



September 2021

WE MUST PROTECT GORILLAS NOW!

Dear Friend

The second wave of COVID-19 has hit Africa. And it has hit hard. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, countless people are suffering. We simply don't know exactly how many people are infected, because there are so few tests available. But our colleagues on the ground are telling us that people are dying everywhere. Many hospitals are completely overwhelmed.

This is terrible news for the people of all those countries. Thankfully, international aid organisations are rushing to help them right now. We're also doing all we can to support our staff and their families.

But who will help the gorillas?

I've talked to you before about how vulnerable gorillas are to COVID-19. It's nothing short of a miracle that no wild gorilla has died of the virus yet.

You should take great pride in that amazing achievement. Thanks to you, rangers have been able to protect our precious few remaining gorillas in the forests and reserves where they live. We've been able to help the rangers get the food, equipment and kit they so urgently need. They've managed to keep this deadly virus at bay. But for how much longer?

Will you help the 'thin green line' of rangers to hold back COVID-19?

You're one of the gorillas' most loyal friends. You're already doing so much to help them. But they need your help now more than they ever have. So please make a donation today if you possibly can – and help protect gorillas from COVID-19.

The situation is so desperate that it breaks my heart to tell you about it.

In Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mgahinga National Parks in Uganda, rangers are so terrified of the destruction COVID-19 could wreak on gorillas, that more than 400 of them have self-isolated in the forest. They're right to be frightened: we've heard reports of outbreaks almost at the very gates of the reserve.

COVID-19 IS RAGING IN NEARBY VILLAGES

The second wave is already dangerously close to gorilla habitats. We must keep it away.

RANGERS ARE SELF-ISOLATING IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST

In Uganda, more than 400 rangers have moved into the forest to protect gorillas. They urgently need food so they can stay where they are needed.

A SINGLE INFECTION COULD BE THE END FOR GORILLAS

Gorillas have no resistance to COVID-19, no vaccines and no treatment. You've done so much to protect them so far. Now they need your help more than ever.

PLEASE GIVE GORILLAS YOUR HELP ONCE MORE TODAY

Continued...



These are tough, resilient rangers. They're not worrying about what might happen to them. They routinely face down armed poachers – and they're all ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for gorillas.

But they know that it might only take contact with a single infected human to destroy the whole gorilla population. A population they've dedicated their lives to bringing back from the very brink of extinction. They're not going to let that happen.

The rangers are living in rough shelters – they don't even have proper tents. They will not come out of the forest until the second wave has passed. They are utterly determined to make sure that no one will get through and infect the gorillas there.

It might only take one individual carrying the virus to infect a whole troop of gorillas. That could have devastating consequences. Forty years of hard conservation work could be undone in a matter of days.

Will you help buy and deliver emergency food rations for rangers?

With your support, we can leave emergency rations at the edge of the reserve. We'll be providing sacks of beans and Posho – a highly nutritious rice-based food – for the rangers. Once the sacks have been left long enough to destroy any possible traces of contamination from COVID-19, the rangers can collect them.

This way, they can stay in the forest for as long as they need – without ever having any contact with people from outside their 'bubble'. This will ensure that no one gets close enough to the gorillas to run the risk of infecting them.

These are desperate measures, but these are truly desperate times in much of Africa. In DRC, our teams are working in the aftermath of a devastating volcanic eruption. Many of them have no running water. They're seeing their friends and family catch the virus every day. Yet they're still determined to do everything they can to protect gorillas. They urgently need our support right now.

The virus has already devastated too many lives. Too many of us have lost people we love. Please accept our heartfelt condolences if you have suffered a bereavement. Please don't let this terrible virus take gorillas too. Please make a donation to help protect them – and the rangers on the ground – today. And please be as generous as you can

Yours sincerely

Jillian Miller
Director

P.S. Tragic news. I've just heard from my colleague Henri Cirhuza that two rangers have died of COVID-19 in the DRC. Their families can't afford to pay their hospital bills. We can't leave rangers' families to fend for themselves. Which means we need to raise an extra £1,000 from this appeal. So please make a donation if you can. Anything you give will be put to work where it can make the greatest difference. Thank you so much for all your support.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP **SAVE GORILLAS FROM EXTINCTION**

YOU COULD...

...Provide emergency rations for over 400 rangers who are self-isolating in the forest to protect gorillas



...Support rangers' families and children while their husbands and fathers are deep in the heart of the forest protecting gorillas



...Keep COVID-19 away from the gorillas by ensuring the "human shield" of rangers stands firm in the forest to keep them safe.

Please make a donation today if you can.

The situation is changing all the time, but anything you give will be put to work where it can make the greatest difference to helping gorillas to survive this latest deadly crisis. Thank you.

Please turn over to make your donation today or if you prefer you can give by phone on **0300 330 0141**

or securely online at www.gorillas.org/donate





the
gorilla
organization

**HOW CAN YOU PROTECT THE
GORILLAS FROM COVID-19?**

WILL YOU HELP GET EMERGENCY RATIONS TO 400 RANGERS SELF-ISOLATING IN THE FOREST TO PROTECT GORILLAS?

Rangers can cope in terrible conditions. They are prepared to face down poachers and armed militias. But they cannot survive in the forest without food.

They urgently need emergency rations to keep them going. We can deliver sacks of nutritious beans and rice in a COVID-friendly, contact-free way, right to the gates of the reserve.

This way, rangers can stay in isolation for as long as gorillas need them.





WILL YOU HELP CLEAR MORE DEADLY TRAPS AND SAVE GORILLAS' LIVES?

Food shortages caused by the pandemic mean that more and more local people are forced to hunt for food in the forest. The 'easy' prey close to the edges has already disappeared. Hunters are moving nearer to where gorillas live.

This means rangers are finding many more deadly traps than ever before. Will you make sure they have the food they need so they can keep on working until this wave of COVID-19 has passed.

That way, they can destroy more cruel traps before they can hurt more of the gorillas we love.

WILL YOU HELP KEEP THE "THIN GREEN LINE" OF RANGERS IN PLACE?

The only certain way we can protect gorillas from COVID-19 is by making sure they never come into contact with a human carrying the virus. That means rangers need to protect gorillas now more than ever.

Four hundred rangers are currently self-isolating inside the forests of Uganda to keep gorillas safe there. They will not leave until this deadly wave of COVID-19 is over.

Please help keep this 'thin green line' in place.



WILL YOU HELP US GEAR UP TO GET VACCINES AND COVID-19 TESTS TO MORE RANGERS?



There are no vaccines for gorillas. This makes it even more important that everyone who may come close to a gorilla is vaccinated.

Currently, there are next to no vaccines available in the DRC and Uganda. Tests are in desperately short supply too. But as soon as they become available, we plan to support district health and wildlife authorities in their campaign to vaccinate as many rangers and their families as we can.

We simply won't be able to do this without you.

**Please make your donation today by returning the enclosed form
or if you prefer you can give by phone on **0300 330 0141**
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"IT'S NEVER BEEN SO BAD"

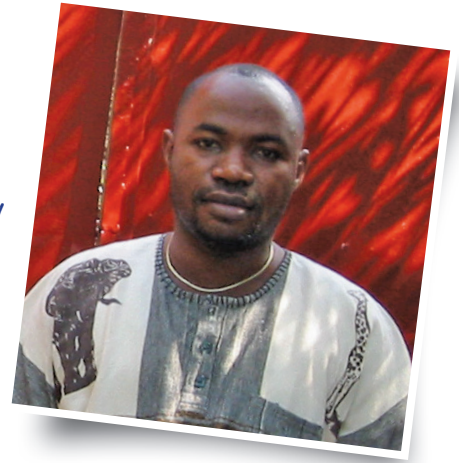
The situation here is really very serious. People are falling ill every day. The hospitals cannot cope. Vaccination is non-existent. The destruction caused by the volcanic eruption we suffered here in May makes everything harder.

We are used to a hard life here. Many people are incredibly poor. But this is different. Much worse than the first wave. The situation is rapidly becoming critical.

Rangers are not immune to the virus. They are dying too. They and their families urgently need help.

Please help us get food and emergency supplies to rangers and their families now. Because without rangers. I fear the gorillas could be destroyed forever.

Thank you.



Henri Cirhuza,
The Gorilla Organization, DRC

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