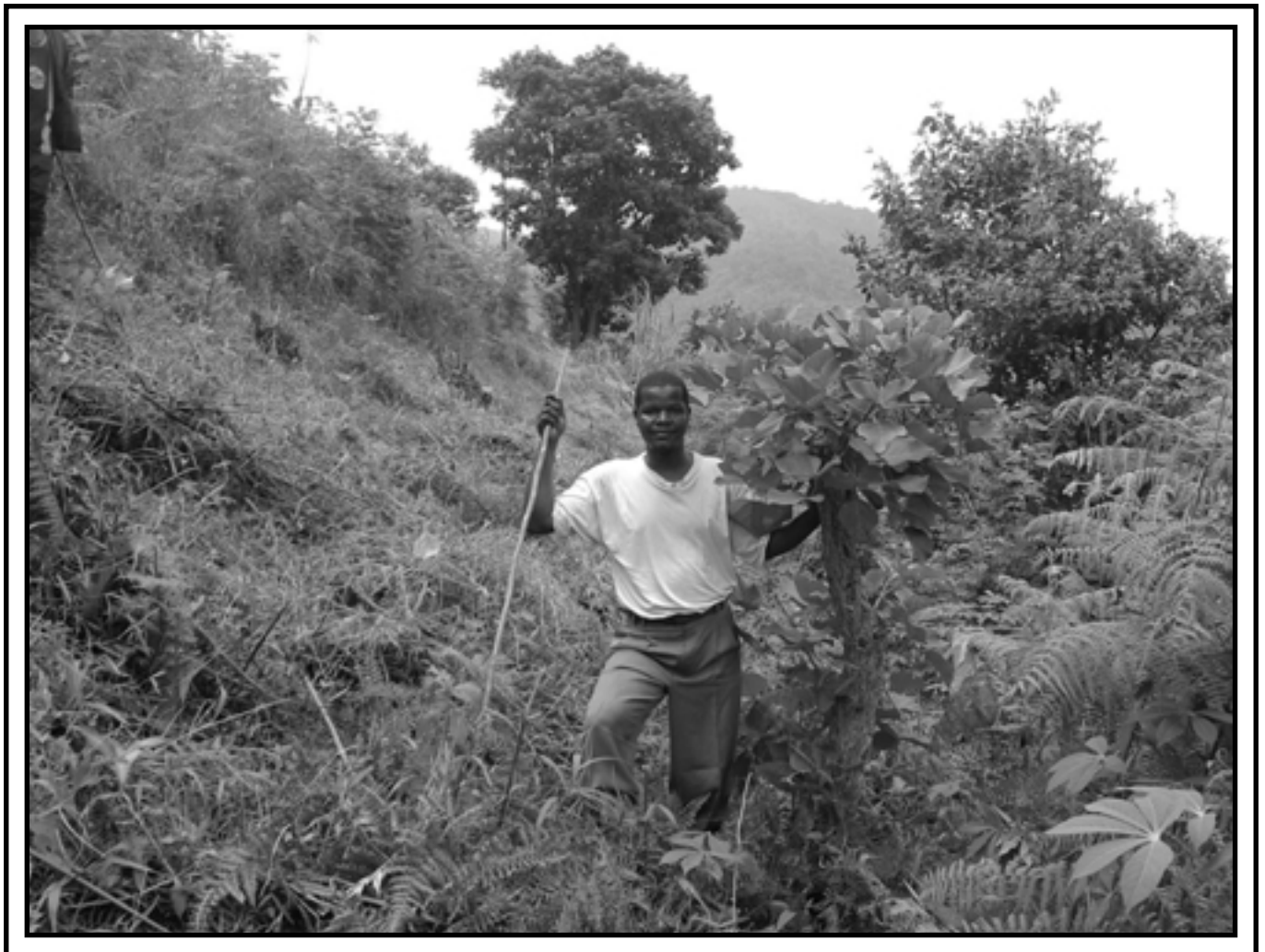


Gorilla Journal

Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe

No. 27, December 2003



**Disappearance of
Mishebere**

**The Sarambwe
Gorilla Special
Reserve**

**Protection Strate-
gies for Cross
River Gorillas**

**The Jane Goodall
Institute and
MINEF in the
Mengamé Reserve**



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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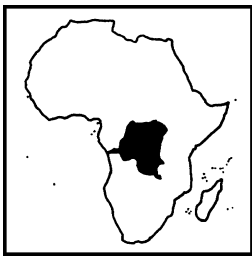
Carlos Schuler first worked as a typesetter, then became a windsurfing and skiing teacher. In 1983, during one of his intercontinental travels, he visited Bukavu. Two years later he returned and since 1994 he has been working for the GTZ there.

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D. R. CONGO

The Disappearance of Mishebere

Several times, the people responsible for the management of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park have established contact with the warring factions in order to safeguard the lives of those gorillas ranging across troop positions. We have been able to follow four out of five gorilla families, who spend most of their time in the vicinity of Tshivanga ranger post, on a regular basis. No individuals are missing from these four families.

The fifth family, the Mishebere family, used to be the largest one. It consisted of 39 individuals, including one adult male, Mishebere, 16 adult females, one young male, 6 subadults, 6 juveniles and 9 infants. Its home range was situated between the Mbayo plantation and the Mugaba pa-



trol post, and was about 20 km long. In October 2002, the family gathered as usual at the foot of Mt. Kahuzi in the bamboo forest to forage for young bamboo shoots. At the end of the



Mishebere and his skull

Photos: Carlos Schuler

A Kahuzi-Biega Ranger Killed by the Army in Kasirusiru

We deeply regret to report the brutal death of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park Ranger Kasigwa Kaboyi, 31 years old. He was killed on 31 October 2003 at about 8 p.m. in the Kasirusiru Sector.

On that evening, we were informed that a group of armed Interahamwe and ex-FAR (*Forces Armées Rwandaises*) had been observed in the park; they were preparing an attack on nearby villages.

The commander of the troops based at Kasirusiru, not far from the ranger post, decided to carry out an action against these criminals without delay. As the soldiers were not sufficiently familiar with the park's forests, he decided to form a mixed patrol composed of 22 soldiers and 2 rangers. During the patrol, the soldiers were in front with a ranger who guided them, while the other ranger stayed at the back. Unfortunately, when the second ranger approached the ambush, one of the soldiers fired on him without any warning. This was a criminal act.

We are very saddened by this incident. In a patrol there is always a marching formation and nobody shoots unless he receives an order from his superiors. We trust in justice and think that the one who committed this crime should be punished according to the law.

The funeral of our ranger took place on the afternoon of 1 November in Kasirusiru. May his soul rest in peace.

Bernard Iyomi Iyatshi and Carlos Schuler

bamboo shoot season, the family moved towards Mbayo. Subsequently we were unable to survey this sector because of security concerns. We lost contact with the family in the beginning of January 2003. As soon as the warring factions left the park on May 3rd, 2003, we intensified patrols in order to relocate the group.

On August 12th, 2003, at 10.50 am, we finally found Mishebere's bones under a tree on Kakungu Hill, which is covered with secondary forest. Some hairs and teeth allowed identification. No flesh was left on the bones, which had attracted red ants and rodents. Our observations permitted the following conclusions:

- The murderers were not professional poachers, because they did not recover their loot, the corpse of the killed gorilla.
- The gorilla was shot not far from the Kabona route. The bullet did not damage any vital parts of the gorilla's body.



D. R. CONGO

News from the Lwiro Orphanage

Since the commencement of large-scale animal confiscations in the Bukavu area, a place has been urgently needed to care for them. Although the facilities are not ideal, an orphanage has been set up at the Lwiro research station.

According to the ICCN/GTZ (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature/Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit* – German Society for Technical Co-operation) project at Kahuzi-Biega, the orphanage housed in October 2003 34 animals: 12 chimpanzees, 1 bonobo, as well as *Cercopithecus mitis*, *C. ascanius*, *C. pogonias*, *Lophocebus albigena*, *Chlorocebus aethiops*, baboons, 2 snakes and 3 birds. Many animals have already died there: 2 gorillas, 3 chimpanzees, 4 monkeys, 1 snake and 1 falcon. The orphanage is presently supported mainly by the GTZ project, and in 2003 it received financial support from IPPL (*International Primate Protection League*) and the *Born Free Foundation*; the *Jane Goodall Institute* and PASA (*Pan African Sanctuary Alliance*) provided technical and administrative support and share their experience in medical treatment and feeding.

The present problems are that there is not enough space in the building at Lwiro; the budget is still too small for equipment, medical treatment, hygiene and adequate motivation of the staff, and that the staff do not have enough experience.

– We estimate that the crime took place in February 2003.

It will take more time and work to find out more about the other family members. An increase in numbers of individuals or nests among the other fami-

lies has already been observed. Moreover, not far from where the bones were found, we discovered a nesting site, which is approximately 2 months old. We have to continue our surveys in order to get a better idea of how many animals died and how many survived.

Once more we have to pay homage to the park rangers and our guides who have worked under unimaginable conditions throughout the war years. Day by day they braved all dangers in order to safeguard the survival of the gorillas. After several months of occupation of Mishebere's habitat, they did not hesitate to mount patrols yet again, sleeping in the forest, to try and find Mishebere. Alas, labour lost! Just imagine their disappointment!

In spite of everything, we continue to fight for the protection of the gorillas.

Bernard Iyomi Iyatshi and
Carlos Schuler



Minister Anselme Enerunga and Eulalie Bashige, ICCN, visited the Kahuzi-Biega National Park on 23 December 2003.

Photo: Carlos Schuler

Final Report on the Plunder of Resources

On 28 October 2003, the Panel of Experts handed over the final report on the exploitation of natural resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the UN Security Council. Parts of the report are available only to the Security Council. Many NGOs and press reports have criticized this, pointing out that it could prevent effective action against the companies and warring parties that have been plundering Congo's resources.

In the meantime it has become clear that the report contains worrying information that preparations are underway for a new war in Congo. It seems that some of the warring factions are not willing to accept restrictions on their illegal activities and are trying to undermine the peace process. The illegal exploitation of Congo's resources still continues. This conclusion of the Panel of Experts has not been made public by the UN, however – for diplomatic reasons.

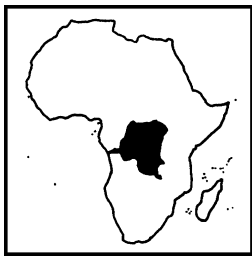
An Institute for Community Conservation Education

The establishment of the umbrella organisation UGADEC (*Union des Associations de Conservation des Gorilles*)



A gorilla in the Tayna Gorilla Reserve

Photo: Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya



D. R. CONGO

les pour le Développement Communautaire à l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo – Union of Associations for the Conservation of Gorillas and Community Development of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo) was a response by prospective members who wanted to join forces in order to conserve the fauna and flora of eastern Congo and consolidate conservation activities through sustainable development.

The Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology, TCCB, a private technical training institute, is in the process of being established in order to improve and reconcile conservation and development activities in the UGADEC zone of intervention. It was initiated by the Chief Conservator, Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya, who is also the coordinator of the *Tayna Gorilla Reserve Project* (RGT) and the executive secretary of UGADEC.



Rangers and trackers during an anti-poaching patrol in the Itombwe forest (ACPN Reserve) with a dead gorilla infant



The Shingisha mountain in the ILSN Reserve

The idea to establish such an institute arose from the need for technicians with the capacity to initiate and administer various participatory community conservation projects in the region. In the past, the RGT had to train its students at the Higher Education Institute of Ecology and Conservation (ISEC) Kirumba. Because of curricular differences between the ISEC and the TCCB, the RGT will pull the current 18 students out of ISEC/Kirumba. Instead, it will offer them the chance to join 64 other students who are children of landowners and UGADEC members (RGT, RéCoPriBa, ILSN, ACPN-IM, COCREFOBA, RGU, RGPU, REGOUWA) and of other community members involved in the conservation of ecosystems. This professional and scientific training course will support participatory community conservation by re-inforcing protection and action capacities and improving the management of natural resources.

In addition, the foundation of the institute will open up the possibility for research in these reserves, which will have a positive impact on the populations living close to the reserves. Finally, it will also open up possibilities for sustainable socio-economic development in the areas of the association members. As outlined above, the particularity of this technical training institute is its objective of re-inforcing the local stakeholders' capaci-

ties in the area of participatory community conservation, of which the project is the first example in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks to a construction fund and student scholarships received from USAID (*United States Agency for International Development*) gorilla directives through the DFGF-I (*Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International*), the TCCB will open its doors in January 2004. It will offer three study courses:

- research and conservation biology,
- conservation and management of protected areas,
- education, communication and information.

At the end of this scientific course, the TCCB will be able to send researchers to the field as well as community protected area managers and outreach staff to work in environmental education. The institute is open to the ICCN and other institutions who agree with the TCCB program. It is ironic that this ambitious project is about to unfold in spite of the financial difficulties within UGADEC itself, which have limited its activities. Therefore UGADEC continues to appeal to well-wishing people and organisations to help in the protection of rare species, to help create an ecologically balanced environment and to support sustainable development in protected area border zones –



Yvonne Verkaik hands over communication equipment to Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya



D. R. CONGO



AFECOGO members check whether meat on the market is from endangered species

i.e. to assist this young institution to achieve its goals. UGADEC is very grateful to DFGF-I and USAID for their support for community-based conservation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We reiterate our thanks to *Conservation International* for having agreed to add their full support to the TCCB. We also acknowledge *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* for its contribution to the implementation of this project.

Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

AFECOGO and UGADEC Join Forces

There is no doubt that there is strength in numbers, among conservationists as among anyone else. UGADEC (*Union des Associations de Conservation des Gorilles pour le Développement Communautaire à l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo* – Union of Associations for the Conservation of Gorillas and Community Development of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo) cannot achieve its goals in isolation, whether they relate to protected areas or people.

It is widely acknowledged that to educate a woman is to educate a nation. Women play a central role in

African society. They are the main educators, both in urban and rural environments. They have a strong influence on their husbands and children.

Currently, African women actively participate in the destruction of the environment while going about their daily activities. In the field of biodiversity conservation, we need only mention the use of firewood for cooking, the establishment of fields inside protected areas, and the use of bushmeat for consumption and trade.

As a response, the AFECOGO (*Association des Femmes pour la Conservation des Gorilles* – Women's Association for the Conservation of Gorillas) was set up in order to support UGADEC. It was created by women who work in various UGADEC reserves in order to promote the education of women and their public awareness activities for nature conservation in general and the conservation of gorillas in particular. The idea is

that these women will act as "multipliers" by carrying the message into their homes and influencing their husbands and children.

AFECOGO has the following goals:

- to fight against the dangers threatening the gorilla and its habitat,
- to inform the public about the status of the gorilla population,
- to sensitise and educate children to the necessity of conservation,
- to raise the awareness of women in rural and urban environments.

In the future, AFECOGO will discourage women from selling bushmeat by making them aware of the need for conservation and by introducing them to other income generating activities. AFECOGO will also introduce those people who destroy habitats of flagship species to reforestation methods, enabling them to produce firewood for use and trade. In order to achieve these goals, AFECOGO interviews rural people to determine the local situation and people's opinions.

Since its establishment, AFECOGO has already

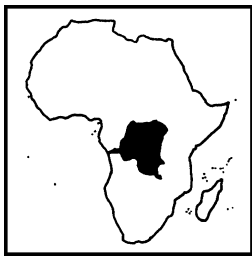
- conducted surveys on the extent of the bushmeat trade,
- conducted surveys on the extent of the destruction of gorilla habitat,
- conducted media campaigns over the local radio,
- identified the owners of captive primates and bushmeat sellers,
- participated in International Women's Day by showing a documentary about Dian Fossey, organizing a cultural meeting, and by joining efforts with other organisations.

The organisation's resources come mainly from membership fees, donations, legacies and other contributions from people inside the country and from abroad.

AFECOGO owes thanks to all UGADEC protected areas where the organisation has members, in particular to the people responsible for the Tayna Gorilla Reserve, who helped



A black crested mangabey held illegally by local people



D. R. CONGO



Rangers and trackers during a monitoring and anti-poaching patrol in the RéCoPriBa Reserve, Walikale Territory

AFECOGO to conduct activities there. AFECOGO is deeply grateful to the DFGF-I, particularly to Clare Richardson and Alecia Lilly, for their moral and financial support. Lastly, AFECOGO would like to invite other people and organisations to support the efforts of the organisation in promoting conservation.

Annie Kahindo Muyisa and Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya

The Walikale Community Gorilla Reserve

The North Kivu region in general, and the territory of Walikale in particular, still have plenty of dense virgin forest, whose biodiversity is unexplored. These forests are home to numerous rare species such as gorillas, okapis,

and Congo peacocks, and impressive hydrological and floristic ecosystems.

Apart from preliminary surveys conducted by WCS (*Wildlife Conservation Society*), no detailed scientific study has yet been undertaken in the Walikale forest or been published. Malassi, a member of the Walikale Community Gorilla Reserve (RCGW – Réserve Communautaire à Gorilles de Walikale), collected some qualitative data in 2000, and during a survey he conducted for DFGF-E (*Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe*) and RCGW in 2002. These surveys have shown that the human population of Walikale is becoming aware of the necessity to protect the forest. Although non-protected forest is exploited by miners, this has not contributed to sustainable development of their areas.

Therefore, the territorial chiefs of Walikale joined forces in 2001 and expressed their concern for the conservation of the biodiversity of their forest in general, and the gorillas in particular. Hoping to contribute to the development of environmental awareness, they created the Mount Ngaa Reserve.

Since November 2001, the DFGF-E has been conducting a feasibility study on a new project called RCGW (including the Mount Ngaa Reserve). After the project was approved, it started to receive funds through the DFGF-E in March 2003.

The RCGW is situated on the western slope of Mount Mitumba, at an altitude of 1,000 to 2,500 m. In the north, it is bordered by the rivers Bilate, Misoke and Tatako, in the east by the Hunde River, in the west by the Ruringa River, and in the south by the rivers Osso and Rumpoby. The climate is equatorial with temperatures between 28 and 30 °C. The sub-soil is rich in minerals, such as gold, coltan and cassiterite. The soil itself is of the red variety and very fertile. The forest is mostly equatorial, consisting of

dense stands of umbrageous trees, but various types of transition forest also occur.

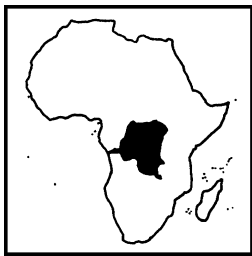
The RCGW is a Congolese NGO, which currently seeks recognition at the national level. The structure of the RCGW consists of a general assembly representing the members, an administrative council and a committee for the co-ordination of activities.

Basically, the population in the Walikale area consists of middle-aged and young people, with only a few elderly people. The population is agropastoral, due to the favourable climatic conditions. The main crops are cassava, rice and oil palm. Virtually no income is generated from agriculture, because of the effects of the last two wars. Poverty is extreme. The usual infrastructure, such as schooling and sanitary facilities, has either disappeared already or is in the process of disappearing. The DFGF-E is planning a long-term conservation programme for the gorillas and the forest, with the active participation of the local communities.

Jean Claude Kyungu

The Gorilla in the Nyanga Tradition

The RCGW conducts its activities in an environment dominated by the Nyanga people. In this tribe's history, the gorilla has been known as a very aggressive, wicked, intimidating animal – mainly because of its ferocious-sounding vocalizations and because of the way it attacks humans. Their word for gorilla is "Muhumba", but the animal is also called "Shebirari", which means "animal that sweeps away leaves and bushes from its path". Another name is "Shempanda", which means "big-toed animal". In short, the gorilla was known to the Nyanga as a destroyer, a ravager of fields.



D. R. CONGO

Relationships between the Gorillas and the Nyanga People

On a cultural level. One group of the Nyanga is called "Bahumba", meaning people who are descended from gorillas or people who call themselves "Gorilla". In fact, these people consider the gorilla as their god protecting them from all curses. The Bahumba never attack gorillas and they do not eat gorilla meat. The gorilla never attacks anyone of the Bahumba clan, nor ravages their fields, even if their fields are next to those of their neighbours. Other people use gorilla eyebrows and lips in order to attain supernatural strength and power (talking in a cold-blooded way or in a terrifying tone).

On a social level. The Nyanga believe that the gorilla recognizes humans as adversaries, but it still entertains relations with them. This is proven by the fact (they are convinced of this) that a gorilla will hardly ever attack a pregnant woman. When certain people are travelling through the forest and a gorilla blocks their path, they will therefore let a pregnant woman go ahead because they believe that the gorilla will get out of the way to let the woman pass.

Moreover, sometimes a gorilla will save the life of a person. For example, when someone has climbed a tree and does not know how to get down, a gorilla will come to help and carry the person to the ground on its back.

The Nyanga women do not eat gorilla meat, for fear that, if they do, they might give birth to a child that will resemble this villainous animal. Only men eat gorilla meat, so they have to cook it themselves in the "baraza", the men's meeting place.

Gorilla hunting is forbidden to a man whose wife is pregnant, as his presence in the forest would hinder the killing of the animal. It would become very aggressive or manage to disappear completely. When a gorilla

has been slain, the villagers rejoice that another destroyer of banana plantations has been disposed of.

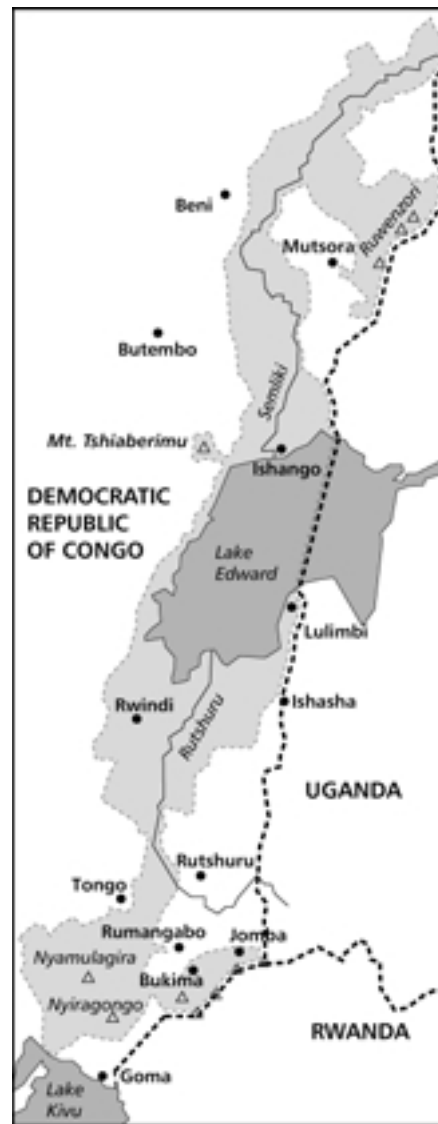
On an economic level. Formerly, the Nyanga used to perceive the gorilla as an annoying animal, a destroyer of fields, a bringer of death, so they hunted it at every opportunity. They immediately stopped hunting gorillas, however, after a public awareness campaign, when they heard of the national law prohibiting their hunting in order to save them from extinction (as well as prohibiting the hunting of elephants, giraffes, zebras, okapis, chimpanzees, etc.).

In short, until recently the Nyanga were not interested in the gorilla in its natural habitat; once it had been killed, people would profit somewhat through the sale of the meat. The Nyanga knew the gorilla, but they did not understand its importance.

Jean Claude Kyungu



Before the war, the mountain gorillas of the Virunga National Park were an important economic factor – now, the Congolese government officially started the mountain gorilla tourism again.



Gorilla Tourism in Jomba

On 13 December 2003, conservation organisations, tour operators and other groups concerned with gorilla tourism met in Bunagana. They discussed how gorilla tourism in the Congolese part of the Virunga Volcanoes can be re-started. As security is crucial, the meeting was also attended by persons responsible for the security of the province, as well as the



D. R. CONGO



On the way to track the mountain gorillas on the Congolese side of the Virunga Volcanoes (in 1988)

Photo: Angela Meder

police commander and representatives of the army in Rutshuru and Bunagana. The following week, the minister of the environment and the head of the ICCN visited the park and talked to the persons involved.

Thanks to Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo for the information

Hippo Population Devastated

A census of hippopotamus in Virunga National Park in March and August 2003 found that there had been a 95% decline in population numbers. The park had at one time contained the world's largest hippo population. Less than 30 years ago, some 29,000 hippos were living there. In 2003, the survey by the ICCN (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature*), WWF and other conservation organisations found that only 1,300 remain. It was found that armed factions were

killing hippos "in shocking numbers" not only for their meat, but for their canine teeth, due to an increasing international demand in the illegal ivory trade.

Hippos play an important role in the ecosystem. Their dung provides essential basic elements for the food chain, particularly for fish. The loss of more than 27,000 hippos in the past few decades has resulted in the reduction of fish catches and a dramatic



Hippos in the Virunga National Park before the war

Photo: Angela Meder

loss of nutrients in the freshwater ecosystems. Lake Edward also supports over 20,000 people living around the park who depend on fish for their livelihood.

Summary of a press release by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Only 22 White Rhinos Survive the War in Congo

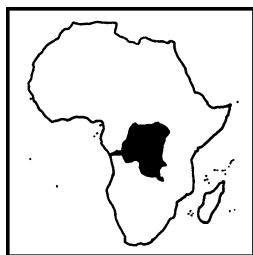
White rhinos have been hunted almost to extinction by rebel troops in Congo. According to an aerial survey, there are now only 22 northern white rhinos alive in the Garamba National Park – down from 30 last year.

Northern white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) used to be found across Central Africa, but now they are being killed by rebel troops from Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda and Congo for their horns. The horns sell for more than £ 4,500 a pair to Yemeni craftsmen, who use them to make traditional daggers. The proceeds are used to buy guns, rocket launchers and grenades for the rebels' war. Park rangers are unable to protect the animals against the heavily armed rebels. One ranger has been killed in an ambush by the poachers and another ranger was injured.

The number of white rhinos in the Garamba National Park had been reduced to just 15 animals by 1985. As the result of the protection the rhino enjoyed, the number had doubled to 30 in 1991.

The total number of rhinos, of both species (black and white), in Africa fell from 70,000 in 1970 to 10,000 in 1990, but since then it has risen again to 14,000. The most populous subspecies is the southern white rhino with 11,670 individuals surviving.

Summary of a press release by Save the Rhino International

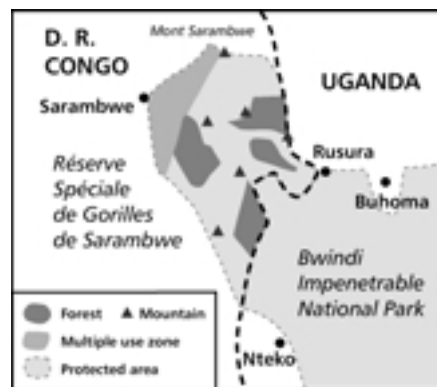


D. R. CONGO

The Sarambwe Gorilla Special Reserve

On June 21st, 2003, the Sarambwe Reserve was granted the status of a Special Reserve, which will prevent possible conflicts regarding the reserve in the future. Its 900 ha area includes several mountains and forest patches; part of the area is a multiple use zone. It extends from the summit of Mt. Sarambwe in the north to the border between Congo and Uganda in the east, from Kikumiliro to the source of the river Ivi in the south, and to the source of the Kanyabusinini in the west.

The motivation behind the change of status was the necessity to take Sarambwe out of the remainder of the Rutshuru Hunting Domain, of which it was an integral part, so that the "Réserve Spéciale de Gorilles de Sarambwe" (Sarambwe Gorilla Spe-



Outline and structure of the Sarambwe Gorilla Special Reserve
Original map: C. Sikubwabo

cial Reserve) could be established. This was necessary in order to protect biodiversity, including gorillas, and the forested fringe of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. Luckily, the protected area now extends onto the

Congolese side of the mountain and therefore protects the sources of rivers that bring water to the Virunga National Park and provide drinking water for the inhabitants of Binza. Apart from biodiversity conservation, the aim of

Equipment for Sarambwe Trackers

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo (left, standing) with the team of the Sarambwe Gorilla Special Reserve – conservators, rangers and trackers. In this photo, they are posing in front of the Sarambwe ranger post; the construction of this building was funded by the IGCP (*International Gorilla Conservation Programme*).

In the forefront are the 9 trackers. So far, they do not have uniform clothing or equipment. Claude Sikubwabo has therefore asked us to provide the most urgent material: the gumboots, clothes and equipment that they need for their work in the reserve.

We want to improve the working conditions of the trackers and have promised our support. Please help us to give them good equipment!

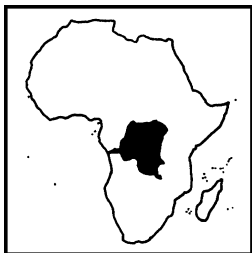
Bank Account in Germany:

Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe
Stadtparkasse Muelheim/Ruhr
Bank Code Number 362 500 00
Account No. 353 344 315

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D. R. CONGO



Plaques for border demarcation of the Sarambwe Gorilla Special Reserve, before they were erected
Photo: Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

the reserve is to support the socio-economic development of the population.

The ICCN is charged with the implementation of the order, which will come into effect on the date of signature. After the announcement of the creation of the special reserve and three months after the planting of *Erythrina* trees, the *Peace Parks Project* (PPP) initiated the second phase of boundary demarcation in collaboration with the ICCN and other partners of the Virunga National Park. This second phase included the cutting of strips to allow the *Erythrina* to grow

rapidly, erection of boundary demarcation plaques, and the planting of *Cordia* trees.

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

The poachers are part of an international network that organizes the smuggling of endangered animals. Congolese and Rwandan authorities are trying to destroy this network.

Gorilla Orphan Confiscated

At the beginning of November 2003, a one-year-old gorilla was confiscated from poachers. The ICCN in Goma was informed by a local NGO that two gorilla babies were being kept illegally. They had been brought into Goma from Walikale, but one of the babies died on arrival. When the poachers heard that the ICCN had been informed, they took the remaining baby out of Goma. A few days later, the Rwandan national park authority was informed by the local population about the gorilla and it was confiscated. Four poachers, three Congolese and one Rwandan, were arrested.

The baby was in good health and slightly wounded. After the confiscation, it was taken to Ruhengeri where it is being cared for. It is still not clear which subspecies it belongs to; a genetic test is underway.



The border of the Sarambwe Reserve
Photo: Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

Gorilla Tourism in Bwindi

Since the attack on tourists by Interahamwe in March 1999, the number of Bwindi gorilla tourists has increased continuously – from 2000 in March 1999 to 6000 in September 2003.

At the moment, 3 groups can be visited: Mubare, Habinyanja and Rushegura (formerly Habinyanja B). After the split of the Habinyanja group, the Rushegura group was monitored and the number of visitors was restricted. In September 2003, the number of tourists per visit was increased to 6, the same as for the other gorilla groups in Bwindi.

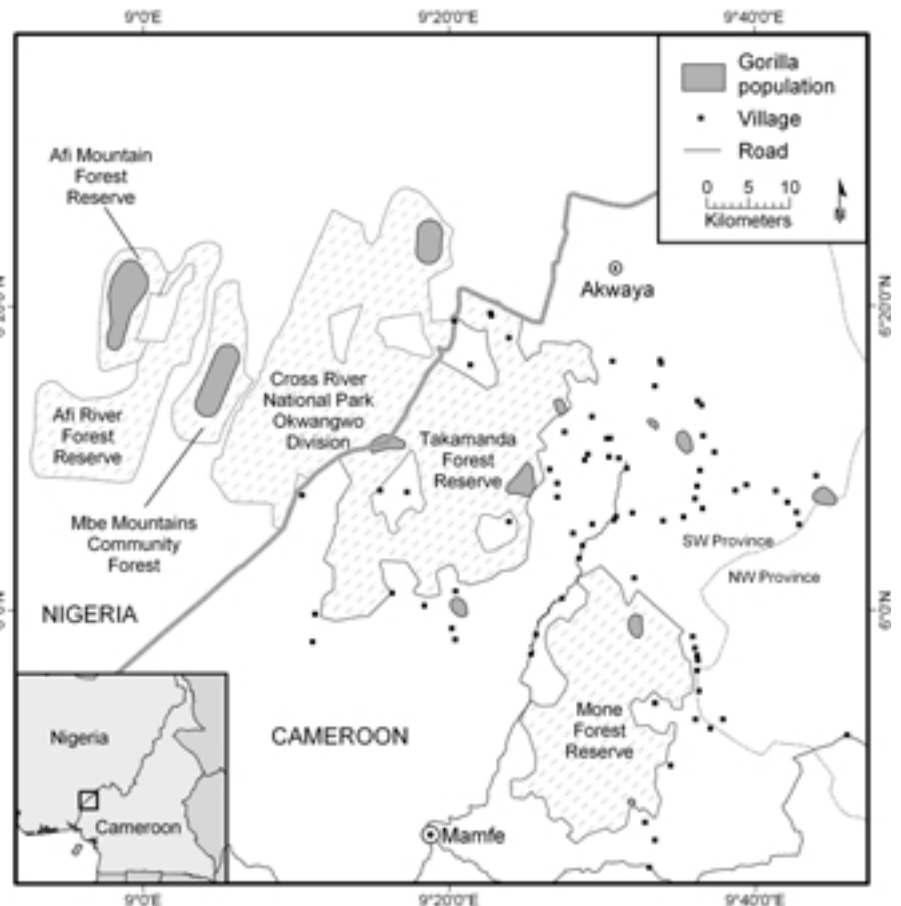


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Protection Strategies for Cross River Gorillas

The first International Conference and Workshop on the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) took place in Calabar, Nigeria in April 2001. This meeting provided the opportunity for government officials, scientists, researchers, managers and representatives of supporting agencies to exchange information and frame recommendations for future conservation actions focusing on this subspecies of gorilla, which in 2000 was listed by the IUCN Primate Specialist Group as critically endangered.

Over the past two years a variety of government agencies and NGOs have undertaken further activities in the habitat of these gorillas, which are restricted to a limited area of south-west Cameroon and neighbouring parts of Nigeria. These activities include research on the abundance, distribution and behaviour of the gorillas, conservation education and the development of management plans. The latest research indicates that there may be up to 280 Cross River gorillas remaining in the wild and, specifically within Cameroon, that they are more widespread than previously believed. Although the discovery of new sub-populations is encouraging, some of these sub-populations are quite isolated, and therefore pose conservation challenges. To take account of these new findings, and review progress since the 2001 meeting in Calabar, a second International Workshop and Conference on the Conservation of the Cross River Gorillas was held at the Limbe Botanic Garden, Cameroon, from the 20th to the 23rd August, 2003. This forum was funded by the *Wildlife Conservation Society* (WCS) with support from the *United Nations Environmental Programme* (UNEP) through the *Great Ape Survival Project* (GRASP), and organised by



National parks, reserves and distribution areas of Cross River gorillas

Map: Dan Slayback

WCS in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF), Cameroon. The overall objectives of the meeting were to

- update our state of knowledge of the biology, ecology and distribution of the Cross River gorillas;
- investigate the progress of conservation management activities;
- review the threats, conservation actions and actors identified during the 2001 meeting;
- update conservation actions and recommendations, taking into consideration the recently discovered sub-populations.

Finally we hoped to obtain the political commitment of the governments of

Cameroon and Nigeria to the conservation recommendations arising from the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 25 individuals representing government departments and non-governmental organisations in Cameroon and Nigeria, international supporting agencies from the UK and the USA, and field researchers. Both the Minister of Environment and Forestry, Cameroon and the Minister for the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria found time in their busy schedules to attend the meeting.

The final conservation recommendations formulated by the participants included



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The ministers sign the agreement on the conservation of the Cross River gorillas

1. establishing a trans-boundary protected area for the Takamanda-Okwangwo complex, in particular by upgrading the protection status of the Takamanda Forest Reserve,
2. strengthening protection and law enforcement measures for all Cross River gorilla populations,
3. developing land-use plans for the Takamanda-Mone-Mbulu area in Cameroon, including a network of protected areas and corridors and a plan for the conservation of Afi-Mbe-Okwangwo area in Nigeria, including both a review of the management status for the Mbe Mountains and the maintenance of forested connections between gorilla habitats,
4. maintaining and expanding basic research into the ecology, distribution and population biology of the gorillas,
5. strengthening and expanding conservation education and awareness programmes at all levels,
6. establishing Cross River gorilla management committees in Cameroon and Nigeria,
7. building the capacity of relevant institutions in Nigeria and Cameroon (including Government departments, universities, NGOs),
8. incorporating local community needs into the development of management strategies, including the

study of alternative livelihoods options,

9. reinforcing collaboration amongst all stakeholders,
10. delegating a working group to formulate more detailed recommendations based on the deliberations of the workshop.

The final communiqué listing these actions was agreed to and signed by both the Cameroon and Nigerian Ministers. Now, funding needs to be secured to implement this programme so as to protect these unique apes from extirpation.

Jacqueline L. Sunderland-Groves and John F. Oates

The Jane Goodall Institute and MINEF in the Mengamé Reserve

In 2002, the *Jane Goodall Institute* (JGI) signed a convention with the Cameroon Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF) to establish a community centered conservation and wildlife research program in the newly proclaimed Mengamé Reserve (115,000 ha). Located in a priority biodiversity corridor on the border of Cameroon and Gabon, the Mengamé Reserve plays an important role in emerging transboundary protected area initiatives and partnerships such as the *Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative* and the *Congo Basin Forest Partnership*.

In a baseline data collection phase, over the course of 15 months, JGI conducted a full wildlife and vegetation census in the reserve, as well as a complete socioeconomic survey of 30 villages surrounding Mengamé. A key component of the census and our first publication is focused on great ape (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*, *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) populations and their distribution in the reserve in relation to the extensive human exploitation ac-

tivities of fishing, hunting and non-timber forest product collection, as well as extensive cocoa and banana plantations within the reserve buffer zone.

Sampling census methods used random line transects with variable lengths over the entire reserve and periphery to total 150,000 ha. A standard standing nest count was conducted to assess ape population densities. Density figures were then cross-referenced with a GIS system to assess distribution of ape populations using a 5 x 5 km grid of the Mengamé Reserve.

Nine teams composed of a Cameroonian student (or recent graduate) leader, 2 village assistants, 1 eco-guard and a Baka guide encountered much wildlife in the forest. One team had to sleep high in the trees to avoid the elephants waiting to ambush them. Another team was cutting a transect and disturbed a python in ambush position. Another team barely



Crossing a river during the survey
Photo: Christina Ellis



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avoided disaster by a viper. As we entered the forest with the census team to complete the last, 54th transect, we spotted several grey cheeked mangabeys; hornbills circled above, engines roaring. We followed the tracks of elephants, forest buffalos and bushbucks. We spotted the night nests of chimpanzees, gorillas and giant pangolins.

As one might guess by its name, the "Sanctuaire à Gorilles de Mengamé", gorilla population numbers are high. Our results confirmed that Mengamé contains significant populations of both gorillas and chimpanzees. During the census, 93 nesting sites of gorillas (containing 425 nests) and 56 nesting sites (containing 120 nests) of chimpanzees were found along 142.5 km of transects. The gorilla nest sites were interesting. The last nest cluster on this transect was from the previous night; all the nests were on fallen logs, high off the forest floor. We could smell the gorillas all around us, likely wondering why we were inspecting their nests and faeces, snickering as I tested out the more comfortable looking nests. Nest counting techniques gave average densities of 2.53 weaned individual gorillas/km² and 0.18 weaned chimpanzees/km².

Therefore, estimated populations of gorillas and chimpanzees at 1,200 and 200 respectively raise interesting research questions. Do these populations traverse the river which separates Cameroon from Gabon? Are there similar population densities in northern Gabon? Are these populations distinct from those decimated by the Ebola outbreak in northern Gabon?

The spatial distribution of ape populations shows a high abundance in the southeast of the reserve, which is characterized by swamp forests; here, the density of weaned individuals is higher, with 4.50 weaned indi-

viduals/km² for gorillas and 0.29 weaned individual chimpanzees/km². The southeast swamp areas are the greatest distance from the villages and are used less frequently by local and immigrant hunters than drier portions of the reserve. I understood why this should be the case as we crossed swamps for days on end during the census.

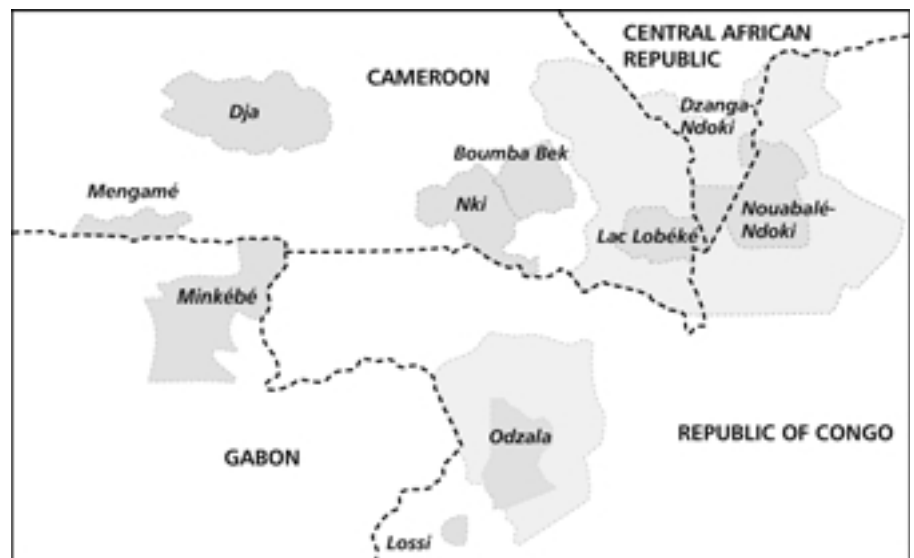
The first footsteps are tentative and carefully placed. Sinking into elephant foot prints is almost humorous; extracting legs, feet, and boots from the grip of the swamp. Each step is a calculated movement; left foot on palm frond cut and laid precisely by the Baka guide ahead, right foot on the fallen tree beneath the surface of the mud. The next 5 steps are along this same tree, balancing by means of a palm branch walking stick (made on demand at the beginning of each swamp by machete wielding companions) in a white knuckle grip in my left hand. Right hand may be high in the air, stretched out to the side, or bracing on nearby trees, sticks, or the mud itself. Upon stepping off the sub-

merged balancing tree, feet are tentatively placed into the swamp, hoping to catch foliage, tree branches or other supportive structure. With deep steps, the swamp belches and bubbles; dark mud mustiness fills the air, one's shoes and trouser pockets. After 7 hours, legs are exhausted from the suction and extraction process of each step, the mind is tired of trying to locate safe places to step, with a line of people behind you pushing you for quick decisions, and the sun pulling you across the sky.

Overall, the data suggest that distance to villages and therefore human activities is an ecological determinant in the distribution of great apes. They are absent in areas with sustained human presence through regular activity routines, infrastructure and noise.

Threats to great apes in Mengamé are diverse and include

1. destruction and fragmentation of habitat by farming practices,
2. hunting using snares and shot-guns,
3. hunting of elephants with heavy caliber guns,



The Mengamé Reserve (at the left) and other conservation areas in Gabon, Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic



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4. direct effects on the forest from logging activities, causing direct large-scale modification of the habitat and indirect effects such as the increase in hunting due to increased access to the forest via logging roads.

Recommendations for Future Action

The *Jane Goodall Institute* may commence long-term community-centered conservation activities after analyzing the results of the wildlife census, of the vegetation census and the village socioeconomic studies in the Mengamé Reserve and within the 30 communities surrounding the reserve.

It is our hope that increased knowledge and understanding of existing interactions between the protected area and neighboring human populations will help to formulate programs to reduce the occurrence and impact of anthropogenic activities on wildlife populations, and at the same time implement measures to reduce wildlife crop raiding damage, and address the underlying conflicts which exacerbate the extent and degree of crop raiding damage in neighboring communities.

Increased attention will be placed on understanding the relationship between logging activities and wildlife populations; to determine whether the disturbance has an effect on the ecosystem in total or more directly on the ecology and behaviour of wildlife populations.

As a preliminary community-centered conservation activity, the *Jane Goodall Institute* will develop a monitoring system that includes: (1) identification of threats to wildlife populations based on systematic patrols in the forest, and (2) monitoring of the status of great ape populations over time. In addition to our direct program activities, we seek to:

- Develop a better understanding of the anthrozoosis risk in the area, with an emphasis on Ebola. A follow-up system dealing with both wildlife and human health in the management of the reserve and its periphery should also be implemented.
- Assess the status of mammalian fauna, with special emphasis on great apes, in the neighbouring forest management units and on the Gabon side, in the inter-zone between Mengamé Reserve and Minkébé Reserve. Provide guidance for logging companies to conduct wildlife census in their forest concessions in partnership with MINEF and in the interests of conservation of the Mengamé Reserve with the *Jane Goodall Institute*.

Use of the census data, together with these recommendations, will help us to identify and implement an appropriate conservation strategy, which optimizes the preservation of the reserve and of its natural resources, while assisting community development and livelihood. Consideration must be given to the development of the sort of economic activities which contribute to sustainable natural resource management. The *Jane Goodall Institute* believes that the survival of great ape populations is strongly linked with increased and diverse economic opportunities for local communities, and is itself a key component towards conservation of biodiversity through community-centered activities.

Christina Ellis
Full ape census and elephant census reports are available on <http://www.janegoodall.org>
For more information please contact: *Christina Ellis*
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Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA
cellis@janegoodall.org

Bushmeat Update

After the African states established NEPAD, the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*, the G8 states agreed on an *Africa Action Plan* during the Global Economic Summit in June 2002. The priority target of this Action Plan is the promotion of peace, education and trade. The *Congo Basin Forest Partnership* was also established on a similar occasion: it was introduced by the USA and South Africa during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The *Congo Basin Forest Partnership* envisages the regional management of natural, cross-border resources. Yet even in the most recent report on the *Africa Action Plan* in June 2003, only a small paragraph is dedicated exclusively to conservation; typically, conservation is mentioned only in the context of sustainable use.

AFLEG, *African Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade*, was established as another declaration of intent and request for financial support by 29 African government representatives, 8 European countries, the European Commission, the USA and Canada, in October 2003. AFLEG refers expressly to the problem of forest destruction and the illegal bushmeat trade, but always in the context of the continuing development of forestry and "sustainable use of natural resources". Obviously, this catchphrase is still very powerful. Many scientific studies, however, and even the *International Tropical Timber Organization* (ITTO) consider sustainable use, as defined, for example, by FSC (*Forest Stewardship Council*) criteria or as suggested by the *Ape Alliance* in a code of practice, as not feasible in forestry for various, mostly economic reasons.

Many scientists now have severe doubts as to whether sustainable use



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is actually possible, for instance regarding hunting in tropical forests (see for example *Hunting for Sustainability*, edited by J. Robinson and E. Bennett in 2000). The reason for this is not only the gap in knowledge and the fact that the concept cannot be tested over the short-term, but also in the approach itself, which is based on theoretical economics which do not appropriately represent ecological-dynamic processes. These are subject to a suite of variables that cannot reliably be predicted over the long term. There is a need for approaches that not only allow for the typical, "politically correct" development tracks, but will also permit the maintenance of completely protected areas, as the latter are of importance for long-term ecological and economic stability.

The Congo Basin Partnership currently has a budget of Euro 100 million, in addition to on-going projects (e.g. EU projects provide another Euro 150 million). The German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation annually spends Euro 125 million on projects for the conservation and sustainable use of forests worldwide, according to Uschi Eid (28 October 2003).

James et al. (1999, 2001) cited several studies that calculated environmental goods and services provided by natural biological systems and biodiversity itself up to US\$ 33 trillion annually. This study group also estimated that annual costs for maintaining biodiversity cluster around US\$ 20 billion. Annual funding shortfalls for conservation of existing protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa are about US\$ 253 million with effective conservation costs per km² of US\$ 240 on average (see also Balmford et al. 2002, 2003).

Various organisations (the European zoo association EAZA, the Zoological Society of London and the company Ciel) united in a European

initiative, the bushmeat campaign (www.thebushmeatcampaign.org, through EAZA also supported by *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*), which addresses the bushmeat problem at a global political level, for example with the *World Bank* and with AFLEG. The EAZA bushmeat campaign, which targets the EU, has actually made some progress: a resolution was drafted which was commented on and supported by the EU committee for development. The resolution, which demands concrete financial support and also addresses the problem area of arms and ammunition, is to be passed by the EU petition committee on 14 January.

As usual, we can only hope that action will follow the written declaration of intent – this is where every single one of us can contribute: as consumers, as donors, as taxpayers and as voters!

Iris Weiche

References

- Balmford, A. et al. (2002): *Science* 297(5583): 950
Balmford, A. & Whitten, T. (2003): *Oryx* 37: 238–250
James, A. et al. (1999): *Nature* 401: 323–324
James, A. et al. (2001): *BioScience* 51(1): 43–44

From 26 to 28 November 2003, UNESCO hosted a GRASP meeting in Paris. As Ian Redmond reported, 17 out of 23 great ape range states had sent representatives, and a further two tried but were unable to attend because visas could not be acquired in time. In addition, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany (GTZ), Japan, UK and USA were represented as well as UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, CITES, CMS, GEF, Europe-aid, IUCN, CARPE and many NGO partners and friends. A GRASP Statement of Intent was prepared and circulated.

World Parks Congress in Durban

Our representative in Uganda, Yvonne Verkaik, visited the Vth World Parks Congress in Durban, organized by IUCN, September 8–17. Around 2,500 people from all over the world attended the Vth congress, organized about once every ten years. Former president Nelson Mandela and HM Queen Noor of Jordan were amongst the speakers at the opening ceremony.

The congress was a colorful happening, with some of the participants dressed in their traditional clothes, and dances or theatre performances during breaks between sessions. A permanent exhibit presented many conservation organizations with most impressive information booths.

After two days with mostly plenary sessions on the main theme of the congress – Benefits Beyond Boundaries – the participants had a choice of attending seven different workshops. To name just a few: building comprehensive protective area systems, building a secure financial future, linkages in the landscape/seascape...

Day 7 and 8 were spent in the field. I visited the Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi Game Reserve, which has played a major role in the conservation of southern white rhinos and is now home to one of the largest remaining populations of black rhinos in all of Africa.

Most of all, the World Parks Congress was a place for conservationists to meet other people in the field, to share experiences, to meet with donors. A number of motions and recommendations were approved during the congress. An extensive list can be found on the World Parks Congress website, accessible at www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003

*Yvonne Verkaik
With special thanks to InWent for sponsoring the costs for accommodation and the congress fee.*



READING

Dale Peterson

Eating Apes. Berkeley (The University of California Press) 2003. 320 pages, 16 colour photos by Karl Ammann. Hardcover, US\$ 24.95, £ 16.95. ISBN 0-520-23090-6

In this moving book, Dale Peterson explains the background and present state of the bushmeat trade as it affects the great apes in Africa, mainly with case studies. This makes the book especially strong – the danger to the apes is not analyzed from a distance, but very closely and in individual cases.

The central personalities in the book are Karl Ammann and Joseph Melloh, a former gorilla hunter. Dale Peterson tells the story of their lives and their connection with the bushmeat trade; their experiences illustrate the problems discussed in this book. It is written from their perspective and does not claim to be objective. Subjects presented include: the abilities of chimpanzees and their behaviour (especially compared to humans), the history of gorilla hunting, the importance of bushmeat in African tradition, orphanages, disease transmission and the role of logging companies in the bushmeat trade. Some of Karl Ammann's impressive photos illustrate the menace.

Apart from describing and analyzing the bushmeat trade, the author also criticizes conservation and development projects that do not help to save the apes, and he adds his own advice on how to act most effectively.

Angela Meder

James A. Comiskey, Terry C. H. Sunderland and Jacqueline L. Sunderland-Groves (eds.)

Takamanda: the Biodiversity of an African Rainforest. SI/MAB Series 8. Washington, DC (Smithsonian Institution) 2003. VIII, 182 pages. Paperback. ISBN 1-893912-12-4 (contributions can also be downloaded at

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MAB/research/projects/appliedconservation/westafrica/Takamanda.cfm>)

The Takamanda Forest in Cameroon is a very special area – not only because it is the home of an estimated 100 Cross River gorillas. Its fauna and flora are exceptional in many respects. This book gives the first overview of the reserve's biodiversity from recent surveys. It contains chapters on the vegetation, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, birds, large mammals, apes, fish, and forest products as well as the conservation of the area.

Angela Meder

Frans de Waal

My Family Album. Thirty years of primate photography. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London (California University Press) 2003. 169 pages, hardcover. US\$ 29.95, £ 19.95. ISBN 0-520-23615-7

In this book, Frans de Waal shows his talent as a primate photographer. The concept is simple: Each double page shows one photo (or two), printed in duplex, and a short text. The pictures themselves are very expressive and the texts are more than captions: they contain additional information – very well written, in a personal, entertaining style. They provide insight not only into the particular primate's behaviour, but also into the thinking of humans.

As Frans de Waal has not worked with gorillas, his book contains no gorilla photos, but anybody who is interested in primates will love it. The primates shown on the pictures are chimpanzees, bonobos, macaques and capuchin monkeys.

Angela Meder

Dorothy M. Fragaszy and Susan Perry (eds.)

The Biology of Traditions: Models and Evidence. New York (Cambridge University Press) 2003. 474 pages,

hardcover, US\$ 90. ISBN 0-521-81597-5.

J. J. Veà, J. Serrallonga, D. Turbon, J. M. Fullola and D. Serrat (eds.)

Primates: Origin, Evolution and behaviour. Homage to Jordi Sabater Pi. Barcelona (Parc Científic) 2003

Mark Paul Mattson (ed.)

Neurobiology of Aggression: Understanding and preventing violence. Totowa, NJ (Humana Press) 2003. 324 pages, hardcover, US\$ 125. ISBN 1-58829188-X

A. Alonso Aguirre, Mary C. Pearl, Richard S. Ostfeld, Carol House and Gary M. Tabor (eds.)

Conservation Medicine: Ecological Health in Practice. New York (Oxford University Press) 2002. 432 pages. Hardcover, US\$ 45. ISBN 0-19-515093-7.

Steven R. Beissinger and Dale R. McCullough (eds.)

Population Viability Analysis. Chicago (University of Chicago Press) 2002. 496 pages. Hardcover, US\$ 95. ISBN 0-226-04177-8.

Brian Child

Parks in Transition. Biodiversity, rural development and the bottom line. London (Earthscan) 2003. 224 pages. Hardcover, £ 55.00, ISBN 1-84407-068-9; paperback, £ 17.95, ISBN 1-84407-069-7.

Colette Braeckman

Les nouveaux prédateurs. Politique des puissances en Afrique centrale. Paris (Librairie Arthème Fayard) 2003. 312 pages. Euro 19. ISBN 2-213-61488-1

Roméo Dallaire

Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda. To-



READING

ronto (Vintage Canada) 2003. 584 pages. Hardcover, \$ 39.95. ISBN 0-679-31171-8.

James Keeley and Ian Scoones
Understanding Environmental Policy Processes. Cases from Africa. London (Earthscan) 2003. 240 pages. Hardcover, £ 50.00, ISBN 1-84407-980-9; paperback, £ 17.95, ISBN 1-84407-975-2.

Kelly J. Stewart
Gorillas: Natural History & Conservation. Stillwater, MN (Voyageur Press) 2003. 72 pages. Paperback, US\$ 16.95. ISBN 0-89658624-3

Duane M- Rumbaugh and David A. Washburn
Intelligence of Apes and Other Rational Beings. New Heaven (Yale University Press) 2003. XVII, 326 pages. Hardcover, US\$ 35. ISBN 0-300-09983-5.

Joanna M. Setchell and Deborah J. Curtis (eds.)
Field and Laboratory Methods in Primatology. A practical guide. Cambridge (Cambridge University Press) 2003. 370 pages. Hardcover, US\$ 100. ISBN 0-52182004-9.

John Nelson and Lindsay Hossack
Indigenous peoples and protected areas in Africa: from principles to practice. 312 pages. £ 15.00 (free to indigenous peoples organisations). Forest Peoples Programme 2003: ISBN 0-9544252-1-9
In French: **Les peuples autochtones et les aires protégées en Afrique :** du principe à la pratique. ISBN 0-9544252-2-7

More information on the website of the Forest Peoples Programme:
<http://forestpeoples.gn.apc.org>

News from the Internet

The *International Gorilla Conservation Programme* has its own website now: <http://www.mountaingorillas.org>. Helga Schulze designed a website for the Tayna Gorilla Reserve: <http://www.tayna.org>. CEPF (*Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund*) is a joint initiative of *Conservation International*, GEF and others to advance the conservation of biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.cepf.net>

Hope Walker has created a website about Dian Fossey: <http://www.fosseynfo.com>, describing her motivation as follows:


Fosseynfo.com is dedicated to an examination of the life and murder of Dian Fossey, who spent the last 18 years of her life studying and protecting the mountain gorillas of Central Africa. Mystery, myth and controversy have long surrounded her life and her tragic murder. This website, and the companion book which will accompany it, have been written to offer a new perspective into the life of one of the world's most important zoologists and her struggle to protect one of the most endangered species on earth.

Hope Walker has also published a new Dian Fossey bibliography 1958 to 2003. It can be ordered directly from her; more information on <http://www.fosseynfo.com>.

The latest issues of ECOFAC's journal *Canopée* (in French) are available on the ECOFAC website (<http://www.ecofac.org>). *Canopée* 24 (July 2003) deals with Ebola. The direct link to the contents with the articles available for download in PDF format: <http://www.ecofac.org/Canopee/N24/Sommaire.htm>.

The ECOFAC website also offers several papers and booklets for download: Mikongo Conservation Center, Lopé National Park, Central Africa – Eco-tourism for conservation and community (<http://www.ecofac.org/>

GorillesMikongo), Les Gorilles de Loloué (www.ecofac.org/GorillesLokoue/Contexte.htm), Lopé: Un almanach équatorial (www.ecofac.org/Biblio/Download/Guides/LopeGuide.pdf – 13.5 MB), La réserve de faune du Dja: à la découverte de la forêt tropicale (<http://www.ecofac.org/Biblio/Download/Guides/DjaGuide.pdf> – 5 MB).



From 25 to 28 June 2004, the Calgary Zoo will host the first Gorilla Workshop in Canada. It will be held at Glenmore Inn and Convention Centre. The workshop days will be filled with round table forums, guest speakers and plenty of time for keepers to exchange ideas and husbandry experience. It will be geared not only toward those working directly with gorillas but will include topics for students, researchers, docents and gorilla enthusiasts. Possible topics include: general gorilla husbandry and bachelor groups, environmental and behavioural enrichment and training, veterinary and dietary concerns, conservation, education and the concern about the bushmeat crisis.

More information, registration form and instructions for abstract submission at <http://2004gorillaworkshop.tripod.com>



BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

Activities

Examples for our support during 2003: bicycles for Sarambwe, T-shirts and digital cameras for Kahuzi-Biega.



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Nouvelles Approches, a Belgian based NGO, works to safeguard the national parks of the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are the only NGO currently active in Upemba and Kundelungu National Parks of Katanga Province and we collaborate with the GTZ in Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

The fact that almost every member of our Board of Trustees has lived or is still resident in the D. R. Congo, is an asset that gives us good knowledge of the country. We maintain permanent contacts in Bukavu, Lubumbashi, and Kinshasa. We keep excellent relationships with the ICCN and all national and international organizations involved in conservation in Central Africa.

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