



UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLOT 7 KIRA ROAD KAMWOKYA
P O Box 3530, Kampala Uganda

Our Ref:

11th April 2008

Dear Donor,

RE: MOUNTAIN GORILLA BOOK DONATION PROGRAM

My name is Moses Mapesa. I am the Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) a government agency mandated to manage wildlife protected areas and wildlife resources throughout the country. The mission of UWA is to 'To conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wildlife and protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighbouring communities and other stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community. I am writing to inform you how the books purchased with your gift to the Mountain Gorilla Book Donation Programme will be used to foster gorilla conservation for the benefit of the people living adjacent the gorilla parks.

Conservation education Copies of the book will be distributed to schools in areas surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks (BINP & MGNP) the two national parks that are habitats to the mountain gorillas in Uganda. This will help to raise awareness among the school kids about the value of conserving the gorillas and how they benefit the local people.

Enhanced Conservation of the Mountain Gorilla Parks: The books will be used in the parks for various purposes. Some books will be used for training tourist guides and rangers who monitor the gorillas on a daily basis collecting data and ensuring their safety. The book has extensive detail on the behaviour of the gorillas, their ecology, the history of mountain gorilla conservation, vegetation types in Bwindi and the volcanoes where MGNP is located and appendices of gorilla photos. This information is very useful for the guides as they interact with tourists each day while the rangers need to understand the ecosystem in order for them to collect useful data about the gorillas.

Enhanced Gorilla Tourism and Benefits to the local people: Other copies will be distributed through the information offices and visitors center of the two gorilla parks and other park headquarters where tourists come to visit Uganda. When tourists read the book they will know about the mountain gorillas get interested in visiting Bwindi and Mgahinga National Parks as well as encouraging others to come. The money that tourism generates benefits the people of Uganda especially the local people around the two parks

in many ways. Through our revenue sharing programme, 20% of park entrance fees go back to the community to support community development projects. Since initiation of the revenue sharing scheme, over 30 community projects have been supported. These include; building school blocks, health dispensaries and centers, rehabilitation of access roads, construction of protected and clean water sources and financing household income generating projects.

Tourism Promotion and support to mountain gorilla conservation programme

Copies of the book will be used to promote mountain gorilla tourism in Uganda both locally and internationally. Tourism plays several important roles in Uganda. First it brings the much needed revenue to the country. Tourism is now the 2nd foreign exchange earner in Uganda. Secondly, the promotion of Mountain Gorilla is a vital component in the overall mountain gorilla conservation program. The country benefits from tourism revenue and employment opportunities and most importantly, part of the money is ploughed back to support the mountain gorilla conservation programme through UWA which ensures that the habitat is conserved and the safety of the gorillas is secured.

Legislation and Policy: The government of Uganda is committed to ensuring that there is sustainable economic growth based on conservation led development. The books will be very useful in educating and informing policy makers and government representatives about the important role that the mountain gorillas play in our economic development. By using the books to educate the policy makers, UWA hopes to influence legislation and policy in ways that will ensure conservation of the gorillas and continued benefits to the people of Uganda.

The books will help to share information and make positive impact on the mountain gorilla conservation as well as enhancing sustainable economic growth for generations to come. Your support towards mountain gorilla protection and tourism through your participation in the Book Donation Programme is greatly appreciated. It will make a meaningful difference here in Uganda, home to more than half of the remaining mountain gorillas on earth. Thank you for your support.

Conserving for Generations,

With kind regards,



Moses Mapesa
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR