



**Conservation Status**

[IUCN Red Data List](#)

**Mountain gorilla (*G. beringei beringei*)**

**Where found**

The mountain gorillas occur in two known populations within three countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda. One is found among the extinct volcanoes of the Virunga Massif. The other population is found mainly in the Bwindi Impenetrable NP, in south-west Uganda on the border with DRC. Mountain gorillas occupy about 375 km<sup>2</sup> in the Virungas and 215 km<sup>2</sup> in Bwindi, these areas being separated from each other by 25 km of settled farmland.

**Habitat**

Forested, mountainous volcanic region called the Virungas and lower, more open forest in Bwindi National Park in Uganda

**Diet**

Mountain gorillas feed almost exclusively on leaves and stems of herbs, vines and shrubs, and occasionally bark and roots.

**Numbers surviving**

The Virunga population is now estimated to be 380. The Bwindi population is estimated to be 320.

**Threats**

Gorillas are hunted for their meat, adults are killed to capture infants for collections, and killed for trophies (their skin, heads, skulls, feet and hands). Since the 1990s, the war in this area, and huge number of refugees has killed a large number of gorillas, and caused significant disturbance to these populations.

**Eastern lowland gorilla (*G.beringei graueri*)**

**Where found**

The eastern lowland gorillas occur only in eastern DRC, between the Lualaba River and the Burundi-Rwanda-Uganda border. Its distribution encompasses an area of about 90,000 km<sup>2</sup>, within

Photos on this website courtesy of William Calvin, Jeff Canin, Aleisha Caruso, Debby Cox, Furuichi c/o JGI Uganda, Kris Descovich, Lola Ya Bonobo sanctuary, Tony Gilding, Selby King, Carlos Schuler, Jodie Sheridan

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which it is thought to occupy an estimated 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> in four broad regions: (a) the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (NP) and the adjacent Kasese region; (b) the Maiko NP and adjacent forest; (c) the Itombwe Forest; and (d) North Kivu.

**Habitat**

Eastern lowland gorillas have a wider altitudinal and geographic range to the mountain gorillas, from montane to lowland tropical forests.

**Diet**

A wide range of plants, their fruit, seeds, leaves, stems and bark, plus ants, termites and other insects.

**Numbers surviving**

Their population is estimated to be 3,000- 5,000.

**Threats**

Gorillas are hunted for their meat, adults are killed to capture infants for collections, and killed for trophies (their skin, heads, skulls, feet and hands). Since the 1990s, the war in this area, and huge number of refugees has killed a large number of gorillas, and caused significant disturbance to these populations.

**Western Gorilla (*G.gorilla*)****Where found****Western Cross River gorilla (*G. gorilla diehli*)**

The Cross River gorillas are the most northern and western of all gorilla populations. They occur in Nigeria and in Cameroon. In Nigeria they are found in the Mbe Mountains, the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park, and in the Takamanda Forest Reserve (contiguous with Okwangwo), Mone Forest Reserve. In Cameroon, they are found in the Mbulu forest in the southwest.

**Western lowland gorilla (*G. gorilla gorilla*)**

The western lowland gorillas are found in Gabon, the Cabinda Enclave of Angola, the western part of the Republic of the Congo, the extreme southwestern part of the Central African Republic (CAR), south-central and southern Cameroon, and mainland Equatorial Guinea.

**Habitat**

Primarily old growth and regenerating forests, including forest swamps.

**Diet**

Primarily fruit, but also leaves, stems, bark invertebrates and soil outside of the fruiting seasons.

**Numbers surviving**

The Western Cross River gorilla is estimated to be 200-250. The Western lowland gorilla is estimated to be 82,000 and declining.

**Threats**

Forest clearance for farming, forest fragmentation by clearance and construction of roads, forest degradation by logging, hunting for the bush meat trade, and diseases such as the Ebola virus.

**Organisations involved in their conservation**

[African Wildlife Foundation](#)

[Fauna and Flora International](#)

[International Gorilla Conservation Program](#)

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

[Gorilla Journal](#)

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