



# VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT

Improving living conditions  
and habits in Rwanda through  
efficient cooking stoves

A LIKANO GmbH project  
in cooperation with IGCP and FAPDR

**Gold Standard®**  
Climate Security & Sustainable Development



Imprint

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# GORILLAS WOOD PEOPLE

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*A 71 % reduction  
of firewood  
consumption for  
50,000 households  
translates into a  
saving of 400 tons  
of wood per day,  
equivalent to about  
146,000 tons per year.*

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The **Volcanoes National Park** is located in the North West Rwanda, in the heart of the African continent. Nestled in five of the eight Virunga volcanoes, the national park comprises of over 160 km<sup>2</sup> of rainforest. This is equivalent to the size of Liechtenstein. Organized trekking in this protected area is intended to preserve the habitat of the Virunga mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) and other endangered species.

The locals cross the boundaries between the national park and the surrounding settlements on a daily basis in search of firewood. The Rwandans use wood for cooking. A total of 50,000 households can be found in the twelve municipalities bordering the national park. Each household requires on average 12 kg of wood per day.

With the support of local NGOs, LIKANO distributes **energy-efficient cooking stoves** in the Rwandan area around the national park. The stove is produced in Rwanda and consumes about 4 kg of wood per household per day. Reducing the wood consumption protects the rainforest from deforestation and contributes to the preservation of native species.



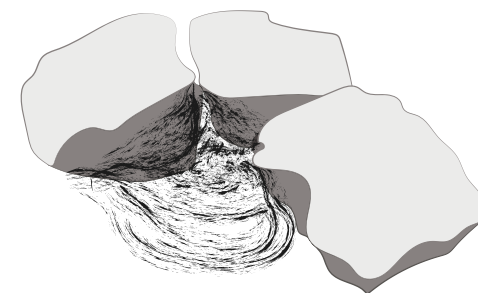


# FIREWOOD ENERGY COOKING

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*On average, a Rwandan family needs 12 kg of firewood per day.*

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## A Strained Natural Resource

The traditional three-stone fire is typical in the life of an average Rwandan family. Inside the house, a typical mud hut, it serves for the preparation of meals. The **dependence on raw materials** for all vital activities is a challenge for women and children; they usually spend several hours a day collecting the necessary amount of firewood.

Due to high population density and population growth, the demand for raw material is steadily rising. The lack of firewood in vicinity of the settlements means that pieces of wood and branches are often taken from the national park. As a result, the gorillas and their habitat is threatened by deforestation, but also by the transmission of human diseases to gorillas, with sometimes lethal consequences.

Additionally, the burning of wet, fresh branches produces smoke indoors, which seriously affects the health of those who spend the most time near the fireplace; women, children and the elderly. Negative health effects range from eye irritations to respiratory diseases, which in some cases can lead to death.

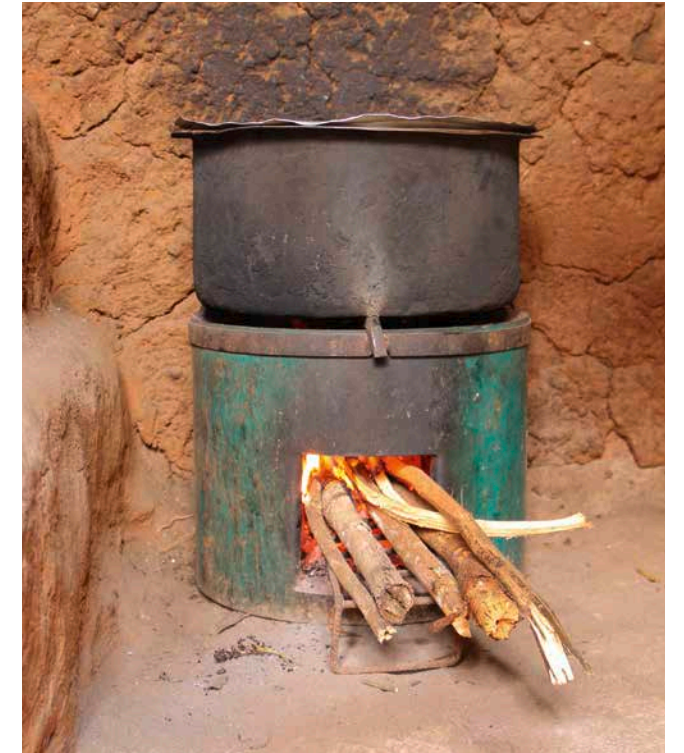
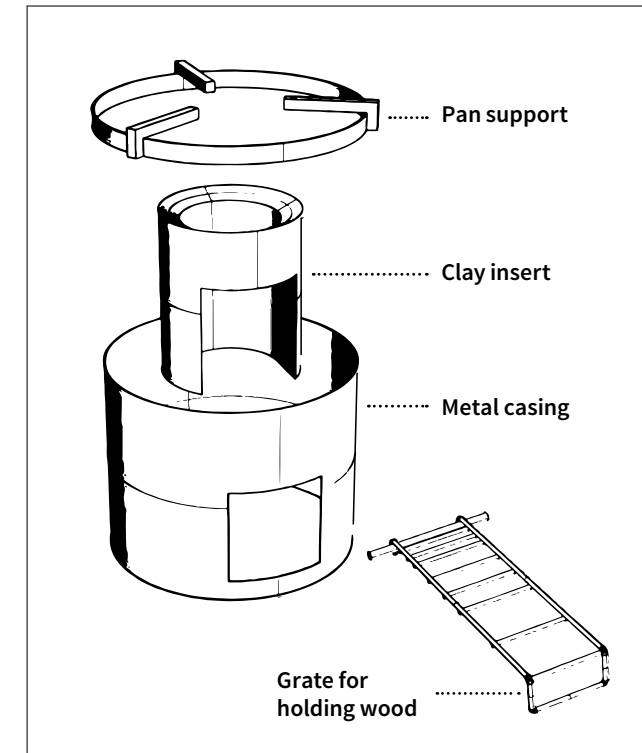




*Firewood is needed both as a fuel for the three-stone fires as well as for the energy-efficient cooking stoves.*

*The optimized design of the cylindrical stoves reduces the amount of wood needed to one-third.*

*In our training sessions, people also learn which firewood to use for optimal use of the cooking stove.*



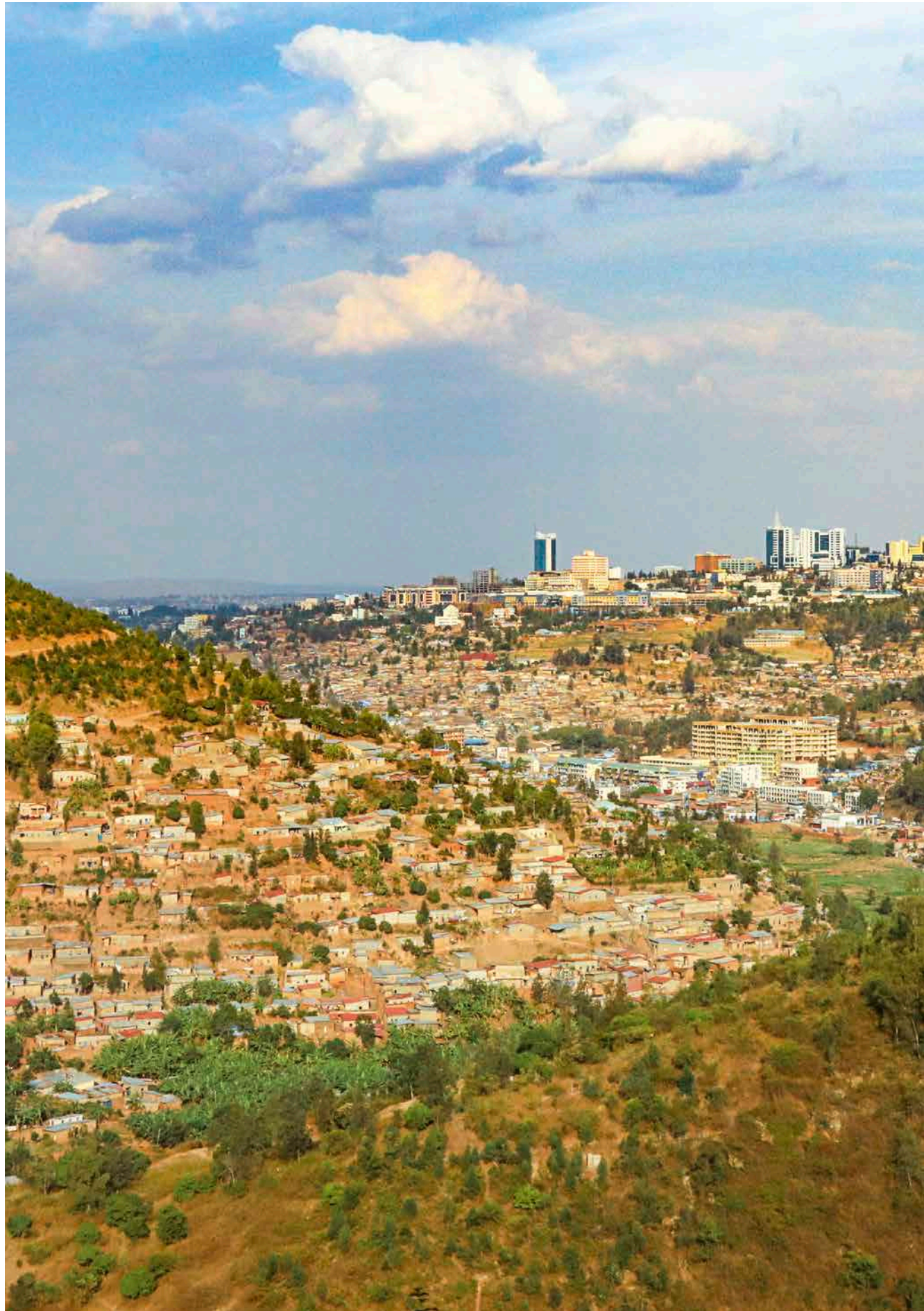
The development of the energy-efficient cooking stoves is the result of a close cooperation with local NGOs and residents.

## New Development

The answer to the intensive use of firewood is the **optimization of the cooking process**. The cooking stove was developed through a development process that involved the local population as well as the company **Ruliba Clays**, which now manufactures the cooking stoves. In cooperation with all stakeholders, a cooking stove could be designed that meets the practical requirements of the people and energy efficiency targets alike.

The centerpiece of the cooking stove is a clay cylinder, which provides a vent for good combustion. Inside the stove, a special insulating mixture of clay and coffee husk retains the heat. A stable metal covering protects the cooking stove from the outside and adds to the high weight of over 20 kg which helps to ensure for a long life span. These special stoves save about two-thirds of the firewood needed. Instead of 12 kg per day, **4 kg of wood** are sufficient.





A personal relationship with the stove manufacturers is important. Our team together with the managers at Ruliba Clays Ltd. Michel Kayihura Makolo (2nd from the left) and Shema Mugambira (center-left).

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*The Rwandan capital Kigali (pictured left) lies around 1,500 meters above sea level and has over one million inhabitants.*

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## Production of Energy

In terms of economic development and in order to create local jobs, it was important for LIKANO to **produce the cooking stoves in the country**. The energy-efficient cooking stoves are built locally in **Kigali**, the capital of Rwanda. All clay components made are fired in an environmentally friendly manner. In our case, coffee husk residues are burnt to generate the necessary temperatures. This eco-friendly process also indirectly supports coffee farmers in Rwanda. The production facility creates local jobs, while at the same time, the owners of the stoves are generally very proud to use a product „**made in Rwanda**“.





Faustin Ngirabakunzi (middle) handing over a stove to a couple in the Musanze district in April 2017.

## Nearby

To enable continuous project support locally in Rwanda, an office has been rented out from our project partners IGCP in **Musanze**. Musanze is located in a district with the same name in the Northern Province, just a few kilometers from the National Park. Our office does not lie on the border with the National Park, but it is within walking distance of the rainforest. This is the main starting point for gorilla trekking.

**Faustin Ngirabakunzi** (pictured above, center, handing over a stove to a couple) is one of employees in Musanze: „It is a real pleasure for me to work for this unique project. My former responsibilities for IGCP meant I was often on the road in the National Park area, helping with the collection of data. To be able to help my fellow Rwandans to achieve a sustainable improvement to their daily lives and at the same time to protect our sensitive ecosystem, the home of the mountain gorillas, makes me very proud.“

## Groundwork

Before the stoves are distributed, our employees provide test ovens. Local communities, cooperatives or women’s groups can test the operation of the oven themselves, see the advantages and inform the community about the product. The targeted distribution of the stoves in the specific sectors is also intended to increase the awareness level of the project.



Delivery of the stoves in the Cyanika district.



Patrice Ndatimana (FAPDR, 2nd from left) and Faustin Ngirabakunzi (right) distributing stoves to a couple in the Kinigi district in April 2017.

## Delivery and Distribution of the Stoves

The delivery of the first stoves started in the sectors of Bugeshi and Kabatwa, near to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo; in Kinigi, in the central Rwanda; and in Cyanika, on the border with Uganda. Each stove has an individual number, starting with „DIGIT 00001 LIKANO“. Each unit is therefore clearly identifiable and can be linked to the assigned household — an important detail in the verification process.

In addition to the areas directly adjacent to the National Park, the Musanze sector, where our office is located, was included in the distribution grid. The emission reductions in Musanze should, on the one hand, compensate for the fluctuations in emissions from the other 12 sectors. On the other hand, the **carbon footprint of the project** will be more than offset. These are emissions that are not covered by the gold standard calculation method, such as the flights of the LIKANO team traveling from Europe to Rwanda, or the emissions from trucks delivering the stoves.

This surplus of emission reduction from the Musanze sector is not resold, but put to one side. In this way, we want to always ensure that the VIRUNGA BERGGORILLA PROJEKT saves more and more CO<sub>2</sub> than it produces. Because of this, Likano is setting new standards in project development.





### Veneranda Mutuyimana, from the Mayange district, Rwanda

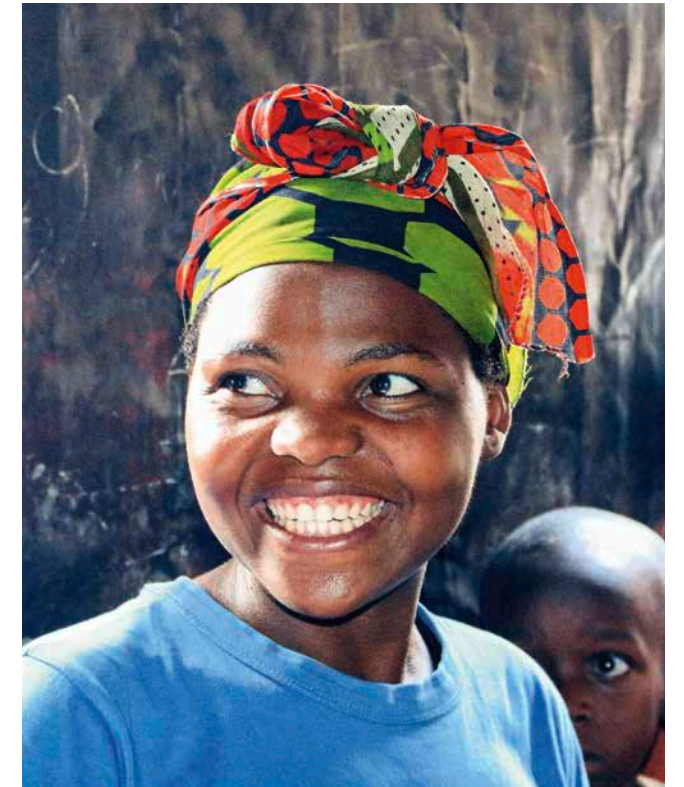
*„I am very satisfied with the stove. Now I need less wood and there is significantly less smoke in the kitchen. We are encouraging other families to use this cooking stove to cook more healthily and to protect our regional forests.“*



Beátha Uwitije (l.) with her children and her neighbor (r.).

### Beátha Uwitije, from the Nyarugenge district, Rwanda

*„I am 27 years old. I live here together with my husband and my four children. My children are still very small and I spend most of my time at home. I take care of the household, the children and our field, which is right next to our house. My neighbor and I usually prepare our meals together.“*



*I have been using the stove since 2015 and I'm very satisfied with it. Compared to what I did before, I now use only a third of the amount of firewood for cooking. This saves me a lot of money. On top of that, I can help preserve the surrounding forests. By using the stove, there is also less smoke. The preparation of the food has become easier and meals taste better now.“*





# ECOSYSTEM RAINFORESTS BIODIVERSITY

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*Rwanda's population density is the highest in Africa. In 2015, Rwanda ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world, ahead of India.*

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Rwanda, the so-called „land of a thousand hills“, is located in the heart of Africa. Over 12 million people live on in area of around 26,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In comparison: the population of Austria is roughly 8.5 million people, or around two-thirds of the population of Rwanda.

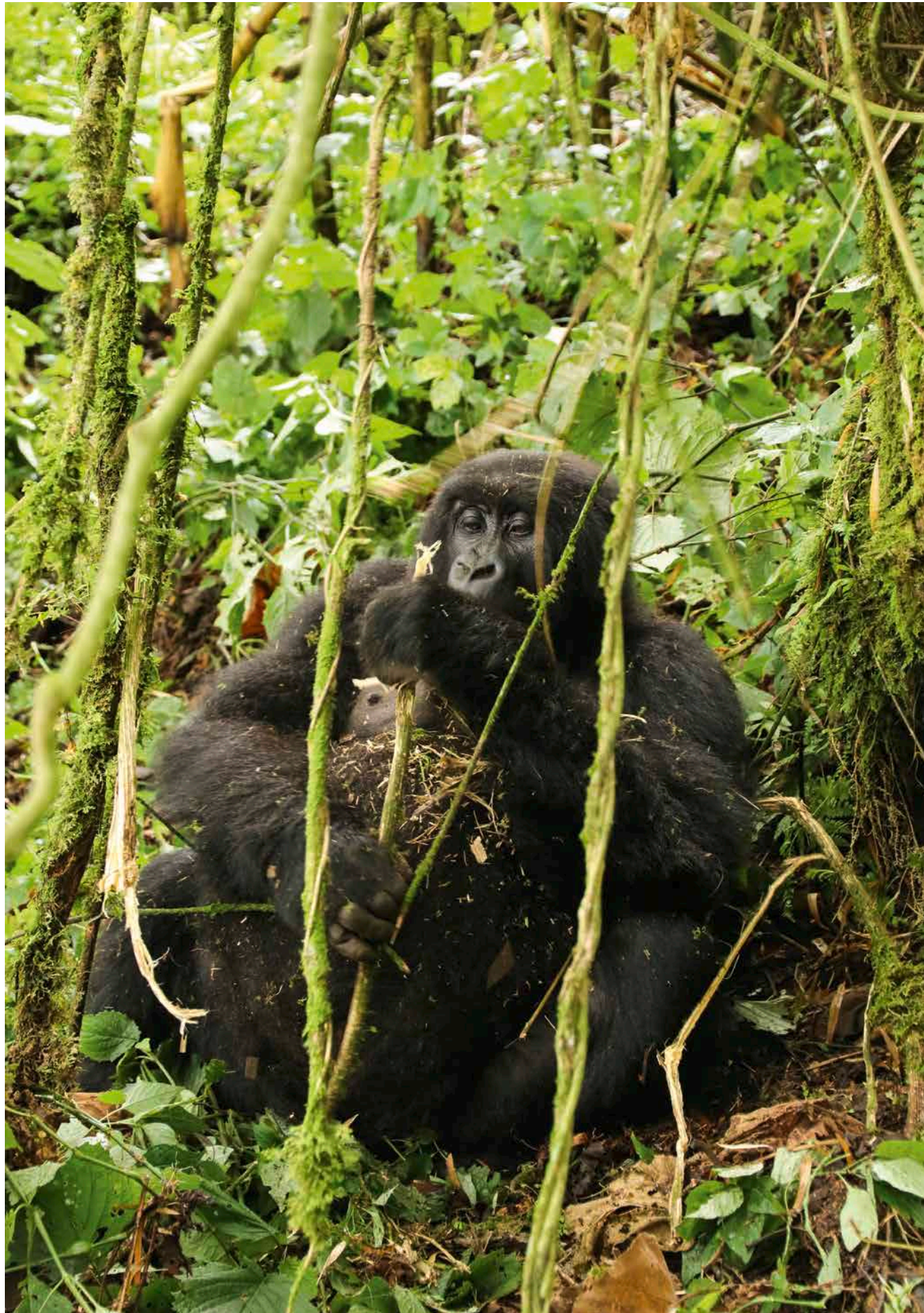
## Temperate and Humid Climate

Due to its geographical location, the country is very **fertile**. 80 % of Rwandans making a living from agriculture. Rice is cultivated on the expansive, marshy soils in the valleys; on the hills, bananas or corn can be grown. Tea, coffee and potatoes flourish, even at higher altitudes. But climate change is already noticeable here, too. Temperatures rise and the dry season lasts longer. In the two rainy seasons precipitation patterns changed and are generally more extreme than before.

## Structural Problems

As a land-locked country, access to the world market is not so easy. The country is one of the so-called Least Developed Countries (LDCs), ranking 163<sup>rd</sup> of a total of 188 countries in the Human Development Index (2014). **Poverty** drives about 90 % of the rural population into **self-sufficiency**. Natural resources are strained because of the high population density.





Satellite image: The border between national park (in the section with the Bisoke volcano on the left) and the cleared area (on the right, with the rooves of the mud huts in white) is clearly visible.

## The Last Pristine Forests

The special ecosystem of Rwanda's forests is home to some highly endangered animal and plant species. The example of the Gishwati Forest shows how vulnerable the **hot spots of African biodiversity** are: In the space of roughly 50 years, the 28,000 ha of forest that once belonged to the second-largest natural forest in Rwanda was reduced to 700 ha. Deforestation enabled the development of new settlements and new fields. But now **erosion** during the rainy season threatens both the fields and the settlements in the valleys.

Projects like our VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT are complementary to the government's and NGOs' conservation plans to save the rainforests. The distribution of efficient cooking stoves can significantly reduce the firewood consumption of over 50,000 households around the Volcanoes National Park.





## The Virunga Mountains

The volcanoes of the Virunga Mountain range lie within the triangle Rwanda-Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo. Already in **1925**, Prince Albert of Belgium founded the Volcanoes National Park, which was then later divided in the three parts. These national parks can therefore be said to be the oldest national park area in Africa.

The highest peak of the seven stratovolcanoes, Karisimbi, lies 4,500 m above sea level. The impressive crater lake of Bisoke volcano (see picture above) lies at 3,700 m above sea level. The vegetation in this area varies from **afro-alpine**, almost unoccupied zones on the **volcanoes' peaks**, to gallery forests in the **mossy forests**.

This unique ecosystem offers an ideal habitat for many endemic animal and plant species, such as the mountain gorillas, the golden monkeys and the forest elephants.



## The Virunga Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)

Like the chimpanzees and the orangutans, the mountain gorilla belongs to the hominids. This specie is strongly threatened with extinction; there are only around **880 mountain gorillas** left on the planet. Their last remaining habitat are the mossy forests on the Virunga volcanic mountains.

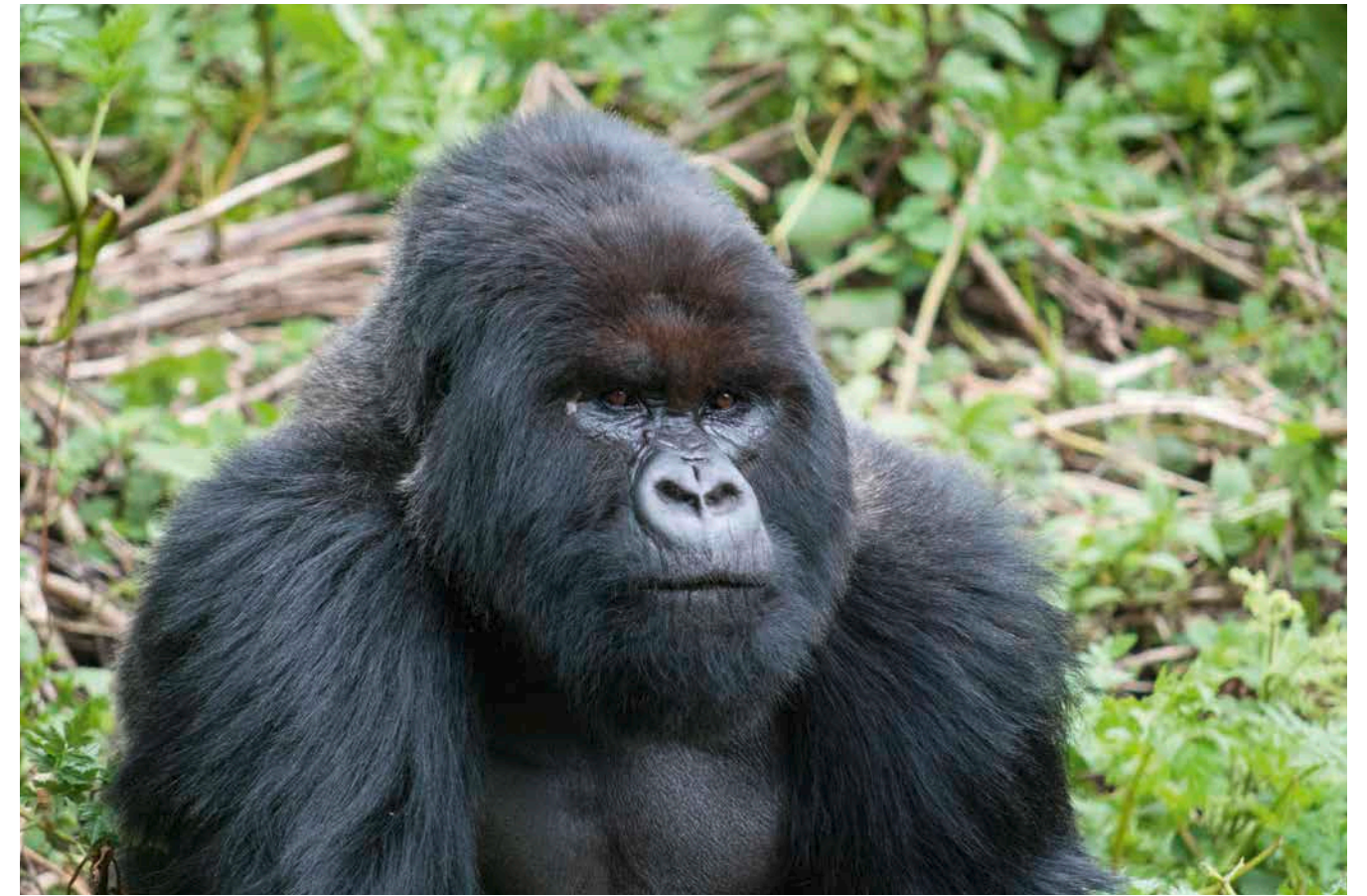
Compared to humans, three facts are worth mentioning: young animals are suckled for up to four years and become sexually mature after eight to ten years. Usually, only a single baby is born, twins are very rare. Gorillas do not drink! They get the water needed from the plants they eat. And in comparison to the human fingerprint, each gorilla can be unmistakably defined by the nose print; through the shape of the nose wings and nose holes.

Mountain gorillas have a **distinctive social behavior**. A group can be made up of up to 30 animals. They are led by a dominant male, the „silverback“. Typically, the silverback is removed from the top of the group by a younger male, who then takes his place, after five years.





The path to the grave of Dian Fossey: The researcher was, at her own request, laid to rest near her favourite gorilla, Digit.



## The Myth „Gorillas in the Mist“

Between the volcanoes of Karisimbi and Bisoke, lies the **Karisoke Research Center**, where the American biologist, **Dian Fossey**, laid the foundations for mountain gorilla research in the 1970s. Through the filming of her autobiography *Gorillas in the Mist*, researcher Dian Fossey became posthumously world-renowned in 1988. The myth of the mountain gorillas is still unchanged: the film *Virunga* (2014) produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and the Howard G. Buffet Foundation discusses the life-threatening work of rangers in the Virunga National Park in Congo.

## The Gorilla Research

Meanwhile, the Karisoke Research Center is carrying out the longest, continuous animal study in the world. Some of the gorillas studied by Dian Fossey are still alive today. Continued studies of gorilla offspring allow the **documenting of a gorilla's entire life**.

## Unmistakable: The Nose Print

The animals are identified from a distance, on the spot and often with the help of photographs and documentation. The key to recognition is the **nose print**: it is the **fingerprint of the gorilla world**. Researchers can, thus, document the appearance, the movements, the health and the behavior of the animals. The resulting data collected is unique. They enable conclusions to be drawn about demography, rank, reproduction and social behavior. Through this, it was possible to recognize not only that the gorilla population is growing, but also that new groups are emerging: a success for the employees of the institutes.



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*In just under ten years,  
the population of golden  
monkeys has fallen by 20 %.*

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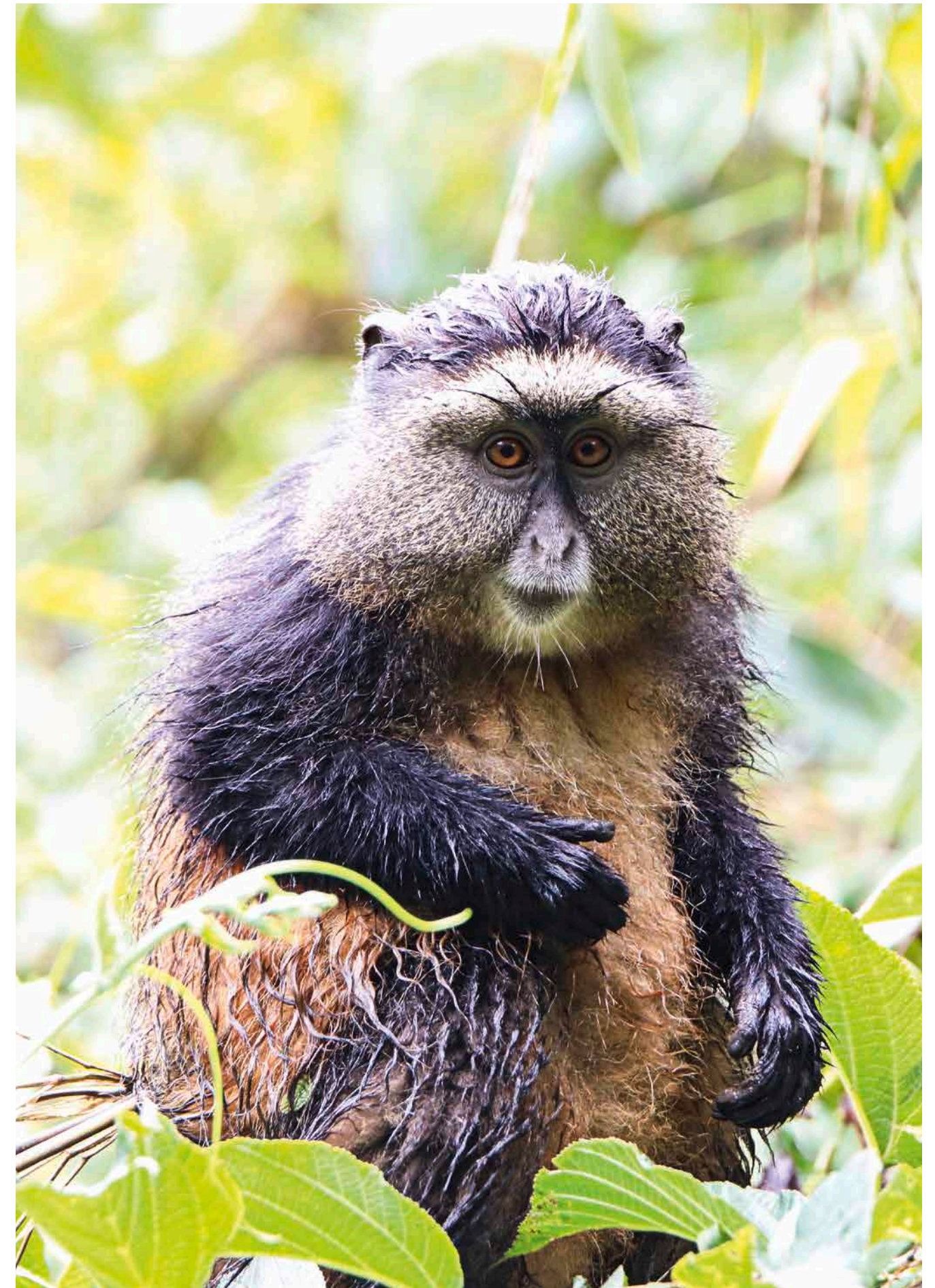
### The Golden Monkey

In the dense forests of the East African Virunga volcanoes, there is much going on in the early morning. A group of small primates rushes through the scrub, they climb and jump from tree to tree and chew on juicy leaves. These playful monkeys with their golden backs seem like jesters next to the mighty mountain gorillas.

From a glimpse at this wild spectacle, hardly anyone would guess that these primates belong to **one of the rarest monkey species in the world**, the golden monkeys. They were only recognized as a species in 2001 and have since aroused the interest of primate researchers. Accordingly, little is known about how they live. Because of the destruction of their habitats, which is only some 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>, they are classified as highly endangered by the IUCN. Today, Rwanda is estimated to host around **3,500** of these animals. „Compared to a 2007 census, this has been a 20% decline, probably due to the loss of habitat,“ explains Deogratias Tuyisingize, an expert on species conservation at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

On their menu are bamboo shoots, potatoes and leaves. The golden monkeys spend most of the day searching for something to eat. At night, however, they climb up the trees, where they sleep on thick branches and cling to twigs, as tourist guide Gashumba explains.

What is the fascination for researchers like Tuyisingize with these monkeys? „I am a conservationist — and the golden monkeys, which are only endemic to the Virunga Mountains, are threatened with extinction. They might disappear from our planet if we do not help them by **preserving their habitat.**“







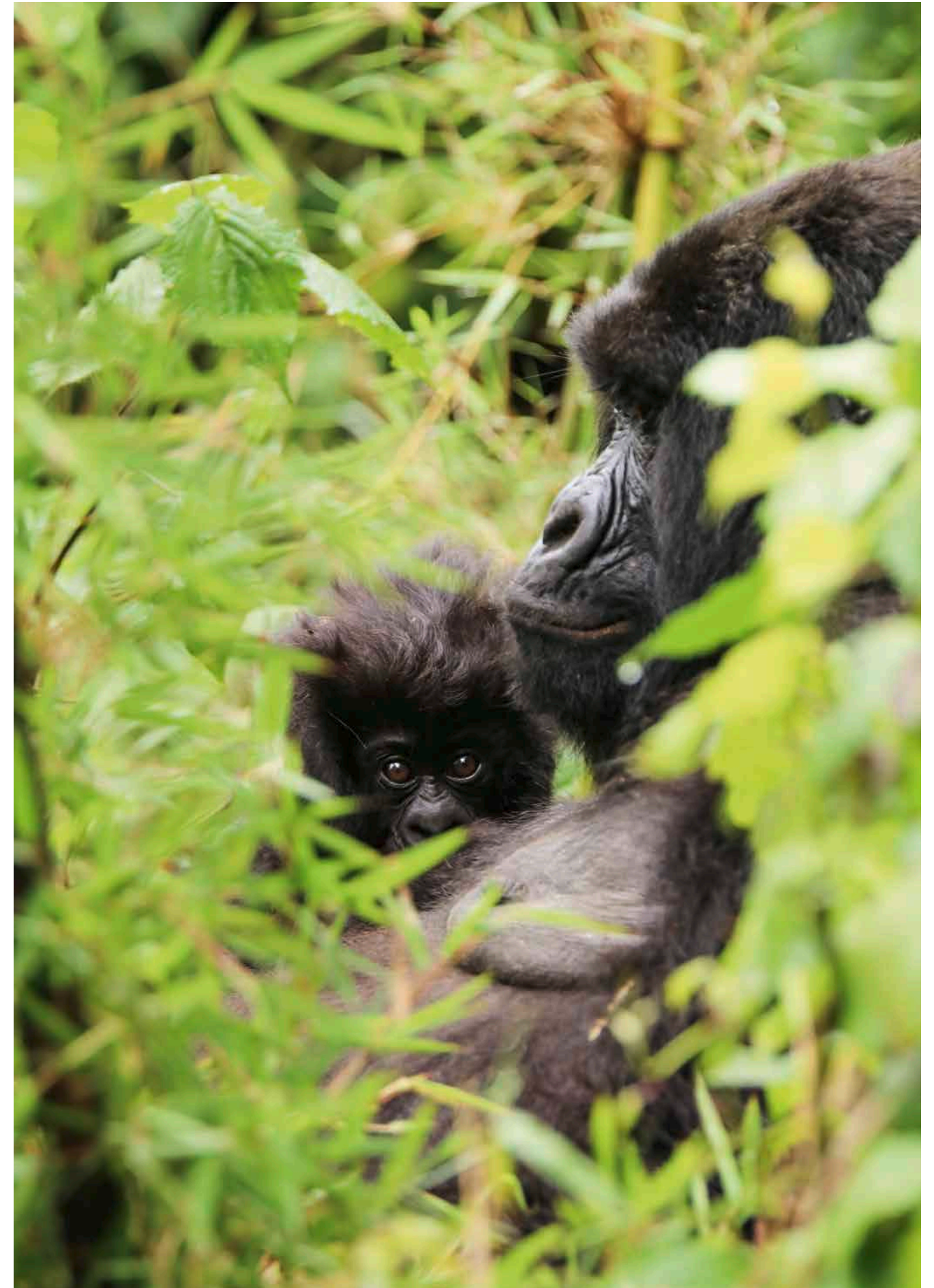
The entertainment program of the Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village is part of local families' livelihoods.

### A New Life For Former Poachers

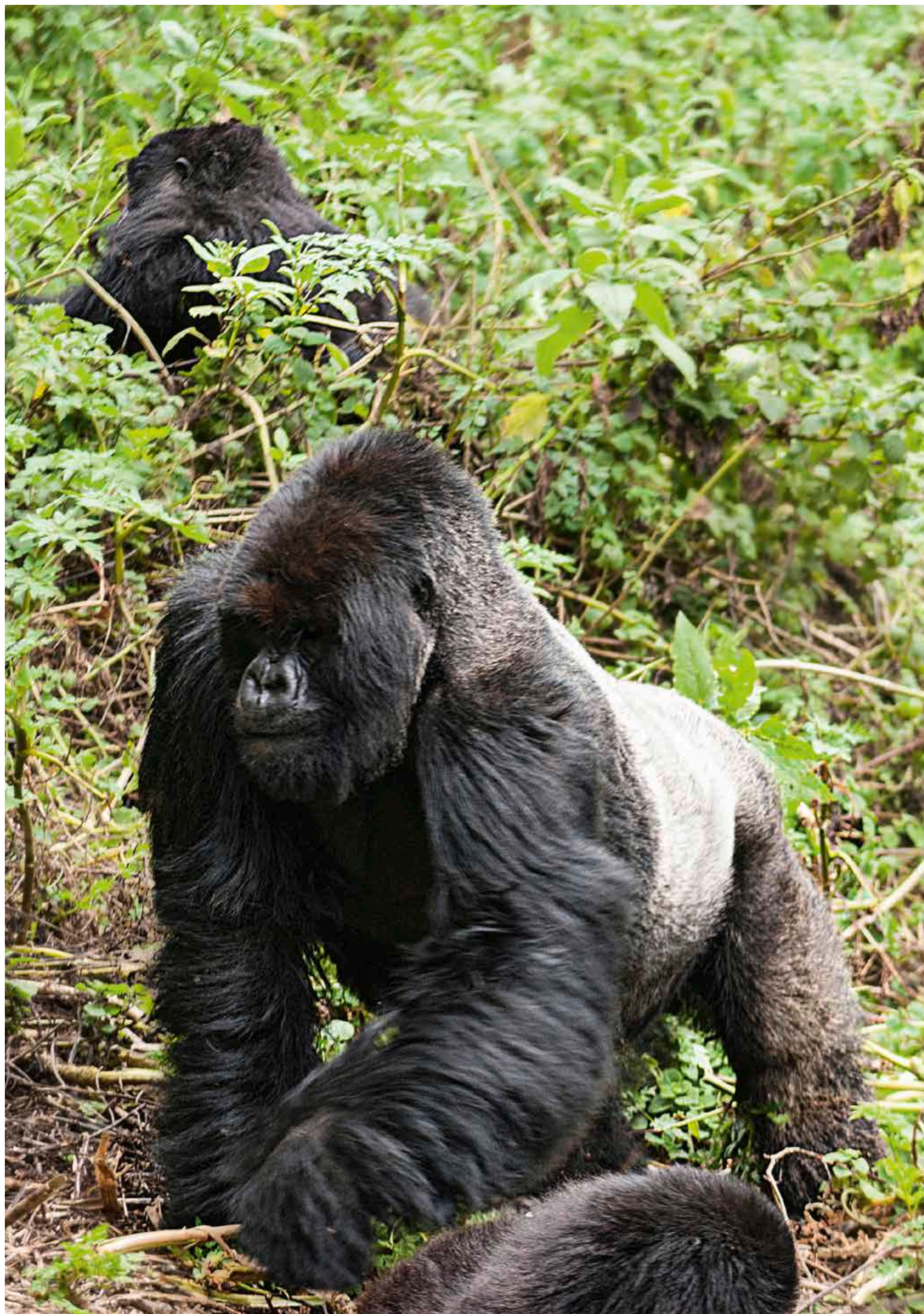
Edwin Sabuhoro, a former National Park employee, founded Rwanda Eco-Tours in 2005, a jointly-operated organization. His motivation: **To provide a sustainable livelihood** that goes beyond preserving nature for the surrounding villages too. For all too often, poverty forces poachers and hunters into the forest. Everything collected in the forest can be exchanged in the village for food.

For the project of the „Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village“ Sabuhoro gained several hundred former poachers and hunters as employees. In this traditional village, traditional dance performances with regional music take place. This creates work and income. Tourists stop off on their way gorilla trekking and contribute to the preservation of the environment and of culture. The village belongs to the community and is organized and managed as a „cultural village“ by the village community.

The project offers the former poachers and hunters a range of training opportunities, resources and alternative incomes. In the meantime, some have farm animals and forge their own plans to promote the local economy.







## Mountain Gorilla Trekking – a personal report

„Are you ok?“ Jerome asks me. I am in the middle of a small glade in the jungle of the Virunga Mountains. A silverback is sitting less than ten meters away from me nibbling on a celery stalk. In the background, young mountain gorillas are climbing up small trees until the branches bend under their weight. „Yes,“ I reply. I am overwhelmed.

Jerome is our guide for today. He has led two Brits and me to a group of mountain gorillas called „Pablo“, which comprises of around 30 members. We are allowed stay exactly one hour with the gorillas to watch them up close.

Two days ago, Safari, our driver, picked us up from the airport in Kigali. Our gorilla trekking tour starts in Kinigi, a small town near the Volcano National Park. Safari already picked me up at 6 am in the morning and took me to the national park administration. There my authorization, which I applied for months ago, is being checked and I am assigned to a group. There is a maximum of 8 people per group.

At walking speed, the 4x4 struggles to get through the bumpy, rocky road. This two-hour drive is a challenge for both the car and us. The starting point for the hike heads uphill along a steep path as we leave the last fields and huts behind us. At the national park border we climb over a stone wall. Behind the wall lies a different world: surrounded by a dense bamboo forests; our eyes have to get used to

the darkness first. A small path winds through the bushes. We often stop to breathe. We are hiking at 3,000 meters above sea level.

Jerome is in constant contact with his colleagues on his walkie-talkie. They know where the mountain gorillas are. We get up higher and higher, leaving the bamboo zone and fighting through the stinging, nettle scrub. After a two-hour hike we first hear the roaring of the gorillas. We must be very close now. We leave our backpacks behind and move on. Out of nowhere, a gorilla appears a couple of meters away from us. This is the first time I have ever seen a mountain gorilla; his dark black fur stands out clearly from the luminous plants around him.

I soon feel like being part of the gorilla group. The silverback, Gicurasi, is watching us. Dominating males, so-called silverbacks, can weigh up to 200 kg and grow to 1.75 m. Every now and then he walks in our direction; then Jerome grunts to sooth him.

Finally: „We have to go“. Jerome gives us a few more minutes. We say goodbye to the gorillas. This one hour has flown by far too quickly. But the experience will become more than a lasting memory.

Michael Novoszad, September 2016



# LOCAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION



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*The sixty-five-foot-high mountain gorilla made of bamboo canes in Kinigi, Musanze, is the central part of the annual ceremony „Kwita Izna“ (meaning „giving a name“). In September 2016, twins were given names which is a sensation: twin births are extremely rare.*

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## Focus on Nature and Sustainability

Launched in 2004 and recognized as an official event in 2007, „Kwita Izna“ highlights and supports the success of nature and animal protection in this region. Based on a traditional Rwandan custom, every new-born gorilla for that year is given his or her name at this occasion. The „Kwita Izna“ festival is full of dancing and music — a spectacular event that attracts visitors from near and far.

This festival is an example of how deeply sustainability is anchored in the Rwandan society. Rwanda has become a **model** for its neighboring countries, not least because of its complete ban on plastic bags.





Director Anna Behm Masozera (center) and her team from the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) in Musanze.

### The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)

In 1991, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) joined forces to found the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP). The aim of the program is to **protect the few remaining mountain gorillas**. Only 880 individuals live exclusively in two habitats situated close to each other: the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda) and the Virunga Mountains, which partly belong to Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo (under the names of Volcanoes National Park, Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and Parc National de Virunga).

### Cooperation Across Borders

For more than 25 years now, the IGCP has been **working closely with local stakeholders** to continuously expand cross-border resource management, environmental protection and advocacy for the habitat of the mountain gorillas. To assist in the park rangers' work, the IGCP actively sets measures to combat poaching and raises public awareness for the conservation of the Virunga forests. Within its VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT, Likano works closely together with the IGCP. Director Anna Behm Masozera: „We are very happy about the cooperation with LIKANO in this extremely important project. This is a win-win situation for mountain gorillas, their habitat as well as for the local population!“



Patrice Ndatimana (FAPDR) is holding a Local Stakeholder Consultation in Gahunga.

### Fondation Artisans de la Paix et du Développement au Rwanda (FAPDR)

FAPDR supports development aid projects in rural areas to **improve the living conditions of the local population**. They have been working on the reconciliation and the unity of the Rwandans after the 1994 genocide. We have been working closely together with FADPR for years now and we are happy to continue our cooperation within this project.

### Together with the People

The right approach to the cooking stoves is key to satisfy the owners. Local FAPDR employees support the population and train them. Amongst others, they highlight the importance of using rather small and dry branches instead of large and fresh ones. Michael Novoszad, CEO Likano: „In the so-called ‚Local Stakeholder Consultations‘ our project ideas are presented and discussed with representatives of municipalities, cooperatives, women's associations, national park rangers et al. The **active buy-in of the local population and NGOs**, such as FAPDR, is essential for the successful implementation of our project.“





For Felicité Muragijimana, another advantage is that „with the time saved, I can now weave baskets and sell them in my own shop.“



Instead of collecting wood, these children can now go to school and play together.

### The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are the UN’s **political goals** to ensure sustainable development on an economic, social and ecological level. The SDGs are applicable to all countries worldwide and comprise 17 goals and 169 targets. The VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT meets 10 of these sustainability goals:



### Transparency and Quality

#### Gold Standard®

Climate Security & Sustainable Development

*Developed in 2003 by the WWF and other NGOs, the „Gold Standard“ has become a world standard for premium climate protection projects that trigger additional benefits for the local population and the ecosystem.*

The „Gold Standard“ is the world’s most demanding and rigorous **certification standard for international climate protection projects**. It ensures that the certified projects have additional positive impacts, i.e. on the environment, on the population in the project area, in addition to the verified CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. The „Gold Standard“ is supported by more than 80 international NGOs, including the likes of WWF, the UN as well as a large number of national governments and corporations. All LIKANO projects are certified with the „Gold Standard“. Every buyer of climate protection certificates from our projects can be assured that the prevention of climate-damaging greenhouse gases does indeed take place and is independently verified and guaranteed.



# MOUNTAIN GORILLAS FAMILIES



*The VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN  
GORILLA PROJECT*

*A two-minute brief:*

*[https://vimeo.com/likano/  
virunga-berggorilla-projekt](https://vimeo.com/likano/virunga-berggorilla-projekt):*



## Here to Stay

The VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT has been running for over seven years. Seven years is a long time — but also a long time to make an impact. We want to use this time to create an **outstanding climate protection project of the highest standard**. And we offer you the possibility to let this project come to life.

## Your VIRUNGA MOUNTAIN GORILLA PROJECT

By dividing into several project units we know exactly which households you are supporting. Together with your employees, your customers or your business partners, you can visit the families in your project area, or you can plan a breathtaking trekking tour to the mountain gorillas yourself.

Once a year, we want to do something **special** for this region around the National Park to help gorillas, people and the environment. Let yourself be surprised!



# FURTHER READING

## **Gorillas in the Mist,**

*Dian Fossey, Houghton Mifflin, 1983*

The American zoologist, Dian Fossey, spent countless hours observing „her“ gorillas in the Central-African Virunga mountains. Her murder made headlines all over the world in 1985. The fruit of her tireless work is this book. It is a document of committed love for animals, a classic of primatology that tangibly creates a new, effective picture of the great apes – the „gentle giants“ which are so similar to us in many ways.

## **Land of a Thousand Hills: My Life in Rwanda,**

*Rosamond Halsey Carr, Ann Howard Halsey, Penguin, 2000*

The young fashion designer Rosamond Halsey Carr followed her husband in the 1950s from New York to the then Belgian Congo in Africa. She was the last foreign plantation owner and also head of an orphanage in Rwanda. Beside this, one finds an extraordinary and exciting life, which stretches from colonial Africa and the times of big-game hunting, to today's Rwanda; a nation-state slowly recovering from the civil war. The book also describes her relationship with Dian Fossey.

## **Der Gorilla, die letzten schwarzen Riesen im Kongo (The Gorilla: the last black giants in the Congo),**

*Sebastian Jutzi, Ludwig Verlag, 2012 (German only)*

The silverback, Kabirizi, is one of the approximately 480 mountain gorillas around the Virunga volcanoes. To protect her from extinction, the young ecologist Robert Muir arrives in the Congo in 2004. But what begins as animal protection develops into a murderous struggle against poachers, civil war militias, corrupt officials and the wood mafia. The situation flares up again when rebels enter the territory of the mountain gorillas, killing numerous apes. Meticulously researched and captivantly told.



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