



June 2021

## Gorillas are the mightiest creatures in the forest

## But their survival could depend on some of the smallest

*You're deep in the forest now. You can almost taste the delicious sweetness on your tongue. But something's wrong. There is no aroma of honey. Only the stench of smoke. You hear the flames before you see them. Then you run...*

<Dear Mrs Personalised>

There's nothing more terrifying than fire in the forest. As soon as they sense it, gorillas panic. They run in all directions. Mothers lose their babies. Silverbacks lose their troop. Young gorillas lose their way and then their lives. They may never find their family again. Alone, it's so easy for gorillas to run into deadly traps set by poachers.

**Illegal beehives are causing more and more forest fires. Will you help make sure they don't undo the good work you've already helped us to do to save gorillas from extinction?**

*I know just how much gorillas matter to you, because you're kind enough to give them such generous support through your regular gift. But they urgently need extra help right now. So please make a further donation today if you possibly can. You will do even more to help protect the gorillas we all love.*

As I said earlier, illegal beehives are one of the most common causes of forest fires in this part of Africa. Local people put their hives in the forest and then go back occasionally to collect the honey.



These hives are against the law for a very simple reason. Farmers need to 'smoke' the bees to calm them down when they're collecting honey. So they have to light fires to make smoke. With masses of dry leaves and dead wood among the undergrowth, it's so, so easy for those little fires to run out of control

*A sudden gust of wind, a stray spark and in seconds you're surrounded by raging flames – and total disaster.*

Huge forest fires have already devastated vast areas of the forests on the border of Uganda and Rwanda, leaving only charred wasteland behind them.

*Please turn over...*

## **Will you help us get illegal hives out of the forest and protect more gorillas?**

That's what our colleague Jovia Basenga is doing at the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. She runs our beekeeping project there. At the moment, she's working with more than 1,000 local farmers to protect the incredibly rare mountain gorillas in the park.

By helping farmers build their hives outside the forest and giving them queen bees to start new colonies, Jovia is making sure that fire won't destroy gorillas' homes and lives.



**With your support, she can carry on this vital work and create a giant 'Bee-lectric' fence of 1,000 hives around the edge of the forest. This means villagers don't need to go into the gorillas' territory to collect their honey, so they will never need to light a fire in the forest again.**

This keeps gorillas safe from COVID-19 as well as other deadly human diseases. It will keep wild animals inside the forest too (even elephants are frightened of bees) and stop them trampling farmers' crops.

The honey these bees provide is vital for local people. Since the pandemic – and the hard lockdown – began, hardly any of the foodstuffs that used to be trucked in have made it into this part of the country at all. People have been forced to rely on what they

can grow themselves and on what they can forage for or hunt in the forest. Now they can rely on nutritious – and medicinal – honey closer to home.

They can also sell surplus honey to generate an income – to help them keep their children at school and buy the essentials they need, like firewood to cook with.

## **Gorillas need your urgent support today**

Please make a donation today and please be as generous as you can. The bees may be our most important new allies in the struggle to save gorillas from extinction, but it's supporters like you who are their best friends. I hope they can rely on your friendship once more. Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jillian Miller".

Jillian Miller  
Director



*P.S. The next time you sit down to enjoy a delicious slice of toast and honey, you can bask in the knowledge that the very same substance is helping protect gorillas thousands of miles away. Thanks to you, one of the smallest creatures in the forest is helping one of the largest to survive.*



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# How your gift helps local beekeepers to save gorillas

## You can help:

**Support Jovia Basenga** to carry on her vital work and keep the beekeeping project running – so she can get more illegal beehives out of the forest and stop deadly forest fires from killing gorillas.

**Train 1,000 bee farmers** to keep their hives going – as part of the giant 'Bee-lectric' fence, to keep wild animals in the forest and local people out of it.

**Provide more queen bees and basic beehives** for local people, so they can feed themselves and their families and sell the surplus honey, to earn money for essentials.



**Enable more villagers to grow plants that support pollinators** – helping their bees to make more honey which means they do not go into the forest for honey and food.

**Support essential ranger patrols** to spot and remove illegal beehives whilst at the same time deterring poachers and destroying cruel snares.



## Will you help save gorillas from extinction?

## Please turn over to **make your donation today**

If you prefer you can give by phone on **0300 330 0141** or securely online at **[www.gorillas.org/donate](http://www.gorillas.org/donate)**





the  
gorilla  
organization



**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE,  
THERE USED TO BE FIRE**



**NOW THERE  
ARE GORILLAS**



# HOW CAN YOU HAVE SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE?



## More hives

We need your help to train 1,000 farmers to get illegal hives out of the forest and to install new hives away from the gorillas' precious home.



## + More food

These new hives will also provide vital food for local people who have been going hungry since the very strict lockdown stopped all food supplies.



## + More income

You'll help villagers sell surplus honey to earn a vital income to pay for essentials like firewood from outside the forest, so gorillas are protected from deadly human diseases.



## + More education

The little extra money they can generate from selling their honey, will mean local people can keep sending their children to school.



## + More forest

Because these hives are outside the forest, there is no danger of 'smoking' the bees causing wildfires that kill gorillas we've worked so hard to save from extinction.



## = More gorillas

Mountain gorillas are slowly creeping back from the very brink of extinction. Will you continue to help to protect these wonderful creatures that we all love?



## When you're 'smoking' bees **outside** the forest

People gathering honey from illegal beehives in the forest once posed a major threat to gorillas' survival. The fires they lit to 'smoke' their bees to calm them often raged out of control, killing precious gorillas.

Today, will you help get illegal beehives out of the forest and help save gorillas from extinction?

## Will you help save gorillas from extinction?

Please fill in the form and make your donation today

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# Meet Jovia – our new Queen Bee

**Jovia Basenga is the driving force who is behind all our work to use bees to save gorillas from extinction. She runs our Bee Rearing Centre in Kisoro, Uganda.**

Jovia has dedicated her life to getting illegal hives out of the forest. She does it by supplying materials for basic beehives on the edge of the forest and training local people how to make them. This stops the risk of wildfires caused by people 'smoking' bees inside the forest. It also helps farmers produce honey to support themselves and their families. Her latest challenge is to set up a giant 'Bee-lectric Fence' of 1,000 hives to protect gorillas in a huge area of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda.



As Jovia says: "When we train farmers to keep bees on their homesteads, they will have enough food, they will be able to sell honey to pay for their children's school fees and the firewood they need to cook. And most importantly, they won't ever need to think of going into the forest, so we can keep gorillas safe."

But Jovia can only continue her lifesaving work with the support of people like you, who care so much about gorillas. Will you please make a donation today and help her do even more?

## Will you help Jovia save gorillas today?

**Please fill in the form and make your donation today**

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