



GORILLA CONSERVATION IN UGANDA

Recent Approaches

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Introduction

- Uganda is located in the Eastern part of Africa and is a member of EAC
- The country has varied ecosystems and habitats and hence endowed with high diversity of wildlife species
- Due to enormous species diversity, rarity, endemism and varied landscape, Sir Church Hill named it the Pearl of Africa.
- Uganda is home to more than half the world's remaining population of Mountain Gorilla

Introduction cont....

- Gorilla Conservation dates back 1950, 1970, 1989 (Banned) and formalized in 1991
- Uganda hosts 11% of the global bird diversity, 7% of the global mammal diversity
- Visitor numbers to wildlife PAs are also on rise 138,000(2008) and 152,000(2009)reflecting an increase of about 10 percent
- Tourism revenues are significantly rising, now standing at over US\$400 million annually
- Gorilla Tourism-3Million USD per annum

Recent Conservation Approaches

- Draft Revised Wildlife Policy is now ready for Stakeholder Consultations
- Establishment of Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute-Cabinet has already approved
- Revenue Sharing (Statutory-USD 253,000 and Gorilla Levy-131,000 USD))
- Awareness-Friend a gorilla Programme
- Inclusion of Gorillas on the Ugandan currency and prioritization of tourism as a PEGD
- Ranger based monitoring programme and use of MIST for management decision making

Approaches cont...

- **Community Conservation initiatives (Batwa Trail in MGNP)**
- **Health surveillance for Gorillas (Gorilla Clinic+Community Hospital) at Bwindi**
- **Enhanced Law enforcement (SWIFT)**
- **Regulated Gorilla Tourism (8 Gps available, 2 to be ready soon); BINP-33%-2006, Virunga-73%-2010**
- **Active participation in regional and international cooperation (CITES, LA, EAC, GVTC)**
- **A modern tourism information centre has been constructed at Mgahinga Gorilla National Park**

Challenges

- Human wildlife conflicts continue to negatively affect species and local communities alike
- Inadequate research to support conservation decision making
- Inadequate infrastructure to support service delivery and management of conservation areas
- Limited capital development budget for the conservation sector

Way Forward

- ❑ Review and update conservation policies, plans and legislations to make them sufficiently enabling
- ❑ Demarcate and secure land titles for all wildlife Protected Areas
- ❑ Strengthening the Management, Research and Training institutions to deliver quality services
- ❑ Improve conservation infrastructure in Protected Areas
- ❑ Support interventions aimed at mitigating human wildlife conflicts
- ❑ Continue to seek for more funds to support sector programs
- ❑ Engage public private partnerships to foster conservation tourism infrastructure development

With Deep Sorrow!

SAMEHE, One of the most senior adult female mountain gorillas of Nkuringo family in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda finally breathed her last on Saturday night, March 26. The mother of two, believed to have been 19 years old, succumbed to deep bodily wounds sustained in early February this year, during internal fights within the family

