



How your donations helped the gorillas in 2007

Inside this leaflet you will see how the money donated by our dedicated supporters has helped improve the long-term future of all four sub-species of gorilla...

...and why we still need your help in 2008



A dangerous job



*Community work
still the key*



Numbers depleted

2007 – A year the gorillas will never forget

January 16	The dismembered bodies of two silverback Mountain gorillas were found near the abandoned Bikenge patrol post in the Virunga National Park, DR Congo.
May 20	Two ranger patrol posts at Mt Tshiaberimu, a remote part of the Virunga National Park, were attacked, leaving one gorilla conservationist dead and four others wounded.
June 9	A two-month-old Mountain gorilla was orphaned in the Virunga National park when its mother was shot dead in the back of the head.
July 22	The world watched in horror, as the massacred bodies of six magnificent Mountain gorillas were carried out of the Virunga National Park, following their senseless murder.
September 3	Fighting broke out in the Virunga National Park and rangers were forced to cease gorilla patrols and evacuate the area.
September 12	The Western gorilla was reclassified by the IUCN as critically endangered, following the decimation of the main sub-species, the Western lowland gorilla. Up to 60% of the population has vanished during the last 25 years as a result of the deadly Ebola virus.
October 26	All 10 African countries with gorillas signed the UN Gorilla Agreement, the first ever legally binding agreement that obliges governments to act against the threats to gorillas.
November 29	The Gorilla Organization celebrated 10 years of successful community conservation and the many great achievements made so far.

Mountain gorillas

Name:

Gorilla beringei beringei

Number remaining:

fewer than 720

Where they live:

Bwindi National Park, Uganda
and Virungas Massif, Uganda,
Rwanda, DR Congo

Main Threats:

Habitat encroachment



Critically endangered

Today, Mountain gorillas are threatened, not due to a demand for their meat, or their babies, but due to a demand for the lush forest in which they live. For the poverty-stricken communities living around the gorilla habitat it is the forest that provides them with many of their basic human needs, and in the war torn areas of DR Congo these needs are intensified.

As the Congolese saying goes – “Empty stomachs have no ears”, so preventing exploitation of the Mountain gorilla habitat must begin with meeting human needs outside of the park and then following it up with environmental education.

In 2007 we relieved the demand on the Mountain gorilla habitat by:

- Providing 2,554 firewood saving stoves to local families, allowing them to reduce their firewood consumption by up to 70%.
- Building six new water cisterns in Rwanda and DR Congo, to provide local communities with fresh water outside the national parks.

- Training an additional 3,645 people living around the Mountain gorilla habitat in sustainable organic farming techniques, bringing the total number of organic farmers in the area to 7,943.
- Planting 80,000 trees around the gorilla habitat.
- Reducing levels of poverty in 166 Batwa families who were evicted from their forest home with the creation of the national park.

And we followed up by:

- Showing 9,000 people in Uganda films about gorilla conservation to help them understand why it is important for them to take part in our community conservation projects.
- Increasing the number of Wildlife Clubs in Uganda from 21 to 73, which added to the current 356 Wildlife Clubs in Rwanda, brings the total number of children benefiting from conservation education up to 12,755.

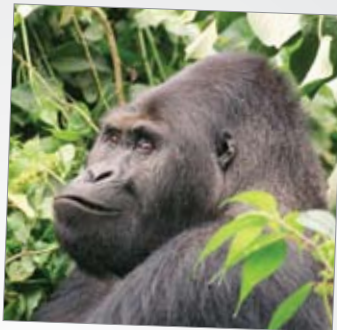
Eastern lowland gorillas

Name: *Gorilla beringei graueri*

Number remaining:
fewer than 3,000

Where they live:
DR Congo

Threats:
Illegal mining, war, encroachment
and lack of legal habitat protection



Endangered species

Eastern lowland gorillas only remain in DR Congo, a country plagued by war, political instability and natural disasters. Like the Mountain gorilla, the Eastern lowland gorillas suffer terribly from habitat loss, which in some areas, is magnified by the illegal mining industry, the lack of legal protection for the gorilla habitat, or simply because the gorilla population is so small it cannot survive even the slightest disruption.

In 2007, with the support of the European Union and GRASP, we protected the tiny population of 21 Eastern lowland gorillas at Mt Tshiaberimu by...

- Providing waterproof clothing and boots to the rangers monitoring and protecting the gorillas.
- Restoring two ranger patrol posts and building a brand new ranger patrol post.
- Establishing two new piggeries to provide local communities with an alternative source of income and protein and to reduce their dependence on the forest.
- Growing 12,250 trees to plant in the forest buffer zone.

In 2007 we worked towards finding a solution to the illegal mining taking place in the gorilla habitat by ...

- Working with the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN) to identify illegal mining sites and miners in the forest with a view to relocating them away from the gorilla habitat.
- Restoring and redefining Kahuzi Biega National Park's boundary.
- Organising an association of 98 miners and providing conservation workshops ahead of environmentally friendly mining training.

Walikale Reserve currently has no legal protection, but in 2007 we supported the gorilla population here by ...

- Setting up gorilla monitoring teams in areas of the reserve that were previously unprotected and subsequently identifying 249 more gorillas.
- Building a school for the local communities living around the reserve in Ihimbi sector to give people the capacity to make a living independently of the forest.

Western lowland gorillas

Name: *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*

Numbers remaining: up to 100,000

Where they live: DR Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Congo

Threats: Logging, Ebola virus, hunting for bushmeat, environmental destruction



Critically endangered

Until recently conservationists had been less concerned about the long-term future of the Western lowland gorilla; they have been protected by their vast forest home, and the natural boundary it creates between them and their human neighbours. But as the logging industry engulfs the forest, bringing roads, hunters and disease, the Western lowland gorillas' long-term future is flung into uncertainty.

In 2007 your donations helped us take the first steps towards protecting the Western lowland gorillas by:

- Conducting a needs analysis on the Western lowland gorilla population in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park and taking the first steps towards setting up a community based conservation programme in the surrounding communities.

Cross River gorillas

Name: *Gorilla gorilla diehli*

Number: fewer than 300

Where: Nigeria/Cameroon border

Threats: Hunting and habitat destruction



Critically endangered

Up until the late 1960's, Cross River gorillas were thought to be extinct. However, during the 1980's, sightings were recorded that led to a renewed effort by scientists to evaluate the status of Africa's most endangered great ape. In the course of the last 10 years, eleven Cross River gorilla sites have been identified and conservation action is now taking place across the landscape in Nigeria and Cameroon.

In 2007, we began a partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to help secure the survival of the Cross River gorillas by:

- Furthering the process of securing legal protection for the proposed Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary.
- Developing a research camp on Kagwene Mountain from which the Cross River gorilla population can be studied

Why we still need your help in 2008...

There is a long way to go before the future of all gorillas living in their natural habitat is secure. In 2008, we need your help to...

- Plant 240,000 trees around the Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, to provide the local communities with a sustainable source of wood and the gorilla habitat with a buffer zone.
- Build a training centre and introduce 128 Batwa families to sustainable organic farming, to reduce their dependency on the Mountain gorilla habitat.
- Build at least five more water cisterns for the communities living around the gorilla habitat to allow more people access to clean water outside of the national park.
- Provide water fountains for the Bambuti indigenous community living near the Virunga National Park to relieve the pressure on the forest.
- Provide equipment to the 35 rangers and trackers at Mt Tshiaberimu to help them protect and monitor the tiny population of rare gorillas, and carry out biodiversity surveys of the habitat.
- Set up two new tree nurseries on the edge of the Eastern lowland gorilla habitat, equipping each with hoes, watering cans, shading material and wheelbarrows, to expand the buffer zone at Kahuzi Biega National Park.
- Purchase three hectares of land for women farmers living on the edge of Kahuzi Biega National Park and provide them with seeds for cabbages, maize, potatoes and beans to lift them out of poverty and alleviate human pressure on the gorilla forest.
- Recruit, equip and train a team of 10 rangers to protect the gorillas in the Walikale Reserve.
- Build and manage a queen-bee rearing centre and purchase 100 new beehives to help reduce poverty amongst the beekeepers living on the edge of the Mgahinga National Park.
- Install a solar power system at the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary in partnership with WCS, to improve the Cross River gorilla research camp and provide an improved base for researchers and protection staff.
- Introduce a community based conservation programme in the Gabonese communities living near the Western lowland gorilla habitat to provide hunters with alternative livelihoods.



Please help the Gorilla Organization by making a donation today.

gorillas.org

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