



# One Health Approach for Conservation (OHAC), Gorilla Health

Dr. Jean Felix Kinani,  
OHAC Founder and Executive Director

OIE National Focal point for Wildlife for Rwanda  
2016



# OHAC background

- Dian Fossey legacy
- Since 2004, wildlife veterinarian in charge of the mountain gorilla and golden monkey health care with other wildlife animals.
- Interested in the “One Health” approach and preventive medicine
- Master in Field Epidemiology, School of Public Health
- OIE National Focal Point for Wildlife for Rwanda since 2010
- Intervention and research on cross-contamination diseases affecting Humans and /or Non Human Primates
- Research on Zoonotic diseases programs such as rabies, trypanosomiasis, ... and outbreak disease investigations
- Primatology research
- Linking conservation, health, development and poverty alleviation



# OHAC mission

- Ensure the survival in One Health ecosystem of human, livestock and the wildlife including the mountain gorilla. Through animal health care, research, training and advocacy for conservation



# OHAC Vision

- An oriented team in “One Health Approach” for conservation through health care and prevention, researches strategies for human, animal and ecosystem.
- Linking conservation, development, poverty alleviation through health in the gorilla habitat



# OHAC Objectives

- Through innovative monitoring, improve early warning system detection of health issue
- Reinforce the ecosystem disease surveillance, zoonotic disease management; outbreak response systems.
- Provide training for veterinarians, para-medical personal, park staff and tourist agency guides
- Promote new technologies to detect illegal wildlife trade.



# OHAC Objectives

- Strengthen the veterinary services delivery
- Create “One Health Approach” and Conservation awareness program
- Contribute to mitigate climate change impact on biodiversity and ecological restoration
- Conduct intervention, ecosystem health and behavioral research on wildlife animal

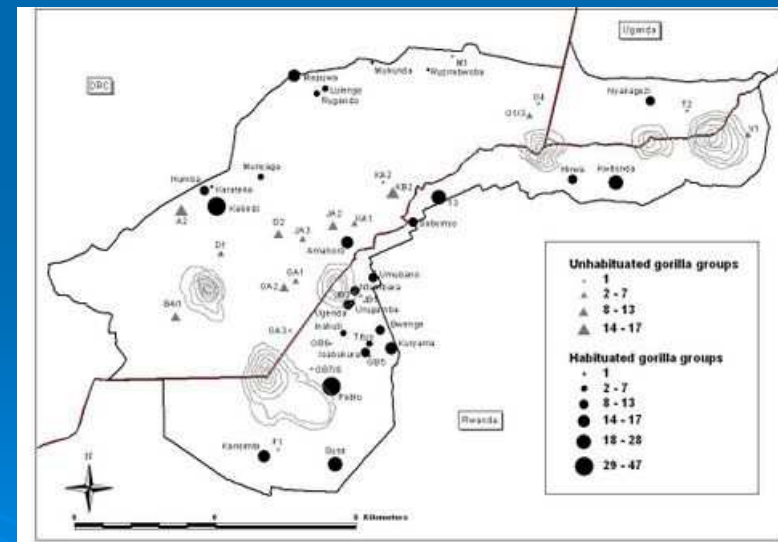


# Rwanda

- 4 National Parks (Volcanoes National Park, Akagera National Park, the Nyungwe National Park and Gishwati- Mukura National Park) plus others protected areas
- 3 National Parks bordering with neighboring country and transboundary management effective in the Virunga Massif( Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, Virunga National park in DRC and the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda)
- Transboundary collaboration not very effective in the Akagera Park bordering with game reserves in Tanzania) and the Nyungwe Park bordering with the Kibira National Park in Burundi

# The Virunga Massif

- Transboundary cooperation
- High density of the population
- Cross contamination diseases
- Encroachment
- Illegal activities
- Partnership





# Mountain gorilla Health















# OHAC

## GORILLA HEALTH

Ensure the survival. One Health ecosystems of humans, livestock and wildlife including the mountain gorilla.

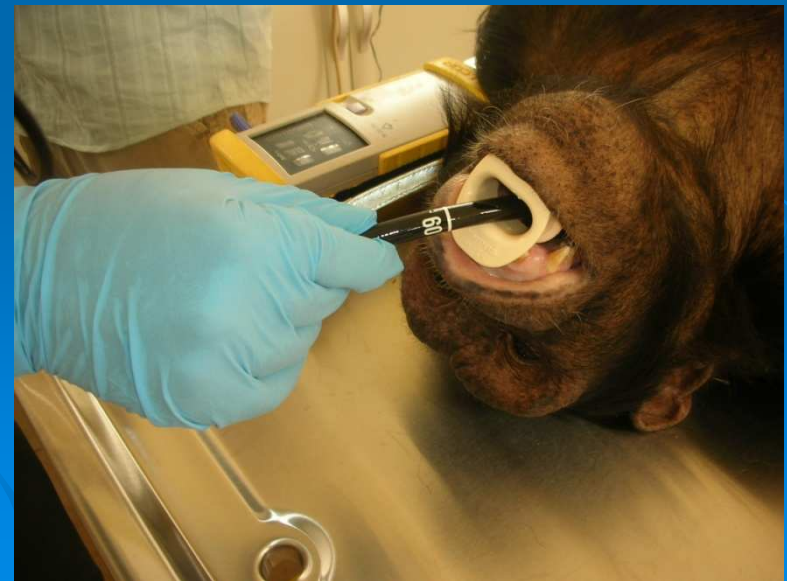
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# Wildlife animals interventions



# Mountain gorilla and others Non human primates monitoring

- Regular monitoring of the small mountain gorilla population
- Frequent monitoring of others Non Human Primates in national parks
- Assessment of clinical case care provide on human-induced and/or life threatening illness or injury
- Perform research and decrease health threats among wildlife animals
- Post mortem examination
- Sharing health information
- Training of in-service veterinarians and interns





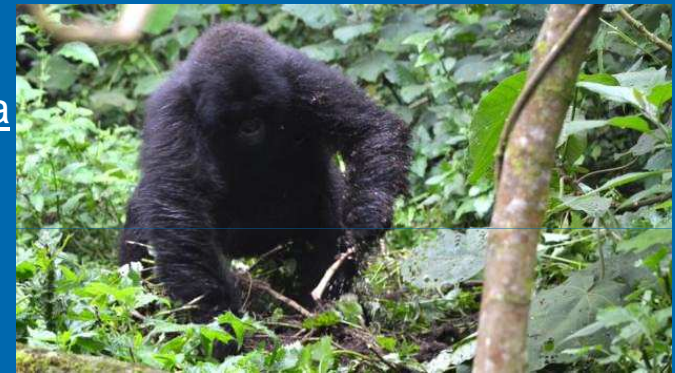


# Health prevention program and disease survey

- Community health program and Health Center information( vets, trackers, researchers) and family
- Rabies vaccination and management program for pets around national parks
- Zoonotics disease study on the livestock around parks
- Bats, rodents... capture and virology study
- Courses and meetings on reinforcement of visiting regulation
- Health education program with students around protected areas

# Research

- Tool use for food acquisition in a wild mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)
- Human Herpes Simplex Virus -1 in a Confiscated Gorilla
- Wild mountain gorilla drinking water for the first time
- Respiratory disease among mountain gorilla in Rwanda
- One Health strategic plan in Rwanda
- Human Metapneumovirus Infection in Wild Mountain Gorillas, Rwanda
- Detection of viruses in dropped forage food from wild mountain gorillas and golden monkeys.
- Respiratory disease in mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) in Rwanda, 1990-2010; Outbreaks, clinical course, and medical management.
- Mountain gorilla lymphocryptovirus has Epstein-Barr virus-like epidemiology and pathology in infants





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# Domestic animal health program (Vet clinic)





# Laboratory capacity

- Wildlife lab constructed at the Rubilizi without enough diagnostic
- Many samples still submit to external diagnostic labs
- Lack of funds – it take time to reach the institution / looking for a shorter bureaucracy device mechanism
- Long delay ordering and delivery material: Procurement and procedure take so much time
- Delay in activities achievement



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# Conservation education and awareness





# Thank you

- Please donate to the One health Approach for Conservation (OHAC), Gorilla Health
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