



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

This is my last annual report as executive director. While stepping down as director will be a big adjustment for me, I do not think it will be as big an adjustment for you as a valued partner and donor. Why? Because Gorilla Doctors is not about any one person. While Gorilla Doctors certainly began as the belief of one person – Dian Fossey knew that saving the life of one gorilla could save an entire species – we achieve that dream today because Gorilla Doctors is a team of dedicated people whose daily actions are making a real difference for the future of eastern gorillas.

You are receiving this annual report during the month of December. Dian Fossey was killed on December 26, 1985 – 40 years ago. The first gorilla doctor arrived in Rwanda just weeks later. Today, we are an international team, mountain gorillas are the only great ape in the wild whose numbers are increasing, and veterinary interventions play a significant role in this extraordinary conservation success story.

I am humbled to have been part of this tremendous collaborative effort but what I hope to be remembered for during my tenure with Gorilla Doctors is that I used my time in this role to empower others in support of our mission. If you are reading this, you are a part of that empowerment.

Donors – Your gifts enable us to provide life-saving veterinary care to our endangered eastern gorilla patients.

Board Members – Your leadership has guided our growth and positioned us for sustained impact.

Technical Advisors – Your expertise advances the proficiencies of our team in pursuit of best-achievable gorilla health, science, and One Health.

Research Partners – Together we are building and sharing evidence-based data to empower others with knowledge and future areas of research.

Colleagues – You inspire me every single day by giving me your trust as we created opportunities, overcame challenges, and grew together as a team.

As I write this, it has been only a few weeks since the passing of Dr. Jane Goodall. Perhaps this is why, at this moment, the idea of Gorilla Doctors being bigger than one person feels so meaningful. Dr. Goodall led by example. She was a beacon of empowerment, using her tireless efforts to support and enable the work of the many organizations on the ground dedicated to the protection of great apes, nature, and people.

Hope is action taken today, for a better future we cannot yet see.

My hope is that Gorilla Doctors will continue to have a profoundly positive impact on the future of endangered eastern gorillas. My hope is that the Gorilla Doctors organization will continue on a trajectory of tremendous growth, strength, and stability. My hope is that every day the organization's next executive director will feel as fortunate as I did to be working alongside such a stellar group of individuals. My hope is that someday I will bring grandchildren to the Virunga Massif and the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to see healthy gorillas thriving in the wild.

I know that our continued hard work – fueled by hope, science, and knowledge – is saving a species one gorilla at a time.

With profound gratitude,

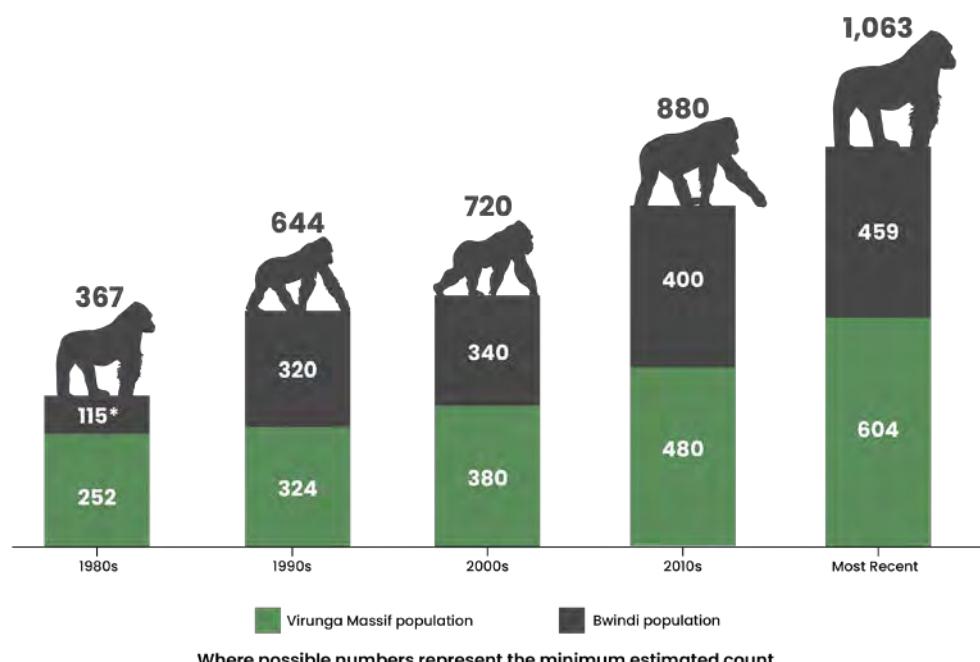


Kirsten Gilardi, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
Executive Director

Growing Together

Mountain gorillas live in two geographically separated populations: the Virunga Massif population and the Bwindi-Sarambwe Conservation Area population.

Since Gorilla Doctors began nearly 40 years ago, both populations have been surveyed multiple times. As we have grown, so too has the total number of mountain gorillas – ***nearly triple the lowest estimated counts in the 1980s.***



SAVING A SPECIES

Gorilla Doctors is the only organization in the world providing life-saving veterinary care to eastern gorillas. Treating 'one gorilla at a time' with a science-based One Health approach has helped lead to the extraordinary recovery and growth of mountain gorillas over the last 40 years. But existing threats are increasing and new threats are emerging – eastern gorillas remain endangered, their future not yet certain.

Our collective efforts remain as vital as ever.



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Annual Summary July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Our Gorilla Patients

Mountain and Grauer's gorillas combined

73 Groups

~800 Habituated Gorillas

5 National Parks

Research in Action

5 Scientific Publications

6 Major Research Projects

Capacity Strengthening

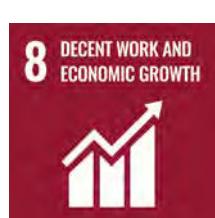
2 Graduate Degree Trainees

8 Internships

22 Meetings, Presentations & Trainings around the World

Global Contribution

Gorilla Doctors is committed to the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our mission contributes to three of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs):



Y(our) Impact

400 Health Checks

58 Total Interventions

Clinical Interventions by Type:

28 Gastrointestinal Parasites

8 Respiratory Illness

8 Other Type of Illness

10 Traumatic Injuries

4 Snare Rescues

43 Partial Interventions

Treatment administered remotely via dart

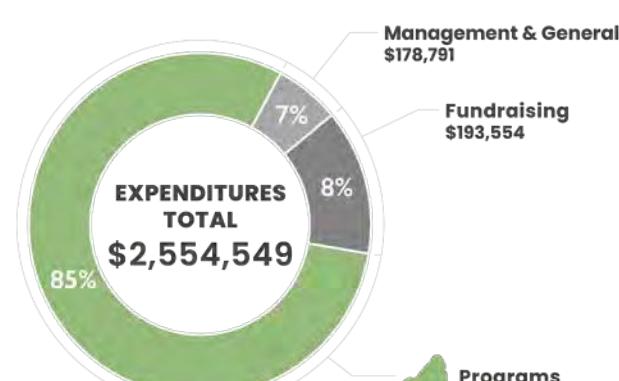
15 Full Interventions

Anesthesia required for more hands-on treatment

REVENUE TOTAL \$2,603,919

EXPENDITURES TOTAL \$2,554,549

Gorilla Doctors (*MGVP, Inc.) Fiscal Health Report



**Gorilla Doctors (MGVP, Inc.) financials are audited annually and the organization is in good standing*

VETERINARY MEDICINE



Gorilla Doctors performed four snare rescues throughout 2024–2025, two in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda and one each in Volcanoes and Virunga National Parks. All four gorillas made full recoveries. In the 'fastest snare rescue ever,' Dr. Ricky removed a snare from Karureeta, a blackback in Katwe group, in 15 intense minutes!

Scan the QR code to read & watch the full story.



"I captured a light moment of Bukana's baby clearly wanting attention during Busingye group's rest break. Gorillas use their rests as part of bonding, which includes between mothers and their babies!"

Dr. Nelson Bukamba

Field Veterinarian, Uganda

VETERINARY MEDICINE



"Mpungwe group, composed of more than 17 critically endangered Grauer's gorillas, is led by silverback Mpungwe. This is the largest among the groups regularly monitored in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DR Congo. During our health checks, Mpungwe tends to hide in dense vegetation. He helped me out during a routine health check on January 23, 2025, when I was able to snap this rare clear photo."

Dr. Fabrice Katembo Malonga

Field Veterinarian, DR Congo

Treatment of traumatic injuries (typically the result of fighting between groups) accounted for 17% of our clinical interventions in 2024–2025. In most cases, injuries heal without the need for veterinary care – the best outcome. When wounds become badly infected or life-threatening, we provide supportive treatment to aid recovery. In one case, silverback Tabu of Nkuringo group in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda) sustained severe wounds after a fight with the dominant silverback in his group, Rwamutwe. After receiving veterinary care, Tabu made a full recovery.

VETERINARY MEDICINE



"Kazahi is known for his independent spirit. Whenever he feels uncomfortable with a group leader, he simply switches groups – never compromising, always following his own path. When I took this photo in March 2025 he was with Habinyanja group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda."

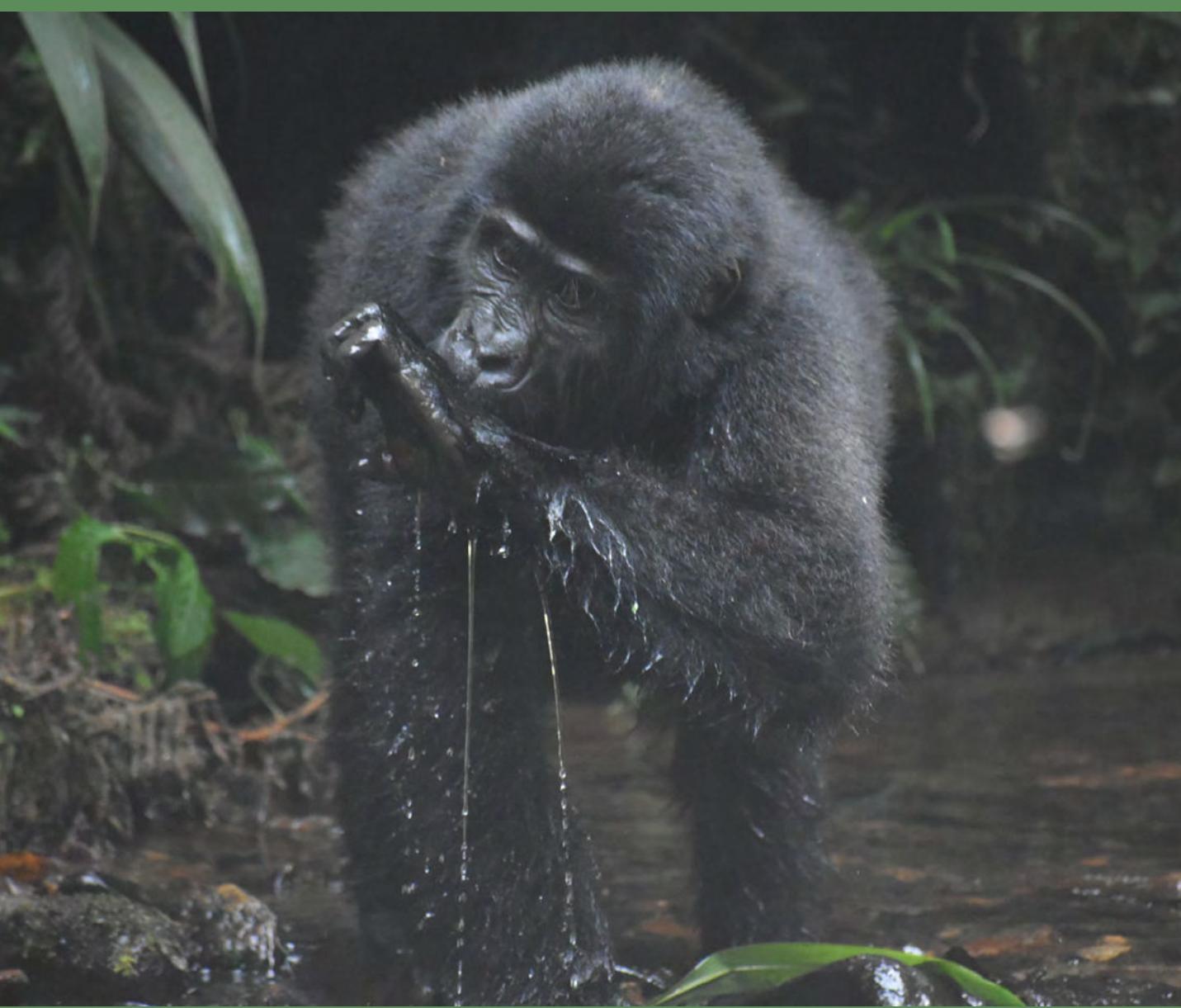
Dr. Ricky Okwir Okello

Senior Field Veterinarian, Uganda



Respiratory illness outbreaks are common in eastern gorillas and often spread quickly through a group, given their close social interactions. Some of these outbreaks are caused by human viruses. Most gorillas recover on their own. But in some cases, if an individual gorilla experiences more severe illness, we will provide antibiotics and anti-inflammatories via dart to support recovery. For example, Kwitonda group in Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda) experienced an outbreak of a human respiratory virus. Gorilla Doctors treated silverback Karevuro following our observations of lethargy, inappetence, coughing, and thick nasal discharge. Karevuro made a full recovery.

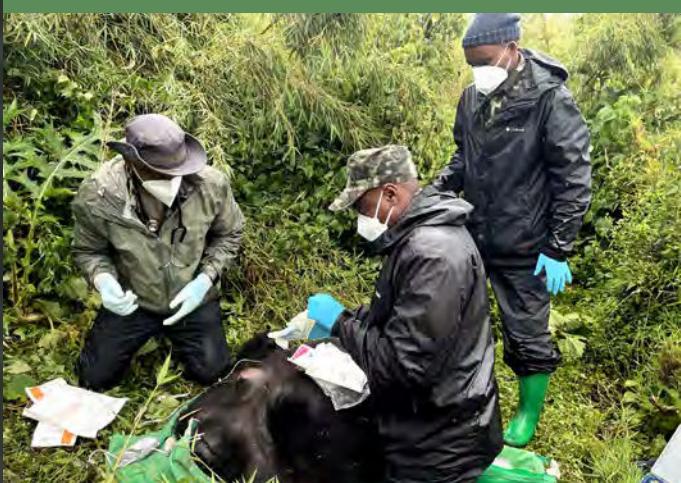
VETERINARY MEDICINE



"While observing Nkuringo group in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, I captured juvenile Miheno taking a little break and having a drink of water."

Dr. Fred Nizeyimana

Senior Field Veterinarian, Uganda



In April 2025, Drs. Gaspard and Adrien treated an adult female mountain gorilla in Amahoro group in Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda) for an abscess in her breast. When trackers reported that Umutuzo's left breast was swollen, red, and tender-looking, Gorilla Doctors raced into the forest. Drs. Gaspard and Adrien anaesthetized Umutuzo to drain the abscess and treat her infection with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Umutuzo made a full recovery.

Scan the QR code to read the full story.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



"A yawn is a silent shout." — Gilbert K. Chesterton. During a respiratory outbreak, silverback Ibanga of the Igisha group showed unusual lethargy — a subtle but critical sign. It highlights the importance of clinical observation, careful symptom evaluation, and swift action to protect our speechless cousins."

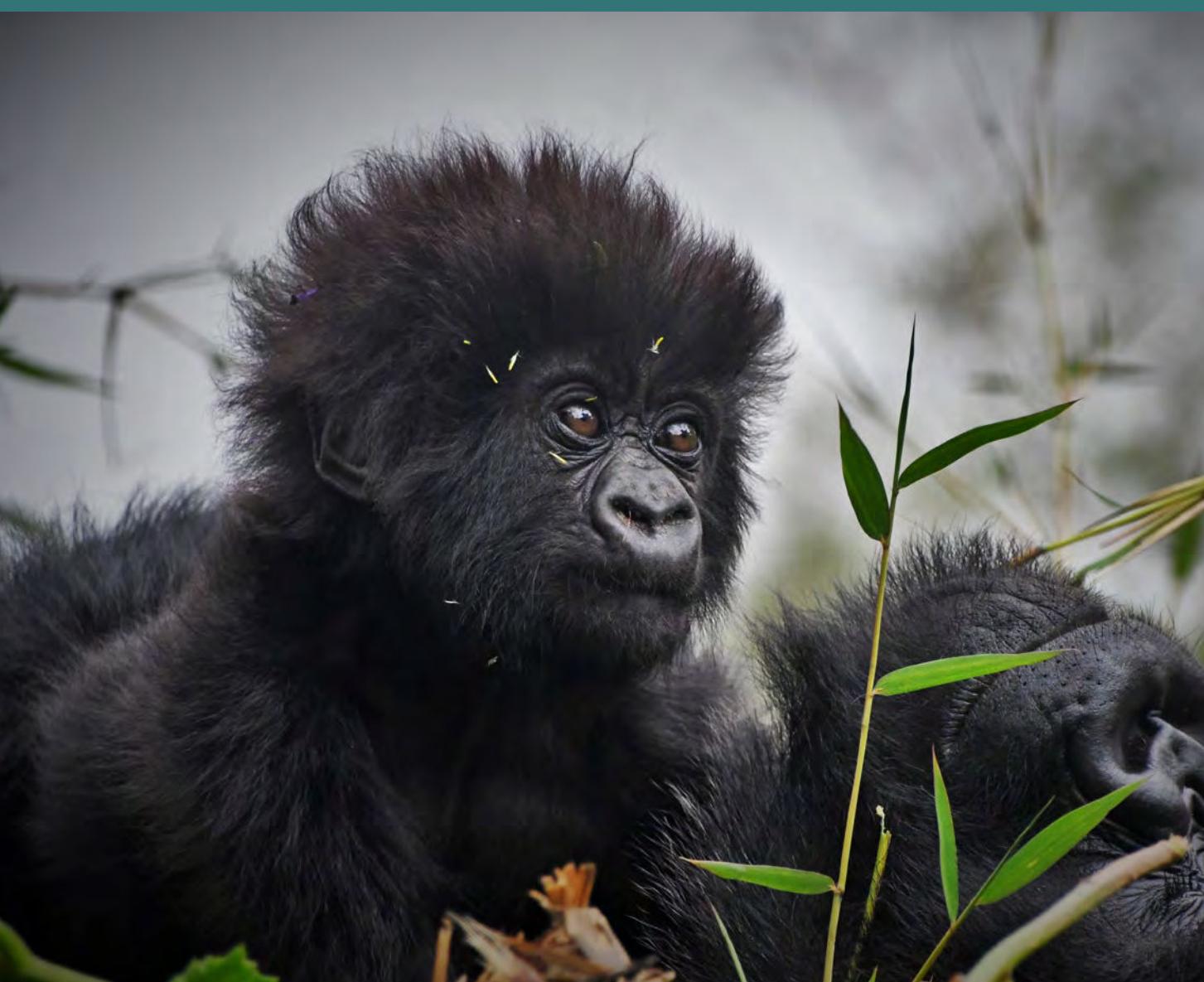
Dr. Gaspard Nzayisenga

Senior Field Veterinarian, Rwanda



Gorilla Doctors is partnered with Makerere University in Uganda on a National Science Foundation-funded project to understand bat species diversity and the potential pathogens they carry — crucial for both wildlife conservation and public health. The research team is conducting live humane bat captures in the forests around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda) to collect samples for pathogen screening as well as using acoustic recording techniques to confirm species identification.

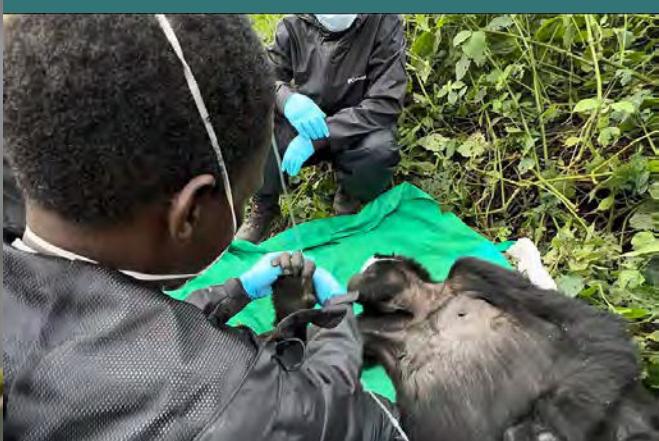
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



"Every birth of a baby gorilla is a reminder of the work ahead! When I took this photo in February 2025, this infant in Igisha group in Volcanoes National Park, was only a month old."

Dr. Adrien Emile Ntwari

Field Veterinarian, Rwanda



For several years, Gorilla Doctors has been collaborating with the Czech Academy of Sciences to investigate parasite-related gastrointestinal disease in mountain gorillas. Our research has given us new insights into the specific parasites associated with clinical disease and resulted in a refinement of our treatment protocol. This research and refined protocol are essential for the health and conservation management of the gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda), where gastrointestinal disease from parasites continues to be an ongoing challenge.

Scan the QR code to read a press release on this research.



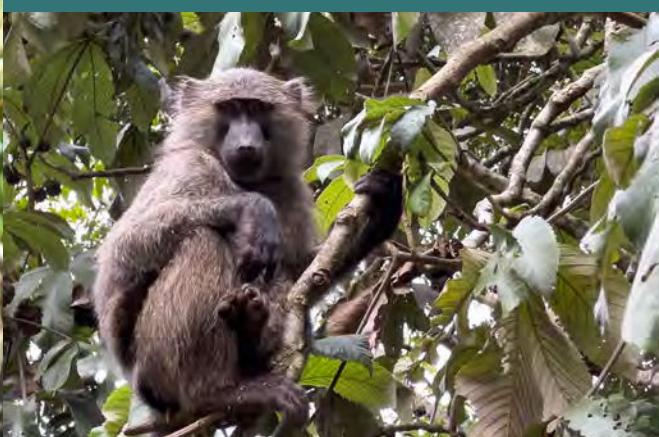
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



"Espoir is a juvenile Grauer's gorilla from the Katsabara family in the Mt. Tshiaberimu sector of Virunga National Park, DR Congo. During an interaction between two groups of gorillas, Espoir, still a baby, was stolen by another female and grew up in her hands far from his birth mother. I always feel immense joy watching him because he is growing very well and he has a pleasant side – he likes to play with the objects around him. His name translates to 'Hope' and he embodies the hope for a bright future."

Dr. Cedric Kambere Kibengo

Field Veterinarian, DR Congo



Gorilla Doctors concluded work on a five-year, National Institutes of Health-funded research project led by the One Health Institute at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The *EpiCenter for Emerging Infectious Disease Intelligence* (EEIDI) investigated the emergence of zoonotic disease – when infections in humans are caused by spillover of pathogens from wildlife. In and around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda), Gorilla Doctors collected biological samples from non-human primates (e.g., baboons) and bats and screened them for the presence of pathogens. Since the project ended in May 2025, data analysis and results are being compiled for publication.

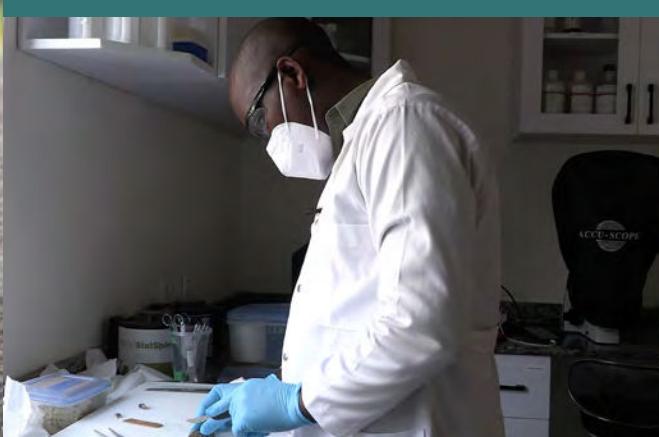
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



"Fazili, a juvenile mountain gorilla in Bageni group in Virunga National Park, with a look of relief and hope after being rescued from a snare by the Gorilla Doctors team on March 3, 2025."

Dr. Fabrice Katembo Malonga

Field Veterinarian, DR Congo



Following nearly a year of training in the U.S., Dr. Noel returned to Rwanda to become our first regional pathologist, building out histopathology capacity in the Michael Cranfield Regional One Health Laboratory at our Musanze headquarters. In addition to leading post-mortem examinations on gorilla carcasses, Dr. Noel has been working with renowned veterinary pathologist Dr. Linda Lowenstein to compile a comprehensive review of decades of histopathological investigations. This important work to understand causes of mortality advances our understanding of gorilla health and informs our veterinary care for live gorillas.



Gorilla Guardians® champion gorilla health by providing reliable, regular funding for the core work of our veterinarians who monitor gorilla health every day. We are so grateful to our Gorilla Guardians from the 2024-2025 fiscal year, a powerful group dedicated to healthy, thriving gorillas in the wild. Use the QR code to learn more and become a Gorilla Guardian.



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"Transferring four orphaned Grauer's gorillas from GRACE to Mt. Tshiaberimu in Virunga National Park was a historic day. Here I am monitoring the respiration of Mapendo as we prepared to transport her via helicopter on October 22, 2024. All four females were successfully released and joined silverback Mwasa just weeks later."

Dr. Eddy Kambale Syaluha

Head Veterinarian, DR Congo

ONE HEALTH



October 2024 was a historic moment in gorilla conservation: four previously-orphaned adult female Grauer's gorillas were transferred from the GRACE sanctuary to the Mt. Tshiaberimu sector of Virunga National Park in DR Congo. Weeks later when the gorillas were released into the forest, they eagerly joined silverback Mwasa, the leader of Kipura group. As part of a collaborative microbiome study with Dr. Jonathan Eisen at UC Davis, we have been collecting fecal samples from the females before and after their transfer and release to investigate changes in their gut microbiomes and health – with the potential to also advance insights into human microbiome health.

Scan the QR code to read & watch the full story of this landmark conservation milestone.



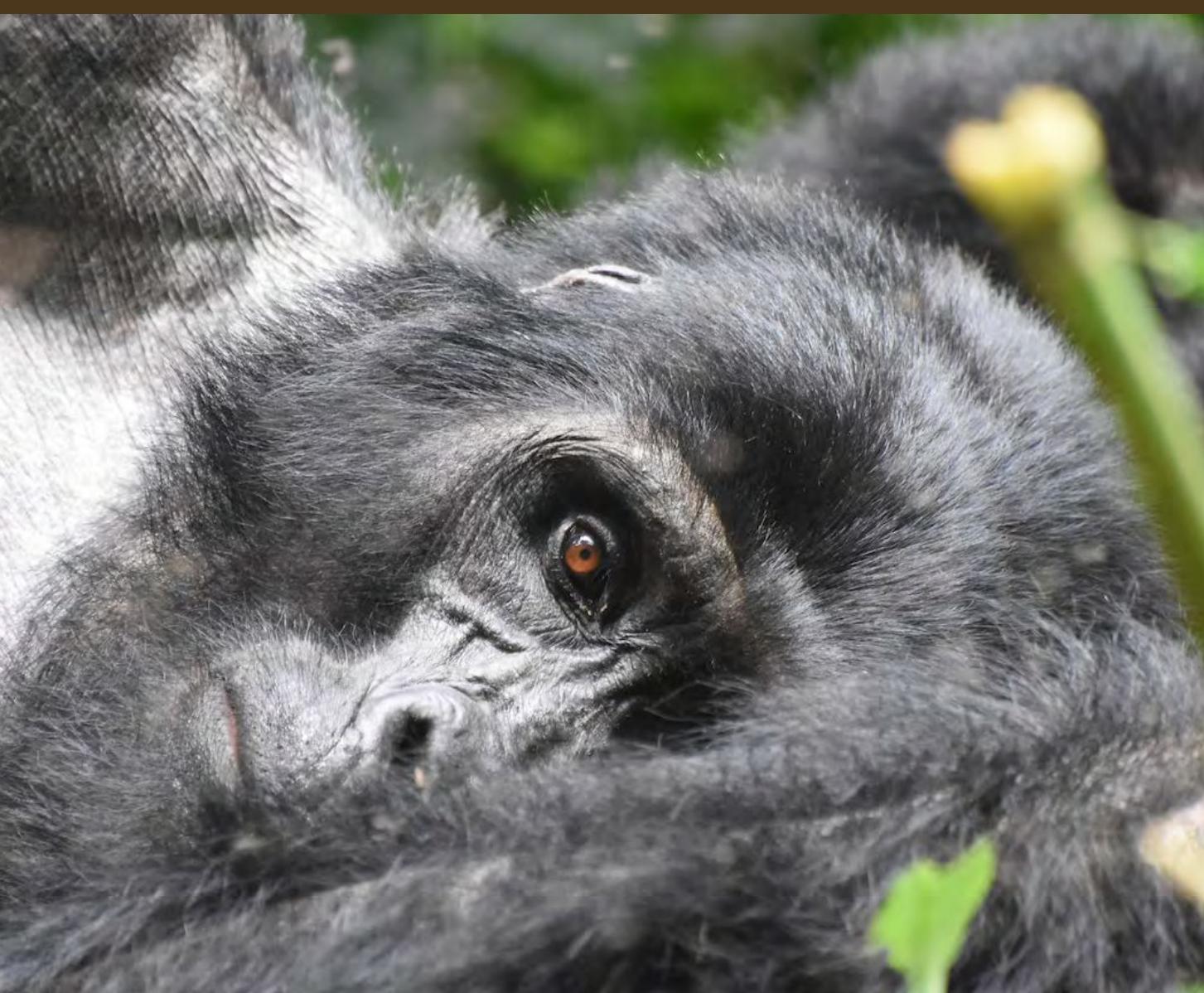
ONE HEALTH



“Being a wildlife veterinarian is not just a profession, it is a vow to save a life and each successful clinical intervention is a promise kept. Under heavy rains and mist in the forest of Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, we treated silverback Inkumbuza for a cervicofacial abscess, November 24, 2024.”

Dr. Adrien Emile Ntwari

Field Veterinarian, Rwanda



“Mutatine, the dominant silverback of Busingye group, taking a little break. To me, his eyes showed a moment every leader takes – one of deep reflection of both his surroundings and planning the best for those under his leadership!”

Dr. Nelson Bukamba

Field Veterinarian, Uganda



Gorilla Doctors is committed to building the next generation of conservation leaders across Rwanda, Uganda, and DR Congo. Eight interns worked with our teams in the field and laboratory, gaining hands-on experience in veterinary medicine, research, and One Health. Said former intern, Dr. Patience Karemera, *“I developed a strong foundation in practical conservation medicine and One Health skills that I have continued to apply in disease surveillance, outbreak response, and wildlife health monitoring.”*

ONE HEALTH



The Michael Cranfield Regional One Health Laboratory, which took five years to bring to fruition with the generosity and expertise of many, now stands as a world-class diagnostics center for great ape medicine and wildlife health across the region. At our laboratory we are advancing capacity in important areas, such as rapid diagnostics and disease detection. The research we conduct in the laboratory highlights the importance of studying emerging infectious disease at its point of origin. By monitoring gorilla health in biodiversity hotspots, we gain early warning signs of potential pathogens before they arrive at our doorstep, metaphorically and physically. Gorilla Doctors is committed to remaining on the frontlines of this critical work in the years to come.

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The list of our 2024-2025 Gorilla Guardians® is featured on page 14.

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Gorilla Doctors is a partnership between Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, Inc. (MGVP, Inc.) and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center (94-6036494). MGVP, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (06-1752363).

Meet the Gorilla Doctors

Gorilla Doctors protect the health of mountain and Grauer's gorillas in five national parks across Rwanda, Uganda, and DR Congo.

DR Congo



Dr. EDDY KAMBARE SYALUHA
Head Veterinarian

Dr. CEDRIC KAMBERE KIBENGO
Field Veterinarian

Dr. JEAN-PAUL LUKUSA
Employee Health Manager

Dr. FABRICE KATEMBO MALONGA
Field Veterinarian

JACKSON MWENGE
Senior Administrator

Dr. LINA NTURUBIKA
Field Veterinarian

Uganda



Dr. BENARD SSEBIDE
Head Veterinarian

Dr. NELSON BUKAMBA
Field Veterinarian

SYLVIA NAKIMERA
Senior Administrator

Dr. FRED NIZEYIMANA
Senior Field Veterinarian

Dr. RICKY OKWIR OKELLO
Senior Field Veterinarian

Rwanda



Dr. JULIUS NZIZA
Head Veterinarian

Dr. METHODE BAHIZI
Clinical Diagnostics Manager

SCHADRACK NIYONZIMA
Senior Administrator

Dr. JEAN BOSCO NOHERI
Regional Pathologist

LEON NTAHOBAVUKIRA
House Manager

Dr. ADRIEN EMILE NTWARI
Field Veterinarian

Dr. GASPARD NZAYISENGA
Senior Field Veterinarian

Dr. JEAN CLAUDE TUMUSHIME
Regional Molecular Laboratory Manager

CLEMENTINE USANASE
Data Clerk

USA



Dr. KIRSTEN GILARDI
Executive Director

AMY BOND
Chief Communications Officer

Dr. TIERRA SMILEY EVANS
Chief Veterinary & Scientific Officer

Dr. SONIA GOHSE
Regional Science Operations Manager

Dr. LINDA LOWENSTINE
Veterinary Pathologist

ADRIENNE MILLER
Development Operations Manager

DONNA M. PLATT
Chief Development Officer

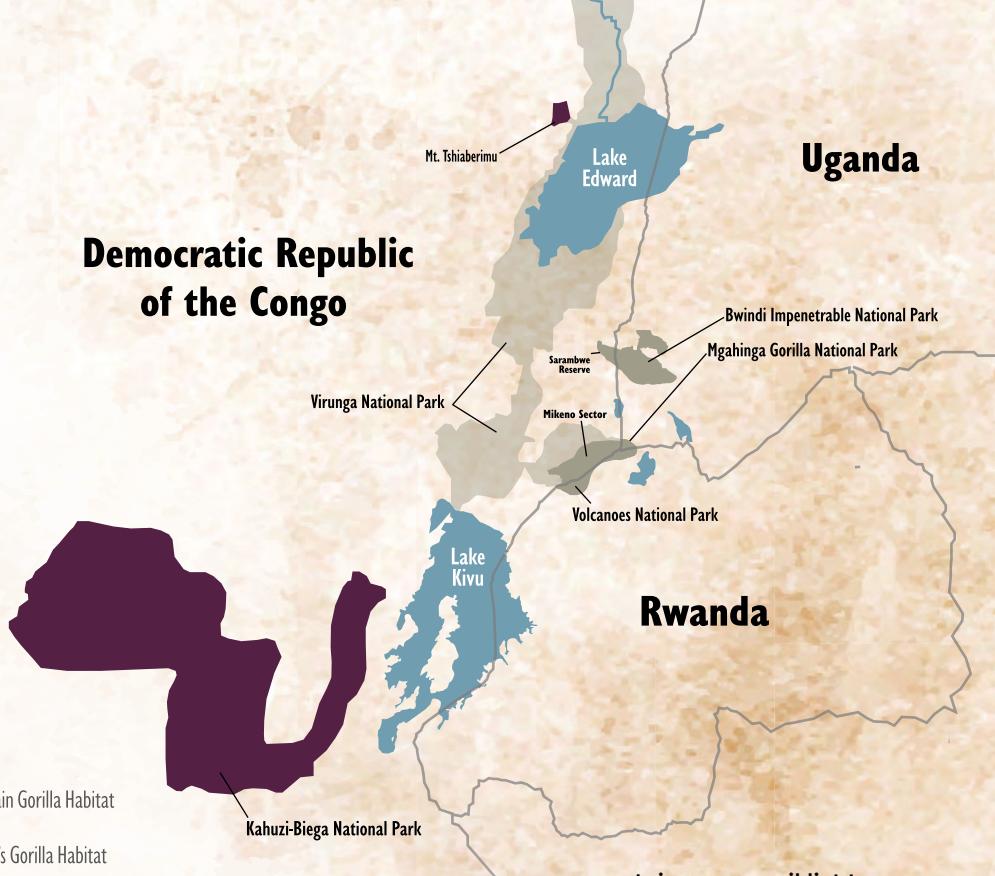
EUNAH PRESTON
Marketing & Design Specialist

DENISE RAYCRAFT
Bookkeeper

Dr. ALEXANDRE TREMEAU-BRARD
Laboratory Specialist

DAVID WOLKING
Global Projects Operations Manager

Democratic Republic of the Congo



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