

INTERNATIONAL GORILLA CONSERVATION PROGRAM

TRANSBOUNDARY LESSONS
LEARNED FROM THE GREAT
VIRUNGA: RDC, UGANDA, RWANDA



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USFWS and ABCG Brownbag

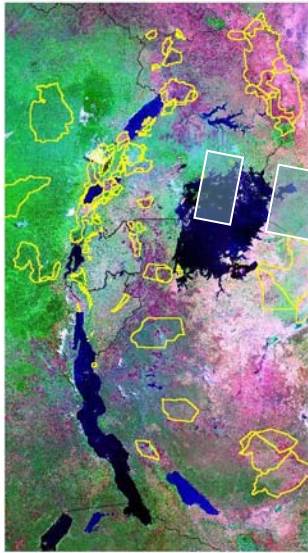
Washington, DC

November 16, 2010



VIRUNGA-BWINDI IN THE CENTRAL ALBERTINE RIFT

The Albertine Rift

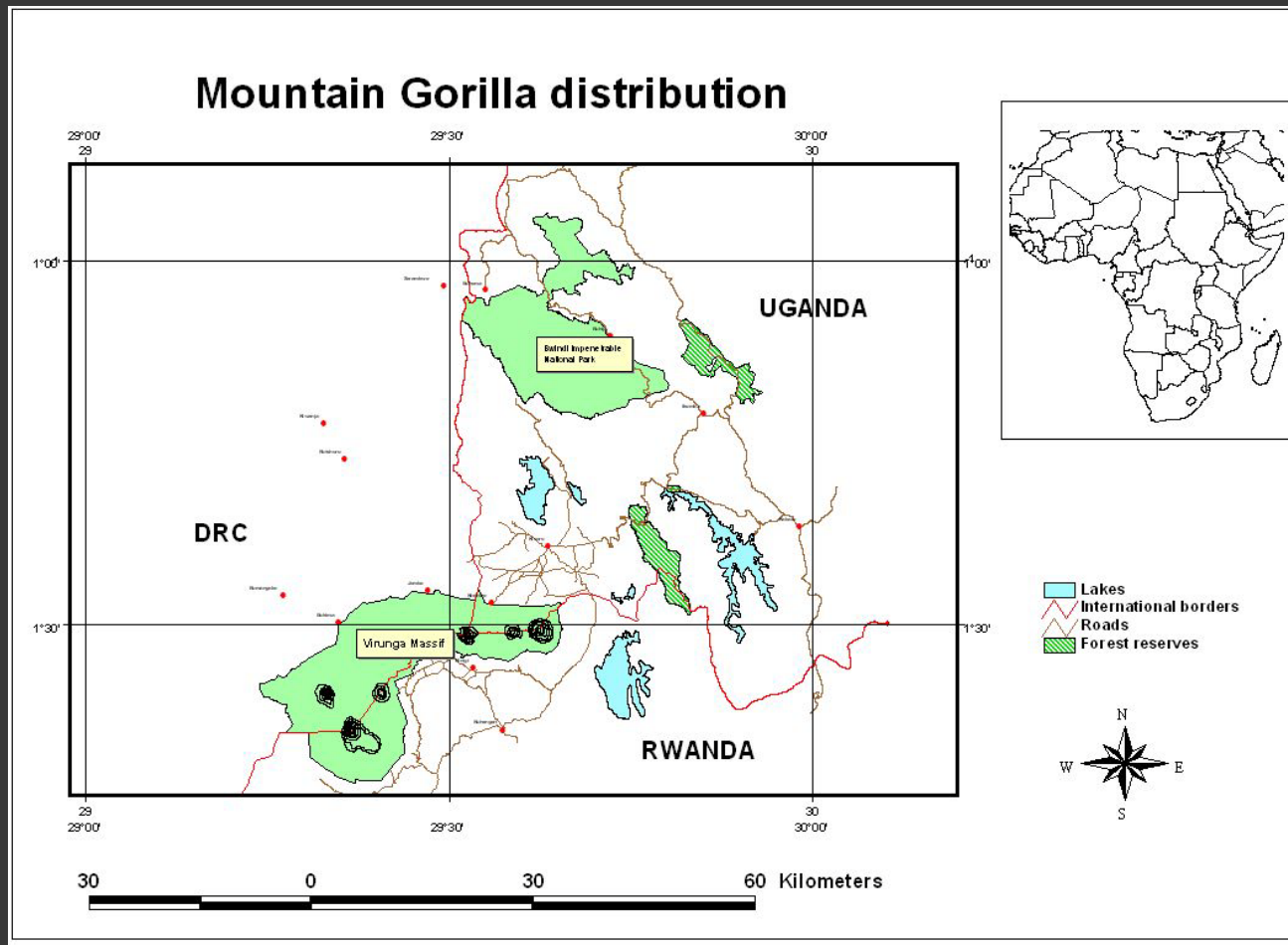


AFRICA

Countries featuring Mountain Gorilla habitat

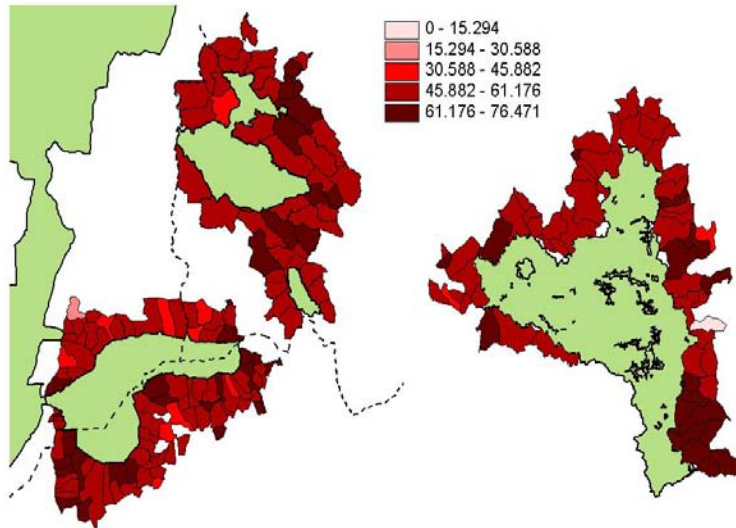


IGCP Geographic Focal Area: BINP, PNV, PNVi, MGNP

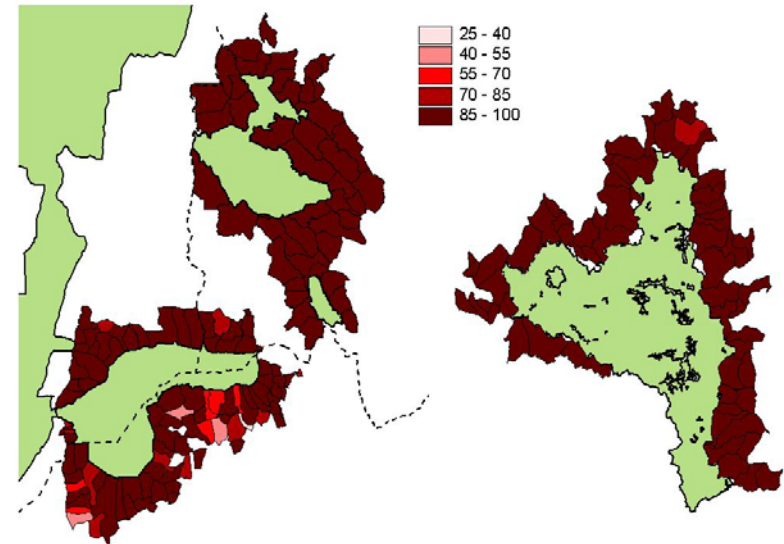


High density, pressure on NR, conflicts

Percentage children per household



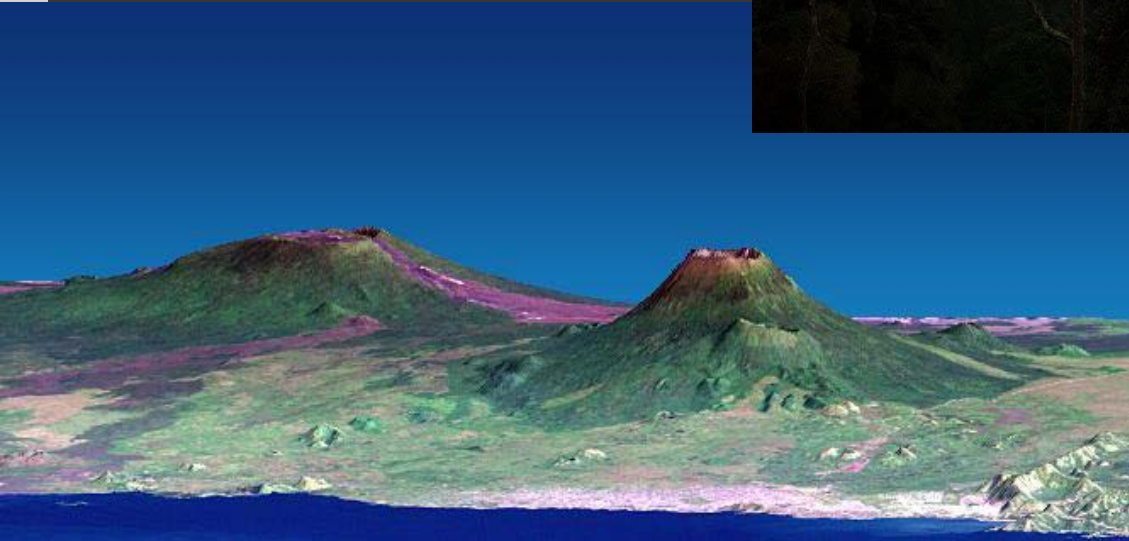
Percentage of households using firewood



- High Population density and growth with 60% of the population live below the poverty line
- All amongst the Heavily indebted Poor Countries (WB-IMF)
- High pressure on NR
- Long recurrent conflicts



Rich & Fragile Biodiversity, Spectacular Scenic Views, workforce & culture!



Building from lessons learned

After 20 years of transboundary conservation of mountain gorillas, IGCP is moving forward after reflecting on the past.

- ◉ Community conservation
- ◉ Empowerment and capacity building
- ◉ Human-wildlife conflict
- ◉ Regional collaboration (TBNRM)



Rationale for Transboundary Conservation

- Ecological rationale: Maintaining ecological processes and functions
- Peace Building Rationale
- Economic Development Rationale

From the early years of informal collaboration

- Joint and then co-ordinated patrols
- Gorilla censuses,
- Study tours offering chances for the three PAAs and community representatives to learn from each other across borders
- Harmonised regulation on gorilla tourism
- Joint studies ...

Formalisation and Institutionalisation

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2004 by the head of the PA for the Central Albertine Rift Protected Area Network
- A Trilateral MoU signed in 2006 by PAA Directors on the Collaborative Monitoring of and Sharing Revenues from Transfrontier Tourism Gorilla Groups
- A Ten Year Transboundary Strategic Plan signed by these PAA Directors in 2006

ANALYSIS AND LESSONS

◎ Facilitation model

- *The context of the situation*: severe and prolonged instability in the region has required a facilitator (IGCP) which strives to be seen as *neutral*.
- *Working style*: presence in each country working intimately with PAAs and achieving equitable partnerships and ownership
- *The characteristics of IGCP/facilitator*: The 3 very significant 'parents' (AWF, FFI, WWF), provided IGCP with a level of organisational credibility and substantive financial resources.

Cooperation and Conflict

- ◎ Four conditions under which stakeholders in Virunga have successfully cooperated:
 - *Communication*: through regional meetings, and more recently through the TCS and TES meetings.
 - *Mutuality*: Stakeholders are unlikely to invest heavily in protection of a resource when the benefits of this effort will fall to others, hence policies are designed to assure wider benefits distribution.
 - *Rules*: Consistent and well defined rules are seen as essential pre-requisite for collective action.
 - *Ownership*: The structure of the current TES and TCS provides for co-ownership of the TBNRM process.

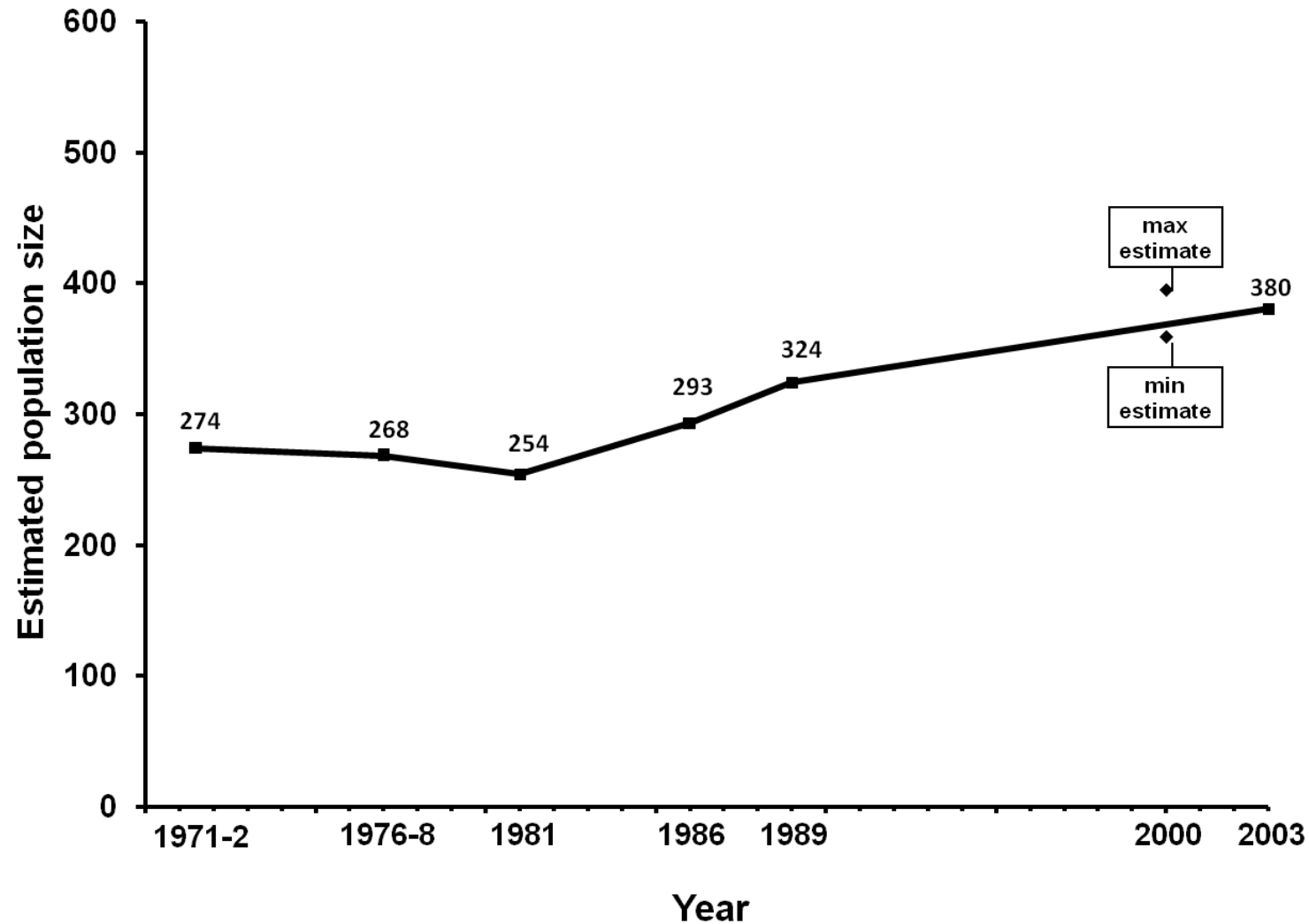
Relationships

- ◎ IGCP's regional work with PAAs since 1991 has served to create a platform for relationship building in two key ways:
 - Joint activities such as planning meetings, some gorilla regulations, wildlife monitoring, etc.
 - By reconfiguring the parks in people's imagination. This way of thinking, acting and talking about the Greater Virunga landscape creates a single focal point (a single conservation target) around which PAA staff can build shared professional identities.

Trans-boundary conservation for whom?

- The political leadership in our region has been in a mess for decades.
- Our people exhausted by the recurrent unrest.
- But regional collaborative efforts have prevailed at least in some corners of our life while preventing the extinction of a close cousin of ours!
- This light in the dark has given us a hope that we can recover our lost dignity and be in control of our common destiny for a peaceful region looking forward for a bright future!

HOPE FOR MOUNTAIN GORILLAS?



THANK YOU!



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