

Information Sharing Workshop of ITFC-UWA

23-24 February 2010 – Lake Mburo Education Centre

**Status and Ecology of the Golden Monkey
(*Cercopithecus mitis kandti*) in Mgahinga Gorilla
National Park – A Community Approach to
Conservation**



Assessing the effectiveness of conservation

- Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
- Current Research
- Conservation of the Golden Monkey
- Mgahinga Community Development Organisation (MCDO)
- Evaluation
- Conclusion



Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

- Area of high endimicity e.g. golden monkey.
- Gazetted in 1991.
- Some community conflict when setting up the park.
- Important geographic location – habitat area shared with three countries.



Conservation Through Research

- Who is conservation for, the species or us?
- The natural world is a finite resource. We must protect and develop it in a sustainable way for future generations.
- Conservation is about looking at the whole ecosystem, not just one species.
- Research provides the information needed for future conservation decisions.
- Conservation brings together the wider community providing employment, tourism and education.



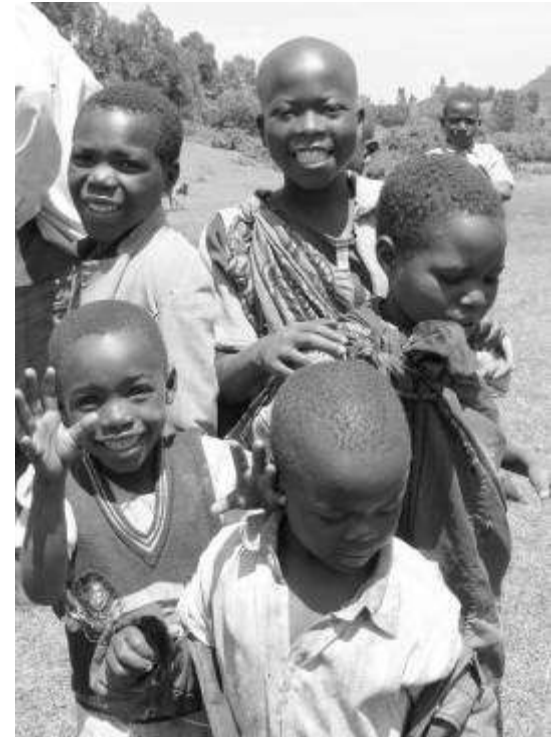
The Status and Ecology of the Golden Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis kandti*)

- **Status – IUCN Red List: Endangered**
- **Research Focus**
 - Population status – is the population still declining?
 - Habitat requirements?
 - Threats?
- **The research will provide information to:**
 - conserve this primate in its natural environment;
 - monitor the ecosystem and the fauna and flora within it; and
 - allow management plans to be put in place to sustain it and to prepare for any future changes within the environment.



Conservation Through Community Involvement

- MCDO provides community engagement for those living round the National Park.
- Our projects help to alleviate the pressure on National Park resources.
- MCDO's aim is to protect Uganda's Natural Heritage through supporting the communities around Mgahinga conservation area.



MCDO Projects

- Education – student support and wildlife club;
- Veterinary projects / animal welfare;
- Tourism to provide economic opportunities for the local area; and
- Golden monkey research.
- Ugandan and international volunteers are able to work on the golden monkey project and the MCDO's other work, bringing in new ideas such as tree planting and alternative fuel projects.



Evaluation

Current measurements:

- The community's attitude to conservation;
- Participation of the local schools in wildlife clubs; and
- Welfare of local domestic animals.

Future measurements:

- Population of golden monkey;
- Incidence of disease in the area crossing between humans, domestic animals and wildlife; and
- Increased tourism.



Conclusion

- The golden monkey has a key role in the future of the park and the development of the surrounding communities.
- Community involvement in conservation is important to ensure success.
- Management actions should be based on up to date information.
- Knowledge should be shared to ensure effective conservation.



END

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