

Protected Areas, Human Livelihoods and Healthy Animals: Ideas for Improvements in Conservation and Development Interventions

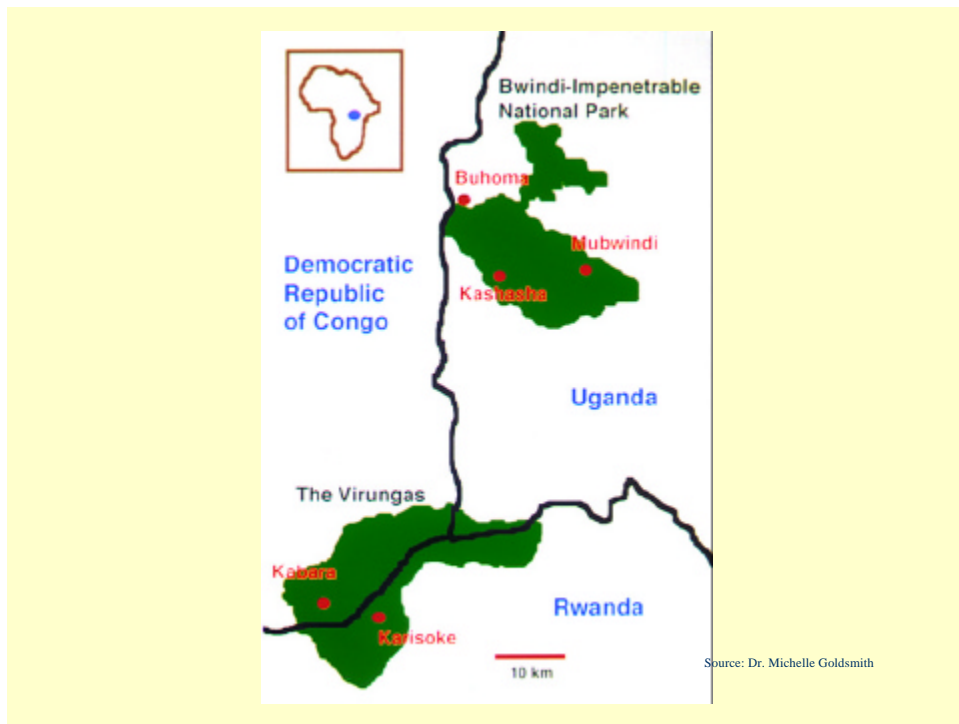
World Parks Congress, Durban, September 2003



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Introduction

- Effective protected area management is undermined by zoonotic diseases
- Marginalized target group
- Poorest people in the country
- Problem wildlife
- Very limited access to health care and information on human and animal diseases



Human/Primate Interaction

- Scabies skin disease outbreaks in two mountain gorilla groups (1996 and 2000)
- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
- Death of an infant
- Morbidity in the rest of the groups
- Recovered with Ivermectin treatment
- Challenging treatment and follow up



Human/Primate Interactions

- Close human/gorilla genetic relation
- Fragmented patches occupied by the poorest people leads to problem gorillas
- Relatively high incidence of scabies in the local community
- Difficult access to clean water prevents frequent washing of clothes

Human/Primate Interactions

- Theories
 - Gorillas coming into contact with contaminated clothing when ranger guides/porters take tourists and researchers for tracking
 - Gorillas raiding crops and finding dirty clothing in the gardens

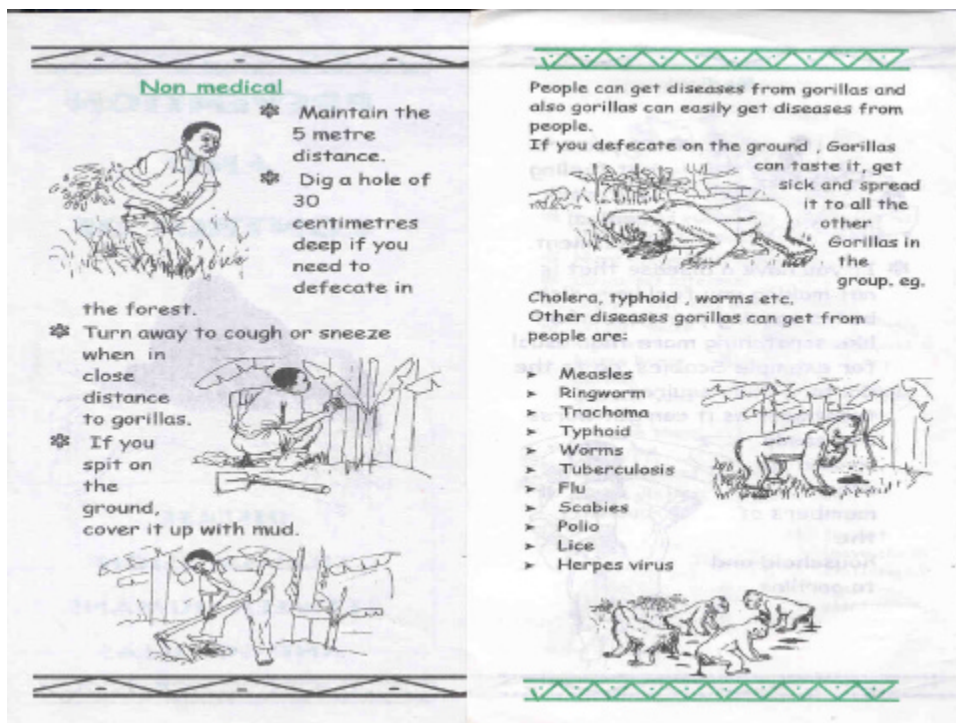
Health Education

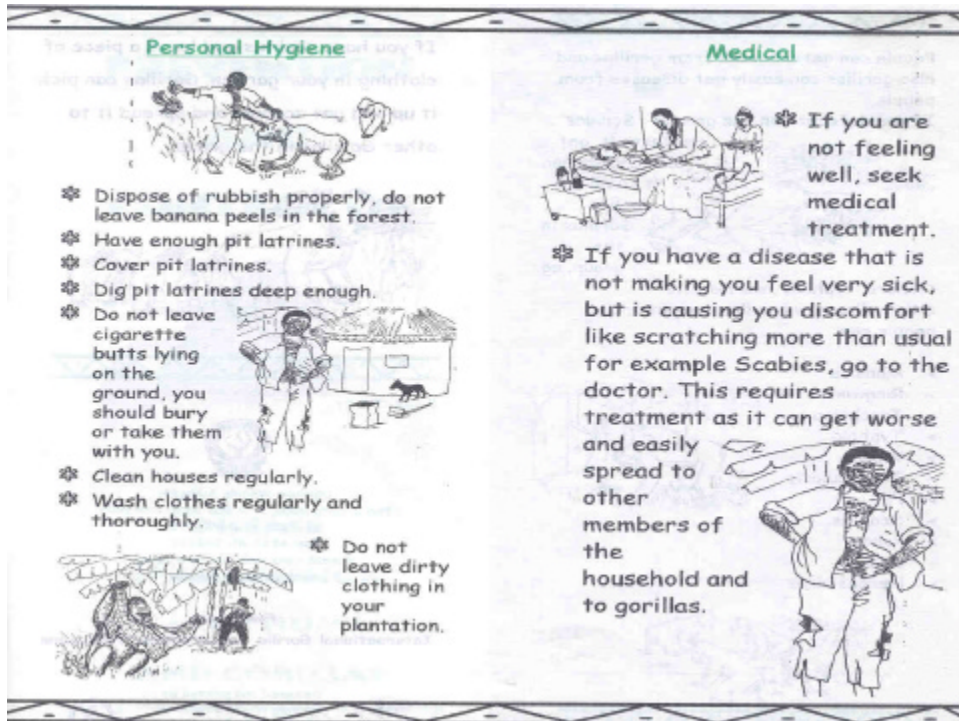
- > 1000 people in high conflict areas
- 8 workshops, 5/19 parishes
- Participatory Rural Appraisal methods
- All age groups (men, women, children)
- Multidisciplinary team (Uganda Wildlife Authority, International Gorilla Conservation programme, District Health Authorities)



Health Education

- Tuberculosis
- Scabies
- Measles
- Polio
- Ebola
- Intestinal parasites
- Ringworm
- Trachoma
- Herpes
- Lice
- Typhoid
- Flu





Health Education Local Community Recommendations

Medical

- Bring health and diagnostic services closer

Non-medical

- Strengthen human/gorilla conflict team, compensation for crop damage

Personal Hygiene

- Dig proper pit latrines, cover rubbish heaps, more health education

Health Education Lessons Learned

- Parishes that benefited from gorilla tourism were most receptive
- Communities were more receptive to a multidisciplinary team
- Problem animals undermined the benefits of tourism revenue sharing funds for community development





Cattle/Wildlife Interactions

- TB surveys in Queen Elizabeth National Park (1960s to 2001)
- AWF Charlotte Fellowship Award
- Greater level of TB in cape buffalo in the interior (21%) than at the periphery (5%)
- TB in cattle at the periphery is 5%
- 42% of people did not boil their milk

Cattle/Wildlife Interactions

- Illegal grazing of cattle in the park
- Bovine TB could potentially be transmitted from buffalo to cattle to people
- Local community education on zoonotic diseases and food hygiene may help to reduce exposure to TB
- Uganda among 22 countries with highest TB infection (WHO), exacerbated by 35% HIV co-infection

Ideas for Improvements

Integrated approach more cost effective

- ✓ Sharing health information between medical, veterinary and wildlife sectors
- ✓ Combining programs (education, health, ICT, training) that benefit wildlife conservation and public health
- ✓ Multidisciplinary teams

Ideas for Improvements

- ✓ Wildlife managers and tour operators can deliver medication from the capital city to the communities around PAs
- ✓ Joint health education, health monitoring and laboratory diagnosis
- ✓ Research on interrelated public health and conservation issues
- ✓ Redistribution of health and conservation funds

For more information on Conservation Through Public Health



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Acknowledgments

- World Parks Congress, Conservation Through Public Health, Uganda Wildlife Authority, International Gorilla Conservation Programme, African Wildlife Foundation, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Zoological Park, National TB Control Unit, Uganda Government Veterinary Services
- Dr. Richard Kock, Dr. Liz Macfie, Steven Asuma, Benon Mugyerwa, Robert Sajjabi, Dr. Roy Bengis, Dr. Michael Woodford, Anita Michel, Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, Jay Levine, Francis Adatu
- Lawrence Zikusoka, Steven Rubanga, Mrs. Rhoda Kalema

