



GORILLA DOCTORS™

**2020-2021
Annual Report**

MISSION

Our mission is to conserve wild eastern gorillas through life-saving veterinary medicine and science using a One Health approach.

VISION

A world with a thriving population of wild eastern gorillas.



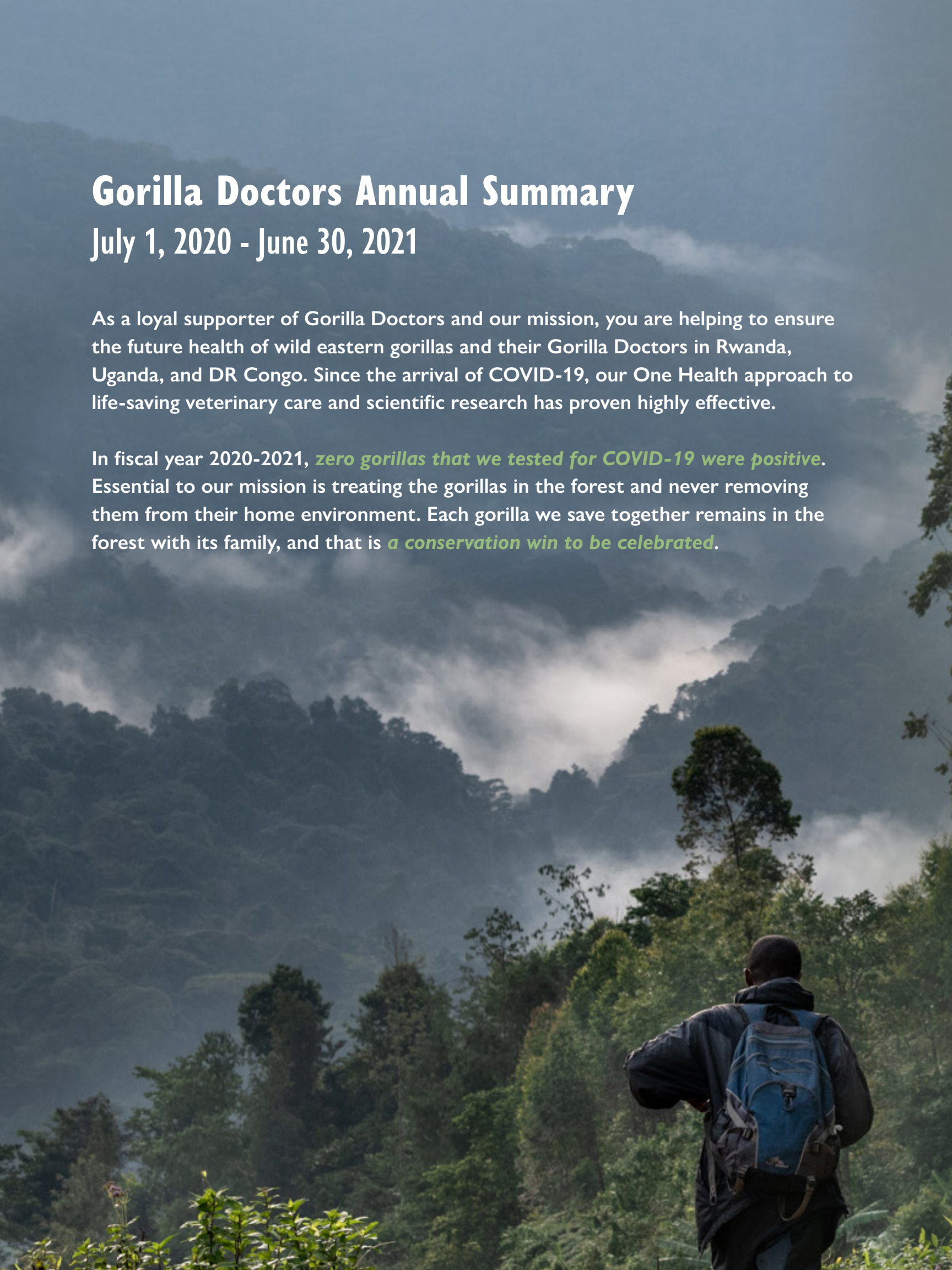
ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021

Gorilla Doctors Annual Summary

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

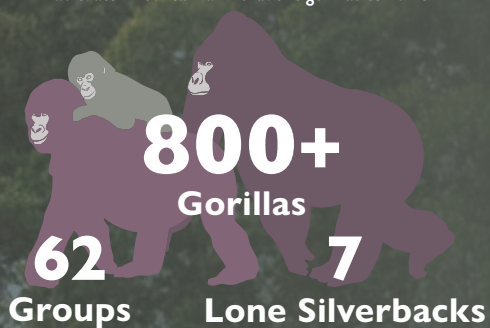
As a loyal supporter of Gorilla Doctors and our mission, you are helping to ensure the future health of wild eastern gorillas and their Gorilla Doctors in Rwanda, Uganda, and DR Congo. Since the arrival of COVID-19, our One Health approach to life-saving veterinary care and scientific research has proven highly effective.

In fiscal year 2020-2021, *zero gorillas that we tested for COVID-19 were positive.* Essential to our mission is treating the gorillas in the forest and never removing them from their home environment. Each gorilla we save together remains in the forest with its family, and that is *a conservation win to be celebrated.*



Our Gorilla Patients

Habituated Mountain and Grauer's gorillas combined



Research in Action

12 Scientific Publications

9 Active Research Projects



One Health for All

1 Human Medical Doctor + Clinic
For Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda
Funded by Gorilla Doctors

10 Master's Degree Students

10 Water Purification Systems Installed at Ranger Stations



Y(our) Impact

Rwanda, Uganda, and DR Congo combined

296 Health Checks

33 Clinical Interventions

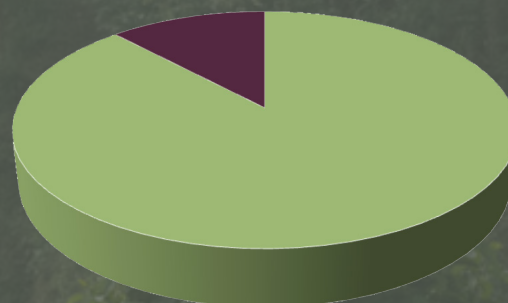


2 Successful Snare Rescues
(included in the total of 33)



Gorilla Doctors Fiscal Health Report

Revenue: \$1,814,143
Expenditures: \$1,738,405



88% Programs

12% Administration



“Last year really stood out for me as the year when the dedication of our veterinarians and staff and our resilience as an organization were literally beacons of hope – to have been able to continue our work and realize some transformative steps forward for Gorilla Doctors, despite all the obvious challenges, was truly extraordinary.”

— Dr. Kirsten V. Gilardi, *Executive Director & Chief Veterinary Officer*

Piggy Back Ride! An infant mountain gorilla catches a ride with Mom, Kuhirwa, during Dr. Fred's health check on Nkuringo group, August 5, 2020. Photo by Dr. Fred.



“COVID-19 has taught us that it can affect public health, community livelihoods, and wildlife. As a Gorilla Doctor, this pandemic is a stark reminder of the importance of our One Health paradigm in terms of conserving the endangered mountains gorillas. I am proud to be on this team that is at the forefront of protecting this fragile population from the threat of infectious disease.”

— Dr. Julius Nziza, *Head Veterinarian, Rwanda*

Gorilla Doctors to the Rescue! On July 26, 2020, Team Rwanda freed infant Ineza of Igisha group from a snare, treated his wounds and safely returned him to his gorilla family. Left to Right in forefront: Drs. Noel and Gaspard. Photo by Gorilla Doctors.



Photo by  Tyler Bishop



Photo by Skyler Bishop

“Despite the unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the dip in tourism, gorilla monitoring continued and we saw some positive trends: less respiratory infections, a number of new gorillas born, and keeping gorillas safe from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Sustaining a healthy population of mountain gorillas is both a challenge and a privilege that I am proud to be a part of as a Gorilla Doctor.”

— Dr. Benard Ssebide, *Head Veterinarian, Uganda*

I May Not Have Thought This Through! Infant mountain gorilla, Miracle, of Katwe group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, runs out of tree while climbing. Photo taken by Dr. Fred during a health check on September 21, 2021.



“Gorilla Doctors' One Health approach has expanded from health monitoring of human-habituated eastern gorillas in protected parks to include unhabituated, critically-endangered Grauer's gorillas in community-owned forests. We have developed a non-invasive method for monitoring the health of gorillas not used to the presence of humans, thanks to the great support of our committed donors to save gorillas for future generations.”

— Dr. Eddy Kambale Syaluha, *Head Veterinarian, DR Congo*

Shy Grauer's. An unnamed adult female Grauer's gorilla and her infant in the semi-habituated Nabirembo group in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DRC. January 20, 2021. Photo by Dr. Fabrice.



Photo by Skyler Bishop



“As part of a team at the forefront of protecting the health of the endangered mountain gorillas, it has been hard to imagine a positive start to your day with COVID-19 in communities around the gorilla habitat. However, as a result of teamwork, good leadership, and amazing supporters, we’ve all been in this together and that’s the main reason for hope and encouragement!”

— Dr. Gaspard Nzayisenga, *Field Veterinarian, Rwanda*

I Can Eat Grown Up Gorilla Food! Infant Sururwanda in Mafunzo group, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda playing during a routine health check, March 23, 2021. Photo by Dr. Gaspard.



“During my first year as a Gorilla Doctor, I have been impressed by the generosity, the spirit of collaboration, and the sharing of experience from colleagues. I have learned a lot about wildlife medicine through a One Health approach. I hope to learn more from the Gorilla Doctors team and make my contribution according to my abilities so that we can achieve our goals.”

— Dr. Fabrice Katembo Malonga, *Field Veterinarian, DR Congo*

Welcome Addition! Adult female Karibu, which means welcome in Swahili, and her newborn huddle in the rain. Bageni group, Virunga National Park, DRC. Photo by Dr. Eddy.





Photo by Skyler Bishop

“Concerted effort from partner wildlife authorities, the conservation community and Gorilla Doctors, along with support from great donors, enabled yet another strong year of contribution towards conserving eastern gorillas amidst prevailing uncertainty. I’m privileged to be part of this great team!”

— Dr. Fred Nizeyimana, *Field Veterinarian, Uganda*

A Moment of Rest! A mountain gorilla pauses at the bottom of a tree after climbing down into the dense vegetation. Mishaya group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop for Gorilla Doctors.



“The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that everyone can become vulnerable at some point. As a Gorilla Doctor, I was reminded that our One Health approach still matters. Hand in hand, we’ve got to save the lives of animals but without leaving behind the whole environment around us - we are all connected.”

— Dr. Methode Bahizi, *Regional Laboratory Technician, Rwanda*

Resting Beauty. Adult female mountain gorilla, Ubuhamya, of Mafunzo group, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda rests during a health check on March 23, 2021. Photo by Dr. Gaspard.



Photo by Skyler Bishop



Gorilla Guardians™ champion gorilla health by providing reliable, regular funding to our veterinarians who monitor gorilla health every day. We are so grateful to all of the people who became Gorilla Guardians™ during the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year, joining the collective power of a group dedicated to healthy, thriving gorillas in the wild.

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“Life without the love and loyalty of our companion and happy patient, the eastern gorilla, is unimaginable. If you have a family pooch, you know the extra-special relationship you have with them — a bond that will likely grow even stronger over the years. Observing a four pound infant growing up to be a 400 pound adult under our care is the most exciting part of my work.”

— Dr. Ricky Okwir Okello, *Field Veterinarian, Uganda*

Family on the Move! A mountain gorilla family in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda. Photo by Skyler Bishop for Gorilla Doctors.



Photo by Skyler Bishop



Photo by Skyler Bishop

“The last two years have been tough and complex individually. I would therefore like to thank my teammates and our incredible supporters who have made everything possible for Gorilla Doctors to continue this critical mission.”

— Dr. Jean Bosco 'Noel' Noheri, *Field Veterinarian, Rwanda*

Hey, Look at my Foot! An infant mountain gorilla playing during Dr. Fabrice's health check of Mapuwa group, Virunga National Park, DRC. September 14, 2021. Photo by Dr. Fabrice.



“To be a veterinarian was my daily dream that my father supported because I grew up with it and my environment was favorable. Becoming a Gorilla Doctor is such a special thing. I have always realized that every gesture counts for the safeguarding of our close cousins and our planet. I am proud to be part of this great team!!!!”

— Dr. Lina Nturubika, *Field Veterinarian, DR Congo*

I Got This! An older infant in Binyindo group, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, plays and eats at the same time during Dr. Fred's health check, October 14, 2020.



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