

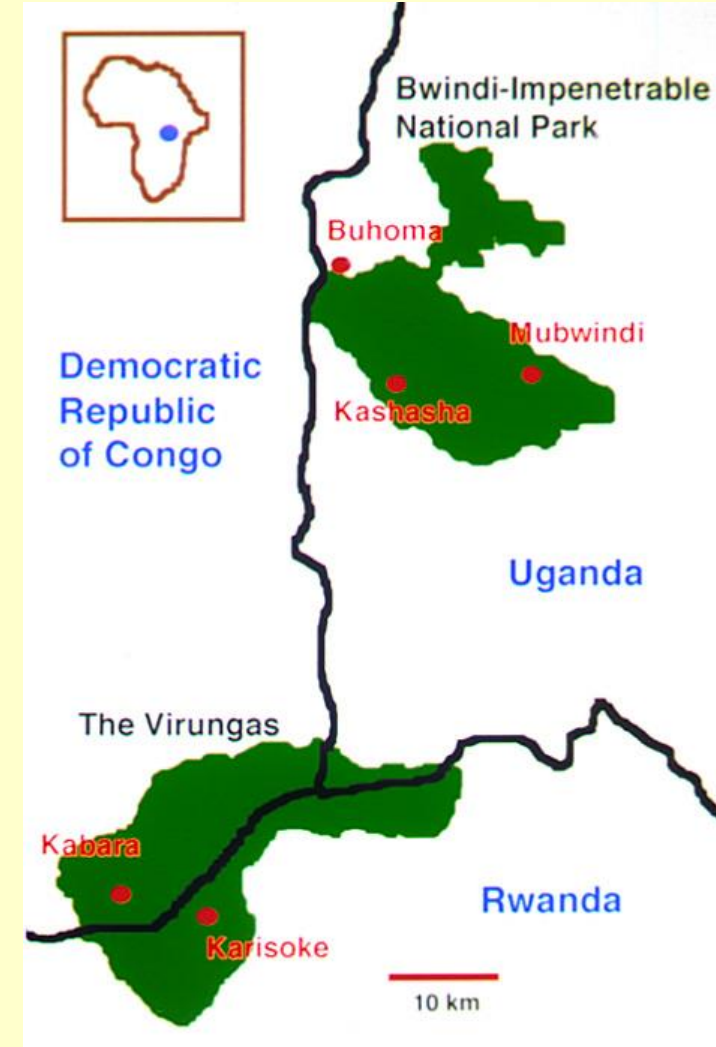
Session 4. Community-centred approaches. Can evidence turn the tide?

Local action for local health. What we can learn from gorillas.

Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, CEO, Conservation through Public Health, Uganda

Key achievements

Conservation through Public Health. Mountain gorillas in Uganda



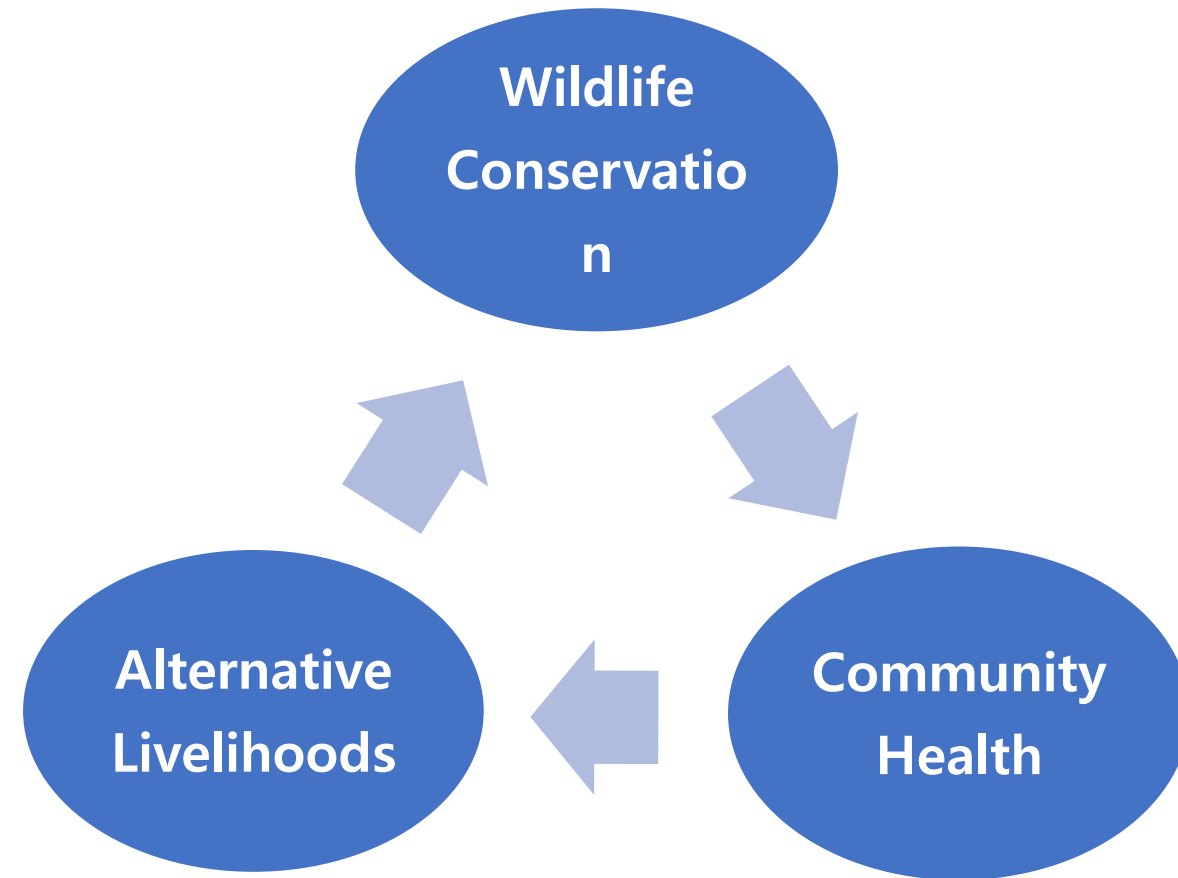
Threats to all gorilla subspecies:

Habitat loss and poaching; disease and human/wildlife conflict



One Health in Uganda

Conservation Through Public Health: We keep people, gorillas and other wildlife healthy and their habitats secure



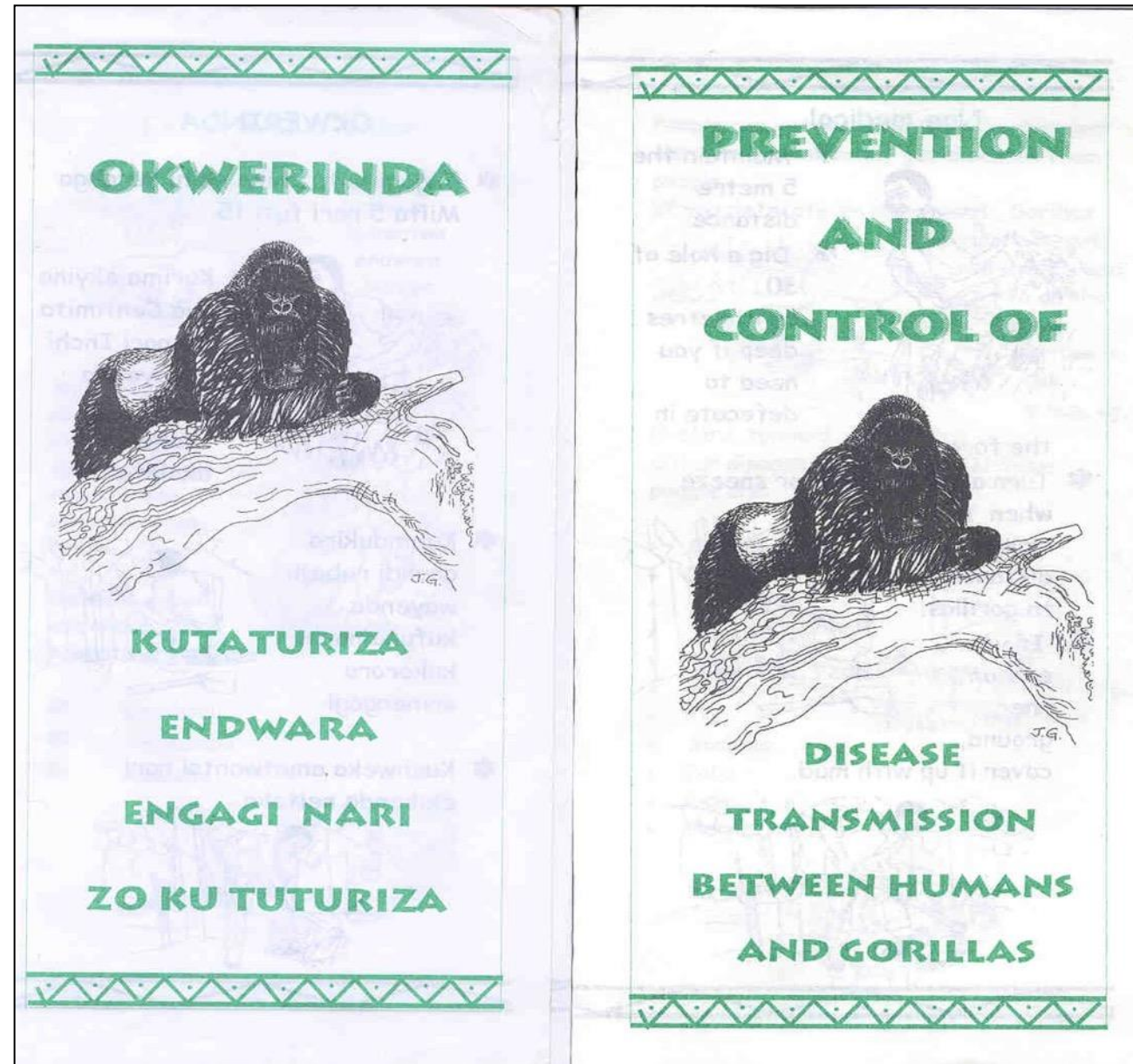
Research update

- Comparative disease investigations between people, wildlife and livestock
- Protects gorillas and helps to monitor and evaluate the impact of our community health programs
- Kalema-Zikusoka G, Rubanga A, Mutahunga B and Sadler R. (2018). Prevention of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* at the Human/Gorilla/Livestock Interface. *Frontiers in Public Health*.





Communication materials



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Evolution of Village Health and Conservation Teams



2007: trained 26 community health and conservation workers to conduct home visits and group talks



Village health and conservation teams

2023: Recognized Ministry of Health structure. 270 teams communicate about behaviour change in 44 villages in 6 parishes with high human and gorilla conflict, reaching 40,000 people in 7,000 households:

- How to prevent and control Infectious disease (scabies, HIV, TB and other respiratory diseases, diarrheal diseases, COVID-19)
- Good hygiene and sanitation
- Voluntary Family planning
- Nutrition
- Sustainable agriculture
- Report homes visited by gorillas
- Awareness on zoonotic diseases
- Gorilla and forest conservation
- Ecotourism



COVID-19 management in Bwindi

- Local people educated about risk of COVID-19 cross over between humans and gorillas
- Gorillas as well as people tested for COVID-19
- IUCN Great Ape viewing regulations upgraded in March 2020



SYMPTOMS

HEADACHE &
SORE THROAT

FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS
OF BREATH



There is currently no vaccine to prevent the coronavirus.



Symptoms of a coronavirus infection are similar to that of a common cold or flu.

Contact the national hotlines and/or your doctor immediately and stay at home.



For more information: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



Solidaridad



PREVENTION

WASH HANDS OFTEN

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.



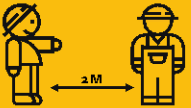
COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

Coronavirus spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes.



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT

Keep a safe distance (2 meters or 6 feet) between yourself and other people. Especially with people who are unwell.



CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Coronavirus also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.



PREVENT DISEASE TRANSMISSION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GORILLAS

Avoid close contact with gorillas and other wild animals. Stay at least ten meters (30 feet) away from gorillas. Turn away to cough or sneeze in your elbow. Call Uganda Wildlife Authority and HUGOs who will wear masks to safely chase gorillas from your gardens.



Joseph Arinaitwe - 0782 957 970 | Barbara Mugisha - 0782 589 745

Progress update

- Gorillas are now protected in community land
- Three to seven-fold increase in homes with hand washing facilities from 10% to 75%
- Reduced human related disease outbreaks in the gorillas (scabies) and exposure to human and livestock diseases (giardia)
- Increase from 22% to 67% women on family planning, above national average in rural areas increase from 30% to 45%
- Reduced gender disparities: Women are more involved in conservation and men in family planning
- Prevented the spread of COVID-19 amongst people and between people and gorillas

Future research priorities



Future research priorities

Assess the impact of community-led health and conservation models in reducing the impact of zoonotic disease transmission between wildlife, people and livestock

Big Research Idea

Big Research Idea

How can community-led One Health approaches build resilience against outbreaks and pandemics?

- Conduct routine surveillance on the diseases at human-wildlife-livestock interface
- Assess the impact of community health and conservation interventions on health outcomes