



The Mountain Gorilla Project: a Progress Report

A. H. Harcourt

Thanks to a generous public response to FPS's Mountain Gorilla Fund and to similar appeals by other conservation bodies, the future of the mountain gorilla, at least in Rwanda, looks far more hopeful now than it did only a few months ago. FPS and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) have together received more than £24,000, £4000 of which has so far been sent to the Rwandan Office of Tourism and National Parks (ORTPN); WWF holds about £26,500, and American organisations, co-ordinated by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation (AWLF), have about £10,000 and hope to raise at least £25,000. In fact, the Mountain Gorilla Project is turning out to be an important example of several conservation groups working together while keeping their separate identities. A three-way division of the Project involves FPS and PTES providing equipment for the park rangers and educational material, WWF funding the extra park buildings that are so urgently needed, and the American bodies managing the projects in the field and helping to train and organise the rangers. Pierre Portas of WWF International is external co-ordinator, responsible for streamlining communications and funds, and, after discussions in mid-February between the Vice-President of Rwanda, the Director of ORTPN, M. François Benda Lema, and the Vice-President of AWLF, Robinson MacIlvaine, the Government has provisionally agreed to the appointment of an expatriate project manager, who will make and supervise a park management plan and organise the ranger force. The key to the Project's success will be the amount of support it receives from the Government, and by agreeing to this appointment, the Government, encouraged by the obvious worldwide concern for the Parc National des Volcans and the gorillas there, has shown its good intentions and its determination to conserve Rwanda's wildlife.

However, the Parc National des Volcans comprises less than a third of the gorillas' total range in the Virunga Volcanoes, and the animals cannot survive there unless they are also adequately protected in the other two countries involved, Uganda and Zaïre. The next step, therefore, must be to strengthen the protection in these two countries, perhaps by a similar injection of funds and expertise, and, very importantly, to encourage implementation of recommendations already drawn up during tripartite meetings on co-operation in the whole Virunga conservation area. At the moment the countries act independently of each other; they need to work together.

A. H. HARCOURT

Mountain Gorilla Fund

With a target of £50,000 the Mountain Gorilla Fund had raised £24,325 by February 15. FPS is exceedingly grateful to all who have contributed. The following sums of £20 and over were received before February 15:

People's Trust for Endangered Species	£13,000
R. Kuok	£500
Friends of Howletts and Port Lympne	£300
Sarah Jackson Trust, Dr E. G. Tutin, RSPCA Overseas Fund,	
R. Doyle, each	£200
P. Panaman	£130
Mrs N. Fortuin, Cambos Enterprises Ltd, G. C. K. Dunsterville,	
T. Golightly, H. A. E. Baker, T. Boyer, each	£100
A. H. & K. S. Harcourt	£70
Miss A. S. Albertson	£62
V. A. Rudderham, Dr K. Lang, L. Snelling, S. J. N. Newbound,	
W. Foster, Mrs C. Sheridan-Johnson, B. J. Margaretts, D. W. M. Easton,	
S. E. H. Bicester, Mrs P. J. Wakeman, F. A. Chamberlain, each	£50
D. J. Cole, P. J. Bloomfield, each	£40
R. Whittingham	£35
D. Scharf, Mrs S. A. M. Heathcote-Amory, Mr & Mrs P. Evans, each	£30
P. Burn, Bruce Coleman, Margaret Davey, Ned Davey, E. A. L. Cole,	
R. Harcourt, Mrs J. Reid, P. Carder, M. Simons, Mrs R. Williams,	
D. Fisher, each	£25
K. Richards, C. A. Moody, F. Crowther, G. L. Bradshaw,	
R. G. Marshall-Andrews, C. Frater, Mrs M. F. Singleton,	
Dr M. K. Hudson, M. Bickerstaff, Dr J. Augstein, M. J. Noble,	
D. Jones, S. Low, A. Marshall, J. M. D. & M. B. Couchman,	
Mrs B. A. New, P. J. Andrade, Mrs P. M. Jenkins, E. A. &	
E. K. Wicks, S. A. Harcourt, each	£20

New FPS Overseas Consultants

Dr Kim Hon Kuy	South Korea
Dr Brydget Hudson	Papua New Guinea
Mr Noritake Ichida	Japan
Mr Faisal A. Izzeddin	Bahrain
Mr. James S. Laird	Kenya
Dr C. McDougal	Nepal
Mr Hemanta Mishra	Nepal

FPS now has 111 consultants in 69 countries