniques to assure their food supply, and granted concessions (especially for the production of animal proteins). The politico-administrative authorities now promise to reinstitute a policy of prevention of and legal sanctions against any activities that may violate the integrity of the PNKB and threaten the survival of the gorillas.

These, then, are the first positive results of the Children's Symposium-Festival of Solidarity for the Protection of the Gorillas. Everything leads us to believe that these environmental awareness meetings could and should be intensified, so as to generate a community culture of conservation of gorillas and natural resources of the park. We the children – we can really affect people's souls and break their hearts!

José Faída Kyalangalilwa, Innocent Ntabarusha and Binja Barhigenga



The CARECO festival did not only include discussions, but also music and theatre performances.

The Carrefour d'Enfants du Congo, CARECO, is a movement to bring together Congolese children from 10 to 18 years of age through the Children's Parliaments that are active in the provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo. CARECO is active in South Kivu as the representative organisation for all children. Its activities are focussed on maintaining the law, peace, good government and the protection of the natural resources of the Congolese forest reserves.

Pygmy Schools

Education is an important factor in conservation. People who are educated are in a better position to understand the uniqueness of their natural resources and the need to protect them. Moreover, education in general is a prerequisite for a better future. If children learn to read and write, they will be able to study and to promote the development of their country – instead of having to survive by means of illegal activities.

A part of the donation of the Basel Zoo (p. 19 f.) was used to support the school education of 100 Pygmy children whose families live close to the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The funds will allow them to attend school for one year and will provide school material and clothing. As soon as feasible, it is aimed to replace the present teachers by Pygmy teachers.



The children in their school
Photo: Carlos Schuler



School material is handed over to a Pygmy child by conservator Bernard Iyomi Iyatshi (in the back: Iris Weiche, Chantal Shalukoma)

An Initiative to Resolve Conflicts between Park and Populace

The implication of local populations in acts of destruction of protected nature has been due above all to the extensive poverty caused by war, to the absence of a framework of dialogue between the park and the people, and to the absence of any sharing of revenues between the park and the people, as well as to the lack of tangible returns from the park to the general population. The politics of nature conservation, which has been a long-term policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo, has never favoured collaboration between the park and the people but has, rather, engendered mistrust and a tendency to invade the park's lands, or poaching. Certain demagogues and warlords have taken advantage of the chaos created by the incessant wars to insinuate themselves into the trust of the population and to enrich themselves illegally.

Since the year 2000, the Regional Office of Central Africa (ROCA) of the International Union for Conservation



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of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has initiated a biodiversity conservation project for times of armed disturbances, a project called *Peace Parks Project (PPP)*, in three countries of the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa – the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. The overall objective of this project is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity during armed conflicts by setting up a network of protected areas for peace and contributing towards the improvement of welfare of the affected populations in the Great Lakes Region. In the execution of the project, several activities are set in train, and several fundamental initiatives are promoted and encouraged. The most important of these is the project of Comité de Dialogue (dialogue committee) between the institution responsible for conservation in the Congo and the communities. The initiative for this committee came from the ICCN, a national institution charged with the administration of the national parks and nature reserves in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its principal partners include the PPP, the *International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)*, and the WWF's Virunga Environmental Program (PEVi).

A dialogue committee is a framework incorporating all the parties involved in the conservation of a pro-



Members of the dialogue committee in Jomba

Photo: Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

tected area for its common management and for sustainable community development. The committee is apolitical and without any financial object. It is composed of 10 elected members, representing both the ICCN administrators and the traditional authority and civil population.

Given that the Parc National des Virunga includes several human populations with different traditions, the functioning unit of the dialogue committee is based at the level of the local community. At each community level, local sub-committees are established for each major village or cluster of villages. The coordination of all the dialogue committees of the national park will be worked via a pilot committee for a period of three years in an alternating manner. At the moment, the Jomba committee is taking on this task for the Mikeno Sector.

The Mikeno Sector comprises five communities: Jomba, Bweza, Gisigari, Rugari and Kibumba. At present, only the Jomba committee exists; there is now a need to put in place three more committees, one for Gisigari and Bweza, one for Kibumba, and one for Rugari.

The mission of the dialogue committees is to bring the local population and ICCN to manage the natural resources of the park and to reconcile activities for the maintenance of the park's biodiversity with those of other development programs. The dialogue committees therefore have two objectives: first, to establish a space for a

frank dialogue between park and population; and secondly, to contribute to the promotion of lasting development aimed at the maintenance of biodiversity in and around the park.

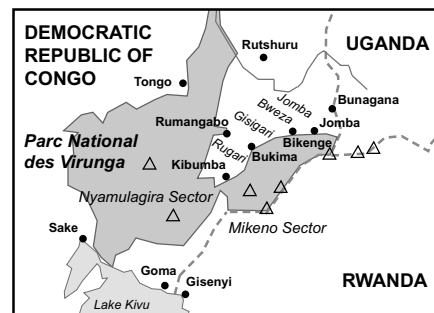
The activities of the committees consist of the identification of any problems which could cause conflict between the park and the population, the search for solutions for any problems which are identified, following up the proposed resolutions to the problems, wide dissemination of the resolutions to interested parties, improvement of the level of understanding of the importance of conservation or of the existence of the park among the general populace, and helping development activities to take root.

The strategies of the committees are based on regular meetings (once a month) with extra meetings when necessary, on the dissemination of the minutes to all those concerned, and on site visits. In their meetings, the committees find solutions by dialogue, reflection, consultation, planning, and in rare cases on information sessions with higher levels of the hierarchy. The PPP has financed an expense account for the committee and the remuneration of expenses for Jomba, Kibirizi and Sake, and has facilitated the setting up of the three pilot committees for these three vil-



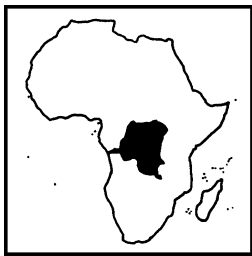
Rabbit breeding is propagated as an alternative to bushmeat.

Photo: Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo



Communities close to the southern sector of the Virunga National Park

Drawn with maps from C. Sikubwabo



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Potato harvest in Jomba. The potatoes were planted with the help of the committee of dialogue

ages. After their establishment, the PPP, the ICCN and the partners of the ICCN have secured the make-up of the membership of the pilot committees, and the PPP has continued to guarantee the framework and the procedure of these committees.

In November 2002, the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* and Basel Zoo (Switzerland) supported the Jomba committee by supplying office equipment, field equipment (waterproofs and boots) and communications equipment, by supporting small projects (potato seeds and small loans among members) and by motivating them to visit the fields. This support is continuing in the form of office furniture.

The pilot dialogue committee at Jomba has set up two subcommittees



Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo and Déo Kajuga Binyeri

Photo: Iris Weiche

in the localities of Mukingo and Gikoro, thus totalling 32 very active members. There has been at least one session each month to inform and interest the population in conservation, and on several occasions the authorities have been invited. Since May 2000, the Bunagana committee with its subcommittees has succeeded in discouraging several times those trafficking in baby gorillas. They ensure surveillance of fields, together with the guards of the Chanzu post (Jomba), to repel animals from the park which raid crops. As revenge, the population of Jomba had dug several ditches to trap animals from the park that enter their fields to destroy the crops. Several buffaloes have fallen into these ditches since 1998, when they were dug. A young elephant died during the course of the year from the effects of shock from falling in the ditch. The Jomba dialogue committee has alerted the population to the danger which this represents for the fauna, particularly the gorillas but equally for the people themselves. More than 100 ditches have been filled in, thanks above all to funds from the Basel Zoo and technical support of PPP.

Having established their effectiveness in the management and resolution of conflicts, the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* and the Basel Zoo have also granted funds to the PPP for the setting up and formation of committees in the localities of Bweza, Gisigari and Kibumba.

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo and Déo Kajuga Binyeri

Primates at the Edge of the Abyss

Since the beginning of armed conflict in the African countries located in the Great Lakes Region, the primates have become victims for several rea-

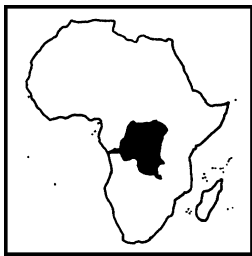
sons. In the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo the weakening of the capabilities for action of the institutions charged with conservation, resulting from the disarmament of the guards and the lack of operational means, has brought about an incapacity for these institutions to contain the threats to the protection of the monkeys and other animals of the protected areas. In this part of the country, the primates are pursued for several reasons.

Gorillas have become victims of:

- The battlefield. Several died between 1998 and very recently, caught in the cross-fire of combat troops.
- Their rarity. They have been sought for the commerce of the babies, who can be captured only at the cost of the lives of the parents and other young ones. Dozens of mountain gorillas have perished under these circumstances.
- The war. Breaking the food taboo, some of the combatants have eaten them. This was also the case for some Pygmies and Ituri Forest Bantu who were eaten by soldiers at the front.
- Reduced living space is pushing them to leave the forest to look for food in the villagers' fields. A recent case is reported below.

Brief Story of the Death of the Gorilla Bahati

The young gorilla "Bahati" was part of the Rugendo family. The young male was born December 6, 1999. His mother was the female Neza. He was stoned to death on January 21, 2003, near the Bikenge patrol post between Jomba and Bukima. In this area near the border of the Virunga National Park the fields of the local population have been damaged by gorillas for several years. To reduce or to mitigate these depredations, which cause conflicts between the park and the popu-



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One of the men who killed Bahati with Bahati's body

lation, the IGCP has initiated a project called HUGO, which means "Human-Gorilla Conflict Force". The activity of HUGO consists of repulsing the animals by ringing bells, beating tam-tams and making a lot of noise. On January 21, 2003, the Rugendo family came out of the forest and ate 235 corn stalks in a field belonging to a man named Ntaho. The people, wanting to chase the gorillas away, threw projectiles at the gorillas. The young gorilla Bahati was seriously hurt and died. Ndagijimana Mudahaka, Hakizimana Nzitonda, Twizere and Baseka Ntibisigwa were identified as the culprits who threw pieces of wood and stones in the direction of the gorillas.

The Other Monkeys

Besides primates that are already eaten or smoked in the forest, some monkeys are brought alive to Goma for sale. The species kept in captivity most frequently are the chimpanzee, sometimes dragged about in the



Bahati when still alive

streets of Goma, *Cercopithecus ascanius*, *Cercopithecus mitis*, grey-cheeked mangabey and black mangabey. The monkeys in question are captured in the forest west of Goma, often after massacring and eating their families (the primate food taboo exists solely in the Mikeno area). At the beginning of April three chimpanzees were seized by the ICCN and brought to the CRSN (Center for Scientific Research) at Lwiro where an orphanage for primates is being created. This first seizure is to be encouraged and will stimulate the search for other monkeys in the town so they can be seized and sent to Lwiro; this will discourage the traffickers and holders of monkeys.

It is difficult to say at this time how many monkeys are kept in Goma or its surroundings. The people who collect information are extremely limited due to the lack of funding. They are reporting that among the persons who are holding monkeys, some have baby gorillas. This is yet to be confirmed.

Fines and Penalties

The persons responsible for the death of the gorilla Bahati were arrested by ICCN guards and taken to the Goma High Court. They were given a trial and found guilty. However, they were released a few days later as they claimed that they had acted without premeditation and in self-defense.

While the civilian population is suffering great agricultural losses and is prosecuted in case of any incident with the animals, the armed men are untouchable and cause great harm to the animals, keeping them for their pleasure in their homes to serve as play things for their children or their own amusement. Above all, they try to sell chimpanzees or baby gorillas.

However, the threat does not only weigh on the primates but also on other large mammals, birds, fishes,

the flora, and soil. Aside from poaching, fields occupy large areas of the park. These are complex conflicts that must be resolved at all costs.

*Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo
and Déo Kajuga Binyeri*

In January, 3 Rwandan poachers convicted of killing two gorillas and stealing a baby in the Congolese part of the Virunga Volcanoes were fined sentenced to 4 years in prison. The poachers were former employees of the Park National des Volcans. They were fined up to US\$ 8,000. Six others, convicted of soliciting a market for the gorilla abroad, were sentenced to 2 years and fined up to US\$ 3,200.

Capture of a Baby Gorilla in a Banana Field at Bukonde

A baby gorilla was captured by a villager at Bukonde, a locality situated in the Tayna Gorilla Reserve (RGT), southeast of Butembo in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (page 10 f.). Arrested by the RGT trackers, the villager told them:

On February 5, 2003 a family of 8 gorillas was destroying my banana field. I decided to frighten them away with loud noises, and a female abandoned the baby that she was carrying on her back when running away, and I took it. Influenced by my neighbours, who told me that I could sell the baby gorilla for US\$ 5,000, I went to look for a buyer in Butembo (a town about 280 km from Goma).

To reach Butembo, he went by a route which would allow him to leave as quickly as possible and avoid the RGT guides, from Bukonde via Kanyabayonga to Butembo. During the trip, the baby gorilla was transported on the man's back in a locally made sack as far as the place where he found a



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The confiscated gorilla from the Tayna Gorilla Reserve

Photo: Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

vehicle. He fed the baby gorilla on bananas and wild fruits.

In Butembo, where he was arrested by the RGT trackers, the villager was brought to local community authorities to whom he declared that he was poaching because of his poverty and unemployment, but if he could get a job in the project he would stop poaching and influence his fellow citizens.

In our opinion, considering the gorillas' biology and the savagery of the silverback, we do not think it is possible to capture a member of a family without threat. Moreover, it is rare for a female to abandon her baby, because she lives most of time close to the silverback and benefits from his protection.

Investigations are going on, and we hope to find out if the troop's silverback and the female were killed; we think it most likely that the poacher obtained the infant in this way.

The baby, a female, measured 75 cm and weighed 15 kg. Up to now she has been in good health in the care of

the RGT team, which proposes to return her to her natural habitat or to send her in to a nearby research center. We will request the politico-administrative authorities of the area to facilitate her transfer from Butembo.

The RGT has been involved since 1998 in community conservation activities, education of the local populations, and fighting against poaching and the illicit trade in protected wild species. The arrest of the villager

The Lwiro Orphanage

In January Iris Weiche and I visited the Parc National de Kahuzi-Biega. We had heard that a group of 8 confiscated chimpanzees was being kept at the next-door Lwiro research station. When we arrived, two had just died. The remaining 6 were clearly under-nourished. We had brought a veterinarian from the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda, Richard Ssuna.



He performed medical examinations on all chimpanzees, gave them the necessary vaccinations and discussed recommendations with the staff.

One of the chimpanzees, Kalume – a 3-year old male – urgently needed help. As a baby he had been hit with a panga (machete) on his face which had badly damaged his mouth. He could not open his mouth any further than 1 cm, his bottom lip was deformed and his teeth were protruding at a 90° angle. As a result he could not eat properly and he was badly malnourished.

In April I went back with a team of two vets of Ngamba Island (Peter Apell and Constantine Kasule) and a surgeon specializing in reconstructive surgery on children (Ben Khingi). We operated on Kalume and were happy to see that already the next morning he managed to eat a banana in the normal chimp way!

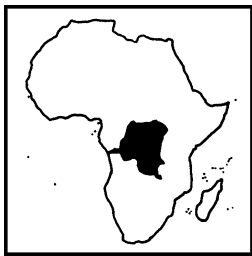
At this moment, emergency funding is being sought for the chimpanzees to run one year in the current setup. Long-term plans are being discussed for relocation of the chimpanzees to a permanent sanctuary, to be established in a relatively safe area in eastern Congo.

Yvonne Verkaik



Kalume before (left) and after surgery

Photos: Iris Weiche (above), Yvonne Verkaik (below, left), Debby Cox (below, right)



D. R. CONGO



A mangabey kept as a pet
Photo: Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

with a baby gorilla proved to be a good opportunity for publicity, and for the educational and sensitization teams of the RGT to organize a large public awareness campaign about the event to local communities. During these activities, the team was asked to explain how bad poaching is and what the advantages of conservation are.

Some days afterwards the RGT and its local partners received positive responses from other persons who keep primates in their homes. The RGT has also taken the opportunity to involve the legal system and other relevant services in the affair, and we received their complete cooperation. Thus, after a dialogue with other conservation organisations, the RGT is setting up a program to rehabilitate all wild animals being held in captivity.

However, there are considerable



Monkeys that were confiscated in Bukavu, now living in Lwiro
Photo: Iris Weiche

technical, material and financial difficulties in setting up a transit center or a center specialized in keeping primates for reintroduction to their natural habitat without harming other animals still living in the forest. The RGT team is afraid of the risk of contamination or disease transmission, or simply of difficulties related to their reinsertion into social groups or their natural habitat.

The RGT team and partners are working hard now to make a census of all wild animals kept in captivity in different houses in Goma and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

Census in the Tayna Gorilla Reserve

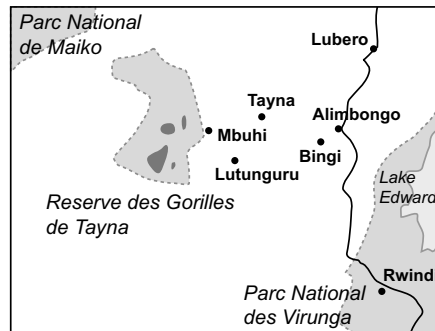
The first faunal inventory of the Tayna Gorilla Reserve was organized from July 2001 to May 2002. It was carried out by local technicians and will serve as an example for other community conservation projects.

The survey was concerned mainly with primates and large mammals, but also took in other animals. Two main methods were used: identification and analysis of traces (tracks, droppings, knuckle prints, hair, food leftovers) and counts of gorilla and chimpanzee nests. The results were as follows:

- 450 gorillas (density: 1 gorilla per km²),
- 17 primate species,
- 70 mammal species.

Among the mammals are several endangered or vulnerable species. In addition to the gorillas, they include the following species: chimpanzee, owl faced monkey, l'Hoest's monkey, golden cat, Ruwenzori leopard, giant pangolin, forest elephant, aardvark, red river hog, giant forest hog and okapi.

Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya and David Sivalingana Matsitsi



The Tayna Gorilla Reserve and the areas where gorillas were found (dark areas)

Drawn with information from P. Kakule (modified)

UGADEC and Community Conservation

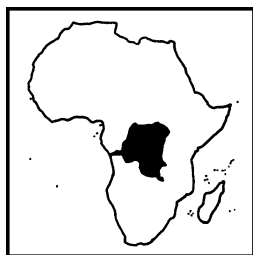
Eight community conservation associations in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo want to pool their efforts to preserve gorillas and other rare species threatened with extinction and to promote the development of the areas under their control. For this purpose they have created a platform with the goal of making their conservation activities more dynamic: UGADEC. Is it not said that "Union makes for strength"?

Following difficult consultations and debates among the managers of various conservation projects, UGADEC was born on December 2, 2002 at Goma.

Objectives and Goals

Based on the results of the evaluation efforts of each conservation association, the union or platform of UGADEC will seek to consolidate the activities of its members to promote socio-economic development in eastern Congo through the conservation of primates. In this context, the platform must:

- Publicize the notion of community conservation;



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- Organize training sessions on community conservation;
- Promote eco-tourism in the Albertine Rift;
- Follow up on the activities of the associations;
- Create a database for data already analyzed by the various association members.

The goal of all the activities of UGADEC is the preservation of an endangered ecological region. This region is a unique ecological reserve, extending from the east of the Congo basin to the extreme west of the Albertine Rift. Its surface covers 12,000 km². Specifically, UGADEC has the following goals:

- Take action against the destruction of the environment and towards the protection of the biological diversity found in this zone, with its multitude of rare and endemic species;
- Promote the safeguarding of ecological systems and protection of the environment, following urgent requests by the international community;
- For the best results, encourage the involvement of the local population and basic institutions (women, agricultural associations, businessmen, school children and students);
- Launch a strong campaign designed to utilize ecological resources which for a long time have been ignored by the population, who had fallen victim to an ideology promoted by those who in effect were enemies of nature (especially miners of mineral resources, and tree fellers).

Associations that Constitute UGADEC

1. **Tayna Gorilla Reserve (La Réserve des Gorilles de Tayna, RGT)** is located in the Bamate and Batangi communities, Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. The initiative for the

creation of this reserve in April 1998 was the result of an awakening of consciousness by the elite of the area and had the support of two powerful traditional chiefs, Mwami Mukosenge and Mwami Stuka, who mobilized their entire population to accept the project. The Chief Conservator, Pierre Kakule, who was born in the region, played a crucial role in the implementation of the project. The reserve contains a particularly rich physical and natural environment, with vegetation dominated by a primeval forest in transition, unique in the world, including rare primates. The fauna contains certain unique species which are currently being studied. The flora also includes rare and medically important species.

2. **Bakumbule Community Primate Reserve (La Réserve Communautaire des Primates de Bakumbule, RéCoPriBa)**. This goal of its creation was to preserve the abundance of natural resources found in Walikale Territory, particularly in the Kisimba and Ikobo communities, Wanianga Sector, where the fauna and flora are unique in the world, with rare species and a high diversity. RéCoPriBa participates in the preservation of natural ecosystems, in the protection of endangered species (including gorillas, chimpanzees, okapi), and in the socio-economic development of Bukumbule in particular and the Walikale Territory in general. It instills in the population a taste for living in harmony with the environment which will also benefit future generations. Like all the other member associations of UGADEC, RéCoPriBa was created by the intellectual elite, notables, and traditional chiefs of the region. RéCoPriBa's slogan is **love, unity and labour**. The reserve does not cover the entirety of Kisimba and Ikobo, but occupies the eastern part of Kisimba and western Ikobo (Lepia and Luchembe Valley). South of Kisimba,

the reserve occupies the Osso and Mampi Valleys up to the border of Utunda (Makombo River). The eastern border in the south is the Mweso River which is also the border of Masisi Territory. In short, the RéCoPriBa/Walikale is located between the RGT in the northeast, the ILSN in the southeast and the RGU and RENGYIT in the west.

3. **Local Initiative to Safeguard Nature (L'Initiative Locale pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature, ILSN)** is a non-governmental structure, secular and non-profit, which uses a community approach giving it a new and special character and which sets it apart from other traditional conservation concepts. It came about as an initiative of the Mwami Bashali N'Siyi M. Roger and local intellectuals, after bitterly observing the continual degradation of the ecosystems with all that entails. The philosophy of the association is one of introducing a community conservation approach into the mentality of human society, concentrating its on the Masisi Territory.

4. **Usala Gorilla Reserve (La Réserve des Gorilles d'Usala, RGU)** is located in North Kivu Province, Walikale Territory, Wanianga collective sector. Usala is a European deformation of the word "busara" in Kinyanga and "esala" in Kikumu, which means "forest". Usala is limited in the north by the Mandaye River which separates the Oriental and North Kivu provinces, in the east by the Lindi River, by the Bilate River in the south and the Ruata River in the West. Its fauna is very diversified and includes almost all the forest species including elephants, buffaloes, okapis, gorillas, chimpanzees, baboons, pangolins, snakes (cobras, boas, pythons, vipers, etc.), and thousands of multicoloured birds; the rivers are full of brilliantly patterned crocodiles.

5. **COCREFOBA (Conservation Communautaire pour la Réserve**



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Forestiere de Bakano – Commu-nity Conservation for the Forest Reserve of Bakano) is a community conservation association active in the two groups of the Bakano Sector, Walikale Territory in North Kivu Province. In the administrative entity which constitutes the Bakano Sector, COCREFOBA coexists with the northern extension of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The reserve is located more to the north and north-west of the Bakondjo group and the Kahuzi-Biega Park is limited by the Wanianga Sector. COCREFOBA is a community conservation association which owes its legitimacy to its involvement with the traditional chiefs and the local population.

6. **Ngira'Yitu Community Reserve (La Réserve communautaire Ngira'Yitu, RENGYIT)** has its roots in the three adjacent groups (Utunda, Bana-Bangi and Wassa), whose residents have understood the necessity to unite in order to protect and promote their ecological environment (Walikale Territory). The three groups cover the area of the Ngira'Yitu Reserve, limited in the north by the Maiko National Park, in the south by the COCREFOBA Reserve and the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, and in the west by the Shabunda and Punia Territories. The Ngira'Yitu Reserve consists of about 70% primary and 30% secondary forest. It abounds with elephants, okapis, gorillas and chimpanzees. Ngira'Yitu, like the other community reserves, is the product of the traditional chiefs and the local population, from which derives its legitimacy.

7. **Itombwe Mwenga Community Action for the Protection of Nature (L'Action Communautaire pour la Protection de la Nature Itombwe Mwenga, ACPN-IM)**. The protection of the Itombwe range, which is part of the Albertine Rift, requires, in order to be non-conflicting, rational, and effi-



Existing parks and reserves (dark areas) and new UGADEC areas (light)

cient, that its scientific character be taken into account in order to avoid the dispersal of efforts and means in the different community areas in this forest. There are many types of forest in the region, with montane forest predominating, located at an altitude between 1,600 and 3,500 m, from the Lendu Plateau north of the rift to the Marungu Mountains to the south. In order to insure the protection of all the valuable rare species of Itombwe, the

traditional chiefs of the area (Mwami Charles Kalenga Lwango, Mwami Kisali Malekani Wilondja, Mwami Longangi Ali Byemba and Mwami Mubeza Nalwindi Bugoma IV) and the intellectuals from Itombwe and Mwenga, among them pastor Ushindi Kyalondawa, decided to create the ACPN-IM.

8. **Punia Gorilla Reserve (La Réserve des Gorilles de Punia, RGPU)**. The RGPU was created upon



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the initiative of the traditional chiefs and intellectuals from the groups Mbako, Banamea and Banamukulunya of the Babira-Bakwame collectivity in Punia territory, Maniema Province, with headquarters in Punia. The RGPU was created mostly to preserve the fauna and flora of Punia and especially the species threatened with extinction, such as the gorillas and chimpanzees which still subsist there. In the long run eco-tourism and scientific research are to be promoted.

Strategy and Mission

It is most important to underline that what makes all these community reserve projects particularly outstanding is the traditional organizational origins of their structure. This structure is as follows:

- The General Assembly, which is supreme and deliberative and composed of founding members, organizers, co-founders as well as regis-

tered members;

- The Board of Directors, composed of a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary and advisors. Its role is to analyze all the reports submitted by the executive.
- The Control Commission, whose members are elected by the General Assembly by mandate. Its main responsibility is to control the financial, material and administrative operations of the association.
- The Coordination or Executive Secretariat is composed of a Coordinator, Program Director, Administrative and Financial Director. It is responsible for the day-to-day management of the reserve in all its aspects.

The specific feature of this management model is that the doers and actors are common people or chosen by them. This uniform organization which characterizes all the reserves is part of the basis for the creation of the UGADEC platform.

The strategy is to put the spotlight on the gorilla in order to attract the attention of the local population and thus emphasize on the need to preserve other threatened species endemic to our target zones as well.

Once the local population realized that the reserves and the approach did not in any way affect traditional property rights and that they still can extract some resources from the reserves, their relationship with the managers of the different community projects improved.

UGADEC has chosen the so-called "modern" road to conservation while relying on the traditional conservation rules. This enables us to revalidate and maintain respect for the culture of the local population. UGADEC would like to convince the people to respect the Congolese law, international conventions (Earth Charta, IUCN Red List, CITES) and the traditional laws which are in harmony with nature. Each of the laws has been ratified by

Funds for New Reserves

Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya, the managing secretary of UGADEC, asked us to support the rangers of the new proposed reserves in eastern Congo. The initiatives that united to create UGADEC urgently need equipment. It is needed for surveys of these areas – to find out what rare animal species are living there – and for patrols to control poaching activities.

We promised to support the initiative with as much equipment as possible. But as many rangers have to be equipped, the necessary funds exceed our potential and we need additional donations.

Would you like to support this unique approach to conservation of the Congolese population? Every contribution is welcome!

If you want us to use your donation especially for this purpose, please indicate "UGADEC" on the subject line of the bank form or cheque.

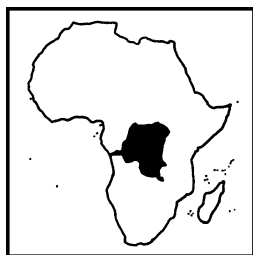
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Account No. 353 344 315

UGADEC needs:
Radio equipment (US\$ 7,500),
blankets, raincoats, tents, ruck-
sacks, sleeping bags, boots,
binoculars, compasses, ...



Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya with Patrick Mehlman, DFGF-I, during a seminar-workshop for UGADEC

Photo: Iris Weiche



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the members of UGADEC insofar as it pertains to them. In its approach to community conservation, UGADEC wanted the native population to live on their own land in accordance with their own traditions with the managers of these projects, to work with them in the conservation of the ecosystems, and permit the sustainable use of the renewable resources in order to achieve long-term conservation. UGADEC has decided to declare war on the network of shady forestry operators, poachers, and traffickers of live animals and trophies, as well as bushmeat vendors. That is the challenge. These illegal activities have serious consequences for the conservation actions already started by the members of the association.

Draw Increased Attention to Rare Species

Our population must know that rare species are under increasing danger of extinction.

- They are very sensitive to the destruction of essential biotopes.
- Their reproductive rate is very low.
- Their degree of vulnerability is very high (some primates are increasingly exposed to dangerous human diseases).

The local population often complains about the destruction of crops by these species, especially gorillas. They must know that animals may leave the forest for the following reasons:

- The animals may be experiencing problems within their own group.
- They may be searching for living space because their needs are not being satisfied.

The following measures are recommended:

- Never attack the animals.
- Try to chase them away with noise, light and other non-violent means.
- Build fences if possible.
- Create buffer zones.

Relationship between UGADEC and its Associations

UGADEC is a platform which brings together 8 associations, each of them autonomous and geographically and administratively independent. Unity of effort and action makes these associations strong, legally and technically. As a result, UGADEC will be able to assert and defend the common interests of the various association members. This unity within diversity will result in increased efficiency and enable it to make its voice heard in lobbying.

Administratively, UGADEC will only have an advisory and coordinating role with the public authorities and large organizations. It will never interfere in the administrative, technical and financial affairs of member associations. Having consented freely to adhering and being part of the platform, consent is the key to decision-making.

- A number of criteria must always be respected when admitting a new member.
- A code of conduct must be observed by all members.
- Unity of efforts, joint action, and the support of traditional authorities constitute the strength of this platform, which brings together different ethnic communities and geographical regions of the Congo.

The Executive Secretary is responsible to the executive. He is not a super-coordinator and his responsibilities do not in any way affect the autonomy of each coordination. He is only the spokesman for the ideas and efforts undertaken by the various managers of the community reserves. This management model only serves to reinforce social cohesion among the members of UGADEC.

UGADEC shows the population that conservation brings development – eco-tourism, eco-development, education and micro-projects – for the

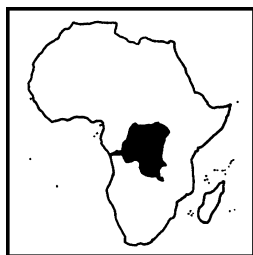
local population. This practice will result in a sustainable management of resources and their preservation for future generations. The approach will enable the population to profit from the projects.

First Activities

The following activities have already been realized for this project:

- An important seminar-workshop organized in January 2003 in partnership with DFGF-I on education and public awareness for the member associations and other persons involved in conservation;
- Another important seminar-workshop, also in January 2003, still in partnership with the DFGF-I, for rangers of member associations involved in monitoring gorillas;
- An important media campaign involving local radio stations, newspapers, and the internet on the conservation activities of the member associations, followed by educational spots;
- Publication of six information bulletins produced by the member associations with 2,100 copies printed;
- Distribution of T-shirts to the participants of all the member associations;
- Deciding the UGADEC slogan: **Solidarity, Conservation and Development.**

Since 1996, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been at war, and the eastern part of the country in particular has been intensely affected by it. It is within this context that the UGADEC along with its associations are evolving. UGADEC feels that during periods of disturbances and war special consideration must be accorded to conservation. If human life is threatened, what will happen to the fauna and flora? This is the challenge UGADEC faces as it confronts risks of all types incurred by the protectors of nature.



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The Sarambwe Forest

Photo: Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

Thus UGADEC is making an appeal to all persons or organisations who hesitate to support the project because of the war: Now is the time to do it in order to strengthen the intervention capabilities of this platform.

Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

Border Demarcation at Sarambwe

Between Saturday the 5th and Monday the 7th April, 2003, we were in the field to inaugurate the task of establishing the limits of Sarambwe. In a meeting held at Rutshuru with the Mwami (traditional Chief), the conservator of the Rutshuru Hunting Domain, the ICCN representative, a representative of the local association RECOGOSA (Réserve Communautaire de Sarambwe – Sarambwe Community Reserve) and some of the local population of Rutshuru, a pilot action committee was constituted, with the Mwami as President and the Conservator of Rutshuru (Virunga National Park) and the RECOGOSA representative as members.

On the Sunday, the local population was made aware of the need to establish the limits of Sarambwe. On the Monday, 60 people were recruited to clear a 5 m-wide forest track for 6,000 m, to look for young *Erythrina* trees; they were under the direction of three persons, namely an agronomist from the environmental program around the Virunga National Park, a representative of RECOGOSA and a local chief (representing the Mwami). The ICCN is responsible for the security of the workers and the apportionment of their tasks.

The recruitment continued and the work started on April 10. 138 people participated – and all parts of the population were represented. A track of 9,000 m was cleared and planted with 2,200 *Erythrina* trees.

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

Co-ordination Journey in January 2003

Despite relatively easy communication via e-mail nowadays, it is necessary to visit the projects which we

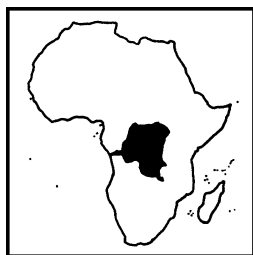
support and to meet our partners in Africa in person, if possible once a year. For this reason I travelled to Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in January for two weeks.

In Uganda one of the most important tasks was to find a new representative of our organisation. Yvonne Verkaik, a Dutch woman who is living in Uganda, will take over this function on probation. Furthermore, I met several representatives of GTZ, JGI, UWA and so on, who have repeatedly provided logistical support on the spot. I handed over a provisional donation document for the funding of ranger post renovation in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to Arthur Mugisha, the new director of UWA. Together with him and later on with the representative of the *International Gorilla Conservation Programme* (IGCP), I discussed the latest cases of baby gorilla smuggling. One incident of poachers attempting to steal the baby of a gorilla group in Bwindi was fortunately prevented. Such attempts were also reported from Rwanda and Congo; adult gorillas were killed there while trying to protect their offspring. Interpol is now involved in the investigations; they are trying to find out the source of demand for baby gorillas.

We have had an excellent long-term co-operation with GTZ in Bukavu. Together with various donors, we were able to support the conservation of the



Iris Weiche (right) with Arthur Mugisha and Yvonne Verkaik



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park by providing materials and funding for public awareness activities. More than half of the funds was collected in connection with the bushmeat campaign of EAZA and the hiring-out of the bushmeat exhibition. Actually the value of the provided materials is even much higher, thanks to the contributions of Volker Jährling. During our visit, our shipment, weighing over a ton, arrived; it contained tents, raingear and many other items.

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park is still a war zone. One party is posted inside the park, the other party is deployed outside the park boundaries. Therefore we could neither walk in the rainforest nor visit the gorillas. Thanks to the diplomatic skills of the national park authorities, the rangers may still

monitor the three gorilla groups that were habituated.

At the main entrance of the national park – Tshivanga – the rangers welcomed us and showed us the station. Thanks to the support of the Belgian organisation *Nouvelles Approches*, the station is supplied with electricity through a cable of 1.5 km length. The park personnel is highly motivated, but the future of the park and the animals living there depend on the security situation which has not yet improved markedly.

In Goma, the disastrous effects of the lava flow, which destroyed large parts of the city in the beginning of 2002, are still evident, and the volcano Nyiragongo still shows visible activity. Here also, the front line is located just

outside the city, but Goma itself seems busy and many new hotels, some of them very modern, have been built. Here, we met some co-operation partners as well, including Mbake Sivha (IGCP), Patrick Mehlman (DFGF-International) and Pierre Kakule. They just held a workshop about future public awareness activities and conservation planning in the Tayna Gorilla Reserve.

Particularly important to us was the meeting with the representatives of the Congolese national park authority ICCN and with Claude Sikubwabo, the co-ordinator of the *Peace Parks Project* of IUCN in the mountain gorilla sector. I handed money over to him for bicycles as well as a digital camera, a donation from Angela Meder to Claude

Funds for New Figures

How many mountain gorillas live in the Virunga Volcanoes? We are often asked this question, and we can only reply: Nobody knows exactly. Since 1989 no gorilla census could be carried out in the mountains because it was too dangerous.

Now – finally – a real census will take place. The national park authorities of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda have already named persons who are to be responsible for this survey and designed a schedule for the census in their countries together with gorilla conservation organisations. Now the funds for the census have to be provided.

As we were asked for a contribution to the census budget, it was clear for us that we should offer our support. As the forest is to be systematically searched, the rangers will also get a very good overview of the situation on the volcanoes.

We will provide a part of the funds for the census. Would you also like to contribute? We would be grateful for your help!

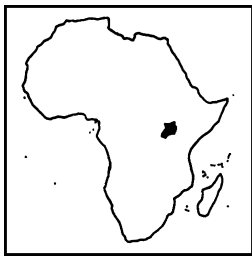
Please write "Virunga" on the subject line of the bank form or cheque.

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Members of the Nyakagezi group, Uganda

Photos: Iris Weiche



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Sikubwabo. The director of ICCN North Kivu and several people with important functions were most delighted with our support and were well informed about our activities.

Sociological studies, awareness-raising work and interviews in the area of Mt. Tshiaberimu (or Mt. Kyavirimu) were carried out by the organisation CADAK. One of the results of our financial support was the printing of pamphlets and posters. Some samples were handed over to me by Paluku Vasangavolo Pavasa, one of the leaders of CADAK.

We visited Kisoro and the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is one hour away from Kisoro. There we were shown the newly installed and fully functional radio station, funded by the primate park La Vallée des Singes in Romagne/France. Although the fees for visiting the gorillas were increased, the demand for permits was high. The visitors are still accompanied by many soldiers. The small town Kisoro has a constantly growing capacity of tourist accomodation, so we were the only guests in the community bandas close to the park.

During our stay the Nyakagezi gorilla group in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park spent their time at the foot of the Muhavura. Not all members were visible and the dominant silverback seemed to be bothered, but the eldest female Kaboko lay relaxed in the sun (photo on page 15). Unfortunately we could only get a quick glance at the youngest 1.5 year-old baby. The grown-up son Marc was closely observing the human interest in the gorillas and reacted to a sudden approach with a bluff charge.

The development at the edge of the park is making encouraging progress. This area had been cultivated at the beginning of the 1990s, before the national park was created and before the buffalo wall was constructed by Klaus-Jürgen Sucker. But now there is so



The buffalo wall in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Photo: Iris Weiche

much natural vegetation that the wild animals of the park can fully use this zone. Even forest elephants from the adjacent Congo, forest buffalos and wild cats can be spotted again. The buffalo wall has become so popular that the adjoining parks of the Virunga Volcanoes want to copy it for their areas.

Iris Weiche

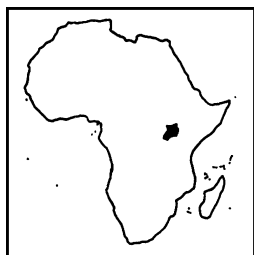
Our New Assistant

When I arrived in Uganda in September 2000 I never thought I would still be here now, almost three years later! Two of us were travelling per Landrover from Holland to Cape Town and our destination in Uganda was Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary. Before our departure from Holland, I had found some Dutch donors for the sanctuary. But then I met Yoyo, sweet, 2 years old, and a chimpanzee. Her family had been butchered for the bushmeat trade and she had been confiscated on the Congolese border when she was on her way to being sold. Many hours Yoyo and

I spent in the holding facility with the other chimps, slowly minimizing Yoyo's dependency on her "mum" (me!) and giving her the confidence to stay with her friends.

From June till December 2001 I was interim manager of Ngamba Island, a period I enjoyed very much. Also a





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period of hard work because in the meantime I was asked to 'revive' *Rhino Fund Uganda*, a local NGO with as its single goal to bring back the rhino into Uganda. Rhinos were wiped out in the early 1980s. In September 2001 we captured two southern white rhinos in Kenya and 6 weeks later we brought them to the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe. A symbolic moment!

My main task now is the establishment of Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary where we will breed black and white rhinos for later release in Uganda's national parks. We are fencing off a beautiful area and building a tourist lodge and a visitor/education center. Funding is coming in from many sources and also private companies in Uganda are helping a lot. If all goes well, we could have the first rhinos around New Year.

In 2002 I came in contact with the people from *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*. In January Iris Weiche and I visited the gorilla projects that the organisation is supporting. As a person on-site is needed to assist with logistics and to represent *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* at regional meetings, we agreed I would be that person. Early April I attended the IGCP regional meeting in Goma. One of the interesting things of that meeting was the level of cooperation between the three countries that share the Virunga area. It shows that conservation does not have to suffer from political differences, an encouraging thought!

Yvonne Verkaik

Support for Ugandan National Parks

In January 2003, the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park received radio communication equipment from us, donated by the French zoo Vallée des Singes: 3 Motorola VHF handheld walkie-



A ranger with the radio base station that was funded by us with the donation from Romagne

Photo: Iris Weiche

talkies and one VHF base station including the antenna. The equipment was officially handed over to the senior warden, Chris Oryema. It facilitates park operations including joint ranger patrols with neighbouring countries and gorilla monitoring.

Renovations for Ranger Posts

Last year we received a request from the UWA to help provide support for the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Three ranger posts – in Ruhija, Kitahurira and Nteko – are in very bad shape and need to be renovated urgently. In May, Dieter Speidel and Yvonne Verkaik visited these posts, talked to the rangers and looked at the buildings in detail. They confirmed the reports that renovations are needed, and work has now started to improve conditions for the rangers.

At a ceremony in June 2003, the German Ambassador Klaus Holderbaum handed over cheques of several German organisations to the *Uganda Wildlife Authority* Executive Director Arthur Mugisha. One of the cheques was from us – for the renovation of three ranger outposts in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park that we are funding.



UWA ceremony with the German ambassador (left: Y. Verkaik)



Dieter Speidel and Yvonne Verkaik visit the ranger posts

Photos: Elke Reif



GORILLAS

Haemorrhagic Fever Caused by the Ebola Virus

The haemorrhagic fever (resulting in bleeding) caused by the Ebola virus aroused worldwide attention for the first time when it broke out in the Central African country of Zaire in 1976 (Zaire was renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997). It is caused by a type of virus known as a filovirus. The disease is transmitted via body fluids of infected individuals and is fatal in roughly 50–90% of sufferers. So far, it is known only in Africa. The latest serious epidemic broke out in October 2000 near the northern Ugandan city of Gulu (43,000 inhabitants), claiming 169 deaths. Another epidemic was reported from the Congo Republic in February 2003; at the same time, a huge number of gorillas and chimpanzees died in this region. A specific therapy or vaccination against the disease has not yet been found.

Epidemics of Ebola

Named after the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this highly infectious disease for the first time provoked media excitement in 1976. It was not possible at that time to heal or help the people suffering from Ebola. So far, seven serious outbreaks of the epidemic have been registered: in 1976 in Sudan and Zaire, in 1977/78 again in Zaire, in 1979 and 1983 in Sudan, in 1995 in the Zairean city of Kikwit, and in October 2000 in Uganda. The latest epidemic occurred in the villages of Kélé and Mbomo, about 800 km north of Brazzaville, in February 2003. According to a WHO announcement dated 6 May, 128 individuals died out of 143 infected a mortality rate of 90%.

Even today, the mechanisms of transmission of the disease are not completely understood, and there

may be both reservoir species (the host carries the virus without suffering from the disease) and vector species (the host transfers the virus to animals that subsequently suffer from the disease) that have not been identified. This means that humans living in the deep forests in eastern, Central and western Africa or consuming animal meat from these regions (bushmeat) run an extremely high risk of infection. It is very likely that the disease is transmitted to humans through contact with apes, especially chimpanzees and gorillas, which are killed for meat by the local population.

Course of the Disease

A first indication is provided by the clinical picture of those infected and by a molecular-genetic test for the virus (PCR), later also by a test for special antibodies. Haemorrhagic virus infections with high mortality rates like Ebola still cannot be treated successfully. Infected persons need to be isolated.

The symptoms usually appear after 2 to 21 days following the infection: fever, shivering fits, headache, muscle pain and loss of appetite. They are followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, and stomach and intestinal cramps, as

Gorillas Threatened by Ebola

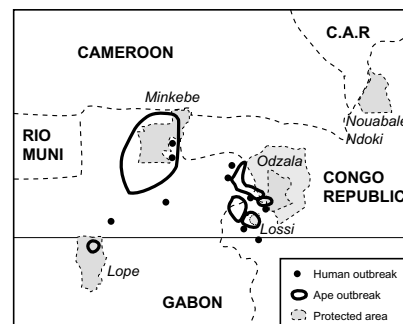
Until recently, bushmeat hunting was considered the greatest danger for western lowland gorillas; now, Ebola has become an even more serious threat. A research team estimated a 56% decline in the gorilla and chimpanzee population in regions considered home to 80% of the world's gorillas between 1983 and 2000 in Gabon and the Congo Republic (Nature 422, pp. 611–614, 2003).

Ebola hemorrhagic fever, which has killed more than 100 Congolese people in recent months, now rivals hunting as the biggest threat to apes. Thousands – perhaps even tens of thousands – of them are believed to have succumbed to the rapidly fatal disease. The disease has wreaked havoc in Congo's Lossi Sanctuary and now is on the borders of Odzala National Park. In northern Gabon's Minkébé forest, ape densities have declined by 99% in the past decade, mostly as a result of Ebola.

Scientists are discussing measures that should be taken to stop the spreading of the disease, but so far cannot agree on the best way to save the apes. If chimps and gorillas continue to disappear at the current rate, they will be confined to a few small pockets in a matter of years. Peter Walsh of Princeton University estimates that, if present trends continue, ape populations will fall 80% in the next 30 years. The survival of only small and isolated populations and subsequent extinction is a real possibility if the trend continues.

More information by Peter Walsh (<http://www.ApeEbolaCrisis.org>), ECOFAC (<http://www.ecofac.org>)

Map: With information from the ECOFAC website (modified)





GORILLAS

well as severe pain in the upper chest. The disease provokes serious coagulation problems and the patients start bleeding everywhere. They bleed in the gastro-intestinal tract, from the skin and mucous membranes as well as from the puncture marks of hypodermic syringes and infusions, but also from vital internal organs (liver, spleen, lungs and kidneys).

Between day 5 and 7 after the infection they develop a skin rash similar to measles, but which is visible only on light skin. Very often there are neurologic symptoms with paralysis and disturbances of the patients' mental constitution. In most cases people die after 10 days from multi-organ failure.

Transmission

The disease is transmitted when contact is made with body fluids of infected individuals. Hospital workers who had contact with patients treated with infected syringes or surgical instruments, or family members nursing the patients, have commonly been infected with the virus.

Like the HI-Virus, Ebola can also be transmitted through sexual contact. Due to close contact, many people catch the virus while preparing the highly infectious bodies for burial. Airborne infection via the respiratory tract is not considered likely. Patients who have already suffered from Ebola are immune to subsequent infection and are off the danger list.

Outlook and Prognosis

A major problem is that the primary focus of infection of the Ebola virus is still unknown. A number of efforts are currently underway to identify it. During the last epidemics many animals in the affected regions have been captured and examined to find out whether they are a primary host and carry the virus. Without direct proof of the natural or primary host many questions remain unanswered: "Can

the Ebola virus survive in different hosts?" or "Is it possible that the virus needs no specific host at all and can nevertheless survive in the African rainforest?" There are indications, though, that humans were infected by the consumption of ape meat. Nevertheless, apes cannot be considered as the reservoir host because they also die of the disease.

So far, no vaccination is available, but a number of research centres are working on the development of a vaccine.

Christoph Lübbert

Bushmeat

In the Congo Republic and in Gabon huge numbers of gorillas died of Ebola (page 18). Important research groups were completely destroyed. And suddenly the people notice that there are alternatives to bushmeat and readjust their food, turning to fish, chicken or beef.

Positive news came from Cameroon. It was announced officially that in the future vendors who sell meat of protected animals would face a sentence of several years in prison and a fine of up to 16,000 US\$. Let's hope that this will not only remain a media campaign but that action will follow. Cameroon is one of the most important bushmeat consuming countries.

The bushmeat campaign of the European zoos continues to be active even if the mills of the bureaucracy in the European Parliament grind very slowly. The petition with over 2 million signatures that was handed over in November 2001 now convinced the Petitions Committee to present an official fact-finding report concerning the bushmeat problem to the Parliament. This report is then to be discussed in a plenary session at the end of 2003 at the earliest. As a result, at least an official position paper will have to be produced that can represent the gen-

eral conditions for further EU actions. Certain budgets will possibly be provided specifically for this topic.

The campaign was already very successful in England at the national level and is to be carried out in a similar way in other European countries as well. However, the campaign will require a person for specific lobbying who receives a salary. This lobbying position is to be installed in England after the provision of financial means by the European zoos and a partner initiative with committed organisations ("European Bushmeat Campaign").

Iris Weiche

Zoos Fight the Bushmeat Problem

During the bushmeat campaign, the European zoo association EAZA asked zoos to support ape conservation projects that try to solve the bushmeat problem in Africa. We were one of the organisations that were supported by EAZA – and we therefore received funds and encouragement from several zoos. Some of them provided funding for certain projects that they chose together with us. The following zoos provided valuable support for certain activities during the past few months and we thank them sincerely. The projects need this help and motivation urgently. We hope that this cooperation between zoos that keep gorillas and gorilla conservation projects will continue; it will take much more effort until the bushmeat problem will (hopefully) be solved.

Basel

The Basel Zoo was very successful in its appeal to fight the killing of great apes for the bushmeat trade. They received many donations from the friends of the zoos. After a discussion with gorilla expert Jörg Hess they de-



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The board in the Basel Zoo primate building that introduces the projects supported with the bushmeat funds

Photo: Jörg Hess

decided to use it for a project that we would recommend. Finally they supported two activities that help gorilla conservation by improving the living conditions of the people close to national parks in eastern Congo. One of these projects was the school education of Pygmy children near Kahuzi-Biega (page 4), and the other one was the newly founded dialogue committees near the Virunga National Park (page 4 f.). An impressive, beautifully

designed board in the primate building informs visitors about these activities. It was presented to the press in December 2002.

Zürich

In November 2002, the Zürich Zoo organized a very special charity event: Maria Becker, an actress from the Schauspielhaus Zürich, read from Dian Fossey's book in front of the gorilla enclosure in the ape building. It was a wonderful evening with about 80 visitors. At the request of the zoo, the proceeds were donated to the rangers of the Kahuzi-Biega Park. At the end of May we sent binoculars and digital cameras to the park.

Romagne

When Jan Vermeer of the French primate park "La Vallée des Singes" in Romagne read our appeal for donations to support Uganda's gorilla conservation, he immediately offered to



Zoo director Olivier Pagan (right) welcomes the press for the official presentation of the board

Photo: Angela Meder



A ranger in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park using the radio communication equipment

Photo: Iris Weiche

help. The zoo provided funds for the required radio equipment – a base station and hand radios for the rangers of the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. In the meantime, the radios have been distributed and the rangers use them during their patrols.

Kolmarden

The most recent zoo support comes from Sweden: The conservation foundation of the Kolmarden Zoo started an appeal for the protection of the highly endangered Cross River gorilla



Part of the ground plan for the Cross River ranger quarters



GORILLAS



Gorilla nests in the Afi Mountains, Nigeria

Photos: Hazel White

subspecies in Nigeria. This appeal created a very encouraging response and considerable funds were collected. They are now being used for the construction of ranger quarters at the Cross River National Park.

A "New" Gorilla Population

In 2001, the Dowsetts, a couple surveying in Cameroon, found traces of gorillas in an area where no gorillas were supposed to live. To make sure that they were really gorillas, Jacqueline Groves visited the area again in 2002 and observed 8 groups of gorilla nests. She also collected hair samples for genetic analysis.

Recently, researchers from the San Diego Zoo surveyed the area again. The *Zoological Society of San Diego* is planning to establish a national park and four associated ecological reserves in Bakossiland. Bethan J. Morgan, a post-doctoral fellow at the *Zoological Society's* Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES), and Chris Wild, in charge of the CRES Bakossiland field station at Mount Kupe, visited the area and searched for primates there. They had a brief sighting of 7 gorillas and also found nests, faeces and a skull. The



gorilla group was found in the Ebo forest across the Sanaga, a river that had previously been thought to be a barrier for gorilla distribution.

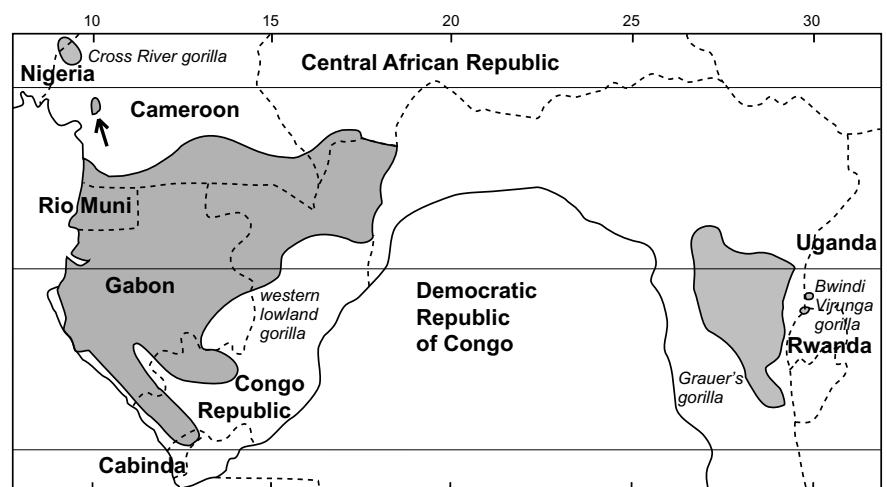
The park is proposed to include an area of 580 km². It will be managed by several institutions and organisations: the *Zoological Society of San Diego*, the *World Wildlife Fund* and *Conservation International*, in cooperation with EKADA, a local NGO.

Western Gorilla Genetics

A comprehensive analysis of gorilla DNA from many different populations has been carried out under the coordination of a team from the Centre International de Recherches Médicales in Franceville (CIRMF). The aim was to find out how closely various gorilla populations are related.

The surprising result was that the western gorillas do not consist of only two groups (western lowland gorillas and Cross River gorillas), but three groups: Cross River gorillas, Dzanga-Ndoki gorillas (Central African Republic) and the rest of the western gorillas. Although the gorillas from the Dzanga-Ndoki area are not very distinct from other populations morphologically, genetically they are clearly separated. It has yet to be found out what this means for the origin of the difference. Perhaps the rivers Sangha and Dja have been barriers for the gorillas for such a long time that a new population has been able to develop.

For details see Clifford et al. in: Taylor & Goldsmith (2003) Gorilla Biology (page 22 of this journal).



Gorilla distribution areas. In Cameroon the "new" population north of the river Sanaga is shown (arrow)



READING

Andrea B. Taylor and Michele L. Goldsmith (eds.)

Gorilla Biology. A Multidisciplinary Perspective. Cambridge (Cambridge University Press) 2003. 508 pages, hardcover, £ 65, US\$ 90. ISBN 0-521-79281-9

Awaited for a long time, this book is an interesting overview of recent research on the biology of gorillas. Although a decade ago many researchers maintained that everything about gorillas was already known, many exciting discoveries – specifically regarding the ecology of wild western gorillas – were actually only made in the 1990s.

Taylor and Goldsmith represent two different disciplines of biology; a fact that is also reflected in the structure of the book. More than half of it is dedicated to morphology and taxonomy, which has recently once again become very controversial. The rest (which I personally had wished to be covered more extensively) is dedicated to socio-ecology and to protection status. Zoo research, which has provided such important biological data for western gorillas, is, however, hardly mentioned by the (mostly American) authors.

But what is important is the comparison of differences of individual species/subspecies that give rise to exciting hypotheses for further research about the flexibility of the social system of gorillas. Just as interesting are discussions about the existence of a fission-fusion system in individual populations and general variability that cannot always be traced back to differences in food supply. The discussion of taxonomic controversies, which have enormous significance specifically for the protection status of individual subspecies, is also very welcome.

Iris Weiche

Dale Peterson and Karl Ammann
Eating Apes. Berkeley (The University of California Press) 2003. 320 pages, hardcover, US\$ 24.95. ISBN 0520230906.

Biruté M. F. Galdikas, Nancy Erickson, Lori K. Sheeran, Gary L. Shapiro and Jane Goodall (eds.)
All apes great and small. Vol. 1: African apes. New York (Kluwer Academic Press/Plenum) 2002. 316 pages, hardcover, US\$ 75. ISBN 0306467577.

Thomas Halford, Herbert Ekodeck, Benjamin Sok, Mireille Dame and Philippe Auzel
Statut des populations de gorilles (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) et de chimpanzés (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) dans le sanctuaire à gorilles de Mengamé, Province du Sud, Cameroun. MINEF & the Jane Goodall Institute 2003. 57 pages.

The report is in French with an English executive summary. It is available as a PDF file at
<http://www.janegoodall.net/news/assets/RapportGrandsingesMengamefinal2003.pdf>

Jaco Homsy
Ape Tourism & Human Diseases: How Close Should We Get? Nairobi 1999. 79 pages.

This unpublished report is now available for download as a PDF file on the WildPro website of the Wildlife Information Network:
http://www.wildlifeinformation.org/Subdirectories_for_Search/SampleEL/greatape.pdf

Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Results from a Nationwide Survey Conducted September–November 2002. IRC (International Rescue Committee) 2003. 26 pages. Available for download in PDF format at <http://www.theirc.org/mortality>

Dominic Johnson
Shifting Sands: Oil Exploitation in the Rift Valley and the Congo Conflict. A Pole Institute Report, 2003. Available for download in PDF format at <http://www.pole-institute.org>

New on the Internet

Helga Schulze designed a website for the Tayna Gorilla Reserve:
<http://www.tayna.org>

The website of the primate orphanage in Limbe:
<http://www.limbewildlife.org>

The *African Conservation Foundation* added a new forum on its website (<http://www.africanconservation.org>) where conservation groups and researchers working in Africa can advertise their requirements for equipment and medical supplies. Please have a look at the interactive discussion forums. If you would like more information or if you would like to send a list through, please contact Terry Harnwell
e-mail: terry@africanconservation.org

Request for Information

Hope Walker is currently working on a non-fiction manuscript about the family, life, and tragic murder of Dian Fossey. She has been collecting information for over ten years and hopes to offer a more accurate and compassionate history of one of the most misunderstood and vilified scientists of the 20th century. Hope Walker would like to hear from individuals who knew or met Dian Fossey, or who have related photographs, letters, notes, audio or video recordings, etc. Please contact Hope Walker at P.O. Box 2101 Port Townsend WA 98368 USA or by e-mail at gorillas@waypt.com



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Finances

Income in 2002

Subscriptions	12,316.56
Donations	48,675.27
Refund from meeting	88.40
Sales	2,354.85
Total	Euro 63,435.08

Expenses in 2002

Administration	884.30
<i>Gorilla Journal</i>	6,121.92
Subscriptions	312.67
Items/postage for sale	915.45
Pay/top-ups	450.00

Kahuzi-Biega Nat. Park

Equipment	11,758.90
<i>Le Gorille</i>	8,219.84
Food for work (Pygmies)	2,717.89
CARECO festival	2,113.23
School for Pygmies	3,882.63

Virunga National Park

Dialogue committees	5,000.00
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Mt. Tshiaberimu/Kyavirimu

Poster CADAK	1,870.30
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Sarambwe

Border demarcation	4,652.97
Food for work	706.63

Mgahinga Gorilla Nat. Park

Radio equipment	900.00
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Afi Mountains, Nigeria

Solar panel	1,757.65
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Project Management

Transport	1,493.05
Travel expenses	954.00
Repairs of vehicle	1,193.63
Total	Euro 55,905.06



Bernard Iyomi Iyatshi (Kahuzi-Biega) with a notebook donated by us

Photo: Carlos Schuler

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