

Conservation and Public Health: Nature Based Solutions

African Animal Welfare Conference, 10th September 2020



Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

Founder and CEO, Conservation Through Public Health

Ashoka Fellow, National Geographic Explorer, 2020 Aldo Leopold Award Recipient

Threats to Gorillas: Habitat Loss and Poaching

Disease and Human/Wildlife Conflict



Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) founded in 2003

- **Mission:** Promote biodiversity conservation by enabling people to co-exist with wildlife through improving animal health, community health and livelihoods in and around protected areas and wildlife rich habitats in Africa
- **Vision:** People, wildlife and livestock living in balance, health and harmony with local communities acting as stewards of their environments
- **Wildlife Conservation**
 - wildlife health
 - habitat conservation
- **Community Health**
 - Village Health and Conservation Teams
 - Community Animal Health Workers
- **Alternative Livelihoods**
 - Gorilla Conservation Coffee
(a social enterprise of CTPH)
 - Group livestock income generating projects

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19

- **A novel coronavirus, originating from Bats**
- Contagious as the common flu affecting the upper and lower respiratory tract
- **SARS, civet cat intermediate host**
- MERS, dromedary camel intermediate host
- **SARS-COV2, is intermediate host a pangolin?**
- **Wuhan wet market:** stressed live wild animals in tiny cages under crowded conditions
- **Perfect conditions for the RNA virus to jump from one stressed host to another through droplets and fecal contamination**
- 80% of infected people are asymptomatic
- **Over 26 million cases and 800,000 deaths**



Are non human great apes susceptible to COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases?

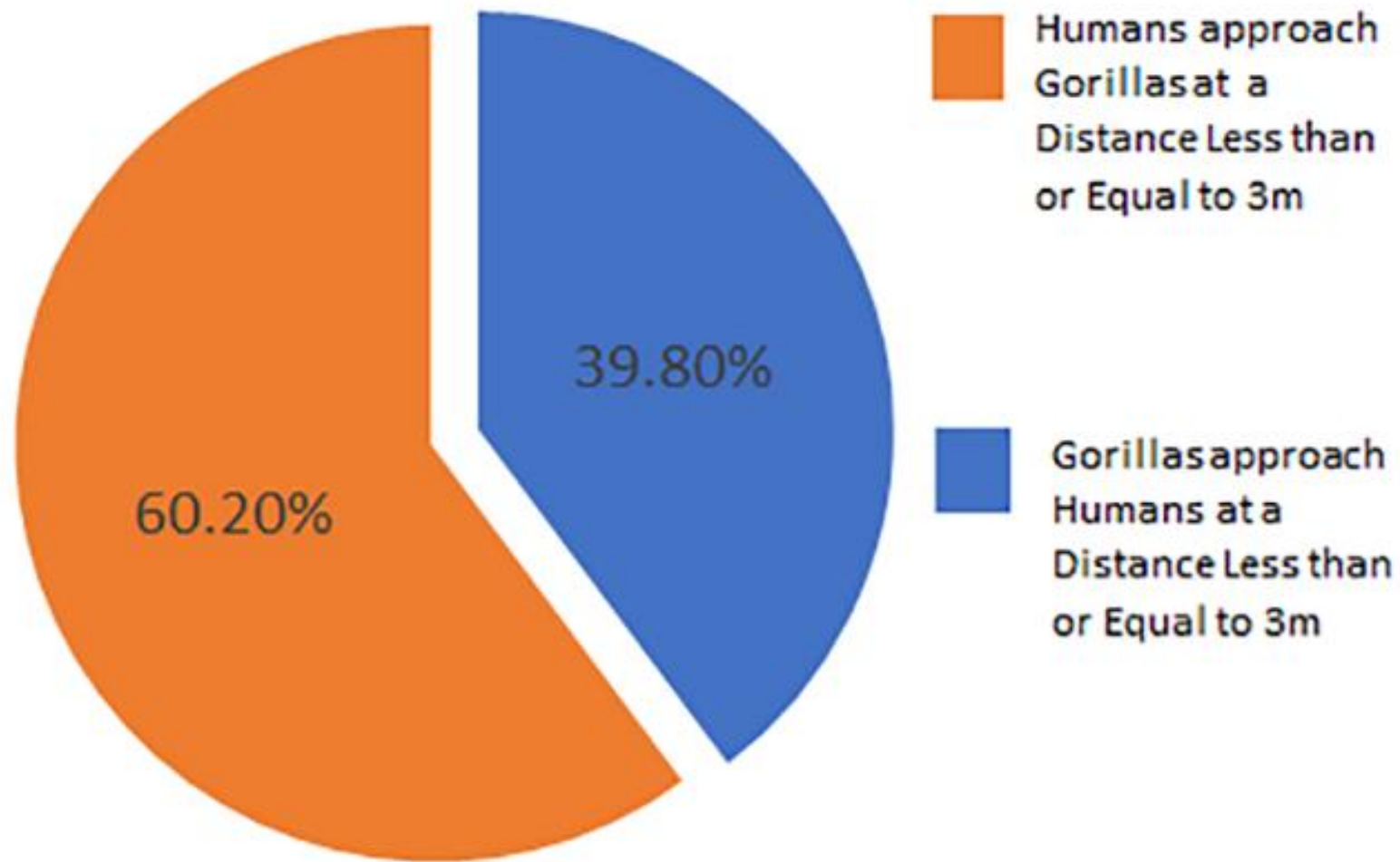


- **Human Common Flu viruses have affected Great Apes**
- Human Metapneumovirus Infection in Mountain Gorillas, Rwanda, 2011
- Lethal Respiratory Disease Associated with Human Rhinovirus C in Wild Chimpanzees, Uganda, 2013
- Human coronavirus OC43 outbreak in wild chimpanzees, Côte d'Ivoire, 2016
- COVID-19 from asymptomatic zoo keepers to tigers and lions at Bronx Zoo, cats, dogs, farmed mink
- **Humans, great apes and other old-world primates have similar ACE2 protein receptors making them highly susceptible to SARS-COV2 that causes COVID-19.**

Gorilla Tourism: Premier activity in East Africa



Observations of Egregious 7 m Rule Violations: Tourist - Gorilla Spacing < 3 m (n = 275)



Annalisa Weber et al. 2019

How to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and other Respiratory Diseases from Humans to Gorillas

Ranger Training Workshops

March 2020



Upgraded Great Ape viewing regulations in Uganda
IUCN Guidelines; Gorilla Pathology Specialist Group
No sick tourists, Taking Temperatures, Wearing Masks, Hand washing/Disinfection



Great Ape viewing regulations: **Wearing of Masks**

Enforcing the Seven Meter distance, Tourists now demanding that the gorillas and chimpanzees are protected from COVID-19 in humans



Training of Human and Gorilla Conflict Resolution Teams (HUGOs) in COVID-19 mitigation



Preventing the spread of COVID-19 among local communities and from people to gorillas at Bwindi through training 270 Village Health and Conservation Teams

COVID-19

SYMPTOMS

HEADACHE &
SORE THROAT

FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS
OF BREATH

PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS

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 on <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



ARCUS
FOUNDATION

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.



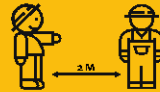
COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

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.



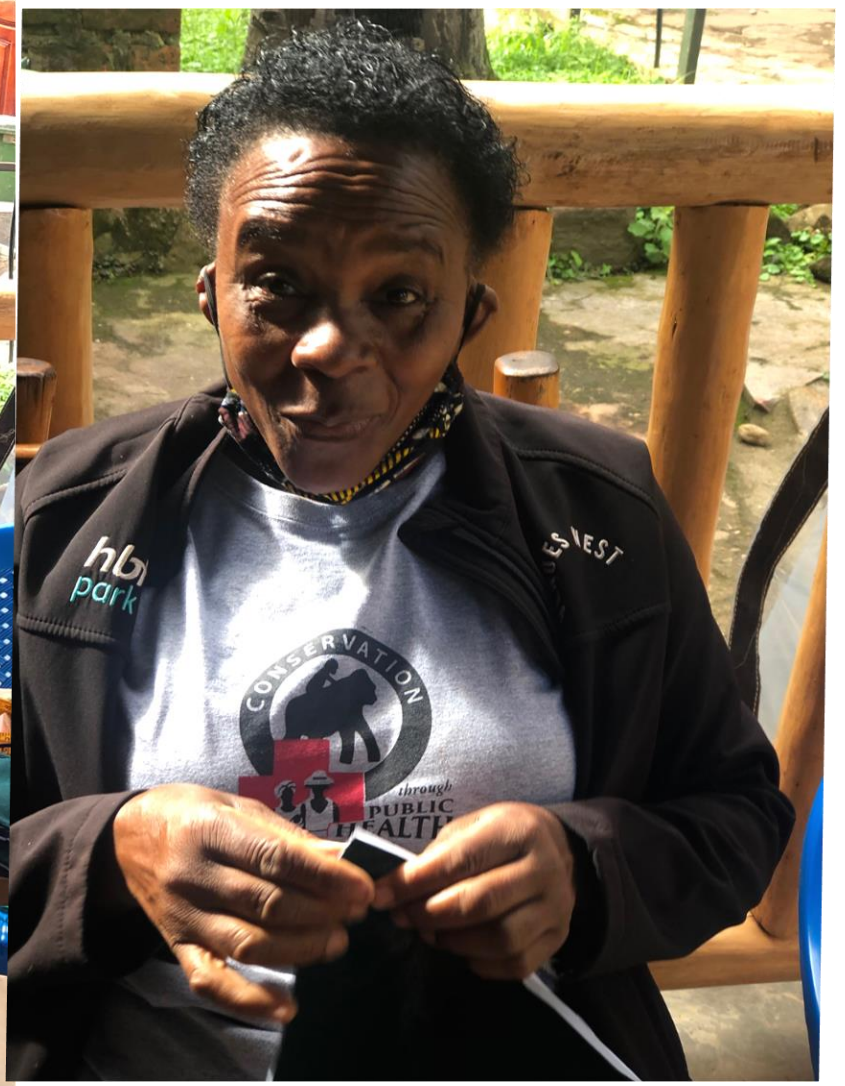
Joseph Arinaitwe - 0782 957 970 | Barbara Mugisha - 0782 589 745

- COVID-19, TB, respiratory diseases, scabies, HIV, diarrheal diseases
- Good hygiene and sanitation
- Voluntary Family planning
- Nutrition
- Sustainable agriculture
- Report homes visited by gorillas
- Awareness on zoonotic diseases
- Gorilla and forest conservation
- Ecotourism

Training Village Health and Conservation Teams (VHCTs) in COVID-19 mitigation



Ride For a Woman: Diversify/Switch Livelihoods



In the absence of Tourism

How do we ensure that the Wildlife is protected?

Coffee from farmers sharing a habitat with gorillas at Bwindi Impenetrable National



Marketed to conscious consumers with a donation of sales sustaining community health, gorilla health and conservation



PRODUCT

1° PREMIUM BLEND:

- 100% Arabica Coffee

3 SIZES:

- 125g
- 250g
- 500g



WE ARE WORLDWIDE:

- Uganda
- Kenya
- **USA (pangols.com)**
- Canada
- **New Zealand (gccoffee.nz)**
- France
- **South Africa (Carico Cafe)**
- Switzerland
- **UK (moneyrowbeans.com)**

SAVING GORILLAS ONE SIP AT A TIME



SETBACK: Endangered mountain gorilla, Rafiki, killed by a poacher in COVID-19 crisis



Mitigating COVID-19 and Preventing the Next Pandemic

- **Advocating for Responsible Tourism**

- **Africa CSO Biodiversity Alliance**

Policy Brief to Governments, Donors and Tour Companies

- 25 countries with 28 Great Ape sites
- **10 countries with great ape tourism**
- **Looking beyond tourism** to sustain conservation
- **Social media campaign** about zoonosis and reverse zoonosis and links to COVID-19

UNEP Report: "[Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#)"

- **Preventing zoonotic disease through One Health approaches**
- **Respecting Nature and Wildlife**
- **Reducing Deforestation** and Habitat encroachment
- **Improving animal welfare** and husbandry
- **Sustainable management** of landscapes and seascapes to enhance co-existence of agriculture and wildlife
- **Ban/Regulate wildlife trade?**

Thank You Very Much



www.ctph.org, www.gccoffee.org

Twitter: @doctorgladys, @CTPHUganda @GCCoffee1

Facebook: Conservation Through Public Health, Gorilla Conservation Coffee

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ctph_uganda/gladys@ctph.org