

# BRD-NEWSLETTER

Informations of **Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe**

July 1992



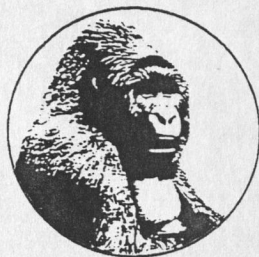
**Dear members, friends and donors,**

This is the first English issue of our newsletter, which has been published in German since 1989 and was mailed to our members half-yearly since 1991. As we were often asked for English information materials, we translated this issue, which we produced in July 1992.

We still have to decide whether we shall proceed in this way with the next issues. If you are interested in this newsletter and would like to receive it in English, please write us to support our planning. This issue will also be distributed in Uganda (English version) as well as in Zaire (French version).

In the last newsletter we asked our readers to help raising funds for our projects. The results are very encouraging; but in the meantime we started a new project in Zaire, and still another gorilla conservation project in this country needs our urgent support. Consequently we have to ask for additional donations. A detailed description with the problems we want to solve is included in this bulletin.

If you want further informations about our work, or if you want to join us as a member, please write us; but first, read this newsletter and get your own impression.



# BRD-NEWSLETTER

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### BRD-Newsletter July 1992

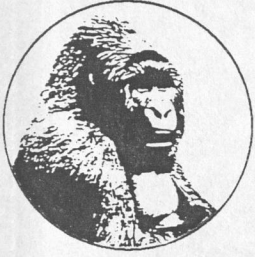
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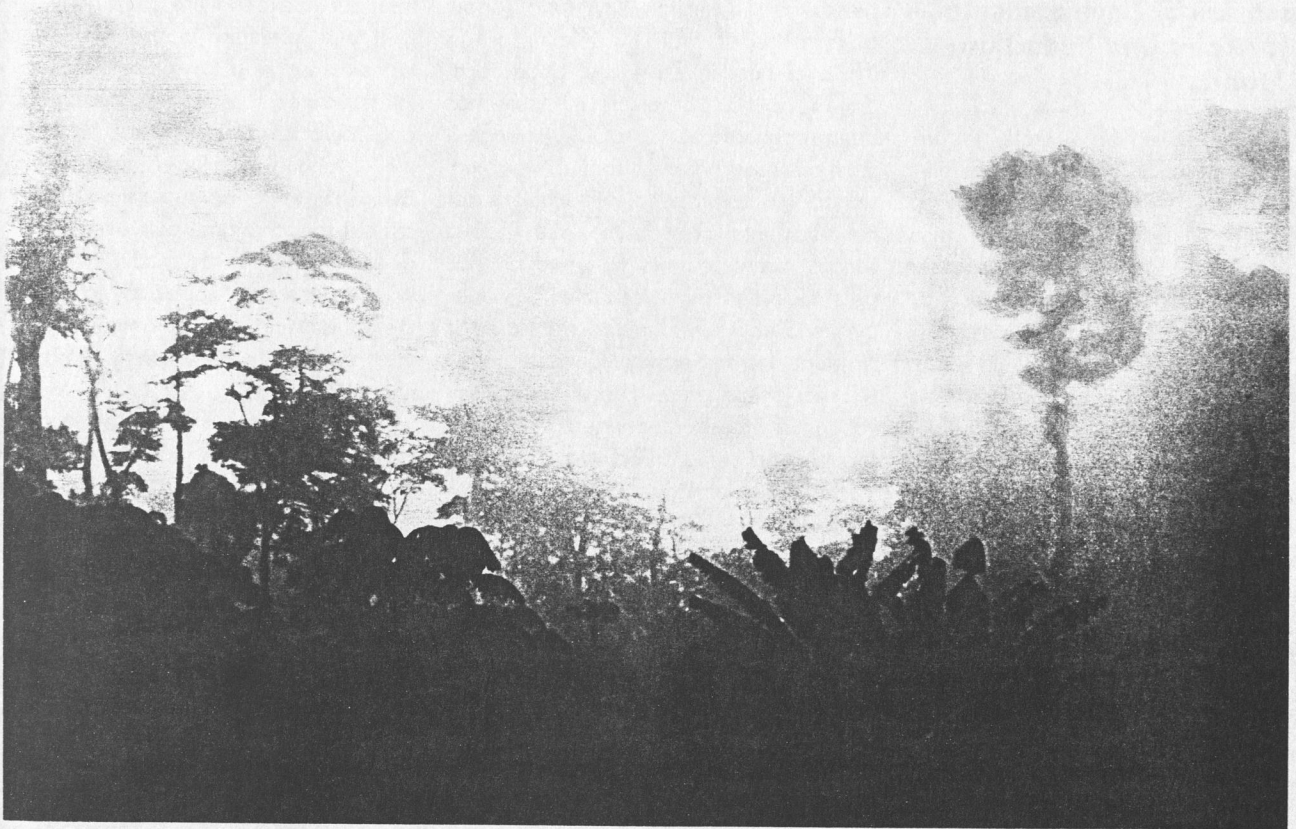
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## BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE



### Introducing Ourselves

The German organization *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* (BRD) was founded in 1991 as the successor to *Berggorilla Patenschaft*, which had worked for gorilla conservation since 1982.

Consisting of individuals with varied and different backgrounds, the managing committee is concerned not only with the biological aspects, but also the political, economical and ethnological consequences of rain forest destruction and conservation activities. We receive funds from subscriptions of our members and from donations. Except for administrative expenses and newsletters, our money is spent almost exclusively on the support of gorilla conservation projects. We work effectively and directly, often in

situations, in which the big conservation organizations react too slowly. We try to be as flexible as possible in response to the frequently changing situation in Africa, independent of government and financial interests.

BRD is supporting projects which help to save the rain forests where gorillas live. But as all the remaining forests in their distribution area are threatened by human encroachment, this objective can only be achieved with the help of the local peoples. For this reason our projects try to combine the wellbeing of humans with the conservation of nature.

### You Can Help Us

If you want to support us and our conservation work, you may become a member or make a donation. As a member

you will receive our newsletters regularly.

The yearly subscription rates are:

general member	\$ 60
student	\$ 25
family	\$ 100
sponsor	\$ 150

Please send your cheque with the subscription or with the donation to the address on page 2. Donations may be given either to a certain project (with the respective remark on the cheque) or to our work in general.

So far we financed our newsletters from the general funds. In the future, however, we would like to include advertisements which can partially share our expenses. If you are interested in publishing an advertisement, please write to the address on page 2 and we will send you a price list.



## DEVELOPMENTAL POLITICS

### Suspension of Developmental Aid for Zaire and Reduction for Uganda

The German government wrote a statement in preparation of the Earth Summit of the UN for environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, which was held in May 1992. Chancellor Helmut Kohl cited this statement at May 20 in the House of Parliament. It says:

*Our developmental aid will be increased during the next years as far as possible, although the German reunification as well as the problems in the former states of the Soviet Union and in the countries of central, eastern and southeastern Europe demand our attention. For this reason the increase of funds for developing countries has to be reduced.*

This means that the funds for conservation projects all over the world will not be increased, but distributed in a different way. Only those countries will receive developmental aid which are willing to introduce a democratic system. Funding for political reasons will have the priority; there will be no allocation of resources according to ecological urgency. Kohl explained it like this:

*The most important factor for these countries, for this part of the world, is the creation of national and international conditions which guarantee an ecologically acceptable development. One way to this destination is the improvement of their chances in international trade.*

All the countries that are not able or not willing to fulfil these prerequisites are no longer supported, even if they need funds to prevent the destruction of their natural resources. This is also the case for the two countries we are working in. The German government had already ap-

proved a 10 million DM fund (about 6.5 million \$) for the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in Zaire, but because of Zaire's political problems this sum has been reduced to DM 4000. Although it may be reasonable from a political standpoint to suspend all supports for developmental projects in Zaire, it is a serious threat for this Park, which has been classified as «World Heritage Site» by the UNESCO. This important area is a refuge for the eastern lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*), and the conservation of these endangered animals should not depend on political decisions.

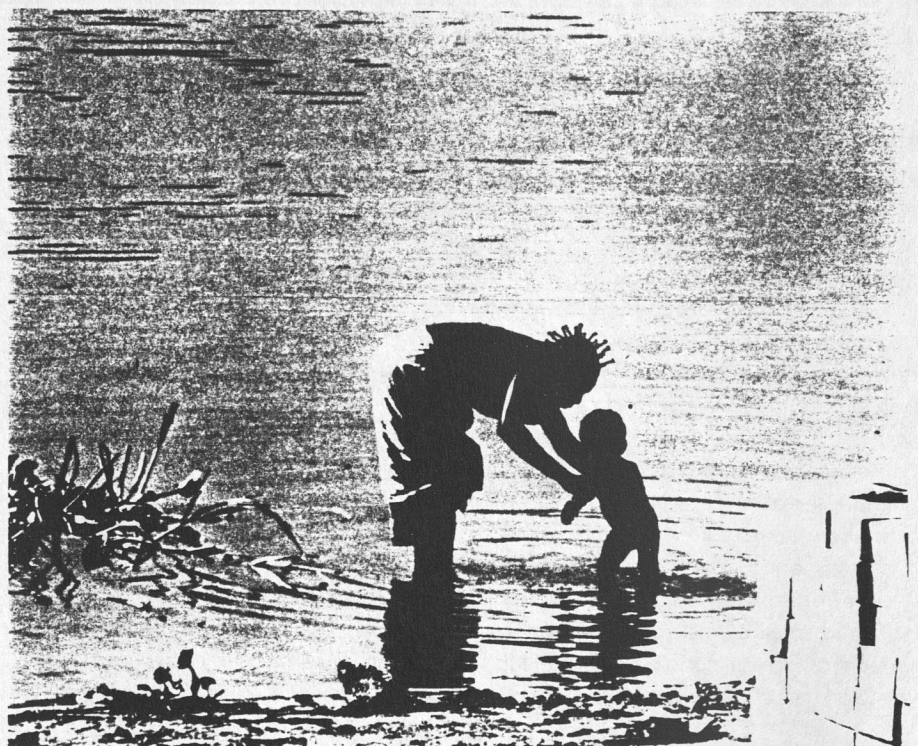
Besides, Germany reduced the developmental aid for Uganda by about 40%; originally 40 million \$ should be provided, but now it will only be 25 million \$. The ministry justifies this decision with the disregard of human rights and the spending of very high sums for military purposes in this country. Until recently Uganda spent 35 % of the

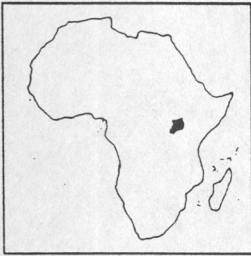
total public expenditure on its army.

It was planned to use the German funds for Uganda to restore the country's infrastructure. This is not possible now, and therefore the plans for developing the National Parks Mgahinga and Bwindi have to be reconsidered. More difficult negotiations between the Park Directors and the Ugandan government will be necessary, especially to convince the ministry that the biological aspect in this case is more important than the financial aspect.

For our work and for our budget those political decisions have very serious consequences. The call for immediate support which came from the Kahuzi-Biega National Park overstressed our financial plans for 1992. Additionally, the *Bundesamt für Militärhaushalt* (Federal Office for Military Budget) rejected to donate equipment for the Impenetrable Forest (see page 12).

Karl-Heinz Kohnen





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## Reports by Klaus-Jürgen Sucker from Mgahinga National Park

### Report 9 (Oct.-Dec.1991)

In zone 2 of the Park, which was still forested some years ago and then cultivated by farmers, the planting of trees started. 2000 nursery trees – species which are naturally growing there – were planted during this period. 50–60 % of the illegal land users left zone 2 of the National Park voluntarily.

Most illegal activities (poaching, tree felling, smuggling, cattle grazing etc.) have meanwhile been stopped nearly completely. But the dangerous situation in the Park, which was caused by the civil war in Rwanda, sometimes prevented the Rangers from patrolling the area.

The office of *Uganda National Parks* (the governmental authority for National Parks) was established and equipped in the center of Kisoro. Kulao Okongo,

Warden of the Bwindi/Impenetrable Forest National Park, is taking care of this office. In this place an information bureau for the two National Parks in the area (Bwindi and Mgahinga) was installed. It will be a meeting place and starting point for visitors and tourists, and in the future, when gorilla tours are established, also an accountancy office for those tours.

Uganda signed the CITES at the end of September 1991 and thereby is now obliged to prevent the trade with endangered animals.

Even though the Mgahinga Forest is now a National Park, it has to be further supported by international conservation organizations. The Ugandan government, which is responsible for the maintenance of natural reserves, can afford only about \$ 6000 per month for all seven National Parks. With this money all salaries, rents, gasoline, equipment etc. have to be paid.

### Report 10 (Jan.-March 1992)

More than 1000 additional trees were planted in a deforested part of the Park. Unfortunately herds of cattle, which illegally grazed in this area, destroyed 300 of them. However, about 85 % of the trees planted so far survived.

The National Parks Mgahinga and Bwindi were threatened by the activities of the governmental representative for Kisoro, Philemon Mateke. He has his own and different ideas about nature conservation and does not accept the present boundaries of the Parks. At the end of January he activated 20 farmers who had illegally cultivated fields in the Mgahinga Park, which was then a game reserve, and had been driven away. These persons entered the Mgahinga Park together with another 300 local people, to whom they had promised land for cultivation. Mateke demanded that 4 km<sup>2</sup> of the Park (9 % of its total area) should be set aside for cultivation and that the forest, the mountain gorilla habitat, should be provided for grazing cattle. Although the Park Direction protested against this, he was not interested in the arguments.

The next day some of the people started to fell 140 trees within zone 2 and could only be stopped by the Ugandan army, which had been called by the Park Direction. In the following days the army and the Rangers patrolled the Park together to prevent more interventions. During those patrols they arrested three men who were felling trees.

### Report 11 (April -June 1992)

In April several additional Rangers were employed. At present the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is protected by 21 Rangers and 3 Park Wardens.

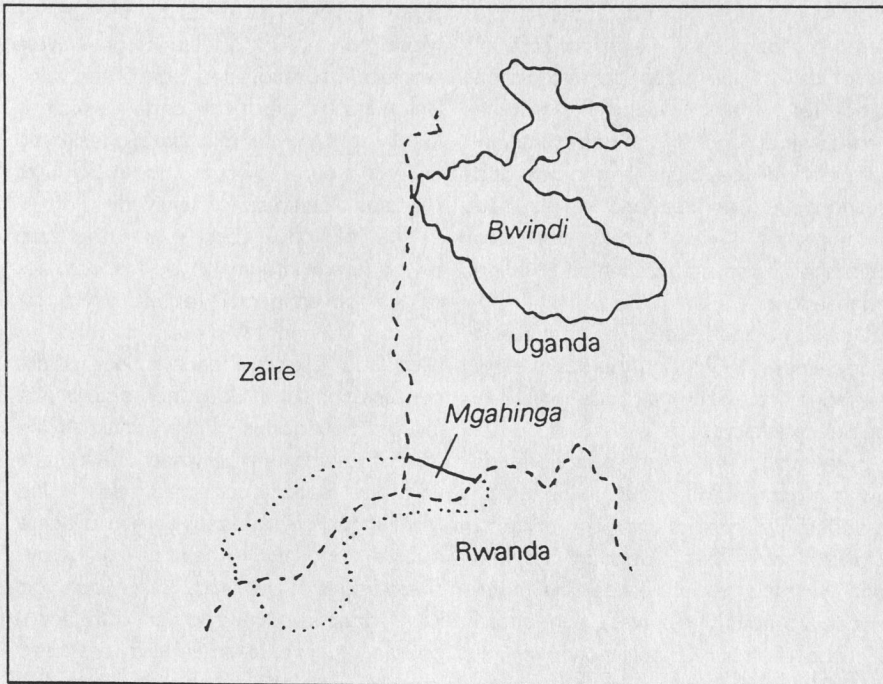
The demarcation of the Park borders with trees had already been started some time ago, but those trees were destroyed by local farmers. Now another attempt was made to demarcate the boundary

### Illegal Activities in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in 1992

	January	February	March	April	May
Poaching	-	-	-	-	-
Smuggling	-	-	-	-	-
Tree felling	-	6	-	-	-
Fire	-	-	-	-	-
Cattle grazing in zone 1	60	>80	70	0	0
Cattle grazing in zone 2	400	400	400	400	400
Cultivation in zone 2 (km <sup>2</sup> )	4	4	4	0	6
prevented on km <sup>2</sup>	-	0.64	-	4	-
Confiscated					
axes	-	3	-	-	-
hoes	-	-	-	10	-
knives	-	-	-	2	-
snares	25	23	-	-	25
cattle	0	0	70	0	-



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**Location of the two National Parks for gorillas in the southwest of Uganda and the adjacent Parks in the Virunga Volcanoes**

between zones 2 and 3 (reforestation and buffer zone). A part of this line is marked with *Grevillea*-trees. The rest will be planted with trees too, but besides it probably will be marked with pyramids out of volcanic rocks. They will be 1 m high and fixed with cement to prevent destruction.

The governmental representative Philemon Mateke continued to support the settlers within the Park. He encouraged them to drive away the Park Rangers by telling that the patrols were illegal. The local newspaper *New Vision* reported that Mateke was himself interested in the cultivation of the Park area, because he could make profit by selling the field crops. But finally he had to sign an agreement which determined that zone 2 becomes a part of the National Park.

The 10 km<sup>2</sup> of zone 2, which had been cultivated illegally in some parts already for decades, were now finally

integrated into the National Park. The settlers, who lived in 273 households, will have to leave the area after they brought in their harvests – at the end of this year. They will receive support for moving to new homes.

## **Bwindi/Impenetrable Forest National Park**

*(Summary of the project report by Thomas Butynski, January 1991 to March 1992)*

### **Conservation**

Uganda National Parks started to demarcate the Park boundary, which is 112 km long. Plans to construct a hydroelectric dam in the National Park could be changed. It will be built outside the Park. Illegal activities have been reduced to the lowest level since the Impenetrable Forest is a reserve. Pitsawing and gold-

mining have been banned from the whole Park area.

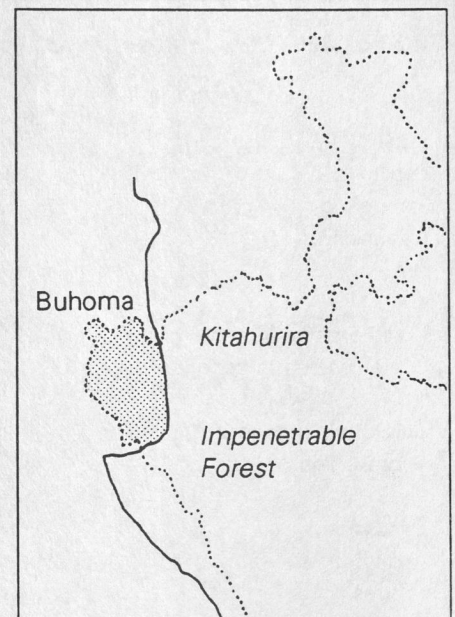
### **Scientific Studies**

One of the major objectives of the *Impenetrable Forest Conservation Project* is to provide inventories of the forest animals and plants as well as their ecology. For this purpose, Ugandan students and counterparts have been trained in the project's *Conservation Education and Agroforestry Center*. Now an annex to this building, which provides sleeping rooms and a kitchen for the students who work there, has been completed.

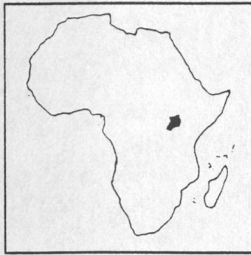
An expatriate student completed a study which analyzed the utilization of the Impenetrable Forest by the local people. A different student worked on the attitudes towards tourism in this area.

### **Preparations for Tourism**

For the Ugandan government the opportunity of introducing gorilla tourism is



**Northwestern part of the Bwindi Forest. Gorilla tourism will be introduced in the stippled area.**



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an important aim, and tentative plans for tourism development were already made several years ago. Certainly the prospect of tourists which pay about \$ 100 to see the gorillas was one of the most important reasons which convinced the government to turn the Impenetrable Forest into a National Park.

Although the Direction of the Park has concerns regarding those plans, tourism inevitably will have to be developed. The Directors intend to avoid the mistakes

which were made in comparable projects. Therefore detailed plans for the introduction of gorilla tourism in Uganda were made together with experienced scientists and conservationists. Finally the *Impenetrable Forest Tourism Development Plan* was completed in cooperation with the *International Gorilla Conservation Programme* (IGCP). It will be implemented until October 1992. An important point in this plan is the benefit of local people from tourism; the proceeds

should not end up only as a revenue for certain persons.

Since September 1991 a Peace Corps volunteer works at Buhoma. He is helping to construct facilities and trails, to develop tourism, to train Rangers and to organize public relations activities in the northwestern part of the Bwindi forest. Besides, a program for the long-term monitoring of the gorillas in the Buhoma area will be developed.

Although the gorillas are not hunted there, they are still very much afraid of humans. This was reported by Charles Horton, Gorilla Keeper from Zoo Atlanta, who has been working in the gorilla habituation project at Buhoma for 6 weeks in spring 1992. It will take the guides considerable time to habituate the groups to humans, but they expect that in 1993 the first tourists can visit the Impenetrable Forest gorillas.

In the report about his stay in Uganda Charles Horton talked about the fascinating diversity of the fauna in this forest. Especially birds and butterflies are represented by a unique number of species. The abundant vegetation with its many forms gave the forest its name - «Impenetrable Forest». The visitors, who will see this Park when it is open for the public, will certainly be impressed by its beauty and feel the same enthusiasm as Charles Horton.

### Situation of the Gorillas in Rwanda

At the Gorilla Workshop in Milwaukee several reports were given regarding the effects of the civil war on the gorillas. Martha Robbins, who worked in Karisoke until recently, and Ruth Keesling, President International of the *Digit Fund* provided interesting materials.

Two of the tourist groups shifted their ranges to Zaire to avoid the troubles. Although the Karisoke Research Centre and the Veterinary Centre in Kinigi have been reconstructed and researchers returned soon after the war broke out, the conservation of the gorillas is not yet secured.

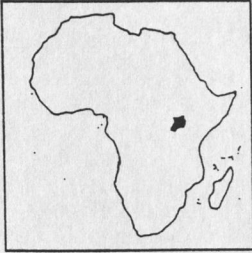
Very often the Rangers could not go on their patrols, because their life was threatened by the fights. Poachers seized this opportunity to set about three times as many snares than before. This resulted in more accidents with gorillas who had an arm or leg caught in a snare; last year at least eight gorillas were concerned. Three of those eight could be successfully anesthetized and saved by the staff of the Kinigi Veterinary Center. Another individual, three year old Ibarura, a member of the tourist group 13, was less lucky. He was found by Rangers in December 1991 with a snare, far away from his group. The men removed the snare and took Ibarura back to his group. A week later, however, he was caught in a snare again, and this time he was already dead when the Rangers found him. He died from his bite wounds. Nobody knows whether they were inflicted by other members of group 13 or by dogs.

Besides these indirect effects of the war a direct attack on a gorilla has meanwhile also been reported. During the last days of May 1992 the silverback Mrithi, leading male of group 13, was found dead in his night nest. He had been killed by four bullets from a machine gun. As no Ranger had witnessed the killing, nothing is known about the circumstances.

The civil war in Rwanda still continues. Although recently the news reported a ceasefire between the Rwandan Patriotic Front and the Rwandan army, other news say that the fights have even increased in some areas and more villages were attacked. In the meantime an interim government has been established by five different parties; they said that their most urgent task will be to start peace talks with the rebels.

### Purchasing Land - Present State and Plans for the Future

There are several projects for purchasing land in South America, but they are criticized frequently. Local farmers are driven away from their fields without any perspective and alternative; nobody takes care of them. In our project for land purchase we (BRD) and the Direction of the Bwindi/Impenetrable Forest National Park want to avoid this mistake. Our target is a procedure which does not lead the local people to the impression



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that they were forced to sell their land. For this reason a lot of time was spent to develop an acceptable procedure. Meanwhile the methodic and administrative problems have been solved.

The purchased land was previously owned by farmers who usually cultivated several small fields measuring about 0.2 to 5 ha each. These fields were frequently 10 km apart and it was therefore very difficult to work on them. It was made known to the farmers that we intended to buy a piece of land for our project, so they could decide if they wanted to sell it or not. No pressure whatsoever was put on the owners to sell their land. However, most of the farmers were anxious to do it, because our offers were more than competitive. At least some of the owners took the money and bought better land in more convenient locations. Moreover they preferred fields apart from the forest, because bushpigs and monkeys do not cause crop damage in those places.

Jonathan Baranga, the Director of the *Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation*, purchased the land in his name. This was the only practical way to avoid further delay; in the meantime the ownership was transferred to Mbarara University.

We already told in the last newsletter that the first land which was purchased with the money collected some years ago were 10-12 ha near Buhoma, at the border of the Bwindi Forest. About twelve farmers were involved in selling their land there. This area has been chosen because it is of special interest: There is a very dense gorilla population and it has the optimal prerequisites for a tourist camp. In the purchased area two huts and a cookhouse have already been constructed. It is planned to erect the main building of *Uganda National Parks* and a tourist center there, which will be the starting point for gorilla tours. Besides the favorable conditions of the

locality there is another important advantage: The Rangers are able to prevent the completion of a road which leads through the part of the Park with the highest gorilla density. This road construction had been given up several years ago, but recently the governmental representative Philemon Mateke (see the Mgahinga reports) supported it again.

Nearly all the funds which had been provided for land purchase by us have been spent now. Meanwhile a second

fundraising provided more money. DM 14 000 were collected by Pastor Schindelin, and another \$ 5000 by the organization *Deutsches Tierhilfswerk*. This money will be spent partially for helping illegal settlers to move to a new home, and with most of the funds more areas at the Park border will be purchased. The Park Direction is preparing a list of those places which should be purchased urgently.

Angela Meder

Pfarrer Schindelin  
c/o Mr. Karl-Heinz Kohnen  
Ripshorsterstr. 365  
D-4200 Oberhausen 12  
Germany

5 May 1992

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I send my greetings from the Impenetrable Forest in southwestern Uganda.

I have been informed by Mr. Kohnen that you have worked hard to raise 4,000 DEM for the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation to use for the purchase of land critical to the conservation of the Impenetrable Forest. The Impenetrable Forest is one of the most important remaining forest in all of Africa. It has more species of plants and animals than any other forest in East Africa and is home to more than half of the remaining 640 or so mountain gorillas.

At only 320 km<sup>2</sup> in size, the Impenetrable is a small forest in need of a high level of protection. There are several areas of important gorilla habitat outside this forest and also some areas which are highly vulnerable to destruction. It is these areas which we hope to purchase. Thus far, with funds from Berggorilla and Regenwalk Direkthilfe, we have bought about 10 ha of land on behalf of conservation of this forest.

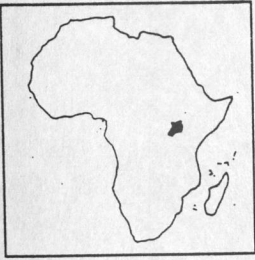
Your kind and generous contribution to our conservation efforts in the Impenetrable Forest are most welcome. All of us here at the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation wish to extend our deepest appreciation.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Butynski, PhD.  
Co-director  
Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation  
P.O. Box 7487  
Kampala, Uganda





# UGANDA

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HU28      539 CCCTCCCTTCCCC-C GCGGCCCTCTCTCT CTCTCCCG----GAG GGGGCGGGCTCCGGC GGG-TGCGGGG-TG 606
CH28      CCCTCCCTTCCCCC GCGGCCCTCTCTCT CTCTCCCG----GAG GGGGCGGGCTCCGGC GGG-TGCGGGG-TG
GO28      CCCTCCCTTCCCC-C GCGGCCCTCTCTCT CTCTCCCG----GAG GGGGCGGGCTCCGGC GGG-TGCGGGG-TG
OR28      CCCTCCCTTCCCC-- GCGGCCCTCTCTCT CTCTCCCGCGGGGAG GGGGCGGGCTCCGGC GGG-TGCGGGG-TG
MO28      551 CCGGTCGTTCGCC-- -----TCTT CTCTCCCGCGTCC-- --GGCG--CTCCGGC GG-----CG 595
RA28      548 CGGTCTCTCTCC-C CCCTCCCGGGTCC GCGGTCCGCTCCCC GCTCTCCCTCCGGG GGGGTGTCGG---CG 618
  
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## Which Gorilla-Subspecies Lives in the Bwindi Forest?

Since the species *Gorilla gorilla* was classified into three subspecies, zoologists were not sure about the systematic relationships of the Bwindi/Impenetrable Forest gorillas. They were sometimes classified as mountain gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*), but others thought that they were more closely related to the eastern lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*). These classifications were made mainly by skull and bone measurements. In the meantime a new, more unambiguous method was developed: DNA-fingerprinting. In some zoos it is already a routine procedure, which is also applied to gorillas, especially for paternity tests. Usually a small quantity of blood is taken from the animals for this test. In most cases this is not possible with free ranging animals.

Since a few years the genetic material for DNA-fingerprints can be acquired also from other body parts than blood cells, for example from hair follicles. A single hair can be sufficient for preparing a DNA-fingerprint in the laboratory. This means that even gorilla hair from nests may be included in those studies - which is important for those areas where the animals are afraid of humans.

After this method had been established, the *Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species*, which is run by the *San Diego Zoological Society*, asked all zoos and researchers who worked with gorillas in the wild to send gorilla hair samples. At the beginning of this year the center had received about 500 samples from captivity and from different regions in Africa.

When studying the mitochondrial DNA in samples from the Virunga Volcanoes and the Impenetrable Forest, Karen Garner found nearly identical sequences in both areas. She concluded from these results that both populations are very closely related. On the other hand, the eastern lowland gorilla samples were slightly different, and the distribution area of this subspecies is much larger; the western gorilla populations, however, showed a considerable genetic variability. Their distribution area is the largest of all subspecies.

Besides, Karen Garner's results showed that the two eastern gorilla subspecies are more closely related than the populations in western Africa. For this reason the eastern gorillas, which are morphologically clearly different, should be united to one subspecies from a genetical viewpoint.

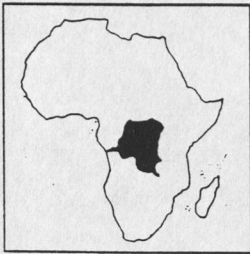
The gorilla hair study in San Diego will be continued, with additional samples and additional analyses. Certainly the results will give more interesting hints for gorilla systematics.

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25 26 27
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GO28      ---GGCG--GGGGC CGAACCCTCCCGA GTGTTACAG--CCCC CGGCACACACTGG CCGAATCCCGGGGCG GAGGAGCGAGA--C
OR28      ---GGCG--GGGGC CG--AACCTCCCGA GTGTTACAG--CCCC CGGCACACACTGG CCGAATCCCGGGGCG GAGGAGCGAGA--C
MO28      ---GGGGCGGGGAG C--ACCTACCCCGA GTGTTACAG--CCCTC CGGCACACACTGG CCGAATCCCGGGGCG GAGGAGCGAGA--C 865
RA28      GTGGGCG--CCGGC C--ACCTCCCGA GTGTTACAG--CCCC CGGCACACACTGG CCGAATCCCGGGGCG GAGGAGCGAGA--C 898
  
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# ZAIRE



**Gorilla money. 50 000 Zaire note which shows the silverback Maheshe from the Kahuzi-Biega National Park und some mountain gorillas. Because of the inflation its value decreases constantly; at the beginning of this year it was less than half a Dollar.**

## Political Situation

In September 1991 Zaire was struck by riots. Since then the situation has improved to a certain degree, but the future of this huge country is still insecure. More than 200 peoples are living there, and it will probably be impossible for any government to satisfy them all. President Mobutu is still the single leader of the country, although he promised to introduce democracy and appointed his opponent Nguz Karl-I-Bond as Prime Minister. Mobutu prepared himself for further riots. Last autumn he equipped a ship for a residence on the Zaire river, which will give him an opportunity to leave the Zairean territory immediately if this should be necessary. Moreover he has transferred much of his property to Switzerland, where he owns a large estate.

Despite the international criticism on his regime the President did not change

his politics, which mainly increased his personal fortune and power. Therefore many countries stopped their economic and developmental aid for Zaire (see page 4). Foreign companies which had been raided during the riots left the country too, and most of them have not yet returned. One of the exceptions was the German timber company Danzer (in Zaire: Siforzal). This firm had not been raided and could continue with its business. Siforzal is responsible for 40 % of the tree felling in Zaire.

The economic situation in Zaire is still disastrous. As the whole economy was ruined, the government lost 70 % of its revenue. Mobutu tried to solve this problem by printing tons of money, but this made the inflation increase more and more. Zaire's foreign debts amount to about 8 billions of Dollars. Some people estimate that Mobutu Sese Seko has accumulated even a higher private fortune

during the 27 years of his presidency. As there is no hope that the debts will be repayed in the near future, Zaire was asked to return its debts until March 1992, otherwise the country would be expelled from the IMF.

Angela Meder

## Great Apes and Conservation in Zaire

(from: Pan paniscus/Bonobo News 1(1) to 2(1))

All three African ape species are living in Zaire – chimpanzee, bonobo and gorilla. The bonobo's distribution is restricted to this country, therefore research and conservation activities which are concerned with great apes have been centered on this species. During the last few years the number of projects on bonobos increased, as well as the number of orga-



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nizations which support their conservation work. The World Bank for example provided 8.5 million Dollars in 1991 for the conservation of Zaire's rain forests, especially those where bonobos live.

Several teams of researchers from various countries have already worked in the field to study bonobo ecology and behaviour. American and Japanese primatologists spent more than 10 years in Zaire for this purpose, and a few years ago a Spanish and a German team started. The German team, Gottfried Hohmann and Barbara Fruth, were the only bonobo researchers who returned to Zaire at the beginning of this year, despite the political problems.

Bonobos are still captured frequently even nowadays, although this is officially forbidden. They are kept as pets, sent to zoos or used for biomedical research. In one case even Zairean government officials ordered the capture of bonobo infants as gifts for Belgian high officials.

In some parts of their distribution area the killing of bonobos is a taboo, but generally local people hunt these great apes, as they hunt all other wild animals, for food. Probably 75 % of the protein in Zaire comes from wild animals that live in the forests. There is not much hope that this practice will be given up. In cities the keeping of bonobos as pets has become a kind of status symbol. Expatriates sometimes pity-buy bonobos which are sold on markets for about \$ 30-60. For another \$ 50 they may furthermore purchase a veterinary certificate and «legal» CITES-documents. The bonobo trade can hardly be kept under control; this is prevented by the corruption which is ubiquitous. Even most of the officials usually take money for everything. Often they have incredibly low salaries and are depending on this additional income.

Certainly similar problems as for bonobos exist for the other ape species that live in Zaire, although no detailed informations are available. Only the

mountain gorillas in the Parc National des Virunga probably are secure.

It is illegal to sell and keep bonobo orphans even in Zaire, but because adult bonobos are killed and eaten, orphans sometimes appear in the cities. The scientist Delfi Messinger established a kind of orphanage for those youngsters in Kinshasa. This institution is supported financially by the German Professor Carsten Bresch. They hope that government officials will help them by confiscating bonobo orphans.

### **Frustration of Conservation Work in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park?**

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park covers an area of 6000 km<sup>2</sup> northwest of Bukavu, a town on the shores of Lake Kivu. It is one of the very few forest regions in Africa which include lowland and rain forest and the transition between those habitats. It is estimated that about 2000 eastern lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*) live in the Kahuzi-Biega Park. The distribution area of this gorilla subspecies is restricted to eastern Zaire. Four of the groups in the eastern part of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (near Bukavu) are habituated and visited by tourists.

The German developmental aid organization GTZ supports the conservation of this National Park since 1985. At the moment the project is supervised by Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart. Its main objectives are the introduction and control of tourism which does not disturb the Park, and the education and support of local people. It is especially important to find alternatives for the extensive slash and burn agriculture which is usually practised there and destroys the forest.

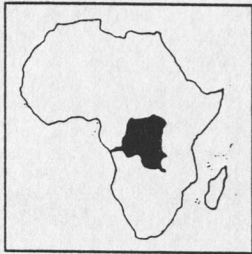
While the northwestern part of the Park is not much encroached by humans, the area near the southern and eastern Park boundaries are very densely populated. 30 000 persons are still living within

the Park boundaries (the present National Park exists since 1975). In certain places near the Park the population density is as high as 300 people per km<sup>2</sup>. Near Bukavu the members of an extended family have to fill their stomachs with the crop they grow on a 0.8 ha field.

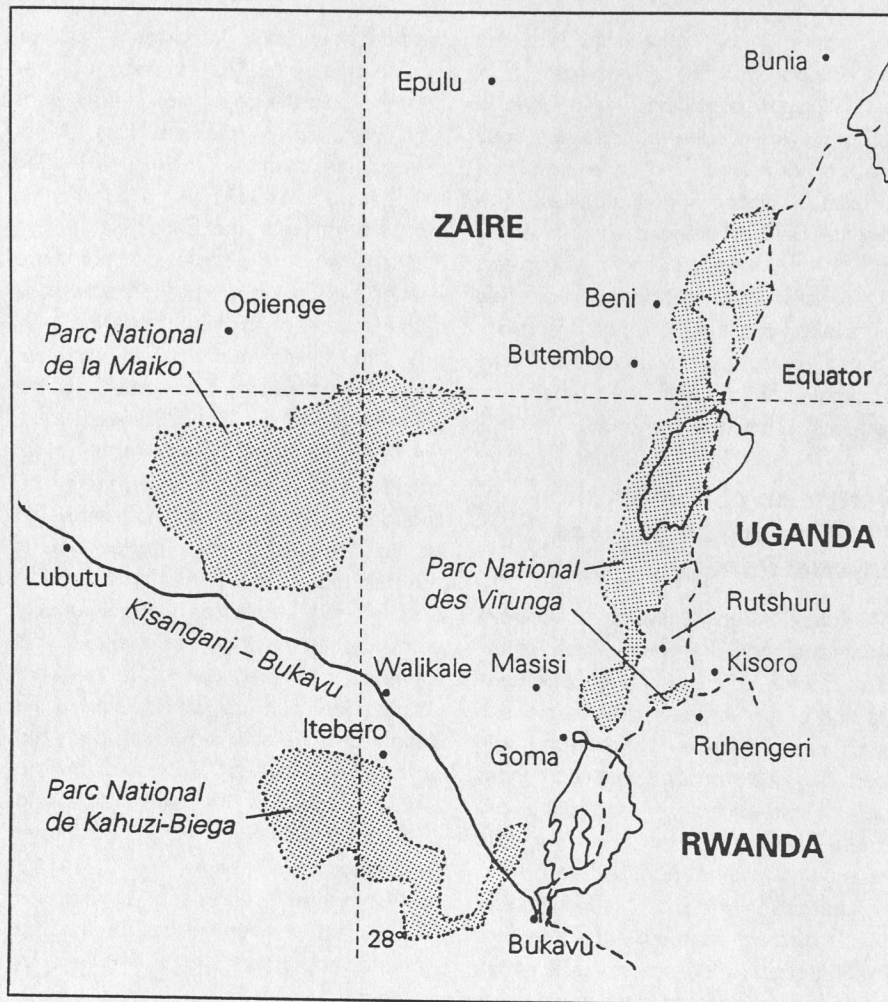
Moreover the people do not have enough wood, and «bush meat» is a major source of protein, often the only one. It is therefore difficult to convince them of the necessity of measures for the conservation of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. First of all, the traditional, rather primitive methods of cultivation should be changed. The fields are not protected against erosion (this protection is common across the border in Rwanda), although this decreases the soil quality greatly over the years. Besides, the crop varieties that are cultivated are not yielding well and are not adapted to the climate and the soil. Increasing the yield of the fields by 50 % would be no problem, and then the permanent felling of trees for new fields would no longer be necessary.

Within the 7 years of its work the GTZ-project was very successful; it established good relations to the farmers by providing help with their cultivations as well as building schools and hospitals. Much more difficult was and still is the dealing with big landowners, goldminers and feudal heads of the local peoples. The Bashi people for example, which lives in and near the National Park, is ruled by a king. He is an alcoholic and interested mainly in increasing his personal fortune. As the conservation project impedes this, he does not hesitate to threaten its staff members.

Nevertheless during the last 2 years there were considerable successes: The living conditions improved, poaching was reduced and the gorilla population has recovered. Therefore the decision of the German government to block the funding for this project was a very



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## Support for the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

Because of this difficult situation, BRD promised Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart that we would support the Kahuzi-Biega National Park as much as possible. Unfortunately we could not afford much because this exceeds our budget; our funds are already budgeted for our other projects. However, we promised to pay the salary for an assistant who is doing education work near the Park. But besides this, new equipment for the 80 Park Rangers should also be supplied very quickly. It is impossible to continue with effective conservation work when equipment is damaged or missing.

For this reason we need additional donations which will especially be used for the support of this National Park. We think that the successful work which has been accomplished in this area should be continued without an interruption. If this is not possible, the people may lose their confidence in the developmental aid provided by rich countries.

## Call for Volunteers

For maintaining the activities of the GTZ-project which manages the Kahuzi-Biega National Park together with IZCN (the Zairean conservation authority), not only financial aid is needed. The difficult political situation which caused the German government to block most of the support led also to staff reduction. A change in the provision of technical aid is not expected in the near future. New solutions have to be found soon. Therefore BRD is looking for volunteers who want to work for this project in behalf of the Kahuzi-Biega Park.

The insecure situation in eastern Zaire requires aspirants who have experiences in developing countries, especially in dealing with the local people. In cooperation with the Project Director the task

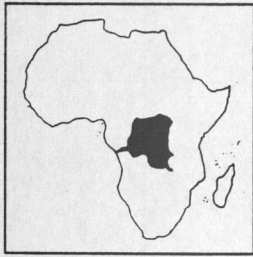
serious setback (see page 4). Now the work has to be continued with a very small part of the original budget. With this little money Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart has to manage the whole National Park and to further increase the confidence of the local people.

The salary which a Zairean Ranger receives from his government amounts to about \$ 20 per month. This is not even enough to support his family. He can not afford new uniforms and shoes, which are quickly worn during the patrols and have to be paid by the Ranger himself. Therefore regular patrols can not be maintained. For this, as well as for other

equipment, the National Park depends on the support of expatriate organizations. Only with prompt aid a setback of the project's work can be prevented.

Currently the GTZ-project is only able to increase the salary of the Rangers (with natural produce and money) and thus prevent them from earning additional money with illegal activities. Earlier they had received rewards for excellent work, but this is no more possible, although it proved to be important. For this reason Bernd Steinhauer-Burkart asked us urgently for financial support to maintain the project's activities.

*Rüdiger Braun*



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for this work will be determined. The volunteer may propose a subject from any special field. At the moment the project urgently needs a person for social work in the surroundings of the Park, for example to establish a local NGO.

Free board and lodging as well as a small allowance can be provided by the project, but all other expenses will have to be beared by the volunteer.

Applications should be sent to the following address:

Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe  
Karl-Heinz Kohnen  
Ripshorsterstr. 365  
4200 Oberhausen 12  
Germany  
Telefax: 0049-202-312868

### Start of the Maiko Project

In the last newsletter and in the general meeting we had reported to our members that we had been working on plans for a new project since 1991. We want to contribute to the conservation of eastern lowland gorillas in and around the Maiko National Park. Our members approved this plan unanimously. With their agreement we continued our efforts to establish such a project and to find a coworker in this area.

By contacting the American scientists John and Terese Hart we came to know their Zairean Research Assistant Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo, who had visited the Maiko National Park several times from 1989 to 1991. His purpose was then to look for okapis and elephants, but he had also noticed traces of gorillas in some areas. When he heard that we wanted to cooperate with him, he was very interested; therefore we asked him to write a detailed proposal for us which should design the concept for a conservation project. In April this year he finished this proposal and sent it to us (see box).

As our finances did not allow to support a project on our own, John and Terese Hart looked for additional funding. They succeeded in winning WCI (*Wildlife Conservation International*) for a joint project. Claude Sikubwabo will do the fieldwork and the Harts will supervise the project. Several researchers who had met Claude in Africa assured us that he was an exceptional person with special concern for conservation. Besides, he likes to work in the field, which is important.

After reading Claude Sikubwabo's proposal, we accepted it in June. We agreed with John Hart and WCI that he should start his work as soon as possible, that means in July, when the Harts would return to Zaire.

During my visit to the USA I met Terese Hart and Amy Vedder at WCI.

We talked about the details of the project and of our cooperation.

### From Epulu to the Maiko National Park

John and Terese Hart work in the Ituri Forest since 1981. Their project, which studies the fauna and flora of this area, is supported by WCI. One principal subject is the behaviour and ecology of the okapi. The headquarter of the project, the *Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Conservation Forestière* (CEFRECOP) is located in Epulu, about 150 km east of Bunia. In May 1992 1.4 million ha of the Ituri Forest have been turned into the *Okapi Wildlife Reserve*.

Several Zairean Research Assistants are working for the Ituri project; one of them is Claude Sikubwabo. Like his colleagues he has been trained in re-

### Proposal for the Implementation of the Maiko Project by Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo

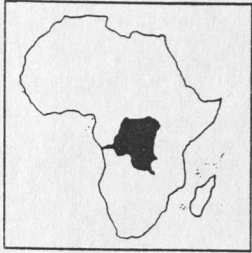
The project started in July 1992 with a first phase which will cover 3 months. During this time Claude Sikubwabo wants to visit the center of the National Park, an area he has not yet seen. He will find out if gorillas are living there. The second phase, which will cover 1 year, has the following aims:

- Gorilla census in the Maiko National Park; determining the population density and the limits of their distribution
- Survey regarding the effects of human activities on the gorillas
- Development of a concept for the conservation of the Park

For this purpose data will be collected on one hand by fieldwork in four parts of the area (gorilla census) and on the other hand by questionnaires from the local people.

Claude Sikubwabo needs \$ 3400 for the first phase of the project; BRD provided \$ 1800 and WCI \$ 1600. This sum has already been transferred to Zaire and includes his salary, rent of a motorcycle, lodging, food, the wages for his employees, equipment and office supplies.

For the second phase he will require \$ 12 200 (BRD: \$ 7200, WCI: \$ 5000) for the same positions listed above for the first phase. Additionally he will certainly need a car, which could either be rented or bought. These costs are not included.



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search and conservation work, and recently he himself was occupied with the training of Rangers. From IZCN he received only about \$ 40 per month, but with the additional salary provided by WCI he could earn his living.

In the meantime Claude Sikubwabo started his new task. Because of his diplomacy he had no problems with the people who are living in the Maiko area so far. His relations with the farmers at the Park boundary are good, and he even gets along with so-called «rebels» in the Park. Those people are well armed and have established their own kingdom

there, which naturally is not recognized by the Zairean government.

Although the Maiko Forest has the National Park status since 1970, no scientific studies have been carried out in this region. The reason for this is certainly (besides the «rebels») that it is very difficult to visit the area. In the Park are no roads, and cars can not even reach the Park borders.

This National Park covers more than 10 000 km<sup>2</sup> and thus is about 33 times as large as the Impenetrable Forest. We may therefore expect interesting data from Claude Sikubwabo's study, not only

about the gorillas, but also about other animals and their ecology. This study will enable us to decide whether we should continue our work in this area.

In August and September this year Karl-Heinz Kohnen and Rüdiger Braun will visit Uganda and Zaire and meet our Zairean coworker Claude Sikubwabo. They will hand over to him various equipment which he needs for the project: tents, canvas covers, knapsacks, binoculars, pedofils, altimeters and boots. This is only the beginning of our support; more equipment is needed.

But because of our small budget and because of the problems in the Kahuzi-Biega Park we need additional funds. For this reason we need your donations to support the Maiko project. As this is the first project which we have partly initiated ourselves, of course we are especially interested in its success. We can assure you that your donation will be used only for this project if you write a corresponding note (in this case: «Maiko») on your cheque.

### **WCI, Our Partner for the Maiko Project**

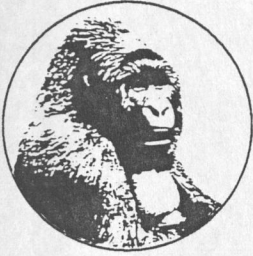
*Wildlife Conservation International* is a part of the *New York Zoological Society* and supports much more than 100 projects in America, Africa and Asia. One focus is the study and the conservation of tropical rain forests. WCI has been working in Uganda (Kibale) and eastern Zaire (Ituri) since many years.

A few years ago WCI initiated and supported a project on the present distribution of eastern lowland gorillas. This preliminary study has been finished, but not published. It was supervised by Amy Vedder and Bill Weber, who studied gorillas in Karisoke themselves for several years. WCI is planning to support an extensive eastern lowland gorilla census, of which the Maiko project will be a part.

*Angela Meder*



***The huge lowland rain forests of Zaire - the Maiko project will be our contribution to their conservation.***



## BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

### We Would Like to Know More about You

Unfortunately we do not know much about the persons who read this newsletter – this is especially true for the new English version. But for planning our contributions, it would be very helpful to have a better idea of what our readers are interested in and what they expect. For this reason we are including a questionnaire to this issue which we ask you to fill in and send to our address, which is given on page 2. Besides, you have the opportunity to order some articles with this questionnaire.

One of them is the copy of the study *Deforestation and the Forest Peoples of Central Africa*. It was published in 1990 by the German organization *infor (Institut für Ökologie und angewandte Ethnologie e. V.)*. This paper, which has 69 pages, gives detailed informations on the forests in eastern Zaire, where our new project is located. The reports in this study were one reason for our special interest in the Maiko National Park; it was the only publication we could get which contained precise references on the situation in that area. The study can be ordered for \$ 10.

### T-Shirts and Sticker-Postcards Available

This summer we started to print the first T-shirts and sticker-postcards with our new logo on them. Berggorilla Patenschaft had already produced black-and-white T-shirts and stickers some years ago, but we wanted to improve the quality and the design. Therefore we printed the T-shirts on light grey textile of high quality (100 % cotton), and the print itself has three colours: black, green and yellow. The same design is printed on the postcards.

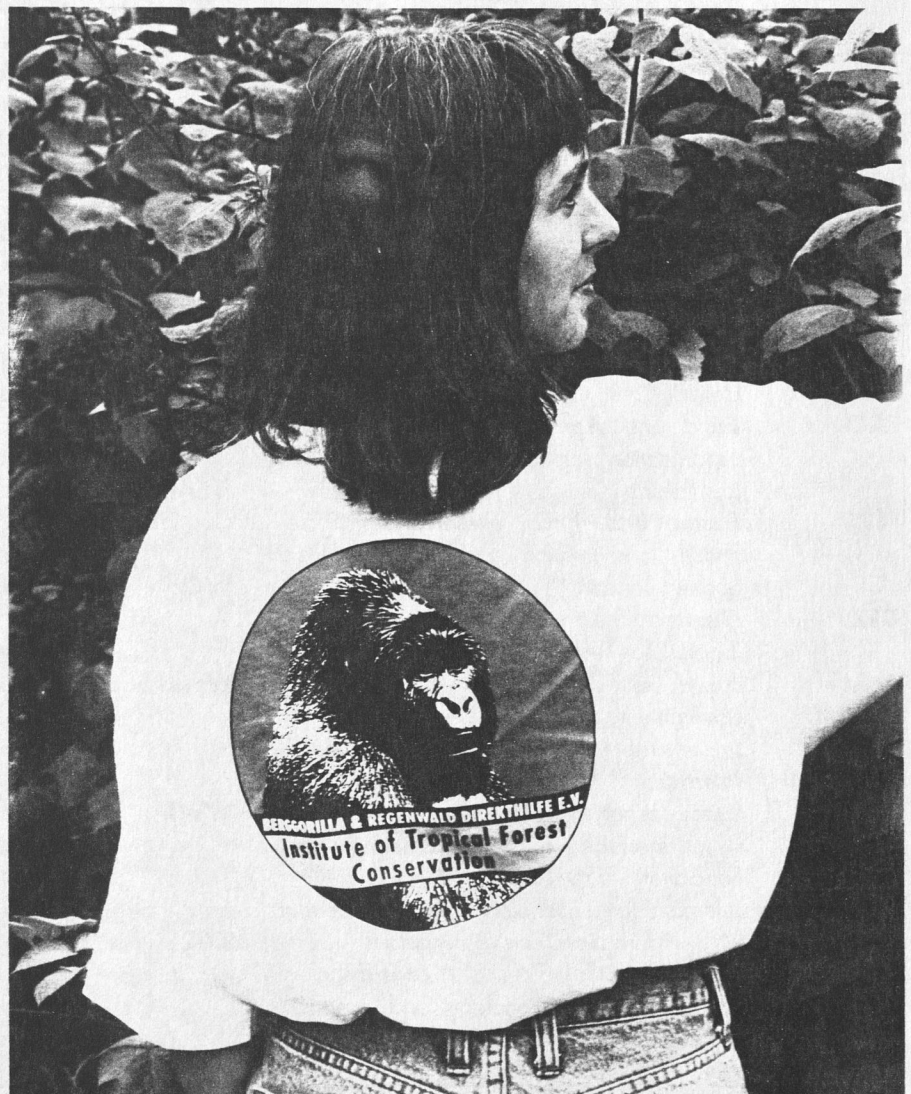
We will send most of this material to Africa. It will be given to the National

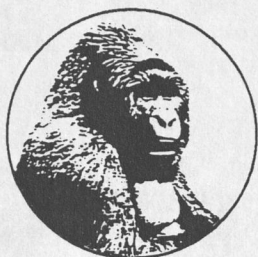
Parks for their purposes: clothing for the Rangers and gifts for official persons. The Impenetrable Forest and the Mgahinga National Park have already ordered 100 T-shirts and 1000 postcards with the respective prints.

Another important way to distribute this material will be to give it to local people and organizations that share our ideas for conservation. We are planning to sell the T-shirts and postcards to them at cost price, and they will sell it to tourists and use the benefit for their

purposes. This will not only support the idea of conservation in the area but also provide some local families with a small income.

But we also want to give our members and friends in Europe and America the opportunity to order those T-shirts and postcards. The T-shirts are available in different sizes (M, L, XL, XXL) and cost \$ 40. About half of this price are production costs, the rest will be forwarded to our projects in Afrika. The sticker-postcards cost \$ 5 each.





## INFORMATIONS

### Who's Who?

In our newsletters we often use abbreviations and the names of organizations and institutions which our readers may not be used to. Those names are briefly explained here.

<b>AWF</b>	<b>African Wildlife Foundation</b>	<b>IPPL</b>	<b>International Primate Protection League</b>
<b>BMZ</b>	<b>Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit.</b> German Ministry for Developmental Aid	<b>ITFC</b>	<b>Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation.</b> Institute of Mbarara University (southwestern Uganda). Director: Jonathan Baranga
<b>CARE</b>	<b>Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere.</b> American welfare organization which is privately maintained	<b>IUCN</b>	<b>(French: UICN) International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.</b> World Conservation Union. Headquarter: Gland, Switzerland
<b>CITES</b>	<b>Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species.</b> Convention which prevents the trade with endangered plants and animals and products made from them	<b>IZCN</b>	<b>Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature.</b> (Zairean Institute for Nature Conservation). Responsible for the National Parks and tourism. General President (P. D. G.): Mankoto ma Mbalele
<b>Digit Fund</b>	Institution which was founded by Dian Fossey and mainly supports the Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda as well as the Rangers who patrol that area	<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-governmental Organization</b>
<b>DTCP</b>	<b>Development Through Conservation Project.</b> Founded by IFCP; its aim is to combine nature conservation with better living conditions for the local people in southwestern Uganda. It is supported by WWF, USAID, CARE	<b>Peace Corps</b>	American institution for developmental aid volunteers; it was founded by John F. Kennedy
<b>FAO</b>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization.</b> UN-organization for food, agriculture, forestry and fishing	<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b> Developmental aid organization of the UN
<b>FFPS</b>	<b>Fauna and Flora Preservation Society.</b> British conservation organization. Headquarter: London	<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>
<b>GTZ</b>	<b>Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit.</b> (Society for Technical Cooperation). Developmental aid organization of the German government	<b>UNP</b>	<b>Uganda National Parks.</b> Direktor: Eric Edroma
<b>IFCP</b>	<b>Impenetrable Forest Conservation Project</b>	<b>USAID</b>	<b>United States Agency for International Development.</b> Governmental organization for developmental aid of the USA
<b>IGCP</b>	<b>International Gorilla Conservation Program.</b> Successor of the Mountain Gorilla Project, which managed gorilla tourism in Rwanda. Supporters: FFPS, AWF, WWF	<b>WCI</b>	<b>Wildlife Conservation International.</b> Conservation organization of the New York Zoological Society
<b>IMF</b>	<b>International Monetary Fund</b> (German: IWF – Internationaler Währungsfonds)	<b>World Bank</b>	Special organization of the UN. Gives credits to projects deserving promotion; the credits and the interests usually have to be returned after 15 years
<b>infoo</b>	<b>Institut für Ökologie und Aktions-Ethnologie</b> e. V. (Institute for ecology and actions in ethnology). German NGO	<b>WWF</b>	<b>World Wide Fund for Nature.</b> International organization which supports conservation projects. Headquarter: Morges, Switzerland. Numerous national organizations
		<b>ZGF</b>	<b>Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V.</b> (Zoological Society of Frankfurt). German NGO which supports conservation projects