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Rwanda's National Great Apes Survival Plan

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Acronyms

ACNR	: Association for Conservation of Nature in Rwanda
AIMPO	: Action for Indigenous and Minority Peoples' Organisation
ARECO	: Association Rwanda for Ecologists
AREDI	: Association Rwanda for Integrated Development
CDC	: Communal Development Committees.
CICR	: International Committee for Red Cross
DFGFE	: Diana Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe
DFGFI	: Diana Fossey Gorilla Fund International
GRASP	: Great Apes Survival Project
ICCN	: Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature
IGCP	: International Gorilla Conservation Programme
INTERPOL	: International-Police
IRST	: Institute of Research, Science and Technology
ISAE	: Institute of Science, Agronomy and Livestock
ISAR	: Institute of Science, Agronomy and Research
KHI	: Kigali Health Institute
KIE	: Kigali Institute of Education
KIST	: Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management
MGCF	: Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund
MGVP	: Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
MINADEF	: Ministry of Defence
MINAFFET	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
MINAGRI	: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MINALOC	: Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Social Affairs.
MINEDUC	: Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Research
MINIJUST	: Ministry of Justice and Institutional Relations
MINICOFIN	: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINICOM	: Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Investment Promotion, Tourism and Cooperatives
MININFRA	: Ministry of Infrastructures
MININTER	: Ministry of Internal Security
MINISANTE	: Ministry of Health
MINITERE	: Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Natural Resources
ORTPN	: Office of Rwanda for Tourism in the National Parks
PCFN	: Project for the Conservation of Nyungwe Forest
PPPMR	: Project for Promotion of small and medium Rural Enterprises
PNV	: Volcanoes National Park
UNR	: National University of Rwanda
WCS	: Wildlife Conservation Society

SUMMARY

The future of great apes is not promising globally. Today, it is estimated that there are 399 mountain gorillas found in the Volcanoes National Park. In Nyungwe and Cyamudongo, the Chimpanzee population numbers is still not known but there are widely distributed in the forests. These great apes habitats are transboundary ecosystems; shared by D.R Congo and Uganda for the PNV and Burundi for the Nyungwe forest Reserve.

Chimpanzees and gorillas are both nationally and internationally recognised as endangered species. However, inspite of existing laws related to the conservation and protection of the Rwanda's forests (great ape habitats), there has been no specific plan for the conservation of the great apes.

The Rwandan great apes action plan is therefore developed firstly to raise awareness on the plight of great apes as well as conservation issues amongst stakeholders (decision makers, private sector, research instructions, local communities and marginalized groups). Secondly, the plan is to help identify priority areas of action for conservation programmes. Also, the Rwandan National Great Apes Survival Plan (NGASP) is to help the country comply with some provisions in the Convention on the Biological Diversity.

This action plan is a result of a consultative national workshop that brought together representatives of Government Ministries, UN agencies, local and international NGO's, ORTPN, local communities, marginalized groups, representatives of the neighbouring states and the Press, where key threats, actions for mitigation and priority areas for intervention were identified.

A 25-year long-term vision for each species was developed to ensure their effective conservation and protection. The long-term vision for the gorillas is *“to ensure that mountain gorillas are genetically viable, stable population at or near the carrying capacity that interfaces with the community in sustainable fashion”*. For the chimpanzees, is the *“co-existence of chimpanzees and communities around Nyungwe and Cyamudongo so that threats are minimised and communities benefit from the protection of the chimpanzees”*.

The action plan is divided into 4 parts. The first part looks at the distribution of great apes in the country and the actions of people involved in their conservation and protection. The second part highlights great apes threats and analyses root causes of the population decline. The third part is an analysis of existing policies, laws, regional and international agreements align to the conservation and protection of great apes. The fourth part looks at the long-term visions, goals, objectives and the proposed projects to halt the great ape threats in the country.

INTRODUCTION

Great Apes are an endangered species, and despite the various efforts in place attempting to conserve them and their habitats, these primates continue to be under threat due to their habitat destruction, poaching, and mining, amongst other threats. The Great Apes Survival project (GRASP) initiated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) takes on a more and holistic global approach in the struggle to conserve these endangered primates.

Its mission is, “ *To halt the decline in great ape populations by ensuring that all those who have something to contribute have the opportunity to do so.*” It encourages partnership between many different organizations. Twenty-three countries worldwide have great apes, but the developed world needs to be involved as well. The governments of the 23 countries have been invited to create a plan. GRASP encourages the involvement of 5 sectors of society; government, NGOs, private sector, academia, and communities living with great apes. Its goals are; lift the threat of immediate extinction by means of National Great Ape Survival Plan, raise the funds to implement these plans, develop global strategy to coordinate efforts to halt decline of Great Ape populations and ensure their long-term survival in their natural habitat. GRASP’s job is to advise governments on policy as well as assist with funding and implementation.

There are three taxa of great apes, namely chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans (*GRASP Partnership Strategy*). Rwanda, situated in central Africa is home to two taxa of great apes, namely gorillas and chimpanzees. The gorillas are found towards the northwest of the country in the Volcanoes National Park that borders the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. The second taxa, chimpanzees, are found in the south-western part of the country in Nyungwe Reserve Forest and Cyamudongo forest. Previously, Rwanda had no specific policy on great ape conservation. However, programmes aimed at conservation and protection of wildlife had long existed, with particular emphasis on great apes.

As far back as 1925, the government had the gorilla habitat declared a national park. The chimpanzee habitat has been a forest reserve since 1933, and is currently undergoing a process of being declared a national park. Office Rwanda for Tourism and National Parks (ORPTN) was established in 1973 to promote tourism in Rwanda, while protecting and conserving Rwanda’s wildlife including great apes.

These efforts to conserve the natural habitats for the great apes have continued with particular emphasis to the reactivation of the national structures. Of particular importance is the restructuring of the ORPTN that was recently subdivided into two bodies, one to deal with tourism (Rwanda Tourism Agency) and the other to deal with conservation (Rwanda Wildlife Agency). Equally important has been the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and ratification of many international agreements. Pertinent to this is the ratification of the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD) and CITES.

In addition, non-governmental organisation has been involved in research and other conservation activities. Much of information available today is a result of such efforts. However, these efforts along with those of the government have still not put a halt to the threats that cause decline in the species' numbers. Eminently, series of meetings to develop a policy specifically focussing on the great apes were held resulting into a workshop.

The workshop to develop the NGASP was organized by the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Natural Resources. It took place over a three-day period in Kibuye province, located in the North west of Rwanda. It involved key stakeholders in the protection and conservation of great apes.

PART I: DISTRIBUTION OF GREAT APES IN RWANDA

Only 2 species of great apes are found in Rwanda namely mountain gorillas and chimpanzees.

Mountain Gorillas

In Rwanda, gorillas are found only in Volcanoes National Park, which is part of the albertine rift. The park is found in the north west of the country and is a transboundary park. It is shared by Rwanda, Uganda and D.R Congo (see fig.1). This mountain gorilla habitat is the first zone to be gazetted as a protected area and a national park in Africa as per the Decree of 26th November 1925. Their past distribution is not known exactly. Mountain gorillas were first scientifically described in 1902 (discovered by Captain Oscar Von Beringei in 1902) as new species, *Gorilla beringei*. Then they were reclassified as the sub-species of *gorilla gorilla* until 2000, when genetic evidence supported the original classification as the separate species. The eastern lowland gorilla of eastern DR Congo is now regarded as the sub- species, *Gorilla beringei graueri* and the Virunga Mountain gorillas are now classified as *gorilla beringei beringei*.

Gorilla population trend is traced back as far as the late 1950s. In 1959-1960, gorilla population was estimated to be 450. Since that time however, the species began declining in number. Between 1971-1973, the population was known to be 275 and 268 between 1976-1978. In 1981, the population had reduced to 254. From that time, the species population steadily increased in number. In 1982, the gorilla population was believed to be 294 and estimated to be 399 in 2000. It is envisaged that with much awareness and better coordination mechanisms today, this positive trend is likely to persist.

Though a home for these rare species, PNV like any other park has lost much of its parkland. In 1960, the park size was 34 000 ha, in 1970, the park had reduced to 16 000 ha and to 15 000 ha in 1980. Between 1990-1996 the park size had reduced to 12 760 ha. Currently, the park size is estimated to be 12 500 ha. (Source, Dept of Forestry 2001)

Chimpanzees

Chimpanzees are found in Nyungwe Natural Forest Reserve, which is apart of the albertine rift, and Cyamudongo located to the west on Nyungwe. Both forests are located in the southwest of the country. Nyungwe forest is a transboundary ecosystem; it is shared by Rwanda and Burundi. Little is known about chimpanzee past distribution in Rwanda. Chimpanzees in Rwanda belong to the Central African sub-species *Pan troglodytes' schweinfurthii*. The process of gazetting Nyungwe as the country's third park is underway. The reserve acquired the national park status by the Ministerial Council of 5th November 1999.

Like PNV, Nyungwe and Cyamudongo have reduced substantially in size. In 1960 Nyungwe and Cyamudongo were 114 000. In 1970, Nyungwe forest had reduced to 108800 ha and to 97 500 ha between 1980 and 1990. The forest size further reduced to

94500 ha in 1996. Today, the forest is believed to be 92 400 ha. (Source, Dept of Forestry 2001).

Until recently, they were found in Gishwati forest but disappeared during the civil war and the resettlement of returnees/refugees in the forest in 1990.

Map showing distribution of Great Apes in Rwanda

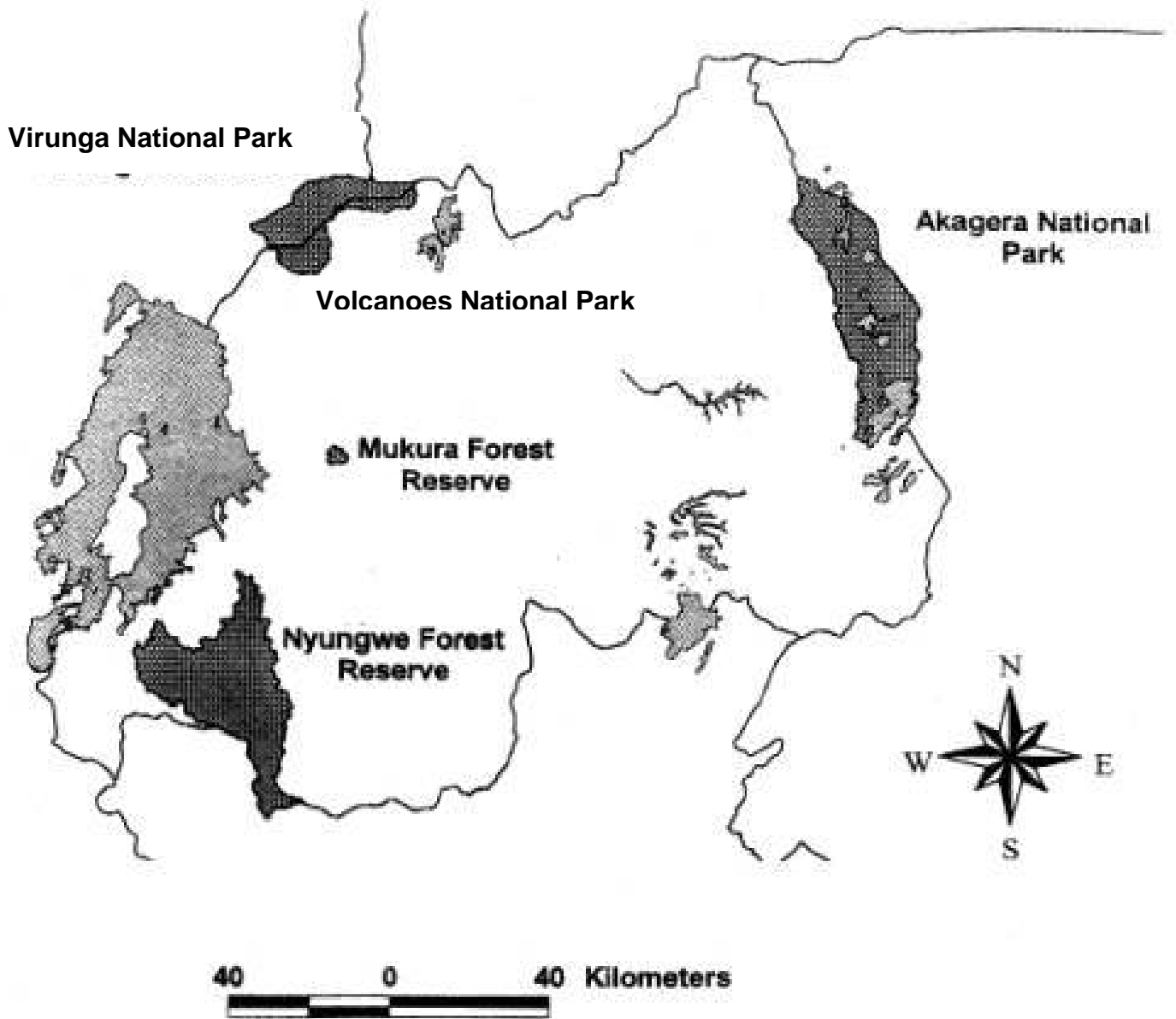


Fig. 1

A map showing the distribution of Chimpanzees in Nyungwe

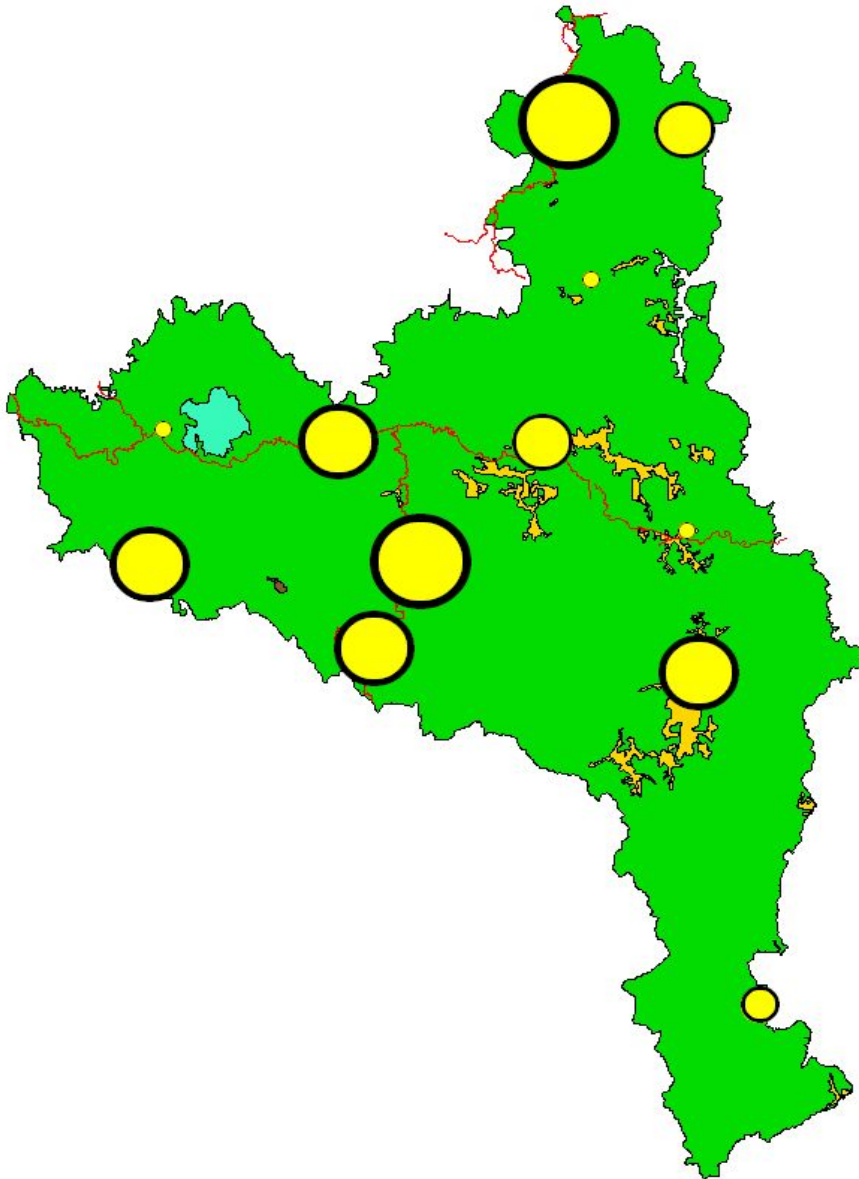


Fig. 2

The bigger the circle the higher the density

Stakeholders' analysis

This analysis involved identification of stakeholders, their interests, activities and impacts, and the intensity of the impacts to the 2 species. Although many stakeholders to the gorillas and chimpanzees were similar, they could not be tabulated together; interests, activities, impacts and intensities greatly differed.

Gorilla stakeholder analysis

Government Institutions

Ministries involved

STAKEHOLDERS	INTEREST	ACTIVITIES	IMPACT	INTENSITY
MINALOC	Promote social welfare	Sensitisation and decentralization	Positive, Positive	Low, Medium
MINITERE	Protection and conservation of biodiversity	Policy implementation, sensitisation and ratification of treaties	Positive, Positive	Medium
MINAGRI	Forest protection	Reforestation, sensitisation	Positive, Positive	Low
MININFRA	Water exploitation and electricity supply	Electrical supply and road building	Negative, Negative	Very high
MINICOM	Tourism	Development of tourism policy	Positive	Medium
MINADEF	Security	Support of park personnel	Positive	Very high
MINIJUST	Protection of PNV	Legislation and law enforcement	Positive	Low
MININTER	Security	Collaboration and collaboration with ORTPN, law enforcement	Positive	Medium
MINICOFIN	Poverty reduction	Policy development	Positive	Medium
MINEDUC	Education, Sensitisation and research	Student visits and field studies	Positive	Low
MINISANTE	Sanitation and Zoonoses	Diseases reporting and research w/t DFGFI and MGVP	Positive, Positive	Low
MINAFFET	Tourism promotion through international ambassadors	Communication, lobbying, coordination of conventions	Positive	Low

Parastatals involved

ORTPN	Management and Conservation	Anti-poaching patrols, training	Positive	High
UNR	Research	GIS, animal behaviour	Positive	Medium
IRST	Research	Animal relationship with people	Positive	Low
ISAR	Research	Community conservation	Positive	Medium

Non- Government Organisations

International NGOs and Agencies

IGCP	Conservation of Mt gorilla and their habitat	Supporting ORTPN, patrolling, training security personnel.	Positive	High
DFGFI	Conservation and Protection	Training rangers and trackers, research, etc	Positive	High
DFGFE	Community conservation	Creating alternatives sources of livelihood	Positive	High/medium
MGCF	Prevention of diseases	Monitoring	Positive	Low
MGVP	Prevention of diseases	Monitoring of human induced injuries to gorillas etc	Positive	High
CARE	Community conservation	Micro projects	Positive	Medium

Local Community and Community Based Organisations

CDC	Protection of PNV	Sensitisation, coordination and community development	Positive	Low
POACHERS	Resources	Hunting, trafficking of gorillas	Negative	High
WATER SEEKERS	Water resources	Water gathering	Negative	Medium
LOOGERS	Resources bamboo	Collecting bamboo	Negative	Medium
MEDICAL PLANTS GATHERES	Flora	Plant gathering	Negative	Medium
BEEKEEPERS	Beekeeping	Beehives in forest, honey collection	Negative	Medium

ARTISTS	Livelihood	Plant harvest in the forest	Negative	Medium
FARMERS	Land, farming	Agriculture	Negative	Medium
TOURISTS	Tourism	Gorilla visit, hiking	Positive/Negative	High
NATURE CLUBS	Protection	Sensitisation	Positive	Low
RESEARCHERS	Research	Research	Positive	High
HOTELOWNERS, TRAVEL AGENCIES	Tourism	Facilitating tourism	Positive	Medium
LOC. NGO's	Protection and Conservation	Community conservation	Positive	Medium
ARECO	Conservation of natural resources	Ecological conservation	Positive	Low/Medium
AIMPO	Conservation of the marginalized group	Providing alternative sources of income	Positive	Low/Medium

Chimpanzee Stakeholder Analysis

Government Institutions

Ministries involved

STAKEHOLDER	INTEREST	ACTIVITIES	IMPACT	INTENSITY
MINALOC	Decentralization	Policy making	Positive	Low
MINITERE	Conservation and protection of environment	Sensitisation, community awareness, policy and law making	Positive	Medium
MINAGRI	Conservation and protection of forests	Reforestation, education, policy making	Positive and negative	Low, high
MINICOM	Tourism marketing	Policies, promotion, and regulation	Positive	Medium
MINADEF	Security	Law enforcement	Positive	High
MININFRA	Development of infrastructure and management of natural resources	Road construction, policy making	Negative and positive	Low, low

MINALOC	Decentralization and governance	Policy making	Positive	Low
MININTER	Security	Law enforcement, policy making	Positive	Medium

Parastatals

ORTPN	Management and conservation	Monitoring and tourism coordination, anti-poaching patrols	Positive	High
UNR	Research and education	Research, teaching	Positive	Low

Non- Governmental Organisations

International NGOs and Agencies

USAID	Support to the conservation	Provision of funds	Positive	Low
EU	Community conservation	Training in conservation farming	Positive	Low
WCS	Research, conservation	Capacity building, awareness, monitoring, tourism management	Positive	Medium
UNDP/UNEP	Conservation of environment	Assistance in policy making and provision of funds	Positive	High

Local Community and Community Based Organisations

Indigenous Cultures	Livelihood	Hunting and plant collecting	Negative	Low
ACNR	Conservation of nature	Research	Positive	Low
Youth	Conservation of resources for future use	Sensitisation, raising awareness etc	Positive/Negative	Low/Medium
Artisans	Livelihood	Plant collection	Negative	Low
Practitioners of Traditional Medicine	Livelihood	Plant collection	Negative	Low
Miners	Livelihood	Mining	Negative	
Poachers	Livelihood	Hunting	Negative	Low
Farmers	Livelihood	Farming	Negative and positive	Low

Loggers	Livelihood	Logging	Negative	Low
Local Authorities	Law enforcement	Protection, education	Positive	Medium
Primate Safaris	Tourism	Promoting tourism	Positive	Low
Volcanoes Safaris	Tourism	Promote Tourism	Positive	Low/potential

PART II: GREAT APE THREATS IN RWANDA

Trade in great ape infants.

This is a rigorous trade that has surfaced recently in Rwanda mostly involving infant gorillas. During 2002, there were three known attempts to poach the infant mountain gorillas, during which a total of nine gorillas were either killed directly or died as a result of the poaching incident. These incidents were the first in Rwanda since the 1980's and represent a growing trend in the primate trafficking in the region. There has been also the perceived recent increase in the trafficking of other wildlife through Rwanda from the D.R Congo. This wildlife trade involves many primate species including the chimpanzee infants. It is assumed that the infant great are sold as pets or for research and for entertainment. As a result of these events, there has been an increase in anti-poaching efforts involving greater coordination and collaboration between relevant law enforcement agencies within Rwanda and also at the regional and international level. To date, as many as 20 culprits involved directly or indirectly were apprehended in two separate incidents. Four of them have been sentenced to 4 years in jail and fined 3 million Rwandan francs each.

Hunting

As great apes are generally not considered edible, hunting is not a direct threat to great apes in Rwanda. However, great apes are killed or injured directly by wire and lope snares targeted for other animals. This may result in the loss of limb or a slow death from gangrene or blood poisoning. Despite regular anti-poaching and the prohibition of all by law, this activity continues to be a significant threat to the great apes in Rwanda. In the Volcanoes National park, veterinary intervention is possible for the injuries occurring to the daily monitored gorillas as part of the tourism or research programs, no such intervention is possible with unhabituated gorillas or chimpanzees.

Encroachment and destruction of the habitats

Since the creation of the Albert National Park, now named the Volcanoes National Park, in 1925, the park has been reduced to substantially. The majority of this habitat loss was due to large multilateral funded agriculture projects and the conversion of the forestland for the growing of pyrethrum during 1980s. In recent years there have been proposals to convert some of the forestland for the much-needed agricultural land, and also a proposition to put a road in the park. In each case the value of the forest as a natural habitat for the mountain gorillas was recognised. The boundaries of the PNV are well delineated and there has been little encroachment in the recent years. A current threat to the gorilla habitat in the PNV is the proposition to construct electricity pylons to bring current to the radio antennae on the summit of Karisimbi Volcano.

During the 1998-99, the forest of Gishwati (28 000 ha), chimpanzee habitat was completely destroyed to provide agriculture land and to resettle many returnees/refugees particularly those who fled the country in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Currently only 600 ha of the forest remain.

In Nyungwe forest (having lost 81% of its forestland), stretches of the interior have been converted for the illegal propagation of the cannabis and for some other minor agricultural activities. Although there have been some efforts to reduce this illegal activity, more resources are required to address these issues.

Natural resource harvesting

Natural resources like bamboo, water, firewood, timber and other resources are regularly collected from great ape habitats. In the PNV all harvesting of natural resources is prohibited. However, given the difficulties of combating illegal activities by rangers in a forest environment, these illegal activities persist. In Nyungwe the issue of resource collection is more complex due to a high population density around the forest (300-400 people/sqkm) and its high dependence on the natural resources.

In Nyungwe forest there is a buffer zone where the park is attempting to manage the local population access to resources. The placement of the beehives in the protected areas and the smoking out of wild bees nests results into the destruction of trees and the occasional bush fire. Forest fires have been a particular problem at Nyungwe forest.

The general state of poverty and the lack of tangible alternatives for the local peoples livelihoods are some of the key factors driving illegal activities in the great are habitats.

Mining

Despite being illegal, mining of *Colombo tantalite* and gold is a major problem in Nyungwe Forest Reserve. Large parts of the forest have been destroyed through erosion because excavated land is left open and no environmental rehabilitation is done thereafter.

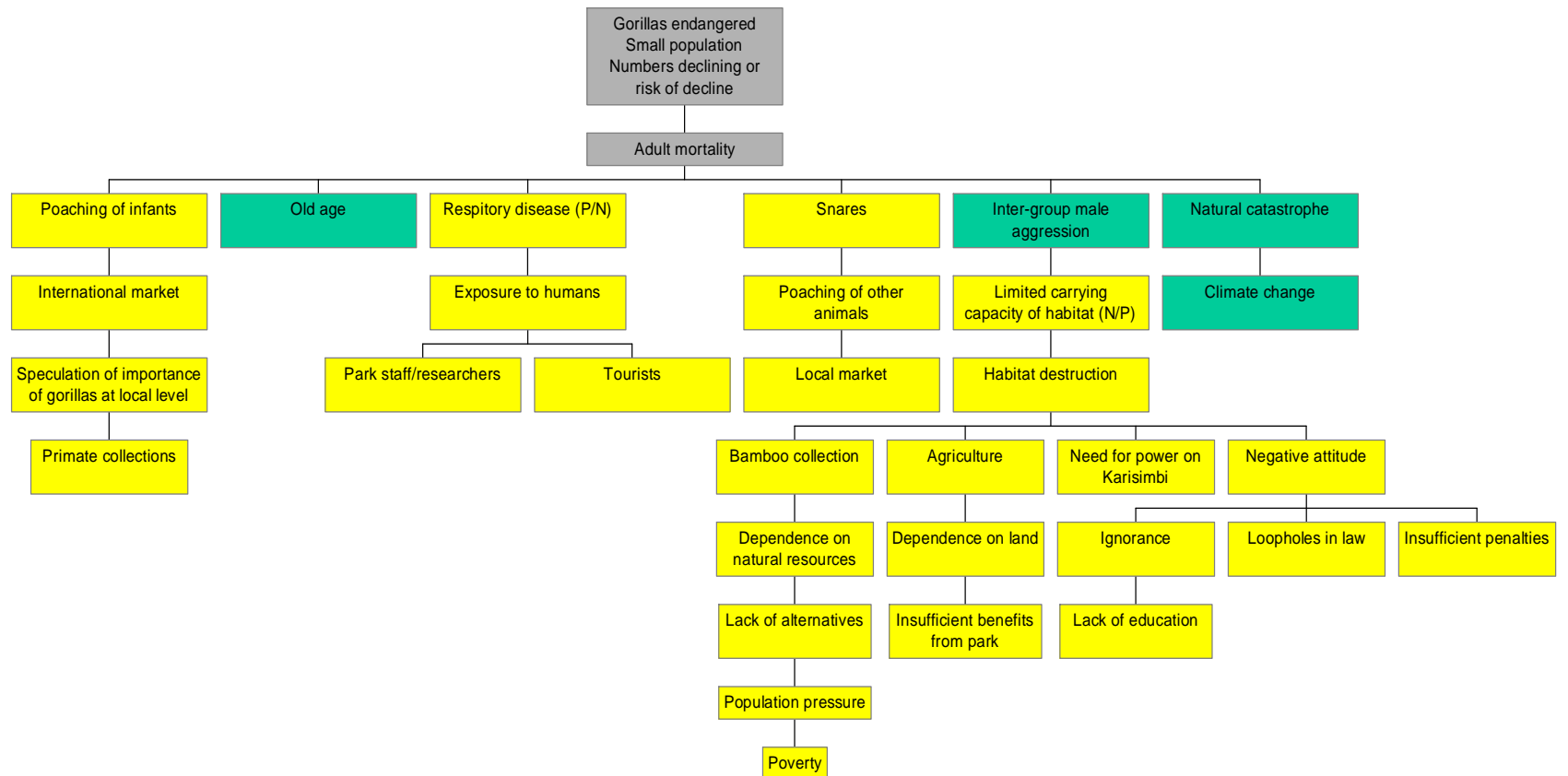
Disease transmission

The transmission of diseases from humans is a risk for great ape groups habituated for tourism or research. Given the close genetic relationship between great apes and humans, great apes are susceptible to many of the same diseases as humans. Of particular concern are the respiratory diseases. Protocols are in place to govern tourism and researcher visits to the gorillas in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Visitors must remain at the distance greater than 7m and are prevented from visiting the gorillas if showing any sign of illness.

Problem Trees

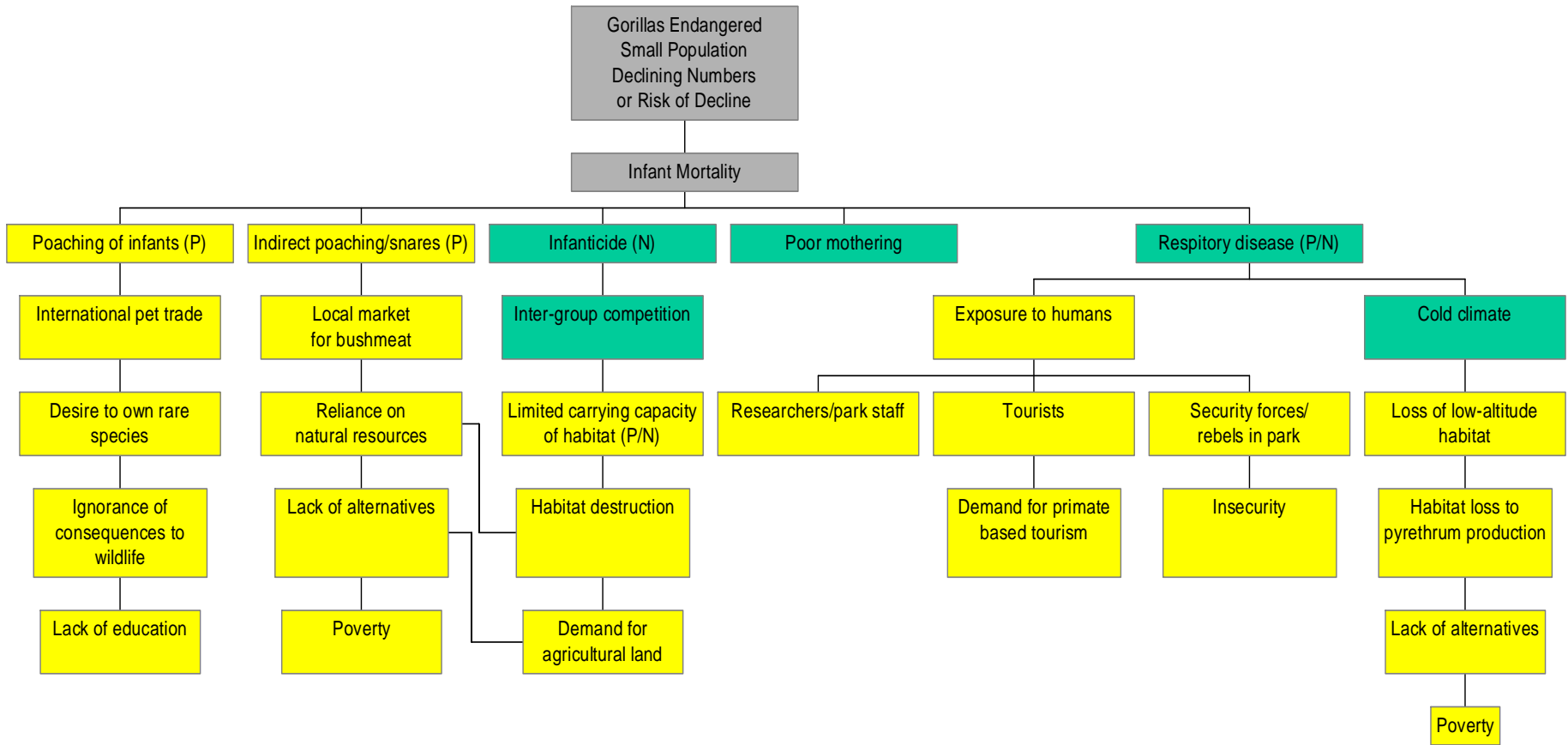
Problem trees were developed to identify the root causes of the identified great apes threats in Rwanda using cause-effect analysis. The development was based on the premise that the great apes are endangered in Rwanda because their populations are low, susceptible to high risk for decline.

Gorilla Problem Tree—Adult Mortality



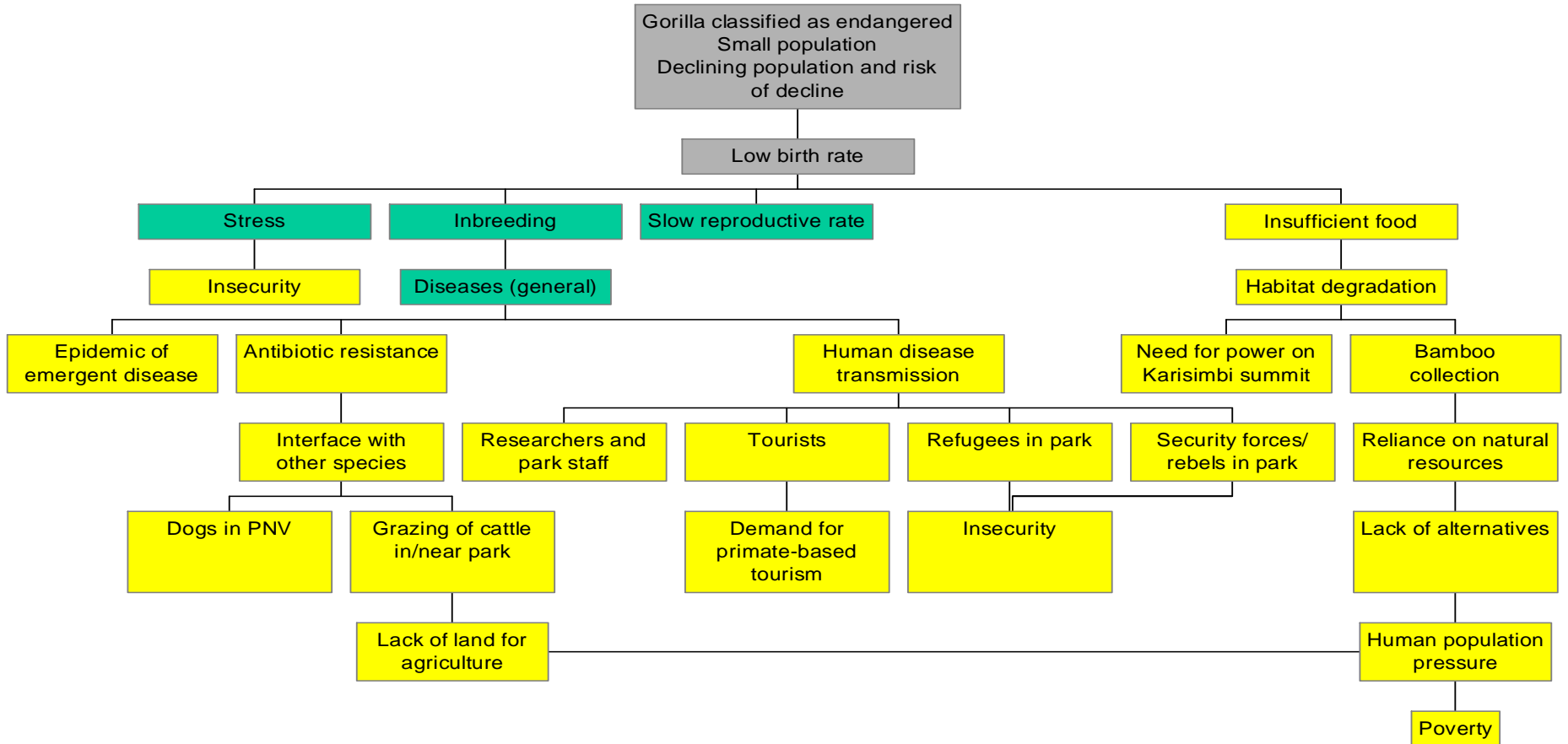
Human cause
 Natural cause

Gorilla Problem Tree – Infant Mortality

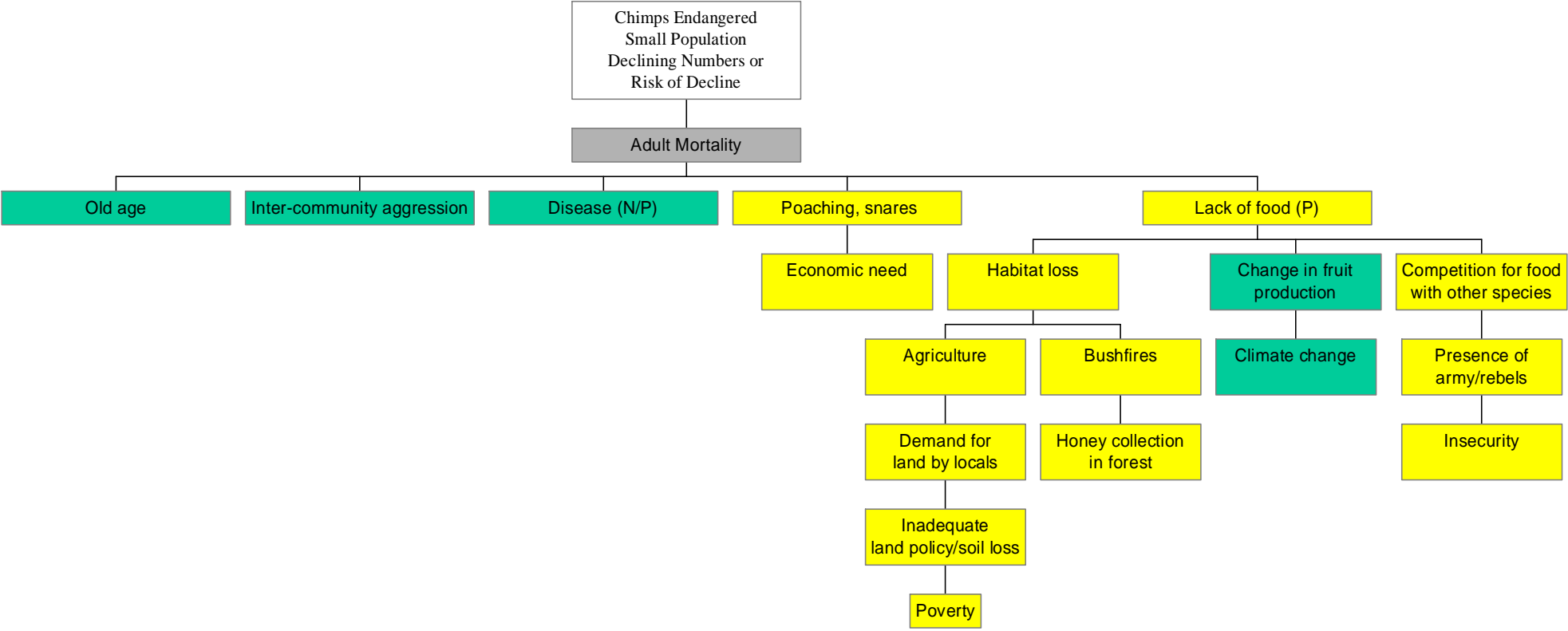


Human cause
 Natural cause

Gorilla Problem Tree—Low Birth Rate

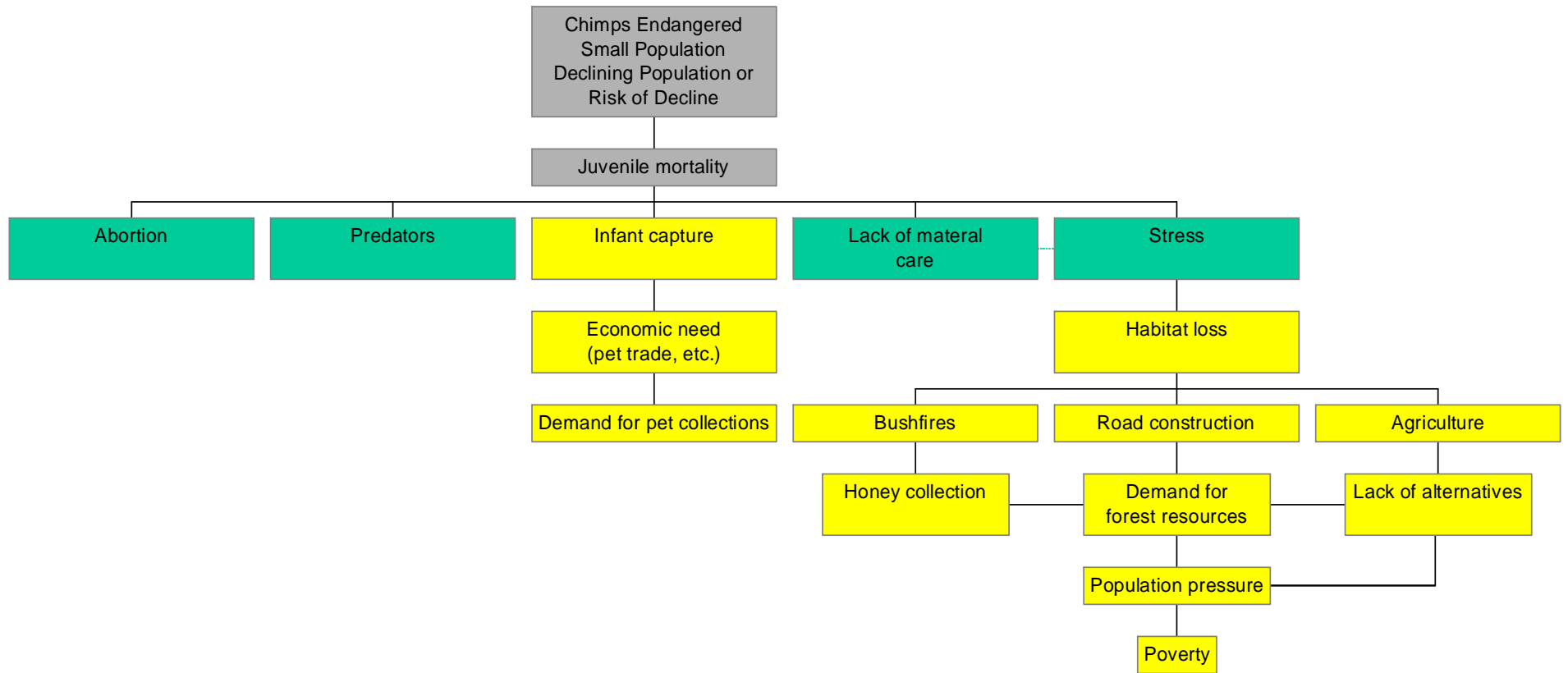


Chimpanzee Problem Tree – Adult Mortality



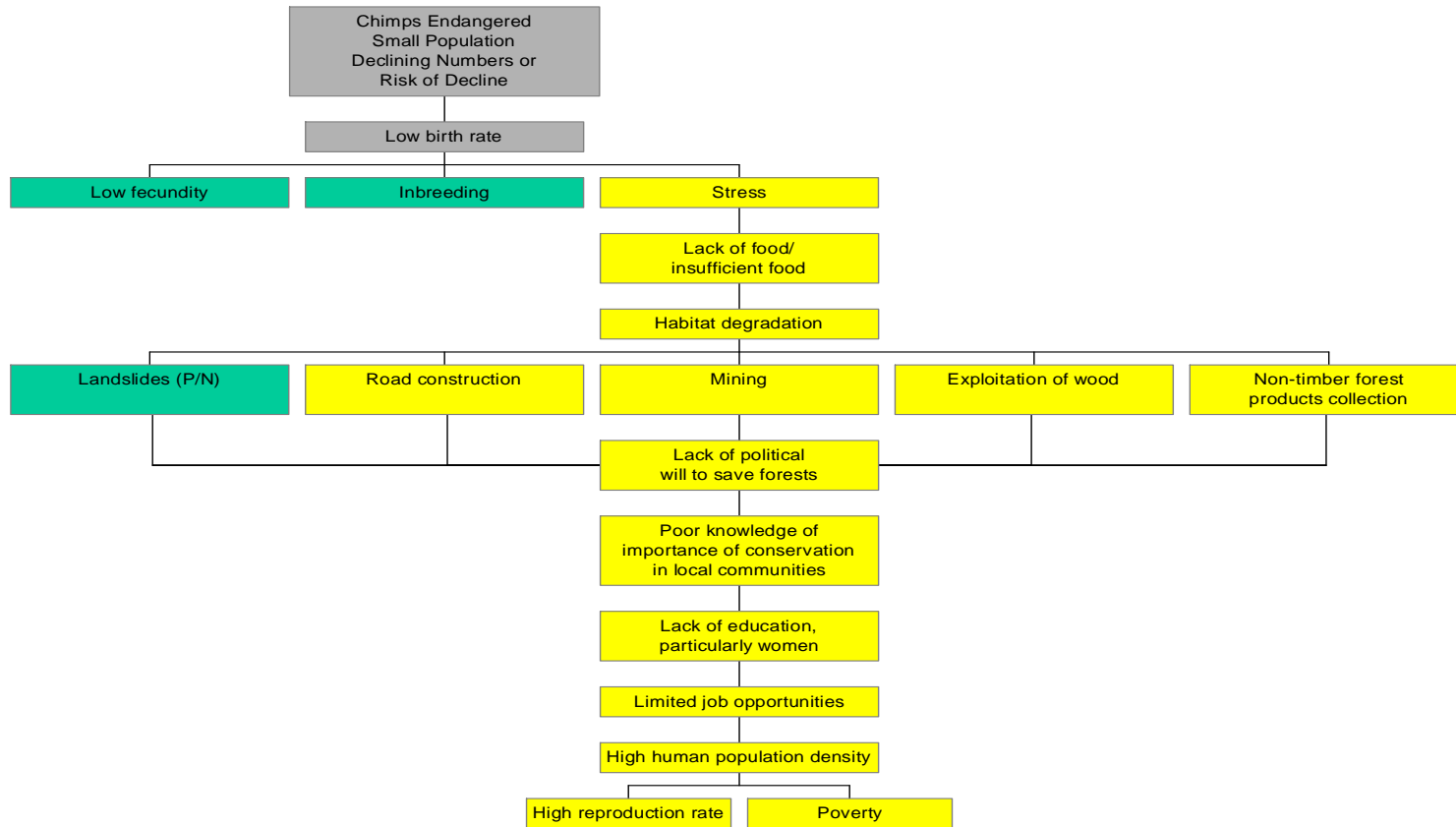
Human cause
 Natural cause

Chimpanzee Problem Tree – Juvenile Mortality



- Human cause
- Natural cause

Chimpanzee Problem Tree – Low Birth Rate



Human cause
 Natural cause

PART III: POLICY AND LAW ANALYSIS

It involves critical identification of relevant national policies and laws as well as the international agreements that Rwanda is a signatory to and their effects to the conservation and protection of gorillas and chimpanzees in the country.

Gorilla and Chimpanzee Policy Analysis

POLICIES AND POLICY DRAFTS	EFFECT	DIRECT/INDIRECT IMPACT	POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT
National Environmental Policy	Environmental protection	Direct	Positive	Potential
Decentralization Policy	Natural resource protection	Direct	Positive	Low
National Forest Policy (Draft)	Promotes forest protection	Direct	Positive	Potential
National Land Policy (Draft)	Sustainable land use	Indirect	Positive	Low
National Water Policy (Draft)	Sustainable use of water	Indirect	Positive	Low
Vision 2020	Conservation of resources	Indirect	Positive	Low
National Forest Policy (Draft)	Promotes forest protection	Direct	Positive	Potential
National Land Policy (Draft)	Sustainable land use	Indirect	Positive	Low
National Water Policy (Draft)	Sustainable use of water	Indirect	Positive	Low
Vision 2020	Conservation of resources	Indirect	Positive	Low
Tourism Policy (In preparation)	Promote sustainable tourism	Direct	Positive	High
Mining Policy (in preparation)	Sustainable mining	Direct	Positive	Potential
Community Cultural Beliefs	Conservation of the great apes	Direct	Positive	High

National laws and bills

National Environmental Law- Art. 97 Prohibits poaching, damaging habitats and felling trees in PAs without permission.	Conserves great apes and their habitats and General Environmental protection.	Direct	Positive	Low/ potentially High
PNV Creation	Creation of protected habitat, protection of indigenous species	Direct	Positive	High
ORTPN Creation-law	Protection of gorillas, tourism promotion, increase of income, implication of involvement of local communities, research promotion	Direct	Positive,	High,
National Settlement Bill Art.12 prohibits settling in natural reserved areas.	Habitat protection	Direct	Positive	Low/ Potentially High
National Land Bill- Art.12 PAs are State lands.	Protection of wildlife Habitats	Direct	Positive	Medium/ Potentially High
National Wetland Bill	Protection of wetlands in and outside PAs	Direct	Positive	High
Mining Law- No 68/03 of 5/12/2001. Art. 11 competent authorities issue out mining permits. (New law in preparation)	Sustainable exploitation of Minerals.	Direct and Indirect	Negative/ Positive	Low
National Constitution Art. 30 and 49	Protection of natural resources	Direct	Positive	Medium

Ordinance 52 N° 11/1982 of 30/3/1982 Prohibits burning Bushes	Prohibits burning	Direct	Positive	High
Ordinance 83, Creation of Nyungwe and Gishwati as National Reserve Forests	Protection of Nyungwe and Gishwati	Direct	Positive	High

Regional and International agreements

CITES- Appendix 1 prohibits international trade (general) in endangered species.	Controls trade in endangered species and their products-Great Apes inclusive.	Direct	Positive	High
CMS	Migratory species protection	Indirect	Positive	Low
CBD	Conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and access to benefit sharing.	Indirect	Positive	Low
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Conservation of biodiversity.	Indirect	Positive	Low
RAMSAR	Biodiversity conservation	Indirect	Positive	Low
International Climate Convention	Natural resource protection	Direct	Positive	M/High
ACNRC	Conservation of natural resources	Indirect	Positive	Low
CEFDHAC	Conservation of rainforests	Indirect	Positive	Low
Other agreements potential but not signed				
UNESCO/MAB	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
WHC	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential

PART IV: VISIONS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The country vision on the environment is to ease pressure on the natural resources (source, Vision 2020).

Gorillas

25-Year Vision

Ensure that mountain gorillas are genetically viable, stable population at or near the carrying capacity that interfaces with the community in a sustainable fashion

5-Year Goal

Reduce the immediate threats to gorillas, increase local communities benefits from tourism, and ensure sustainable ecotourism

Objectives to achieve the goals

1. Protect and conserve PNV, at least within the current limits of the park, by diminishing poaching and other illegal activities.
2. Increase the benefits to local communities from conservation, as well as increase local support for conservation.
3. Increase sensitisation to conservation issues at the local and political levels.
4. Continue and increase research and monitoring for the gorillas and their habitat.
5. Improve human, gorilla and livestock health standards; diminish disease amongst the gorillas through control of Zoonoses and gorilla/livestock interaction.
6. Increase tourism revenue through sustainable ecotourism.

Development of the Projects

Projects were developed to achieve the objectives identified. They were extracted from the problem trees developed to identify the root cause of the great ape threats in the country. Some projects were short, medium and long term while others were identified as on going. i.e. short-term- less than 1 year, medium term-1-2 years and long-term 2-5 years

Gorilla projects

Objective: Protect and conserve PNV

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	POSSIBLE AGENCY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT
Improve coordination and awareness of law enforcement (regional, national and international) between agencies (parks, police, customs, Interpol)	High	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, MINITERE, MINICOM, MINILOC, IGCP DFGFI, POLICE, ICCN, DOUANE, UWA, INTERPOL
Increase efficiency and coordination of anti-poaching patrols (national, regional)	Very high	1 year	\$\$\$	ORTPN, IGCP, MINITERE, MINICOM, MININTER, INTERPOL MINAGRI, DFGFI, DFGFE, MINALOC, Dev. NGOs
Create buffer zones around PNV	Very high	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, ICCN, UWA, IGCP, MINICOM, MINITERE MINAFET, MINADEF, MININFRA
Formalize trans-boundary collaboration	High	5 years	\$\$\$ ^s	ORTPN, IGCP, UWA, ICCN, MINICOM, MINAFFET, MINADEF, MININFRA
PNV management plan	High	1 years	\$\$	ORTPN, IGCP, DFGFI, MGVP, DFGFE, COMMUNITIES, PROVINCE, DISTRICTS
Sustainable finance plan	Medium	2 years	\$\$	ORTPN, MINITERE

Objective: Increase conservation sensitivity at the local and political level

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Promote an environmental education program, and public sensitisation (schoolchildren, etc.)	High	Ongoing	\$\$\$	ORTPN, MINEDUC, MINITERE, IGCP, DFGFI, DFGFE, CDC, LOC. NGO's, MGCF
Produce conservation films/documentaries	Medium	2 years	\$\$	ORTPN, IGCP, MINICOM, DFGFI, DFGFE, LOC. NGO's, MINALOC
Organize conferences and debates to collaborate with national political authorities and military	Medium	Ongoing	\$\$	MINALOC, ORTPN, MINICOM, MINITERE, MININTER, ANICO-COCO, LOC. NGO's, CHURCHES

^s \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Create a lottery for the promotion of social tourism (cheaper gorilla visits)	Medium	1 year	\$	ORTPN, MINALOC, LOC. NGO's
Create gorilla promotion season	Medium	Annual	\$\$ ^s	IGCP, ORTPN, DFGFI, DFGFE, MGVP, MGCF, LOC. NGO's

Objective: Increase benefits to and from the local community

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Create community conservation plan	High	1 year	\$\$	ORTPN, DFGFE, IGCP, CARE, DISTRICTS, LOC. COMMUNITIES
Promote fire-efficient stoves	Medium	1 year	\$	MINITERE, ORTPN, PROVINCES, DISTRICTS, DFGFE
Develop community Enterprise	Low	On going	\$\$	ORTPN, PROVINCES, DISTRICTS
Establish micro-credit system	Medium	1 year	\$\$	MINALOC, DFGFE, PPPMR, WORLD VISION, CONCERN, CARITAS, TURIMBERE, AQUADEV
Collection of water within the park using pipes and organize rainwater collection system for the dry season	High	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, IGCP, DFGFE, MININFRA, UNICEF, CICR, LOC. NGO's
Develop small livestock farming (goats, sheep)	Medium	2 years	\$\$\$	MINAGRI, ORTPN, DFGFE, DFGFI, IGCP, LOC. NGO's
Develop agro forestry	Medium	5 years	\$\$	MINAGRI, ISAR, CARE, ORTPN, DFGFE, IGCP, LOC. NGO's
Introduce revenue-sharing system	High	1 year	\$\$\$	ORTPN, IGCP, MINICOM, PROVINCE, CDC
Develop cultural activities	Medium	1 year	\$	ORTPN, DFGFE, MIJESPOC, IGCP, LOC. NGO's
Promote the work of local artisans	Low	1 year	\$	MINICOM, IGCP, PROVINCE, PPPMR, DFGFE, LOC. NGO's
Develop modern beekeeping practices	Low	5 years	\$\$	IGCP, ORTPN, PPPMR, DFGFE, MINITERE, LOC. NGO's

^s \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Develop traditional medicine around PNV	Low	5 years	\$	ORTPN, IGCP, IRST, UNR, LOC. NGO's
Environnemental economic study of PNV	Medium	On going	\$	MINITERE, IGCP, ORTPN

Objective: Increase research and monitoring

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Census of gorillas and large mammals	Medium	3 months	\$\$\$	ORTPN, DFGFI, IGCP, UWA, ICCN, ITFC, DFGFE, WCS, MGCF, MINADEF, PPP
Increased understanding of gorilla ecosystem	High	1 year	\$\$\$	DFGFI, NUR, ORTPN, IGCP
Investigate carrying capacity of gorilla habitat, climate change and vegetation monitoring	Medium	2 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, NUR, ORTPN, IGCP
Investigate inbreeding	Medium	2 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI
Stress impact	Medium	2 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, ORTPN
Long term behaviour and demographic study	Medium	5 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, ORTPN
Causes and effects of crop raiding	Low	2 years	\$\$	ORTPN, DFGFI, WCS, IGCP
Gorilla health monitoring	Medium	1 year	\$\$	ORTPN, DFGFI, IGCP, MGVP
Environmental impact assessment for pylons up Karisimbi	Low	1 year	\$\$	MININFRA, CONTRACTOR, MINITERE, ELECTROGAZ, CONSTRUCTION PARTNERS
Environmental economics study of PNV	Low	1 year	\$\$	IGCP, ORTPN
Environmental impact assessment on water resource management in and around PNV	Low	1 year	\$\$\$	MINITERE, MININFRA, MINALOC, ORTPN, IGCP, DFGFI, WCS, MGVP, ELECTROGAZ, PROVINCE, DISTRICTS
Ranger-based monitoring	High	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, DFGFI, IGCP
Encourage role of national research establishments in gorilla conservation	Medium	5 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, NUR, ORTPN, IGCP, MINEDUC

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Create great ape database	Low	1 year	\$\$\$ ^s	CONTRACTOR
Capacity building of resident scientists	Low	5 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, NUR, ORTPN, IGCP, MINEDUC

Objective: Improve health standards and minimize disease transmission

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Create a community health fund for PNV neighbouring population	Very High	1 year	\$\$\$ /\$\$	PRIME II, MINISANTE, MINALOC, MGVP, ORTPN
Support for veterinary care for farmers living near PNV	Medium	2 years	\$\$	ORTPN, MGVP, MINAGRI, DISTRICTS, LOC. NGO's, ISAE
Support modern livestock intensive farming system (zero-grazing system)	Low	5 years	\$\$\$	MINAGRI, ISAR, PROVINCE, DFGFE, ISAE, LOC. NGO's
Insert conservation in the local health curriculum	High	5 years	\$\$/\$	MGVP, UNR, KHI, MINISANTE, MINEDUC
Finalize disease contingency plan	High	1 year	\$	IGCP, MGVP, MGCF, DFGFI
Continue with employee health program and monitoring of park personnel health	Low	On going	\$\$\$	MINISANTE, MGVP, ORTPN
Refuse collection throughout park and removal of alien species	Very high	1 year	\$	ORTPN, IGCP, MINADEF, MGVP, DFGFI

Objective: Increase tourism revenue

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Diversify and develop tourism products	High	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, MINICOM, NGO's, PRIVATE SECTOR
Professional development of tourist guides	Low	1 year	\$	ORTPN, IGCP, DFGFI, PRIVATE SECTOR

^s \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME (YEARS)	COST	AGENCY
Improve tourism infrastructure	Medium	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, MININFRA, MINITERE
Ecotourism development plan for PNV and Virunga region	High	1 year	\$\$\$ ^{\$}	ORTPN, UWA, ICCN, IGCP, MINICOM, MINITERE, PRIVATE SECTOR, NGO's, PRIVATE SECTOR, KIST, MINALOC, MGVP, PROVINCE, DISTRICTS
Interpretation center	Medium	1.5 years	\$\$\$	DFGFI, ORTPN, MGVP, IGCP and PARTNERS
National Great Apes Data Base	Medium	1 year	\$\$\$	MINITERE, ORTPN, MINICOM, DFGFI, DFDGE, IGCP, PRIVATE SECTOR, PROVINCES, DISTRICTS, MGVP, NGOs and all PARTNERS

^{\$} - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

Chimpanzees

25-Year Vision

Co-existence of chimpanzees and communities around Nyungwe and Cyamudongo so that threats are minimized and communities benefit from the protection of chimpanzees

5-Year Goal

The valuation and conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda is significantly improved

Objectives to achieve the goals

1. Area of degraded habitat reduced and no further loss of habitat
2. Laws and policies related to chimpanzees and their habitat are promoted, implemented and enforced
3. Awareness and pride of the importance of chimpanzees and their habitat is increased
4. Community livelihoods improved around chimpanzees habitats through conservation
5. Status trends and biology of chimpanzees better understood
6. Protection and management of Nyungwe and Cyamudongo improved

Chimpanzees projects

Objective- Laws and policies related to the Chimpanzee and their habitat are promoted, implemented and enforced.

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	POSSIBLE AGENCY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT
Multiplication of law and policy documents and distribution to all stakeholders and awareness training especially to law enforcement personnel	High	3-5 years	\$\$	MINITERE, MINICOM, MINALOC, MINECOFIN, MINAGRI, MINIJUST, MININTER, ORTPN
Promote the creation of Nyungwe and Cyamudongo as National parks, and investigate with UNESCO if Nyungwe can become a world heritage site or a biosphere reserve	Medium	1-2 years	\$	MINICOM, MINAFFET, MINITERE, ORTPN, WCS
Develop a policy for placement of confiscated specimens	Very high	5 years	\$	MINICOM, MINITERE, ORTPN, GRASP

⁵ \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

Objective – awareness and pride of the importance of Chimpanzees and their habitats Increased.

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	AGENCY
Introducing the chimpanzee education into the school curriculum	High	5 years	\$\$\$	MINEDUC, ORTPN, UNR, MINITERE, WCS, PCFN
Education of the local communities on the importance of the chimpanzees and their habitat	High	4-5 years	\$\$\$	MINALOC, MINITERE, ORTPN, WCS/PCFN
Promotion of chimpanzee conservation amongst decision makers at national and district level	High	5 years	\$\$	MINITERE, MINALOC, ORTPN, WCS/PCFN
Promote chimpanzee conservation at international level to attract tourism (films, posters, fliers etc)	High	5 years	\$\$\$	MINICOM, ORTPN, WCS/PCFN
Reduce military impact on chimps through education	Very high	5 years	\$\$\$	MINADEF, MINITERE, MININTER, MINALOC, ORTPN, WCS/PCFN

Objective- community livelihoods improved around chimp habitat through conservation

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	AGENCY
Habituation of chimps to promote community tourism especially in Cyamudongo	Very high	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, WCS/PCFN
Develop tourism programs to provide revenue to communities	High	2-3 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, WCS/PCFN
Improve the use of buffer zones so that they provide benefits to communities	High	3-5 years	\$\$\$	MINAGRI, ORTPN, MINALOC, MINITERE
Develop programs for sustainable of harvest medicinal plants	Medium	2 years	\$\$	ORTPN, UNR, IRST, Batwa community, Tourism companies, WCS
Investigate ways in which Batwa can better be integrated into and benefit from the conservation of Nyungwe and implementation of the ideas	Medium	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, WCS/PCFN, Batwa community, MINALOC, MINITERE
Create community hiking services for Congo-Nile trail in Nyungwe	Low	3-5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, WCS/PCFN, Communities around Nyungwe
Grow bamboo outside of Nyungwe to increase community income and reduce illegal cutting	Medium	5 years	\$\$\$	ORTPN, CARE,

^{\$} - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

Objective- area of degraded habitat reduced and no further loss of the habitat

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	AGENCY
Regeneration of the burned zones	High	5 years	\$\$\$	WCS, ISAR, UNR, ORTPN
Strengthen the anti-poaching team	Very high	5 years	\$\$	WCS, ORTPN, MININTER
Work with the beekeeper associations to improve honey production and marketing and reduce illegal activities	High	5 years	\$\$\$ ^s	WCS, ORTPN, ARDI
Improve the community use of the buffer zones (plant bamboo outside the park)	Medium	3 years	\$\$	ORTPN, WCS, ISAR, MINITERE
Working the Ministry of Agriculture reduce illegal cutting of the forest	Very high	5 years	\$\$	ORTPN, ISAR, WCS, UNR, MINITERE

Objective- status, trends and biology of the chimps better understood.

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	AGENCY
Survey and monitor chimpanzee population	High	2 years	\$\$\$	WCS, ORTPN, NUR, KIE, GRASP
Feeding ecology of chimpanzees	Medium	3 years	\$\$\$	GRASP, WCS, ORTPN, NUR, KIE
Habituation of chimpanzees in Cyamudongo	Medium	5 years	\$\$	WCS, ORTPN
Monitor climate change	Medium	5 years	\$\$	WCS, ORTPN, MININFRA
Monitor health of chimpanzees in Habituated communities, guides/staff park	High	2 years	\$	WCS, MINISANTE, MGVP

^s \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

Objective—Protection and management of Nyungwe and Cyamudongo improved.

PROJECTS	PRIORITY	TIME	COST	Agency
Develop a management plan	Medium	1 year	\$\$\$ [§]	MINITERE, MINAGRI, ORTPN, WCS, MINICOM, MINALOC, AREDI, ARPET, MINIJUST, ANICO
Continue the range-based management and provide analysis regularly	Medium	5 years	\$\$	ORTPN, WCS
Strengthen anti-poaching team	Very high	5 years	\$\$	WCS, ORTPN, MININTER
Strengthen the capacity of ORTPN/RNN staff	High	5 years	\$\$	WCS, ORTPN, Travel Agencies
Create community conservation units to link ORTPN with communities	High	1 year	\$\$	ORTPN, ANICO, AREDI
Create a coordination committee to encourage regular planning between ORTPN and it's partners	Low	1 year	\$	ORTPN

[§] \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000

Annex 1

GRASP WORKSHOP FOR RWANDA, Kibuye, Bethanie (28-30/7/2003)

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^s \$ - Less than US\$ 10,000, \$\$- US\$ 10,000-50,000, \$\$\$- More than US\$ 50,000