WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #19
September 25,2020

# WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

**Hello Wildlife Warriors!**
**Stay connected to nature even when you are at home.**

Welcome to Issue 19. This week we celebrate **Gorillas.** Did you know that they are our closest relatives after Chimpanzees and Bonobos?

We will learn how intelligent they are and how their behavior and emotions are similar to ours. **Please read on!**

*Farasi Lane Primary School Wildlife Warriors Club members*

Have you entered Season Two of the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition? Many young people are winning prizes for their stunning photographs. You could be among them!

Stay with us on this fun-filled adventure, and always remember to share this newsletter with your family and friends.

# CONGRATULATIONS HANAIN

**"Are you dead yet"**

Hanain Ayub (15yrs) from Kenya was the Runners Up in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition Junior Category on the theme **Fins, Feathers, and Flowers.**

**Season 2 of the Nature's Treasures Competition is ongoing!!! Submit 3 photos on the theme *'Human Helping Nature'* by 9th October.**

# STORY BEHIND THE IMAGE

The judges were impressed by the Captivating image of a Pied Crow and how the young photographer must have been lying down to capture the moment.

**Hanain won Ksh 1000!**

## We spoke to Hanain about his photo!

**Q: What is the story behind the image?**

**A:** I was in Narok near a pond lying on the ground, waiting for ducks so that I could take a picture. Some three crows saw me and probably assumed I was dead and came to inspect me.

One curious crow came closer to see what I was doing and that is when I took the picture before the crow flew away.

# SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

## NATURE'S TREASURES PHOTO COMPETITION

**Prizes!**

**Professional Category**
Winner KES 5000
Runner up KES 3000

**Amateur Category**
Winner KES 3500
Runner up KES 2000

**Junior Category (Under 15 years)**
Winner KES 2000
Runner up KES 1000

Open to photographers in East Africa!

**Theme: Humans Helping Nature (Sept. 26th to Oct. 9th)**
**Enter up to 3 photos to bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA**

WILDLIFE DIRECT · African People & Wildlife · OGO-LAW The green brief · TONYWILD Wildlife . Media . Impact · GORILLA CONSERVATION COFFEE · WILDLIFE WARRIORS

Nature photography provides children with the opportunity to be innovative.

Are you 15 years old and below? Submit your photos under the Junior Category in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition.

Theme; **HUMANS HELPING NATURE**. Share up to 3 photos here **http://bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA**

**Go Out. Explore. Take Photos. Share. Win.**

# GORILLAS

Gorillas are our closest relatives after Chimpanzees and Bonobos as they share over 98% DNA with us. They live in the tropical forests of East and Central Africa.

*Picture courtesy of CTPH - Uganda*

**Vocabulary:**

**Alpha male-** The strongest male gorilla that leads a group of gorillas.

**Troop/Band-** A group of Gorillas led by a dominant male called a Silverback because of the silver hair on his back.

**DNA-** is a molecule that carries genetic instructions for the development, functioning, growth and reproduction of all known organisms.

# GORILLAS IN THE WILD

*Picture courtesy of CTPH - Uganda*

Gorillas are the largest of the apes, and the males can weigh up to 200 kgs and reach a height of 1.7 meters when standing on two feet.

They are stocky animals with broad chests and shoulders, large human-like hands and small eyes set into their hairless faces. They live in troops led by a silverback, a mature adult male with silver hair on his back.

They live in groups ranging from four to 40 individuals, but the average size is between 10-20 gorillas in a group. The Silverback leads the group and determines the feeding pattern, timing of activity, and direction of travel.

Gorillas are generally herbivores; they spend most of their day feeding on plants, bamboo, and fruits and occasionally, also insects.
They help new trees to grow in the forest by spreading seeds as they eat.

*Picture courtesy of CTPH - Uganda*

## DID YOU KNOW THAT…

- Just like our fingerprints, Gorillas have unique nose prints that can be used to identify each one using photographs.

- Adult females give birth to only one baby after 4 years and only 3 or 4 babies in her lifetime.

- Gorillas can live up to 50 years.

# THE EASTERN GORILLA

***Mountain Gorilla Courtesy of Jim Joel Nyakaana***

- The Eastern Gorillas are largest of all apes in size with darker (black) and longer fur.

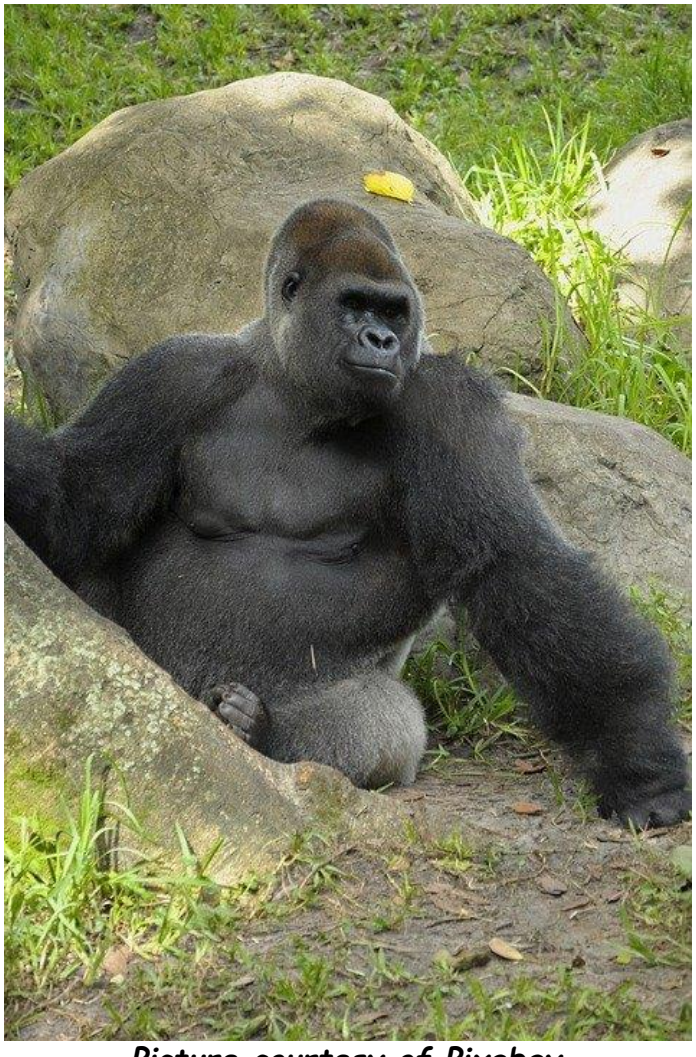
- Males have a well defined silvery hair patch on their back which turns white as they grow older.

- They include the Mountain Gorillas and the Eastern Lowland Gorillas.

- Mountain Gorillas are **endangered,** with around 880 individuals living in the dense Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Virunga Forests in Uganda, Rwanda, and DRC. There are only 1,063 in the whole world.

# WESTERN GORILLA

They are black, dark grey, or dark brown-grey fur with a brownish forehead. The Western Gorillas include the **Western Lowland gorilla** and **Cross River Gorillas.**



*Picture courtesy of Pixabay*

- The Western Gorilla is heavily built and is one of the largest apes, second only to the Eastern Gorilla.
- They have been seen using tools to find food in the wild.
- Their diet mainly consist of leaves, shoots, fruits and occasionally insects.

- The Western Lowland Gorillas has the largest population of over 100,000.
- The Cross River Gorilla is the world's rarest ape with only around 300 living in a small highland forest area on the border between Cameroon and Nigeria.

# THREATS FACING GORILLAS

Gorillas have no natural enemies or predators in the wild. They are mainly under threat because of humans.

*Picture courtesy of CTPH - Uganda*

- **Hunting and Trade of Gorilla meat:** The biggest threat facing Gorillas is **poaching** for their meat. Eating wild animal meat can cause diseases.
- **Diseases:** Because Gorillas are closely related to humans, they are vulnerable to human diseases like Ebola, COVID-19, and other diseases that can kill them.
- **Habitat loss:** Forest destruction by cutting off trees destroys their homes and source of food.

# MEET DR. GLADYS KALEMA-ZIKUSOKA

**Q: Tell us a little about yourself**

**A:** I am the founder and CEO of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), an award-winning NGO that protects endangered Gorillas and other Wildlife rich habitats in Africa.

I am also the founder and CEO of Gorilla Conservation Coffee, a social enterprise which provides income generating opportunities for farmers living in Uganda living near Mountain Gorilla habitats.

**Q: What was your childhood like? Where did you grow up and go to school?**

**A:** I was born in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Growing up, I always loved animals.

I went to Kitante Primary School, Kabale Preparatory School, and Greensteds School in Kenya for my primary education.

*Dr. Gladys in the forest with a gorilla in the background – courtesy of CTPH – Uganda*

Then, I joined King's College, Budo, Kibuli secondary school, and Dollar Academy in Scotland for my Secondary education.

After high school, I did a Veterinary degree at the University of London and a Masters in USA.

## Q. How did you get interested in Gorillas and Why?

**A:** While growing up, our next-door neighbor had a pet vervet monkey that often came to our home; this animal sparked my interest in primates.

My conservation journey began when I revived a wildlife club while at Kibuli Secondary School in Uganda. It was while at this school that I first got to hear about mountain gorillas.

## Q. Tell us more about your conservation journey.

*Dr. Gladys training community members*

**A.** I first worked with chimpanzees at the Entebbe Zoo, and studied wild chimpanzees in Budongo Forest Reserve.

When I got an opportunity to study the mountain gorillas at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in 1994 as part of my veterinary training, I decided to become a wildlife veterinary doctor.

My first job after graduation was becoming the first veterinary officer for the Uganda Wildlife Authority in 1996 where I led a team that investigated a fatal outbreak of scabies: a skin disease in Bwindi mountain gorillas that was later traced back to poor people with little health care living on the outskirts of the park.

This is how we founded Conservation Through Public Health. We work with the community to improve health while taking care of the Gorillas too

**Q. How can you tell the difference between a male and a female Gorilla?**

**A.** Adult male gorillas, or silverbacks, will be twice the size of the females, have silver hair on their back, and have large bumps on the top of their heads.

**Q. What do I need to Study if I want to work with Gorillas?**

**A.** You need to study Sciences in primary school and Biology, Chemistry and Physics in High School. At University, you can do a degree in Conservation Biology or Conservation Science, Primatology or Veterinary Medicine with a focus on wildlife.

## Q. Why are Gorillas special? And what are your proudest moments?

Because gorillas are so similar to us we can learn a lot from watching their behaviour especially in the wild, but we can also make them sick so we have to be careful not to get too close to them when visiting them in the wild and make sure we do not visit them when we are sick. Sadly, there are so vulnerable because they are so few in number.

As a mother, I am proud to have my family's support. My two sons are passionate supporters and lovers of nature. They love playing soccer but also love being outdoors.

## Q. What can children do to save Gorillas?

- Plant a tree to contribute to the gorilla habitat.
- Tell your friends about gorillas and why it is important to protect them.
- Visit our website, www.ctph.org to learn more about Gorillas.
- Talk to your parents to visit parks with Gorillas and buy a bag of Gorilla Conservation Coffee.
- Download a cool song called "Team Gorilla", by a Ugandan artist, released on World Gorilla Day where proceeds will go towards protecting gorillas.
- Children can also write poems, direct their own plays, paint, sing about the environment and about gorilla conservation to raise awareness among their friends and in their communities
- In Uganda, children from the age of 15yrs are allowed to track gorillas, so they can visit Bwindi National Park
- Organize competitions in schools and in their communities to promote gorilla conservation. These can include gorilla painting or quizzes

# WILD JOKES! 🤣

**Q:What do Gorillas do when angry?**
**A:They go bananas.**

**Q:Why couldn't the Gorilla get into his house?**
**A:He forgot his Mon-key.**

**Q:What do you call a driving Gorilla?**
**A:Honkey Kong.**

**Q:What do you call a Gorilla stuck in a ventilation system?**
**A:Duct-Ape.**

**Q:What sound does a Gorilla's doorbell make?**
**A:King Kong.**

**Q:What's a Gorilla's favorite fruit?**
**A:Ape-ricot.**

**Q:What do you call a crossbreed of a Gorilla & a prisoner?**
**A:Kong-vict**

**Q:Why are videos of Gorillas eating bananas so popular?**
**A:They are so ape-peeling.**

**Q:What do you say to a spying Gorilla?**
**A:No need to pry-mate.**

*Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia*

# CELEBRATING WORLD RHINO DAY

My name is Shalom Finley, I am 13 years old, in Grade 6 at Nairobi East Adventist Educational Centre.

On Tuesday 22nd September 2020, my brother William and I joined the Education and Outreach team at WildlifeDirect to celebrate World Rhino Day at Nairobi National Park.

*From Left. Shalom, Tobias, William (Shalom's brother) and Joy.*
*Picture courtesy of Peter Ndungu*

We woke up very early and were at the park as early as 7:30am to start our adventure.

Within the first 30 minutes, we had seen buffaloes, impalas, giraffes, and hartebeests. Then we saw 2 Southern White Rhinos grazing in the tall grass. I read about these Rhinos in the Kids Newsletter Issue number 18.

*Southern White Rhino in Nairobi National Park courtesy of Joy Omulupi*

We also saw two lions on the road. They walked a little, then lay by the roadside and took a nap. It was getting hot, so I think they were tired. We thought, maybe they were hungry.

I was excited to see giraffes fighting, a family of Ostriches with 17 chicks, and many more. We also saw different birds and other animals including,the rare to find Black Rhino.

*A lioness resting by the road at Nairobi National Park. Image courtesy of Joy Omulupi*

*White backed Vulture, left and a Spur Winged - Lapwing, right, at Nairobi National Park courtesy of Joy Omulupi*

I was sad to see many skulls of dead animals. I hope they were not killed by poachers. I am happy I got this chance to visit the park and to learn so much. I was selected because I love reading the newsletters and always share with my friends.

# ART FOR WILDLIFE

**Do you have a drawing, painting, essay or poem you would like to share with other kids?**

**Please send a photo of your drawing and painting or a text/WhatsApp message with your poem /essay to 0746 511 787**

# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE

## Helping birds around our home? – Part 1

All over the world, different birds are appreciated for their fascinating colors, sizes, sounds and behaviors.

*Greater blue – eared starling courtesy of Karamveer Palna (15 years)*

Birds help in dispersing seeds and pollinating plants that provide us with food. Birds feed on nectar, insects, fruits, seeds and worms.

## What do birds like to eat?

We can make bird feeders and fill these with seeds and a water point for the birds to drink water using materials easily found at home.

**Share with us a picture of the Birdfeeder or Water point you have made at home on WhatsApp to 0746 511 787**

# How to make a bird feeder from a plastic bottle

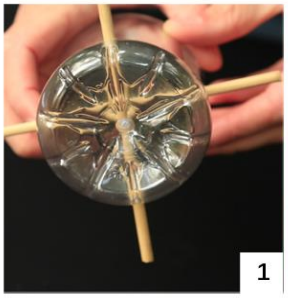
Bird feeders are an incredible way to get a close look at birds in order to identify the species that regularly visit your garden or local nature reserve. There are plenty of bird feeders available to buy, but you can save money by making one from materials lying around your house and garden.

## Making your bird feeder

**1. Make the perches.** Towards the bottom of the bottle, use a drawing pin to make two holes on opposite sides. Use the pair of scissors to widen the holes to a width just smaller than the width of your first stick or rod. Push the first stick through both holes to form the first perch. Do the same higher up the bottle for the second perch, but have the new set of holes at a 90° angle to the first.

**You will need**

- Plastic bottle with cap, clean and dry
- String or twine
- Two sticks, dowel rods or pencils
- Some bird seed
- Drawing pin
- Sharp scissors



**2. Drainage.** Make some drainage holes in the bottom of the bottle using the drawing pin and scissors. **3. Feeding holes.** About 4 cm above each perch, use the drawing pin to make a slight hole and widen it by cutting a hole with the scissors. These will be the feeding holes. The holes should be 7 to 8 mm in width, though this will change depending on the size of the bird seed you use. **4. Hang the feeder up.** Towards the neck of the bottle, make two more holes opposite one another, and thread a length of string through the holes, which will then be used to hang the feeder up. Pour in your bird seed and put the lid on the bottle and you're ready to hang up the bird feeder in a tree or other suitable point of attachment, like a washing line.

**Watch the video**
Either visit
EcoSapien.org
or scan the QR code

Let us know what birds visit your feeder!

## Site and Maintenance

**Prime location:** Hang your bird feeder in a place where it's not easily accessed by predators such as cats. Also beware of birds flying into windows - if this happens you should move your feeder as soon as possible.

**Keep it clean:** Make sure you regularly clean your bird feeder to prevent the spread of disease (once a month or sooner if they look especially messy). The RSPB recommends using a 5% disinfectant solution. Clean the feeder outside, not in your kitchen sink! Also clean out the feeder if the food becomes mouldy and check your drainage holes are still open. Alternatively, simply build a new feeder and recycle the old bottle.

**Infopack courtesy of David Bodenham & EcoSapien**

**You can watch the video here; https://youtu.be/7yV6V6rtpyc**

# WANT TO NAME A NEW SPECIES OF FROG??

**Have you ever wanted to name a NEW SPECIES of animal?** Well, this is your chance!

Are you **26 years old or younger**? Submit your best idea for a name for this new species.

The winning submission will become the official name of the **frog!** To find out more, visit; https://reservaylt.org/frog

# THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA

The Cheetah is Africa's most endangered big cat, listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

This Sunday, we follow the extraordinary lives of Cheetah Ambassadors at the Cheetah Outreach Centre in South Africa.

Tune in only on Citizen TV Kenya at 5:30 pm EAT.

Watch the **film** with your family and tell us **what you learnt** by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

# COMING UP… DON'T MISS

Baby gorilla. Picture courtesy CTPH- Uganda

- My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on Sunday, September 27th , 2020
- World Rivers Day – September 26th 2020
- World Animal Day – October 4, 2020

# FOR PARENTS

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

**PAYBILL NO. 600100**

**A/C NO. 0100003937598**

Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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