



Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

ACCORD CMS GORILLA



Interim Secretariat provided by the Convention on Migratory Species

NATIONAL REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLANS

2023

Report for the Implementation of the Gorilla Agreement's Action Plans

Convention on Migratory Species

Gorilla Agreement National Report

For

Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

I. LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Enforcement activities in general including arrests, confiscations, prosecutions and surveillance efforts
- Training and Capacity building on law enforcement
- Education and Awareness raising on law enforcement
- Other aspects related to law enforcement

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen the provisions of the law and improve enforcement
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020 - present
Action undertaken:	Law enforcement including regular and extended patrols, arrest of offenders, successful prosecutions, training and capacity building of law enforcement personnel, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies particularly National Army (UPDF) and Police. Community Gorilla scouts were recruited to enhance surveillance.
Results:	Conservation and protection of gorillas enhanced (over 80 gorilla births and low mortality)
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Annual reports, State of Conservation Report for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, World Heritage Site
Difficulties encountered:	COVID – 19 induced threats, Trans-boundary political instability, inadequate equipment, inadequate funds
Further action required:	Funding support
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Ministry Of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, (MTWA)/Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Sufficient staff should be employed to ensure adequate protection from poaching and hunting, to regulate tourism and manage gorilla habitat.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, Uganda
Date of action:	2022 - 2023
Action undertaken:	Law enforcement (100 additional staff recruited, trained and deployed)
Results:	Increased surveillance to curb illegal activities in the parks
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Annual reports, maps
Difficulties encountered:	inadequate patrol equipment and vehicles for surveillance
Further action required:	Funding support to procure monitoring and reporting tools like SMART and Earth ranger to equip the rangers
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Translate the legal wordings for the preservation of gorillas into local languages.
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	2020 - present
Action undertaken:	Education and awareness on Law enforcement (National awareness on the revised wildlife act 2019 conducted). Translation into local languages is ongoing
Results:	Awareness created about the Wildlife Act 2019 and better protection of gorillas
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Wildlife Act 2019
Difficulties encountered:	Different ethnic groups in the country
Further action required:	Translate the Act for major ethnic groups in the country
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA/Uganda Wildlife Authority

II. SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION] / [CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT]

- Management plans, action plans, work plans
- Management of populations, protected areas
- Liaison with the timber industry
- Training and capacity building of staff such as eco-guards, park wardens etc.
- Other aspects related to [species and habitat protection] / [Conservation management]

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Ensure that there is no further encroachment of agriculture into national parks.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, Uganda
Date of action:	2020 - present
Action undertaken:	No agricultural activity is permitted in the national parks. In order to secure the parks, boundaries have effectively been secured and managed. Tree lines were planted along the park boundary to reduce encroachment.
Results:	Integrity of the sites protected and encroachment reduced
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Annual Reports, State of conservation report for Bwindi
Difficulties encountered:	Maintenance of contiguous boundary of Bwindi Uganda with Sarambwe Forest Reserve, DRC
Further action required:	Management of the contiguous boundary
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC)

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Rebuild and mitigate damage caused in gorilla habitats as a result of conflict and war
Area/Site of action:	Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2021 & 2022
Action undertaken:	Removal of abandoned military hardware
Results:	Habitat free of abandoned military hard ware
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Annual Reports, Maps
Difficulties encountered:	engagement of experts
Further action required:	None
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Gorilla Action Survival Plans should be developed by all national authorities.
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	None
Action undertaken:	Not developed
Results:	Gorillas secured
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Strategies and Standard Operating Procedures
Difficulties encountered:	COVID 19 and lack of funds
Further action required:	Resources to develop the Gorilla Action Survival Plan
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA, Uganda Wildlife Authority, GVTC, International Gorilla Conservation Program

II. MONITORING AND RELATED RESEARCH

- Gorilla population monitoring
- Genetic monitoring, taxonomy
- Habitat monitoring
- Threat monitoring

- **Monitoring with focus on other aspects**
- **Training on monitoring techniques and capacity building**
- **Other aspects related to monitoring**
- **Studies on the ecology of gorillas and habitats**

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Continued monitoring of the population numbers and status should be ensured.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020 to present
Action undertaken:	Gorilla population monitoring, threat monitoring, training on monitoring techniques and capacity building is conducted on a continuous basis. Continued collaboration with CTPH and Gorilla doctors concerning the health of Gorilla.
Results:	Updated information on gorilla groups and composition, home ranges and threats, adequate protection
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports, maps, identification charts/profiles
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate equipment for data collection and analysis
Further action required:	Support for gorilla monitoring, Research on effects of climate change on the Gorilla conservation.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority, GVTC, ITFC

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Mountain Gorilla taxonomy needs to be clarified to ensure effective conservation and management of the species and subspecies.
Area/Site of action:	Species range
Date of action:	None
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	N/A
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	N/A
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of resources as well as expertise to conduct the exercise.
Further action required:	Mobilize resources to undertake this action
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Research institutions, GVTC

Action point identified in Action Plan :	The impact of selective logging, resource harvesting and agricultural encroachment in gorilla habitat should be assessed.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2022
Action undertaken:	Threat monitoring, studies on the ecology and habitat of gorillas, studies conducted in Mgahinga on impact of bamboo harvesting. However, it should be noted that selective logging and agricultural encroachment are not of concern in the parks.
Results:	Threats mapped in Bwindi, strategies to guide resource harvesting programs developed
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Threat analysis report and study report
Difficulties encountered:	Natural disasters and access
Further action required:	Equipment and best technologies to conduct assessments
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority, Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation

Action point identified in Action Plan :	The impacts of tourism, including the risk of transfer of parasites and disease from humans to gorillas should be assessed.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020 to present
Action undertaken:	Threat monitoring (gorilla health)
Results:	Gorilla health ensured
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Coordination of assessments
Further action required:	Developing a framework for one health approach
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Conservation Through Public Health and Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Conduct a National Park environmental economy survey
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	N/A
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	N/A
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	N/A
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of funds to undertake the survey
Further action required:	Funding support
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA, MWE, UNBS, Uganda Wildlife Authority

IV. HUMAN AND GORILLA HEALTH

Human health (incl. education, programmes, funds)

- Gorilla health (incl. health monitoring)
- Training on monitoring techniques
- Research on Ebola or other diseases relevant to gorillas
- Other aspects related to gorilla health

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Put a health protection system in place, and a quick response warning system to counter epidemics, and more especially the Ebola kind
Area/Site of action:	Mountain gorilla Range States
Date of action:	2020-2022
Action undertaken:	Development of Contingency plan for Pandemics ,Uganda National Response Plan for Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Continued monitoring of Gorilla health in partnership with CTPH and Gorilla health, Construction a Biosafety lab in partnership with the United states CDC for in-house disease monitoring.
Results:	Better response to pandemics for example COVID – 19 and Ebola outbreak in 2022
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Plan
Difficulties encountered:	Coordination to implement the plan in range states and development of the capacity in other range states
Further action required:	Strengthening mechanisms for coordinated response
Contacts/Implementing organization:	GVTC

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Veterinary care support for the farms around the Mgahinga and Bwindi National Parks, intensive animal husbandry system support
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020
Action undertaken:	Coordination with local governments to implement interventions that limit the transmission of diseases and parasite from domestic to wildlife and vice versa
Results:	Gorilla health ensured through reduced transmission of livestock parasites to gorillas
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate resources to cover increasing farms around the parks
Further action required:	Strengthen coordination mechanisms
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Local Governments, CTPH and MGVP

V. NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen the provisions of the law and improve enforcement
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	2019
Action undertaken:	Revised Wildlife Act 2019 to provide for harsh penalties for offenders
Results:	Strong law enforcement and reduction of threats to gorillas
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Wildlife Act, reports
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate popularization of the law
Further action required:	Development of attendant regulations to operationalize some provisions, Support for more public awareness
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Tourism must be adequately regulated to ensure it is sustainable, and that disturbance and threats to the gorillas are minimal
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	Ongoing
Action undertaken:	Tourism policy of promoting ecotourism, standard operating procedures for gorilla tracking continually reviewed and updated
Results:	8 well regulated and sustained groups of gorillas accessible to gorilla tracking
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	High demand for tracking gorillas
Further action required:	Diversification of the product guided by research
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Policies to ensure the sustainable use of all-natural resources should be developed which should minimize damage to gorilla habitat
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	2020 ongoing
Action undertaken:	Operational Guidelines for Developments in Wildlife Protected Areas developed, Ongoing review of the Uganda Wildlife Policy 2014, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment conducted for all proposed developments in Pas under the National Environmental Act, 2019
Results:	Clear procedure for operations in protected areas prescribed
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Manual
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate awareness of the policy
Further action required:	Sensitization of stakeholders
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA, UWA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	All Range States should be encouraged to participate in inter-governmental agreements such as the CBD, and with FAO.
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	Continuous
Action undertaken:	Uganda is an active Party to several MEA including CITES, CBD, CMS, FAO, GA. Through the respective focal institutions, Uganda does implement the decisions arising from the COPs/MOPs. The range States are collaborating under the GVTC to cooperatively address trans frontier conservation issues
Results:	Increased international collaboration in implementation of conservation decisions
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Limited resource to fully implement all the decisions
Further action required:	
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Complementary policy and legislation in range states should be developed and transboundary agreements made and implemented
Area/Site of action:	Uganda
Date of action:	2019
Action undertaken:	GVTC treaty in place, Wildlife Act, 2019 complements the treaty
Results:	Transboundary gorilla groups managed and threats to them minimized through different strategies
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports, Maps
Difficulties encountered:	COVID – 19 pandemic and insecurity, inadequate funds
Further action required:	Funding support
Contacts/Implementing organization:	MTWA

VI. INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDING

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Consider and put in place a long-term financing system allowing support for the national and local NGOs involved in the preservation of gorillas and their habitats.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2022 to present
Action undertaken:	Development of finance strategy (in progress) and joint resource mobilization with Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (existing Trust Fund). Government sanctioned a study to evaluate existing sustainable conservation funding mechanisms with the view of recommending the most appropriate for adoption.
Results:	The Trust Fund mobilized funds to support conservation of gorillas in Bwindi impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Limited funding sources mainly external
Further action required:	Identify and develop more alternative sources leveraging on domestic sources
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with the Trust Fund and BIOPAMA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Developed countries and aid agencies should be encouraged to support conservation initiatives for the Mountain Gorilla.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2022 to present
Action undertaken:	Proposals generated and grants provided to support gorilla conservation during COVID – 19 pandemic
Results:	Gorillas protected
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Short term emergency funding
Further action required:	Sustainable financing option
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Create a health insurance fund for the human populations in and around the Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2022 to present
Action undertaken:	Support to one Community Based Organization (Buhoma Mukono Community Development Association) to establish a health insurance
Results:	Gorilla groups that interface with communities are generally healthy
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	limited to one community group
Further action required:	Roll out to other community groups
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with local governments

VII. TRANS-BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES

- General activities
- Trans-boundary policy

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Continue to develop and apply transboundary agreements concerning Mountain Gorilla preservation
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020 to present
Action undertaken:	Coordinated patrols and planning meetings for transboundary activities implemented (boundary opening in Bwindi/Sarambwe, monitoring Hirwa transboundary gorilla group in Mgahinga) under the GVTC treaty.
Results:	Transboundary gorilla groups protected
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports, Maps
Difficulties encountered:	COVID – 19 pandemic and insecurity, inadequate funds
Further action required:	Funding support
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with GVTC

VIII. TOURISM

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Progressively develop a “Gorillas” vision tourism, respecting their health and tranquility.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2023
Action undertaken:	Certification of Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks as Gorilla Friendly Parks
Results:	Gorilla health and safety ensured through upholding standards and procedures of gorilla management
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	New initiative and requires time for adoption
Further action required:	Certification of enterprises and products in park edge communities
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Wildlife Friendly Enterprises Network

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Standards should be developed which minimize the opportunities for disease transmission from humans to gorillas, which could include a health education programme for local residents, good hygiene and waste disposal practice by researchers, tourists and officials in contact with gorillas.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2020
Action undertaken:	Gorilla health monitoring ,good hygiene and waste disposal practice undertaken)
Results:	Gorillas and healthy and low mortality from diseases
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Adherence to standards by tourists, researchers and officials who come in contact with gorillas
Further action required:	Initiatives of voluntary pledge
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with IGCP

IX. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Community conservation projects and sustainable use projects in the management of gorilla habitat and gorilla tourism should be developed.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2019 to present
Action undertaken:	Collaborative Natural Resource Management initiatives developed
Results:	Communities implementing projects compatible with conservation to reduce threats to gorillas (tree planting, energy saving stoves, water harvesting, development of community lodges etc)
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate capacity and resources
Further action required:	Capacity building in governance and financial support
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

X. COMMUNITY BASED WORK

- **Generating alternative income**
- **Land use planning (incl. livestock, agriculture, agro-forestry, infrastructure planning)**
- **Community based conservation projects**
- **Socio-economic studies**
- **Other aspects related to community-based work**

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Ensure that moneys generated from gorilla tourism are invested in local communities and in gorilla conservation.
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks
Date of action:	2019 to present
Action undertaken:	Generating Alternative Income -revenue share funds to the tune of USDhave been extended to support income generating projects
Results:	Tourism related enterprises developed and improvement in community livelihoods
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate capacity
Further action required:	Train communities in governance
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Local Governments

XI. ANY OTHER ACTION UNDERTAKEN

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Establishment and management of a buffer/conserved area to the gorilla habitat to mitigate human – gorilla conflict
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Date of action:	2020 to present
Action undertaken:	Manipulation of the inner buffer, management of tea estate in outer buffer and putting in place interventions/hedge to mitigate human -gorilla conflict.
Results:	Improvement of gorilla habitat and use, reduced conflicts
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Management of entry and exits to the conserved area
Further action required:	More buffers to manage transient populations
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Formation of community wildlife scouts to support management of gorilla groups that exit the park or conserved area
Area/Site of action:	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
Date of action:	2020 to present
Action undertaken:	Teams constituted at the park edge communities to respond to gorilla groups that stray outside the park
Results:	Enhanced protection of gorillas while in communities and reduced conflicts
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Reports
Difficulties encountered:	Inadequate resources to incentivize the voluntary groups
Further action required:	Training and equipping the groups
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Uganda Wildlife Authority