

## Project 3

### Protecting Great Apes in the Wild



*Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe (Mountain Gorilla and Rain Forest Direct Aid)*

#### *Why fund sanctuaries and why fund this organisation?*

The bushmeat trade is threatening the African great apes with extinction. If current hunting levels continue unchanged, for example, it is thought there will be no gorillas left in the wild within 10 years.

"Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe" focuses on Eastern Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei* and *Gorilla beringei graueri*) conservation projects mainly in Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, but also supports projects on Western Gorillas in Nigeria. Support may be extended to projects in the Central African Republic and Cameroon in the future.

Rangers are a key element for effective conservation. Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe outfit rangers with essential equipment and react rapidly to equipment requests. The equipment is transported from Germany to the range countries or when possible it is bought/produced in-country to strengthen national economies and generate alternative income sources. The project assistant in Uganda controls delivery and use of the donated items. Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe also supports sensibilization workshops, land purchase, community projects, education and public awareness campaigns, 'poacher to protector' initiatives (i.e. people who have worked as hunters can become involved in protection of the apes) and local scientists. They collaborate with scientists and other conservation organizations worldwide.



### **What projects are supported and how are funds allocated?**

It costs a great amount of money to protect and conserve great apes. The following list provides examples of the equipment and projects that have or will be supported in 2001:

- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (DR Congo, Grauer Gorillas)
  - Uniform US\$ 800 – supplied March 2001
  - Annual contribution of US\$ 1 000 to fund a newsletter for the communities around the park.
  - Also, the purchase of 200ha land has been requested (approx. US\$ 15-30 000) in which to establish 200 pygmy households. These people were moved from their original homes and no longer own any land so have no control of hunting practices. It has also been suggested that pygmy people might be employed to track poachers and this project would require funding.
- Virunga National Parks/Mikeno Region (DR Congo) (Virunga Mountain Gorillas)
  - Rain-proof clothing for rangers (approx. US\$ 4 000)
- Tayna Gorilla Reserve (DR Congo, Eastern Gorillas)
  - Equipment for eco-guards (US\$ 2 750)
- Sarambwe (Bwindi Mountain Gorillas) (DR Congo)
  - Equipment for 12 rangers plus 6 bicycles (approx. US\$ 3 000)
- Uganda (Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest)
  - 80 pullovers for rangers produced by a woman's cooperative (US\$ 600)
  - 120 gumboots for rangers (US\$ 1 250)
  - Additional equipment (appr. US\$ 4 000)
  - purchase of land plots at Mgahinga park to build ranger houses (US\$ 5 000)
- Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda, Virunga Mountain Gorillas)
  - Rain-proof clothing for trackers and guards (appr. US\$ 7 000)
- Cross River National Park (Nigeria, Cross-River Gorillas)
  - Equipment for rangers (rain gear, uniforms, tarps) (US\$ 1 100)

Additional plans for 2001, (dependent on availability of funds and feasibility):

- Equipment and salary support to anti-poaching patrols in a number of parks
- Support to Maiko National Park (DRC, Grauer Gorillas)
- Support of "poacher to protector" initiatives and community conservation projects in CAR and Cameroon (Western Gorillas, via projects of M. Remis, J. Lindner, C. Aveling and others) through payment of salaries and supply with equipment

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