

The Role of Ecotourism in Post-Conflict Societies: Lessons from Gorilla-based Tourism



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The purpose of the presentation:

To examine the role of Ecotourism (gorilla-based tourism) in Rwanda for Economic Growth and promoting Environmental Diplomacy in the post-conflict context.

Outline of the presentation:

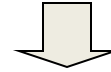
- 1. Environment and conflict nexus**
- 2. Background of Rwanda (Her recent history of conflicts and natural resource base)**
- 3. Gorilla-based tourism supporting macroeconomic growth and providing local livelihoods**
- 4. Overcoming capacity gaps of institutions**
- 5. Environmental diplomacy**
- 6. Conclusion and recommendations**

1. Natural resources and conflict nexus

Natural Resources and conflict linkages are significant.

- 40% of all intrastate conflicts since 1960 have a **link to natural resources**.
- 18 conflicts since 1990 fuelled **by natural resources**.
- Intrastate conflicts linked to natural resources are **twice as likely to relapse to conflict** within five years.
- **Less than a quarter of peace agreements** for conflicts with links to natural resources address natural resource management and governance.

Assistance by International Society

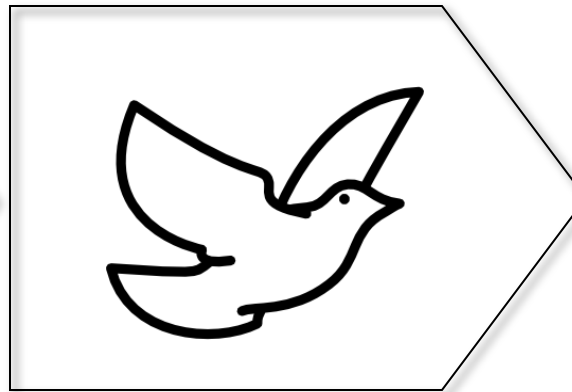


Abused Resources

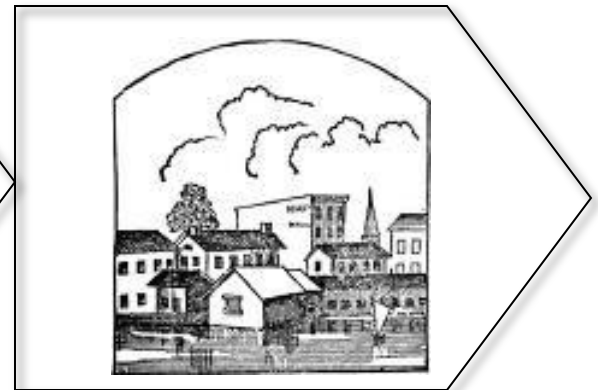


Conflict

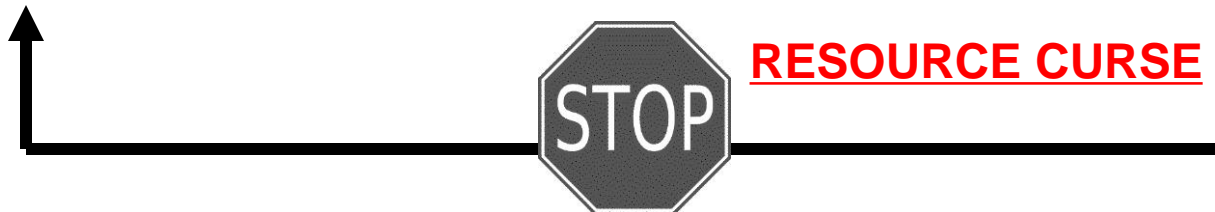
Sound Management of Resources



Post-Conflict

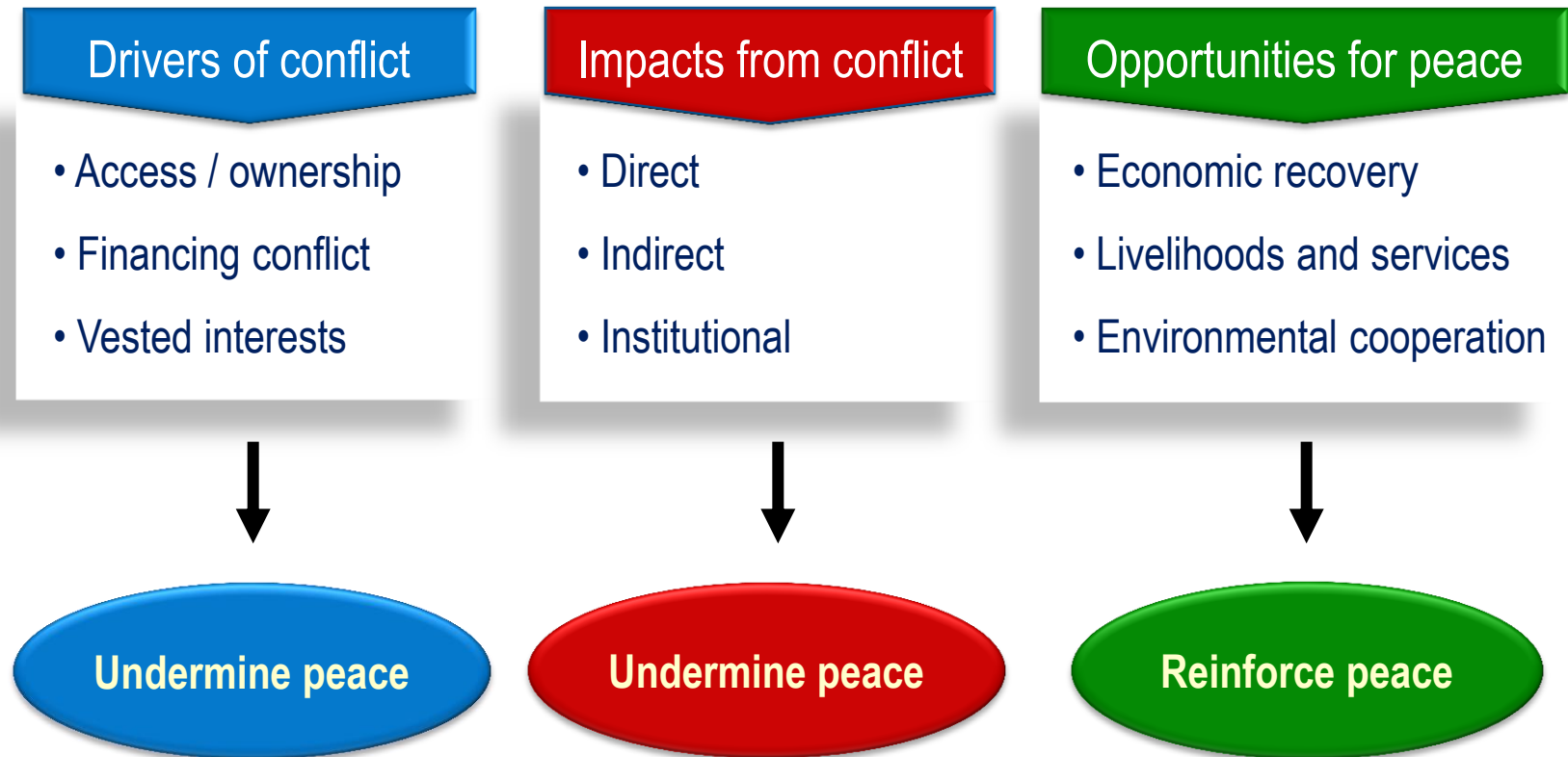


Nominal Society



How can we prevent a post-conflict society from reverting to conflict?

Three main pathways linking natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding:



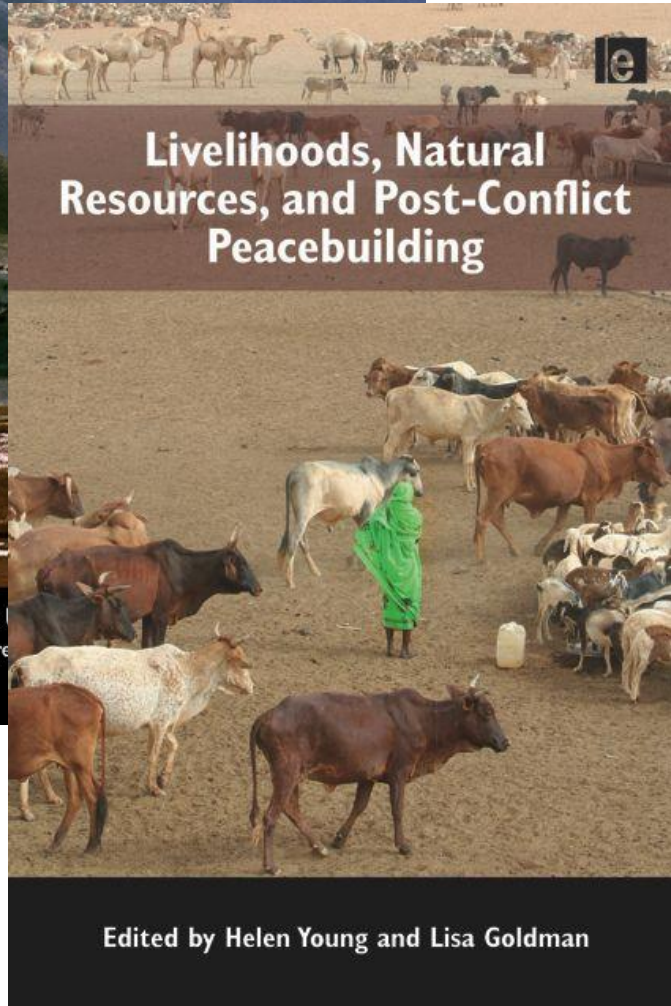
Environmental Diplomacy in Post-Conflict Societies:

- **Environmental diplomacy – “the process of encouraging and enabling environmental cooperation between parties”.**
- **Both multilateral and bilateral processes. Multilateral environmental treaty and its implementation.**

Special considerations in the post-conflict context:

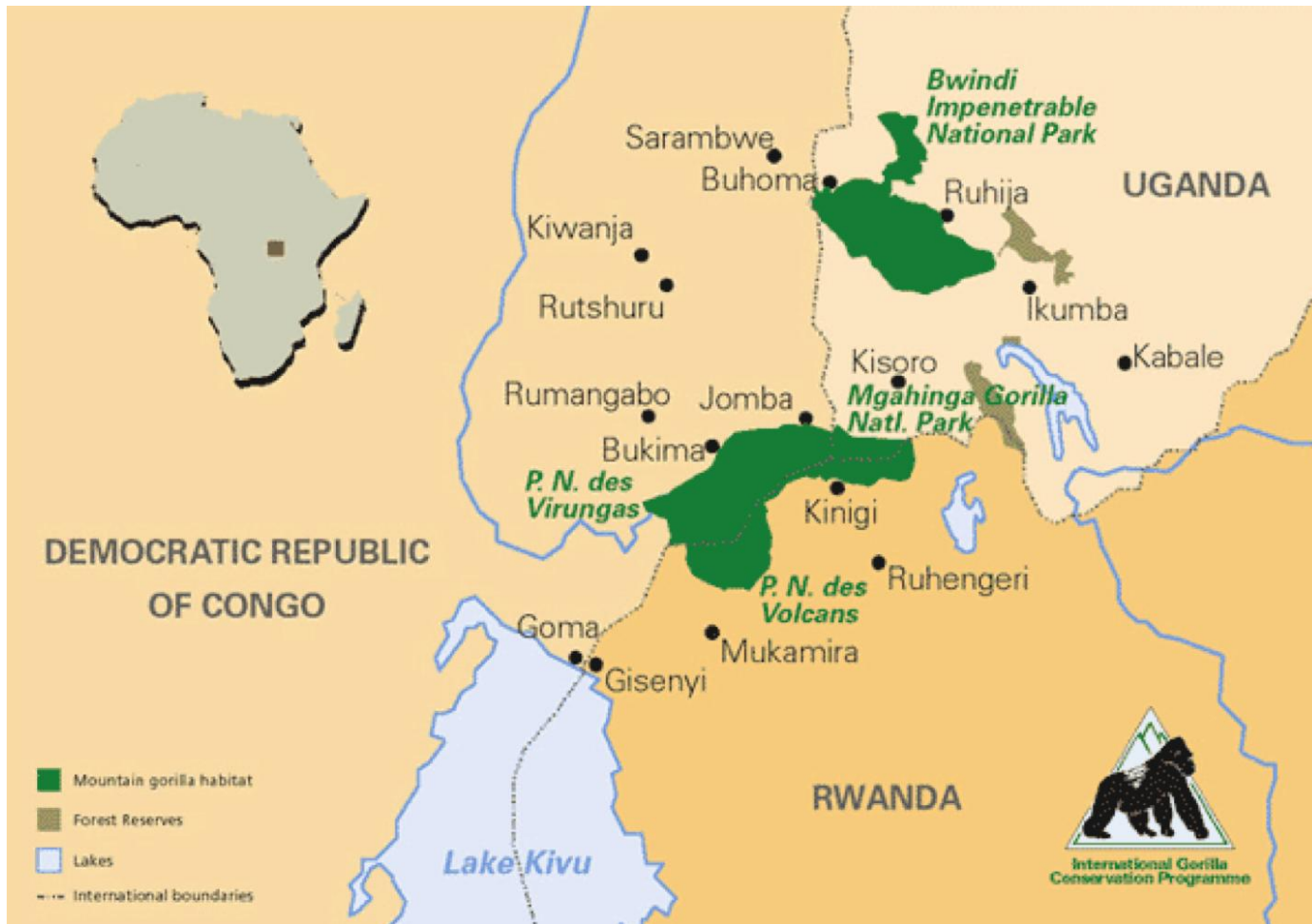
- 1. Post-conflict recovery and peace dividends,**
- 2. Capacity gaps (Donor assistance is crucial.),**
- 3. Diplomacy among countries and stakeholders.**
- 4. Security issues for the Region and Environmental Diplomacy.**

Post-Conflict Peacebuilding & Natural Resource Management



- An international joint research project to assess experiences in strengthening post-conflict peacebuilding through natural resource management. (The Environmental Law Institute (ELI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Tokyo and McGill University.)
- Four-year research project with 150 peer-reviewed case studies from 50 countries.
- These case studies have been assembled into a set of six edited books to be published in 2011-2013.

2. Background of Rwanda Mountain gorilla habitats



2. Background of Rwanda

2-1. Recurrent Conflict in the Region

Rwanda:

- 1994 Over 800,000 lives were lost in the genocide
- 2003 Presidential and Legislative elections were held, and the new Constitution was issued.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

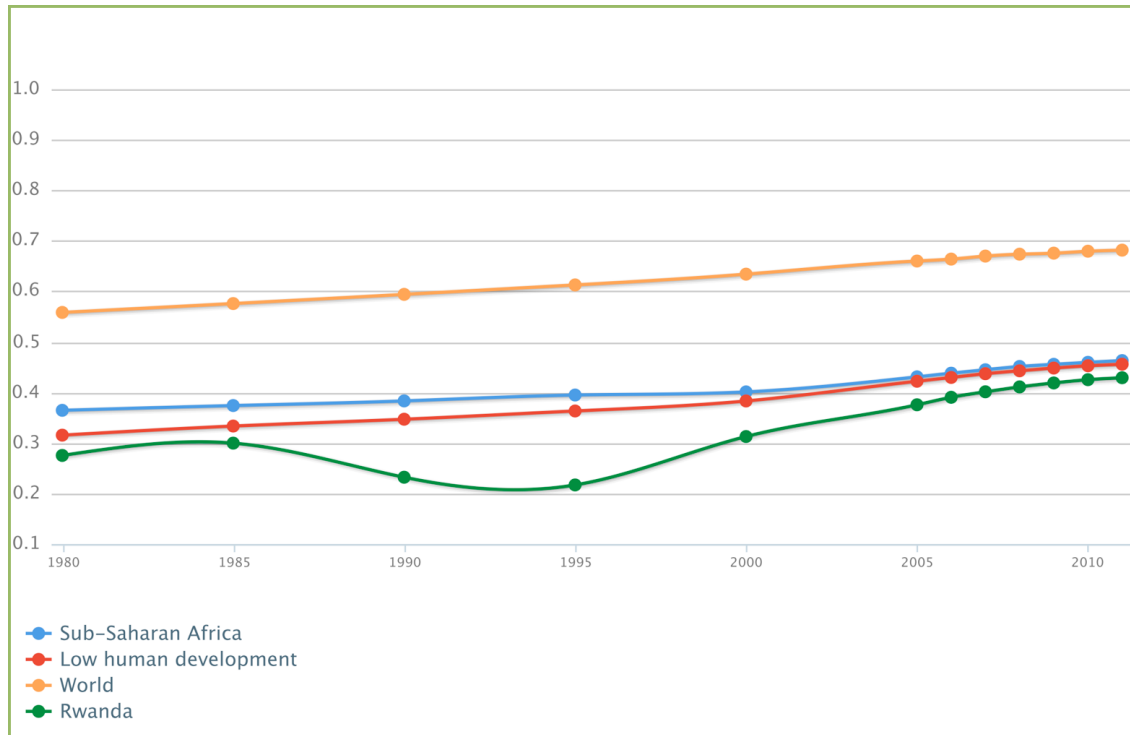
- 1996 Mobutu Sese Seko's regime collapsed. A decade long civil war followed, depriving over 4 million lives.
- 1999 The Lusaka Peace Agreement
- 2006 The first democratic elections



Uganda:

- 1986 The National Resistance Movement seized the power.
- 1996 First direct presidential election
- 2008 Truce by Government and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group in the north. A final peace agreement has not yet been signed.

Post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding:



Human Development Index (HDI) for Rwanda: 0.385, 152th out of 169 countries (2010).

GDP growth:

1995-1999 15.6%

2000-2004 6.6%

2005-2008 8.4%

GDP per capita:

- US\$ 142 in 1994 to US\$ 313 in 2008.

- Stable growth and improved security, envisioned in Vision 2020.

- **Ecotourism supporting macroeconomic growth and providing local livelihoods.**
- **Building institutional capacity and enhancing environmental diplomacy:** capacity building of PAs, promoting transboundary collaboration for environmental diplomacy.

The history of genocide in 1994



2-2. Basis of ecotourism: Biodiversity conservation

- **Rwanda signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio on 10 June 1992 and ratified it on 18 March 1995.**
- ***National Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of biodiversity in Rwanda* was developed in 2003.**
- **Each Contracting Party shall:**
 - a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.**
 - b) Integrate as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross- sectoral plans, programmes and policies.**
- **Regular reporting and eligible for further GEF financing.**



Photo: IGCP



Photo : IGCP

Mountain gorillas



Photo: Maekawa



Photo : IGCP

Mountain gorillas

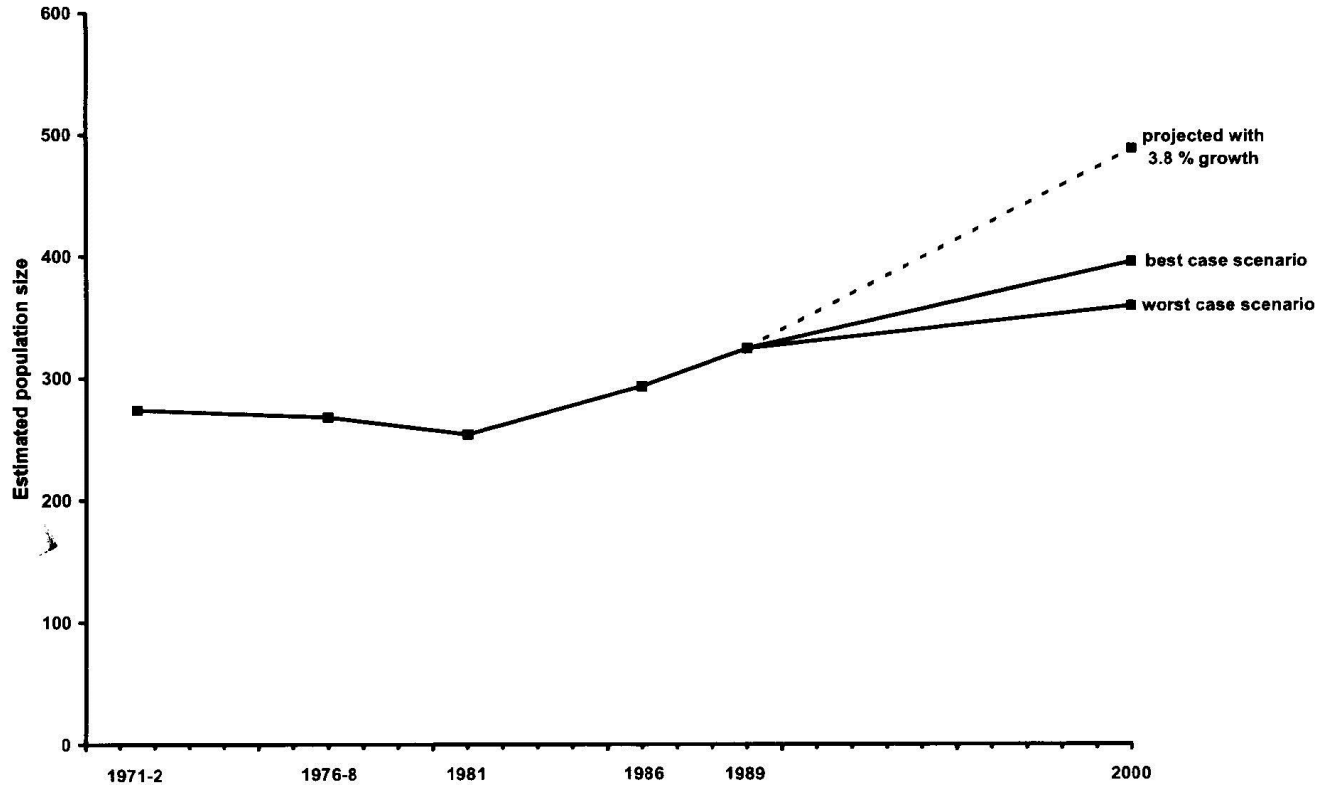
(Gorilla beringei beringei)



- The Volcanoes National Park (1925) is one of the oldest national parks in Africa.
- Considered threatened to extinction (IUCN).
- Approximately 880 in 2 forests.
- Virunga forest: 480 (in 2010).
- Bwindi Impenetrable forest: 400 (in 2011).
- Rarest of the gorilla subspecies!
- Humans share 97.7% of DNA with Mountain gorilla.

Mountain gorilla population dynamics

Mountain gorilla population increased even during the conflict period.
From 1971 to 2000, 324 to 359, (or 395) 1.0-1.3% growth rate.



(Source: Kalpers 2003)

Factors contributing to gorillas' survival during conflict

Major threats to the mountain gorillas: Habitat loss, Disease, Poaching & Other (on-going conflict)

- 1. Cultural reasons (do not eat gorillas);**
- 2. Casualties, accidental rather than deliberate;**
- 3. Gorillas recognized as an important economic resource (through tourism). (e.g. Arusha Peace Agreement).**
- 4. Long-term conservation strategies (e.g. Extensive education programmes pre-war, the commitment of park staff, NGOs continued to support the park authorities during the war time.)**

3. Supporting Macroeconomic Growth and Providing Local Livelihoods

- 1979 Gorilla-based Ecotourism started in Rwanda (Tourism as a tool for conservation)
- 3rd largest foreign revenue in 1980s, now the largest foreign exchange earner followed by coffee and tea.
- Employment (Park employs 180 people, 800 community members benefit by Revenue-sharing, etc.)
- Mountain gorilla: unique flagship for a national image and national pride (Naming ceremony “*Kwita Izina*”.)

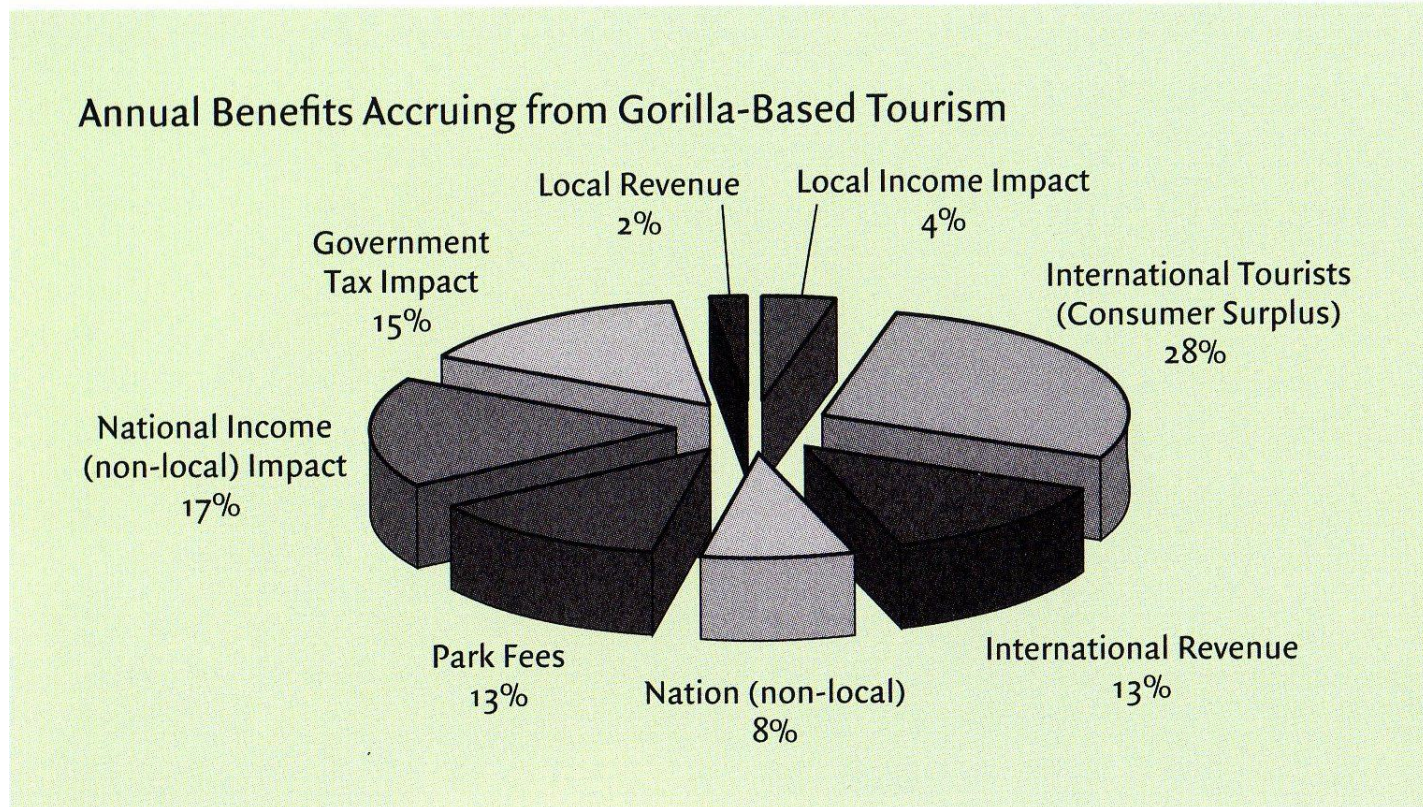


Booming Eco-tourism in Rwanda: Increase in tourism revenue



(Source: Nielsen and Spenceley based on IMF and WDI 2010)

Economic value of the Virungas



The Distribution of annual gorilla tourism benefit (20.6 million USD)

- National: 11.2 million USD
- International: 8.7 million USD
- Local: 0.7 million USD

(Source: Eckhart and Lanjouw 2008 based on Hatfield, Richard and Delphine Malleret-King 2003)

3. Supporting Macroeconomic Growth and Providing Local Livelihoods

Revenue-sharing in Rwanda

1. Since 2005, 5% of the tourism revenue (park fees) are injected into communities by the park authority.

2. 10 schools (Apr 3,640 pupils), 32 water tanks (At least 40,000), 10 community associations for income generating activities, Sabyinyo Community Lodge.

3. Around US\$428,248 for community fund, since 2005 → US\$ 1.45/person to date and US\$ 0.36/person.



3. Supporting Macroeconomic Growth and Providing Local Livelihoods

Lessons from Revenue-sharing in Rwanda

- 1. Local population valued more, the community infrastructure which provides services lost by not being able to access the national park territory (Water tanks, assistance to honey production, etc.)**
- 1. The benefits are felt disproportionately according to different social and economic and status. (The Btwa community, ability to negotiate.)**
- 2. Using their skills for alternative livelihoods instead of poaching. (Cultural village, honey production, agriculture with extensive support.)**
- 3. Revenue-sharing should be implemented by the park authority rather than the Ministry of Local Government.**

4. Overcoming capacity gaps of institutions

- 1. In the late 1980s, Office Rwandais de Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux (ORTPN) became self-financed for three parks. The revenue dropped during conflict years, but recovered and made surplus in recent years.**
- 1. NGOs continued to support the PAs during the war.**
- 2. In the Congo Basin, only 30% recurrent costs in PA network is covered by the Government and donor investment.**
- 3. Wildlife (Gorillas) to “pay its own way”? Good success. (The permit is USD 500 since 2007). Well developed marketing strategy.**

5. Environmental diplomacy through Transboundary collaboration

1. Transboundary protected areas: “An area that straddles one or more boundaries between states, whose constituent parts are dedicated to the protection of biodiversity and other natural resources”.

2. Transboundary collaboration: 169 protected areas over two or more countries in 2001 in the world.

5. Environmental diplomacy through Transboundary collaboration

Transboundary collaboration by park authorities and field-based park staff, facilitated by an environmental NGO, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP).

- Regional meetings and Wardens coordination meetings
- Joint patrols, Gorilla census
- Cross visits

2004 Memorandum of Understanding amongst protected area authorities of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda;

2005 Two Ministerial Declarations

2008 Transboundary Strategic Plan and Memorandum of Understanding on “Collaborative Monitoring of and Sharing Revenues from Transfrontier Tourism Gorilla Groups”.

Lessons from the environmental diplomacy

1. **Track Two diplomacy** (non-official mediation between civil society actors) promoting dialogue for **Track One diplomacy** (official negotiations between political and military elites, in other words, top-down efforts) for regional collaboration (e.g. energy issues).
2. The local collaboration worked even in the post-conflict period when the state governments were not in good terms with one another.

5. Environmental diplomacy

Security dimension: Military support to the National Park

1. Important military base for regional security.
2. Para-military training and conservation training
3. Security is a prerequisite for tourism development.
(eg. Military escort up to 2004. The killings of international tourists in Uganda.)
4. Sense of security brought to the community by the military presence and returning of international tourists.

A national security and human security interests of the local people were complementary.

Natural resources financing militia activities

United Nations S/2001/1072
 **Security Council** Distr.: General
13 November 2001
Original: English

**Letter dated 10 November 2001 from the Secretary-General to the
President of the Security Council**

I wish to refer to the presidential statement dated 3 May 2001 (S/PRST/2001/13), in which the Security Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a final period of three months. I also wish to refer to the President's letter, by which the Panel's mandate was extended until 30 November 2001 (S/2001/951), and the Panel was requested to submit, through me, an addendum to its final report.

I have the honour to transmit to you the addendum to the report of the Panel, submitted to me by the Chairperson of the Panel. I should be grateful if you would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

1. **Illegal mining is rampant in the Democratic Republic of Congo.**
2. **The revenues from illegal mining are financing militia activities. Risk of **RESOURCE CURSE**.**

6. Conclusion and policy recommendations

- 1. The status of natural resource base during the conflict will be the foundation for post conflict recovery. Natural resource management during the conflict is critical.**
- 1. Institutional capacity of park authorities is essential. Even during the height of insecurity, continuous internal/external support is vital (Technical, moral and financial support).**
- 1. During the conflict, in the absence of legitimate government, environmental NGOs could be effective partners for external donors.**

6. Conclusion and policy recommendations

- 4. In resuming conservation and tourism activities, the support from the military was indispensable. tourism and security go hand in hand.**
- 5. Transboundary co-operation worked well from bottom-up rather than top-down. The top-down approach could create a vacuum at the local level.**

THANK YOU!



31
Photo by International Gorilla Conservation Programme