

February 12th, 2008

**Re: "Mountain Gorilla Book Donation Program".**

Dear Donor,

My name is Rosette Chantal Rugamba. I am the Director General of the Office Rwandaise du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux (ORTPN). ORTPN is the government organization that is responsible for the national parks and tourism in Rwanda. I am writing to you to help you understand how the books purchased with your gift to the Mountain Gorilla Book Donation Program will be used and distributed within our country.

Our plan is to distribute the books in several areas:

**Park National des Volcans** - A large number of the books will be used in the national park for various purposes. Some will be given to the guides to be used for training. The book has extensive detail on the behavior of the gorillas, the history of mountain gorilla conservation and appendixes with photos and documentation on the vegetation of the Virunga Volcanoes which will be very helpful and useful information for our national parks guides as they work with the tourists each day. Some copies of the book will be also be distributed through the national parks headquarters where the tourists come to visit the gorillas. When the tourists read the book, they will be more informed and more likely to encourage others to visit the mountain gorillas in Rwanda. The money that tourism generates benefits the people of Rwanda in many ways. For instance with our revenue sharing program where 5% of the Park revenue goes back to the community, we were able to support 19 community projects like: build Schools, dispensaries, water tanks e.t.c.

**Local Schools** - Copies of the book will be distributed to the local schools in the areas surrounding the Park National des Volcans. This book has tremendous educational value, particularly for the people living near the national park.

**Legislation and Policy** - As the protected area authority for Rwanda, we can use this book to help educate and inform policy makers and government representatives when legislation is passed that could affect the national park's forest, the gorillas or the people that live around the border of the park. By helping them to be better informed on the issues, we hope to influence legislation and policy in ways that benefit the gorillas and the people of Rwanda.

**Promoting Tourism** - Some copies of the book will be used to promote mountain gorilla tourism in Rwanda internationally. Tourism plays several important roles in Rwanda. First it brings much needed revenue to the country. Tourism has grown to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Foreign exchange earner in Rwanda. Secondly, the promotion of mountain gorilla tourism is a vital component in the overall mountain gorilla conservation program. Anything that helps us to promote mountain gorilla tourism in our country is a winning situation for everyone. The country overall benefits from the money that tourism brings and the mountain gorillas benefit from the continued presence and protection that ORTPN provides through conservation and management of the park, much of which is funded by tourism dollars.

Because we're talking about books that can continue to be read and shared again and again by many different people, the benefits will continue to be reaped. Each new group of children in our schools will benefit for years, new generations of guides and rangers in the national parks will also continue to benefit, and better informed legislation can make a difference for generations to come.

Your support of mountain gorilla protection and tourism through your participation in the Book Donation Program is greatly appreciated. It will make a meaningful difference here in Rwanda, home to many of the last remaining mountain gorillas on earth. Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,



**Rosette Chantal Rugamba**  
Director General