

Zoonotic Disease and Wildlife Trafficking: How can the media help to prevent future pandemics

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Founder and CEO

Conservation Through Public Health



What is COVID-19?

- Bat coronaviruses implicated in pandemics
- SARS, civet cat intermediate host
- MERS, dromedary camel intermediate host
- **SARS-COV2, is intermediate host a pangolin?**
- RNA virus easily transfers/mutates
- Wuhan wet market: stressed live wild animals in tiny cages under crowded conditions
- Perfect conditions for the virus to mutate and jump from one stressed host to another
- **Spreads through droplets and fecal contamination**





Habitat loss and Poaching



Disease Transmission between people and wildlife



Human and Wildlife conflict leads to cross species disease transmission





Tourists viewing gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda under the 7-metre rule.
© Allison Hanes June 2011.

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

- Human Metapneumovirus Infection in Wild 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 has spread from asymptomatic zoo keepers to tigers and lions at the Bronx Zoo in New York, as well as cats and dogs in other countries.
- **Two recent studies have shown that humans, great apes and other old-world primates have similar ACE2 protein receptors that make them highly susceptible to SARS-COV2 that causes COVID-19.**

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

Ranger Training Workshops

March 2020



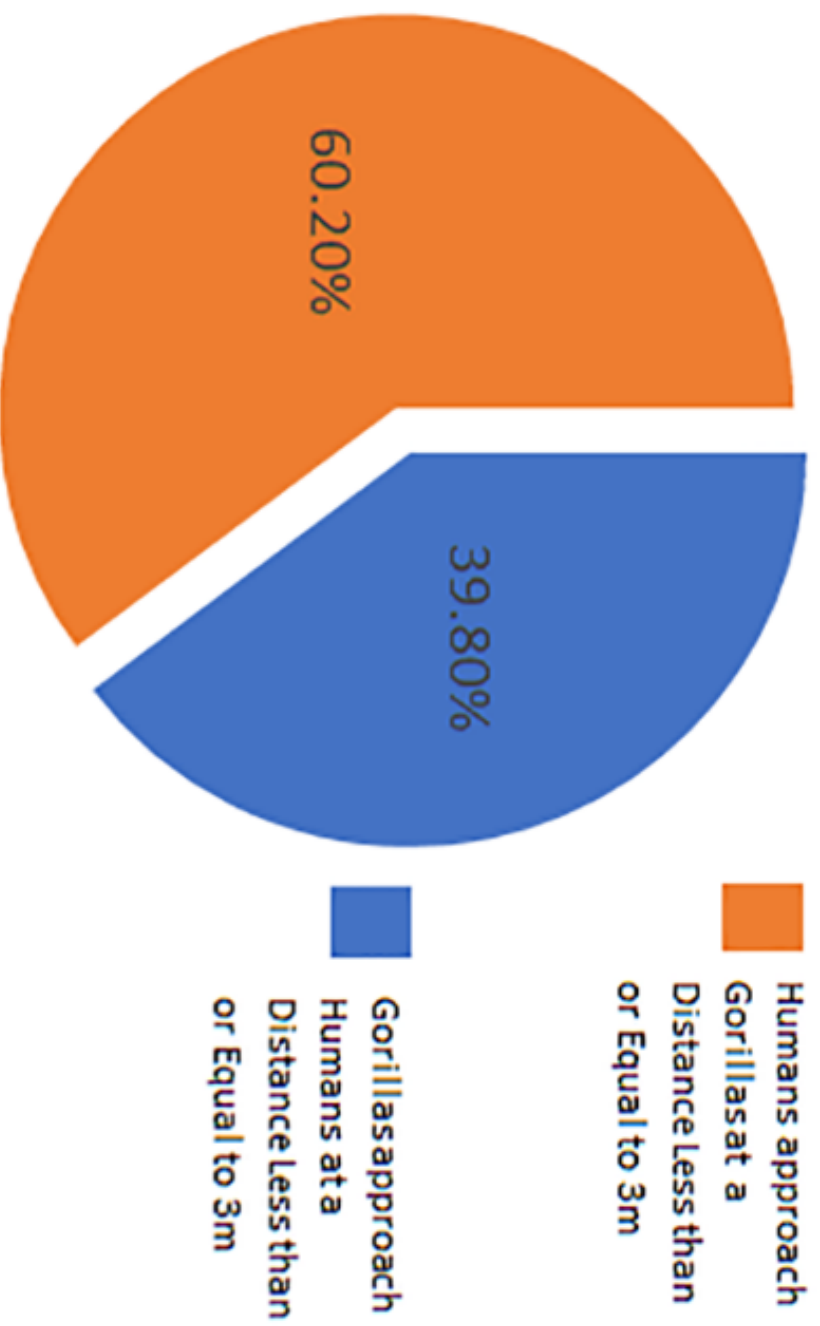
MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft





Figure 3. Seven-metre reference at the UWA briefing point BINP, Uganda.
© Allison Hanes May 2011.

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



Great Ape Viewing Regulations

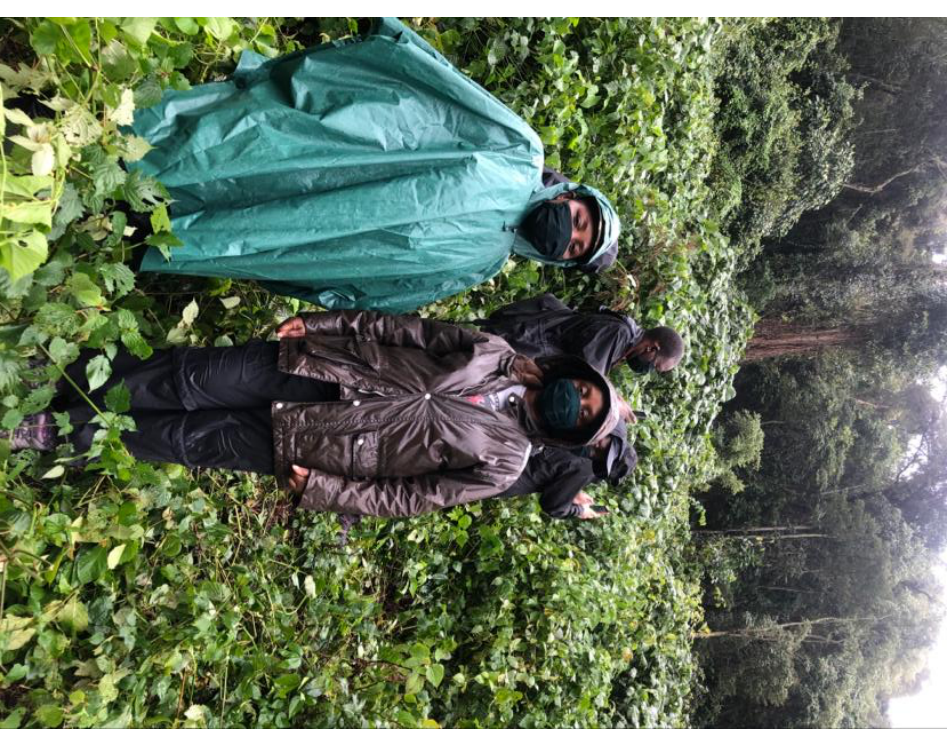
- Park staff, tourists and researchers with flu or cough should not be allowed to go to the forest.
- All people visiting the gorillas will have their temperatures checked
- Mandatory hand washing using soap and water and disinfectant before trekking.





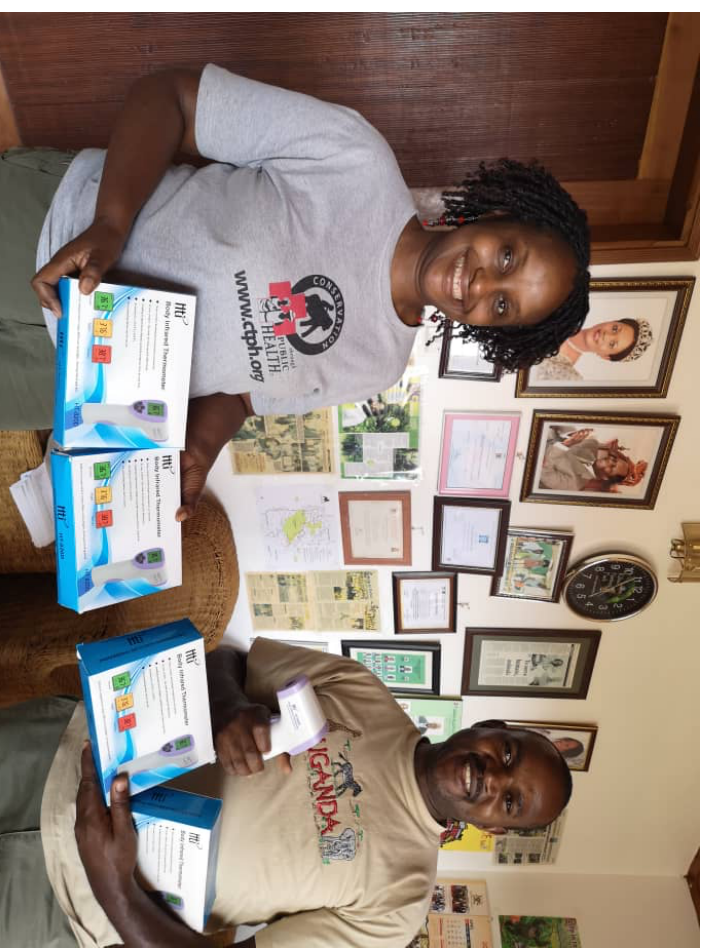
Great Ape Viewing Regulations

- Viewing of gorillas at a minimum distance of 7 meters at all times.
- Dig a hole 30 cms deep and cover it after going to the toilet in the forest
- Wearing of face masks by every person visiting the gorillas including park staff, tourists, veterinarians and researchers while viewing gorillas

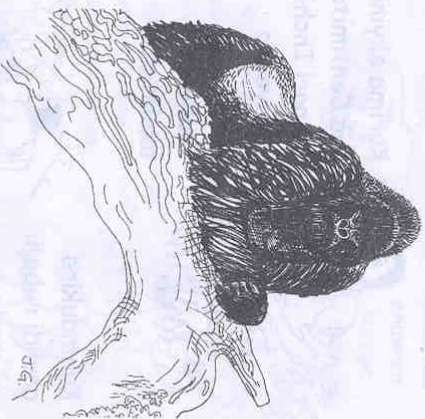


Great Ape Viewing Regulations

- COVID-19 has enabled a review of the great ape viewing regulations
- After the COVID-19 pandemic additional park staff will receive the same training to ensure that these regulations are enforced to further protect the gorillas and chimpanzees from human diseases
- CTPH donated infrared thermometers to Bwindi for the gorilla trekking sites
- Tourists are now demanding that the gorillas and chimpanzees are protected from COVID-19



OKWERINDA



KUTATURIZA

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PREVENTION

AND

CONTROL OF



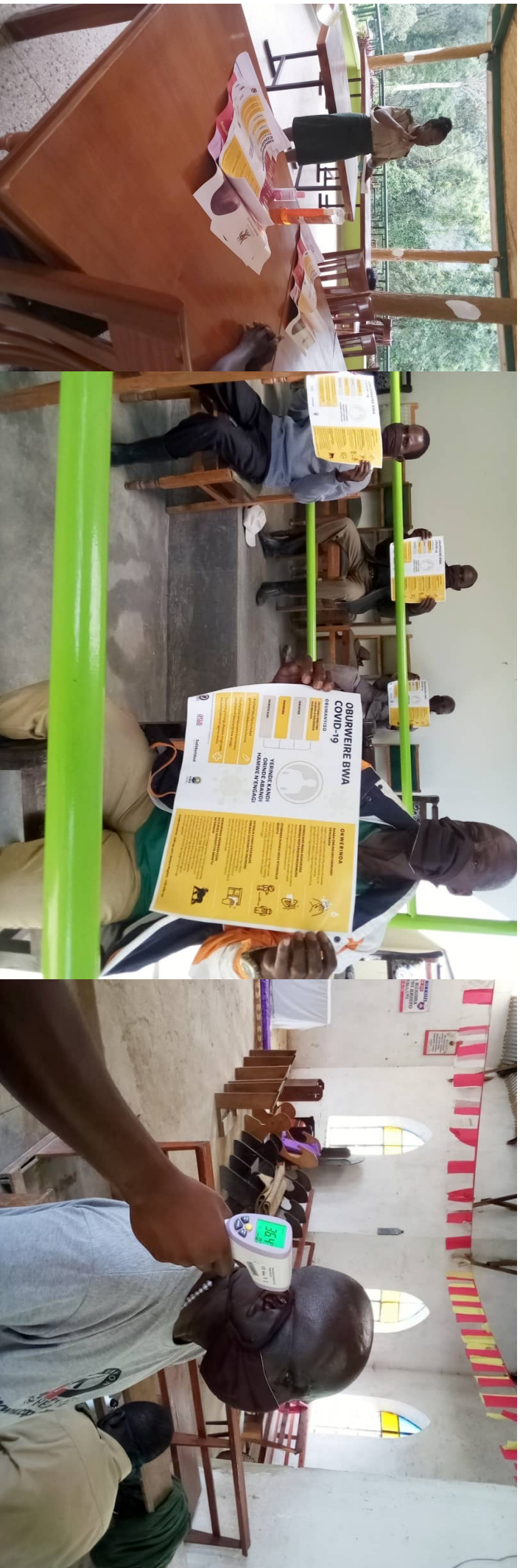
DISEASE

TRANSMISSION

BETWEEN HUMANS

AND GORILLAS

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

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 corona 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>



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.



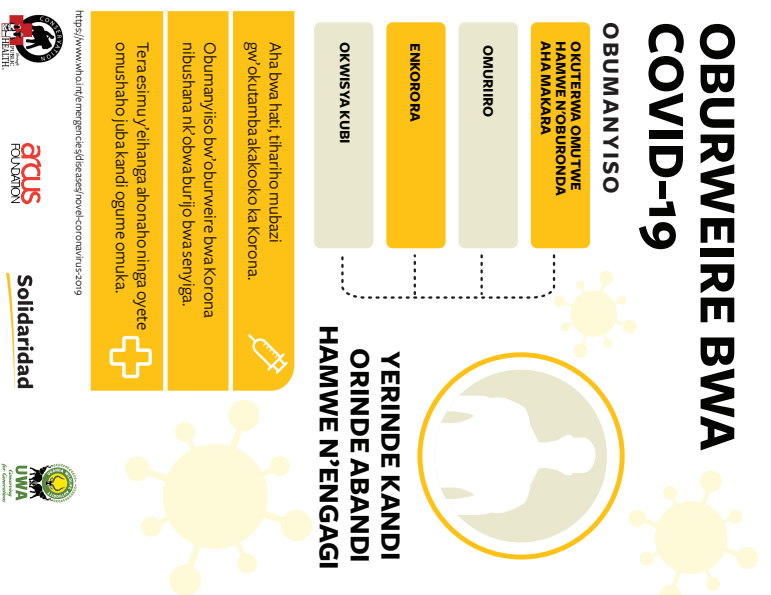
PREVENT DISEASE TRANSMISSION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GORILLAS

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 Arianawe - 0782 957 9701 Barbara Mugisha - 0782 589 745

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 among local communities and from people to gorillas at Bwindi

[illegible]

We are training 270 VHCTs to conduct Behaviour Change Communication in 6 high human and gorilla conflict parishes



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

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



In the absence of Tourism, how do we ensure that the wildlife is protected?

- **Support Alternative Livelihoods not dependent on tourism**
- Provide Gorilla Conservation Coffee for customers not able to travel to Uganda
- Diversify/Switch livelihoods: Ride for a Woman is making masks for people coming into close contact with the gorillas and for those who provide health care to people including the VHCTs
- **Fundraising drives for animals in the wild and in zoos, such as Uganda Wildlife Education Centre**
- Provision of Food for the most vulnerable



Ride For a Woman: Diversify/Switch Livelihoods





**GORILLA
CONSERVATION
COFFEE
IS A GLOBAL
PREMIUM COFFEE
BRAND
THAT SAVES
GORILLAS**

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

SUPPORT

LOCAL FARMERS:

buying coffee from farmers
above the market price
(\$0.50/kg)
and selling at a higher price
to traders, roasters and
retailers

CONSERVE

GORILLAS:

In built support of
conservation
and public health through
a premium to CTPH (NGO)
from sales:
• \$0.25/kg (green coffee)
• \$1.50/kg (roasted,
packaged coffee)

PRODUCT

1° PREMIUM BLEND:

- 100% Arabica Coffee

3 SIZES:

- 125g
- 250g
- 500g



WE ARE WORLDWIDE:

- **Uganda**
- Kenya
- **USA (pangols.com)**
- Canada
- **New Zealand**
- France
- **South Africa**
- Switzerland
- **UK**

SAVING GORILLAS ONE SIP AT A TIME

Protecting Gorillas and supporting the Local Community

Gorilla Conservation Coffee bought and shipped to Moneyrow Beans in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic



How can the Media Help?

- Influence the general public
- Influence decision makers and policy makers
- Stimulate citizen action

Thank You Very Much



www.ctph.org

Twitter: @doctorgladys, @CTPHUganda, #OneHealth

Facebook: Conservation Through Public Health, Gorilla Conservation Coffee

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