



ANNUAL REPORT  
**2018-2019**





# Our hospital is the forest

When a gorilla is sick or injured we make “forest calls” –taking care of gorillas in their home environment. Gorilla Doctors releases animals from snares, performs physical exams and surgeries, and administers life-saving medication – always while surrounded by our gorilla patients’ families.

Gorilla Doctors is dedicated to conserving wild mountain and eastern lowland (Grauer’s) gorillas through life-saving veterinary medicine, science and a One Health approach. One Health recognizes that the health of people, animals and the environment are inextricably linked – to conserve gorillas we must also advance the health of people and the environments upon which we all depend.

Gorilla Doctors is the only organization in the world providing these endangered animals with hands-on care, which is credited with half of the annual population growth rate in habituated mountain gorillas.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to watch a short video about Gorilla Doctors.

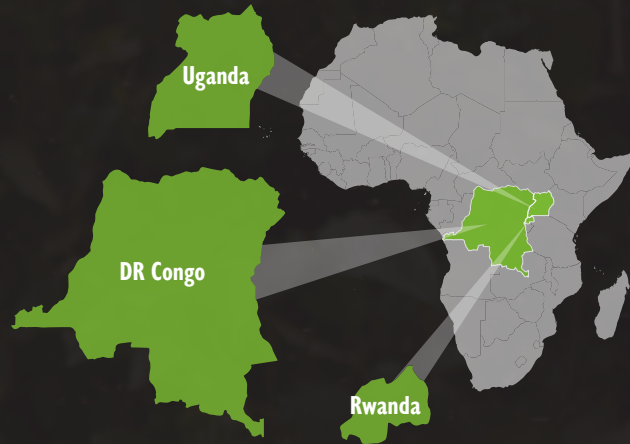
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Mountain gorilla family outing – Silverback Ndungutse with Nshuti carrying her infant in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop.

COVER PHOTO: An inquisitive gaze – Infant in Isimbi group, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. Photo by Dr. Methode Bahizi, Gorilla Doctors.



# Where we work



Gorilla Doctors is an international team of veterinarians monitoring the health of gorillas in Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo.

We work in parks spanning the Virunga Volcanoes Massif:

- Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda
- Virunga National Park, DR Congo
- Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda

We also work in:

- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DR Congo

Gorilla Doctors also manages veterinary care for great apes confiscated from poachers at the Senkwekwe Center and the Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Center, both in DR Congo.

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Infant with attitude – Rushegura group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop.







# A conservation success...but threats continue

Mountain gorillas were reclassified in late 2018 from 'critically endangered' to 'endangered' – a wildlife conservation 'win' thanks to the hard work of Gorilla Doctors and its government partners and other gorilla NGOs. But mountain gorillas still face significant threats to their long-term survival, as do the critically endangered Grauer's gorillas, including:

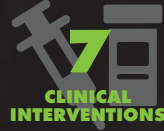
- Dense and growing human populations surrounding the parks
- Potential disease transmission resulting from close human-wildlife interactions
- Poaching for bush meat and illegal resource extraction inside parks
- World's second largest Ebolavirus outbreak in DR Congo placing gorillas at risk
- Rebel activity in DR Congo impacting ability to monitor and protect gorillas

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Peeking out from foliage – Silverback Mark of Nyakagezi group, Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop.



# Mountain gorilla healthcare in Rwanda



In 2018/19, Drs. Julius Nziza, Jean Bosco (Noel) Noheri, Gaspard Nzayisenga and Adrien Ntwari monitored the health of mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park. One case highlighting the time and energy we dedicate to gorilla health was the respiratory infection outbreak in Mafunzo group in April 2019.

When gorillas get sick it requires daily “forest calls” to monitor their health. In the case of Mafunzo group, several members were observed with symptoms of a respiratory infection. Silverback Mafunzo was also fighting with lone silverback Mutobo, and while the rest of the group recovered, his condition deteriorated. Mafunzo also lost five females to Mutobo and sustained several wounds. Drs. Noel and Gaspard treated Mafunzo with antibiotics and continued to monitor his condition while he recovered.



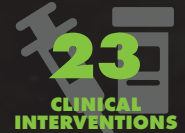
Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to learn more about Mafunzo's treatment.







# A busy year caring for Uganda's mountain gorillas



Drs. Benard Ssebide, Fred Nizeyimana and Ricky Okwir Okello had an extremely busy year monitoring the health of nearly half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas.

One significant case involved treating the oldest habituated female gorilla in Bwindi, Kashundwe of Katwe group, for a severe eye infection. Following consultation with a veterinary ophthalmology expert, Kashundwe received a lengthy course of antibiotics. During treatment we discovered she'd lost vision in the affected eye but because of our intervention, the infection didn't spread to cause systemic illness and she is alive and well today.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to learn more about Kashundwe's multiple interventions.

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Malaika's curious infant – Katwe group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo by Dr. Fred Nizeyimana, Gorilla Doctors.



# Significant challenges hinder gorilla health monitoring in DR Congo



This year was a challenging one for Gorilla Doctors' Eddy Kambale Syaluha and Martin Kabuyaya in DR Congo. Our team and their families were at tremendous risk from the second largest Ebolavirus outbreak in history, which continues. As well, our veterinarians' work in the field was curtailed by the danger posed by rebel militia illegally occupying the forest.

Nevertheless, they continued to monitor the health of mountain and Grauer's gorillas in Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks. They also performed three interventions on unusual patients; at the request of Congolese wildlife authorities, Drs. Eddy and Martin treated forest elephants suffering from snares and bullet wounds.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to learn more about these extraordinary elephant interventions.

A wild elephant wakes up from anesthesia – Drs. Eddy Kambale Syaluha and Martin Kabuyaya complete a successful intervention, Virunga National Park, DR Congo.







# Grauer's gorillas remain critically endangered

Being the largest primate on the planet, critically endangered Grauer's gorillas have experienced a 77% population decline over the last 20 years. This year Drs. Eddy and Martin monitored the health of three groups of habituated Grauer's gorillas in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DR Congo.

Given that the majority of Grauer's gorillas are unhabituated, we need new tools to monitor their health because we typically cannot get close enough to wild Grauer's gorillas to perform visual assessments. With support from National Geographic and a generous donor, Dr. Eddy continued his work to develop non-invasive protocols for monitoring the health of non-habituated Grauer's gorillas. The long-term goal is to field test and implement these techniques in order to better monitor the health of all critically endangered Grauer's gorillas.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to see the multi-generational impact of Gorilla Doctors' work saving Grauer's gorillas.

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Sky gazing through the forest canopy – Karibu, a subadult Grauer's gorilla of Chimanuka group, Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DR Congo. Photo by Artur Gajda



# Caring for the health of orphaned gorillas

Despite Gorilla Doctors provides veterinary care for the four orphaned mountain gorillas at Senkwewke in Virunga National Park, DR Congo. Fortunately, Matabishi, Muzuka (aka Yalala), Ndeze and Ndakasi were in general good health this year. Matabishi sustained bite wounds from wild chimpanzees, but following treatment from Dr. Eddy made a full recovery. Muzuka was treated for worms and skin lesions but also recovered following treatment and changes to her diet to increase her nutrition.

A photo taken by caregivers at Senkwewke (one of them wearing a Gorilla Doctors t-shirt) and posted on Facebook went viral, resulting in media coverage and tens of thousands of impressions on social media. The most frequently asked question – is this photo real? The answer: Yes, gorillas can actually stand up, and the Senkwewke orphans likely do so as a result of spending their lives with their upright human caregivers.



Virunga National Park caregivers Mathieu and Patrick pose for a selfie with orphans, April 2019.



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Bird's eye view - Matabishi, mountain gorilla orphan, rests up in a tree. Senkwewke Center, DR Congo. Photo by Dr. Eddy Kambale Syaluha, Gorilla Doctors.





# Lwiro: Primate rescue & rehabilitation in DR Congo

As an important implementing partner for the Graueri Conservation Action Plan, Gorilla Doctors leads veterinary medical capacity-building at the Center for Rehabilitation of Primates at Lwiro in DR Congo.

During this past year, Gorilla Doctors' Dr. Luis Flores led Lwiro staff in conducting and managing:

- 171 surgeries to treat injuries and manage reproduction
- 500 clinical cases and preventative medicine procedures
- 60 new animals admitted to quarantine

In addition, Dr. Flores mentored multiple veterinary interns and university students on research projects.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to read about the rescue of two infant chimps.

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Striking a pose - Felix, an infant chimpanzee orphan at the Center for Rehabilitation of Primates at Lwiro, DR Congo. Note: the discoloration in Felix's right eye is the result of a severe injury prior to his rescue and arrival at Lwiro. Photo by Lwiro Primates staff.



# PREDICT: 2009-2019

For the past 10 years, Gorilla Doctors has implemented the USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats PREDICT project in Rwanda, Uganda and eastern DR Congo for the UC Davis One Health Institute. The goal of PREDICT was to detect wildlife viruses that could pose a risk to human health and identify measures to reduce virus spillover.

Among many of Gorilla Doctors' PREDICT achievements:

- Increased training in One Health for field and lab workers, enabling countries to continue research and surveillance
- Strengthened relationships with government partners
- Increased awareness of human-wildlife interactions and the impact on health for both
- Improved understanding of the importance of wildlife in the ecosystem and how to share the environment safely

## Data from Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo



People and wildlife  
sampled



Detected more than 55  
novel viruses in wildlife  
and more than 33 known  
viruses

PREDICT fieldwork – Gorilla Doctors' Dr. Adrien Ntwali places a swab from a rodent in a collection tube, for later screening of the specimen for the presence of viral DNA. He's wearing Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. a Tyvek™ suit, gloves, mask and goggles) to protect himself from possible exposure to any potential zoonotic pathogens that might be present in the swab or being shed by the rodent.







# Collaboration leads to discovery

Gorilla Doctors is actively engaged in research to better understand health threats to gorillas. This year, Gorilla Doctors continued to collaborate on investigating the role of parasites in causing gastrointestinal disease in mountain gorillas. Initial results show significant differences in parasite loads across geographic sections of the Virungas, as well as differences among age groups.

Further research into the demographic, geographic and ecologic factors contributing to these differences in load will also help increase our understanding of how parasite infections can cause illness in mountain gorillas.

Additionally, with support from the Swiss Embassy in Bukavu, Dr. Luis Flores and Lwiro Rehabilitation Center staff in DR Congo conducted research to improve tuberculosis screening of chimpanzees and other primates at Lwiro, as well as better understand the TB status of local community members.

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Lunchtime – Juvenile Ijabo of Umubano group, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. Photo by Dr. Adrien Ntwari, Gorilla Doctors.



# Gorilla Doctors around the world

From scientific publications and reporting to presentations at international meetings and global recognition, Gorilla Doctors made significant contributions to wildlife health, veterinary medicine and conservation around the world. A few examples include:

- Dr. Kirsten Gilardi, Executive Director, helped review the conservation status of mountain gorillas for the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species
- National Geographic sponsored Dr. Eddy Kambale Syaluha to participate at their Explorers Festival in Washington, DC
- Staff veterinarians from each country participated in a global PREDICT meeting held in Indonesia to share findings with colleagues from around the world

Thanks to generous funding from the Houston Zoo, Gorilla Doctors' Eddy Kambale Syahula and Jean Bosco (Noel) Noheri graduated from Makerere University in Uganda, and Julius Nziza graduated from the University of Rwanda with their master's in Wildlife Health & Management.



Scan with your iPhone camera or other code reader to see Drs. Eddy and Noel at their graduation ceremony.



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Catching a ride with Mom – Nshuti carrying her infant in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop.



# TEAM

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Executive Director &  
Chief Veterinary Officer

#### Amy Bond

Associate Director, Marketing  
& Communications

#### Mike Cranfield, DVM

Africa Director (retired April 2019)

#### Linda Lowenstine, DVM, PhD

Veterinary Pathologist

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Development Officer

#### Eunah Preston

Marketing & Development  
Coordinator

#### Denise Raycraft

Bookkeeper

#### Jennifer Sohl, RVT

U.S. Biobank Manager

### Rwanda

#### Julius Nziza, DVM

Head Veterinarian & PREDICT  
Country Coordinator

#### Methode Bahizi, DVM

Regional Laboratory Technician

#### Amiel Bapfakwita

Kinigi Facility Caretaker

#### Innocent Barimenshi

Guard

#### Joseph Maniraguha

Porter

#### Felicien Mulinda

Guard

#### Dieu Donne Muyambabazi

Kinigi Facility Caretaker

#### Michel Mwemenzi

Guard

#### Faustin Nemeye

Guard

#### Schadrack Niyonzima

Administrator

#### Jean Bosco Noheri, DVM

Field Veterinarian

#### Samuel Nshimiyimana

Guard

#### Leon Ntahobavukira

House Manager & Cook

#### Adrien Emile Ntwari, DVM

Project Veterinarian

#### Gaspard Nzayisenga, DVM

Field Veterinarian

#### Jean-Claude Rusengamihigo

Guard

#### Jean Claude Tumushime, DVM

PREDICT Field Veterinarian &  
Laboratory Technician

#### Clementine Usanase

Data Clerk

### Uganda

#### Benard Ssebide, DVM

Head Veterinarian & PREDICT  
Country Coordinator

#### Deo Mbunye

Guard

#### Sylvia Nakimera

Administrator

#### Fred Nizeyimana, DVM

Field Veterinarian

#### Ricky Okwir Okello, DVM

Field Veterinarian

#### Issac Tugume

Guard

### DR Congo

#### Eddy Kambale Syaluha, DVM

Head Veterinarian & PREDICT  
Country Coordinator

#### Martin Kabuyaya Balyanzu, DVM

Field Veterinarian

#### Luis Flores, DVM

Lwiro Veterinarian

#### Jacques Iyanya

Administrator (retired March 2019)

#### Jean-Paul Lukusa

Employee Health Program  
Manager

#### Jackson Mwenge

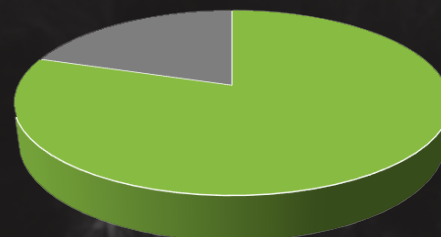
Administrator

## IMPACT

The donations and grants received by Gorilla Doctors directly support the survival, care and population growth of the world's endangered mountain and critically endangered Grauer's gorillas. Together, we are truly saving a species, one gorilla at a time.

[www.gorilladoctors.org](http://www.gorilladoctors.org)

In Fiscal Year 2018/2019, MGVP, Inc. and the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center at UC Davis together raised \$2,260,345 in financial support. \$1,818,027 was spent as follows:



■ Programs: 80%  
■ Administration: 20%



# OUR SUPPORTERS: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

| Grants            | Sandra de Roulet<br>Jennifer Durning and Geoff Tennican<br>ESPN<br>Gearing Up 4 Gorillas<br>The Gorilla Organisation<br>Billie Grieb and Duke Lohr<br>London International Advertising Awards<br>Jonna and Jeff Mazet<br>Carolyn and Richard McRae<br>Jeffrey Neu<br>Diiana R. Oliver-Steinberg<br>Pavilion Foundation<br>David B. Posner, in memory of James S. Posner<br>Regele Builders<br>Dave Roberts<br>Tapeats Fund | Rebecca Minkoff<br>Jennifer and Robert McNeil<br>Michael Peleg<br>Terra Incognita<br>ECOTOURS<br>Jane Smith Turner Foundation<br>Ellen Weisberg<br>Anne Williams   | The Far Horizons<br>FLOAT Apparel<br>Jeanna French<br>Susan and Don Freeman<br>Catherine Gabor and Rob Fuller, Africa 360 Travel<br>Tracey Gluck<br>Tiffany Goldman<br>Scott Groper<br>Steve Haggblade and Helen Gunther<br>Kristan and Mike Halaiko<br>Lynn Hamlin<br>Kelly Harcourt<br>Doris Hausser<br>Jenny Heidtman<br>Louise Heinz<br>Rob Hilsenroth<br>Brett Hitt<br>Brian Huseman<br>Melinda Goodman Kemp<br>Verna Kilic<br>Jeffrey Kiser<br>Let Oteil Sing<br>Brenda Levin<br>Loomas Family Fund of Pikes Peak<br>Community Foundation<br>Marelda Foundation<br>Kathleen and Alan Mazer<br>MGC Trade Prague - Libor<br>Ann Moore<br>Moroze Family Fund<br>Charlotte Moss<br>Philippa Norman<br>Lara Olsha | Joan Page<br>Ellendee Pepper<br>Phillip Jeffries<br>Barbara Pileit<br>Anne and Roger Powell<br>Primate Safaris<br>Gail and Jim Radley<br>Stacy Rudolph<br>Safari West, Inc.<br>Martha Schumacher<br>Richard Sevin<br>David Shaw<br>Michael Shields<br>Guillaume Silly<br>Wendy and Jerry Spivak<br>Betsy and Douglas Sutter<br>Joseph Sweeney<br>James Thompson<br>Yvette and Bruce Van Dalsem<br>Edward Van Slyke<br>Deborah and Bruce Wagman<br>Douglas Warde<br>Claire Welsh<br>Judy Wheatley<br>Catherine Willis<br>Zoopark Na Hrádečku - Romana Albrecht<br>Lišková<br>Zoos Victoria | Trai Anfield<br>Judith Saltzman Asher and Shelly Asher<br>Association Gorilla Rescue Center<br>David Axe<br>Judy Baer<br>Krystyna Bajsarowicz<br>Cynthia Baker<br>Barbara Ballinger<br>Chris Barlow<br>Kristine Barr<br>Jane Barrett<br>Nadine Barrett<br>Maddie Baugh<br>Martha Baxter<br>Stuart Beaumont<br>Heather Moore Beebe<br>Jonathan Beeton<br>Micah Behan<br>Diego Benavides<br>Ruby Benjamin<br>Matthew Benzin<br>Kathleen Bindeman<br>Heidi and Howard Bishop<br>Nancy Black<br>Oliver Bogen<br>Lauren Boos<br>Katherine Boronow<br>Dori Bortniker<br>Jim Bowers<br>William Bradbury<br>Cory Brayton<br>Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation<br>Susan and Duncan Broatch<br>Carl Brown<br>Frank Brown | Patti Buckley<br>Scott Burg<br>Jacqueline and Dave Burgess<br>David Burnish<br>Paul Burns<br>Rene Butler<br>Amalye Calvert<br>Agnes and Claiborn Carr III<br>Lillian Carter<br>Deborah Chambliss<br>William Chávez<br>Mary and Joseph Cheatham<br>Christine Chen<br>Barbara Chesley<br>Harry Chipman, Jr.<br>Victoria Cirillo-Hyland<br>Jillian Clark<br>Joan Clark<br>Christopher Clement<br>Lester Compson<br>Leslie Conant<br>Jimmie Cooper<br>Tayler Cornell<br>Bret Corum<br>Marie France Cote<br>Betsy Coville<br>Penny Crevoiserat<br>Chris Cully<br>Heather Cunningham<br>James S Cunningham<br>Lisa Curtis<br>Joseph and Alice Darling<br>Ken Darragh<br>Melisa Davis<br>Ron Davis<br>Diane Dear<br>Dan DiFilippo | Judith Dorman<br>Pamela Dougherty<br>Kelly Doyle<br>Larry Dreyer<br>Sarah Dudley<br>Arthur Dunham<br>Tamera Easterday<br>Martha Eberle<br>Erika and Eric Edelson<br>Christine Ekman<br>Elisabeth Elgerd<br>Nancy Faville<br>Scott Ferguson<br>Susan Fish<br>Bernadette Flanagan<br>Eileen Flynn<br>Cliff Foltz<br>Fay Forman<br>Janet Forman<br>Jane Foster<br>Tammy Foy<br>Steve Frankel<br>Lee Sable Freund<br>Marcine Friedman<br>Liz Furse<br>Jon Gabriel<br>Joan Geary<br>Jennifer Geiger<br>Sandra Gerstung<br>Kathleen Gervais<br>Louis Giguere<br>Elizabeth Thayer Gilbert<br>Soni Gillette<br>Alison Gleeson<br>Lyn Glenn<br>Francis Glennon<br>Kerrin Grant<br>Jane Shuler Gray<br>Laura Griffin<br>John Griffiths |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| \$25,000+         | Houston Zoo, Inc.<br>Joyce Murphy<br>Partners In Conservation (PIC), Columbus Zoo<br>TCS World Travel<br>Barbara Wolfe   |  |  |   |  |  |  |
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Every contribution is critical to our work and greatly appreciated. In fiscal year 2018/19, an additional 691 donors contributed a total of \$19,669 in gifts ranging from \$1 to \$99.



Gorilla Doctors is a partnership between the non-profit Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP, Inc: 06-1752363) and the non-profit Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis (94-6036494).



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Twice as adorable – Playing infants from Isimbi group, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. Photo by: Dr. Methode Bahizi, Gorilla Doctors.