

UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DES SES RESSOURCES
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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IUCN REVIEW

World Heritage Nomination

1. NAME Parc National de Kahuzi-Biega #137
2. LOCATION Kivu Region, Eastern Zaire
from 2°10'S - 2°52'S
28°40'E - 28°50'E
3. NOMINATED BY Zaire Institute for the Conservation of Nature,
Dept of the Environment, Conservation of
Nature and Tourism
4. DOCUMENTATION
 - (i) Nomination form
 - (ii) Map attached to nomination form
 - (iii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)
 - a) Reports of World Wildlife Fund project 1731
 - b) Consultation, Dr. A.E. Goodall 6/3/80
 - c) Consultation, Messrs Muema, Mankoto & Kaballa, at West African Conservation Conference, 2-8/2/80
5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The Kahuzi-Biega national park was established in 1970 (60,000 ha) and expanded to 600,000 ha in 1978. It is situated between 1800 m and 3400 m on the Western slopes of the rift valley and is named after two extinct volcanoes Kazui and Biega. It is a major sanctuary for the mountain gorilla (*Gorilla, gorilla beringei*) which is an endangered species listed in IUCN's Red Data Book.

The park contains a great variety of grassland and forest habitats which are desirable for the continued survival of the gorilla which is generally found between 2100 and 2400 meters elevation. Of primary importance is the secondary forest and for certain periods of the year the bamboo forest (Sept. - Dec.). In addition to gorillas, the park contains populations of chimpanzies, black and red colubus monies and the owl faced monkey.

6. INTEGRITY

Recent economic problems in Zaire have led to a marked decrease in the effectiveness of the management and protection needed to ensure the survival of the species in the park and the continuity of the ecosystem.

The road system has deteriorated to the point where it is not possible for the park guards to adequately patrol the park, they are further hampered by a lack of petrol and equipment with which to carry out their duties.

As a result of all of the foregoing, there has been a decline in tourism which provided a cash flow for the region as a result poaching activities are on the increase.

7. EVALUATION

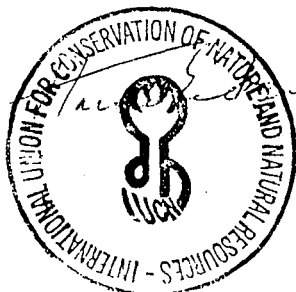
There is no doubt that the area meets criteria C 10 (IV) as a habitat protecting rare and endangered species. The presence of *Gorilla gorilla beringei* is the principal reason for fulfilling the criteria. It also meets the criteria of integrity under C (11) IV.

Criteria C 10 (ii) and C 10 (iii) are also met but to a lesser degree than Virunga National Park which is already on the World Heritage list.

8. RECOMMENDATION

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park meets the criteria and therefore should be placed on the World Heritage list.

Major funding in the area of \$ 200.000 to \$ 500.000 will be required for each of the World Heritage Sites in Zaire, these funds should be available over a period of 3 to 5 years at the rate of \$ 100.000 per year. There is currently on World Heritage Site in Zaire; two more are nominated for 1980. With certainty there is at least one and perhaps 2-3 additional sites which will qualify.



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