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

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InfoNile Webinar, 14th May 2020

can the media help to prevent future pandemics
Zoonotic Disease and Wildlife Trafficking: How
What is COVID-19?

- Bat coronaviruses implicated in pandemics
- SARS, civet cat intermediate host
- MERS, dromedary camel intermediate host
- SARS-CoV-2, intermediate host a pangolin
- RNA virus easily transfers/mutates
- Perfect conditions for the virus to mutate and spread from one stressed host to another
- Wuhan wet market: stressed live wild animals in tiny cages under crowded conditions
- Spreads through droplets and fecal contamination

Bat coronaviruses implicated in pandemics
Habitat loss and Poaching
Disease Transmission between People and Wildlife
Species disease transmission leads to cross human and wildlife conflict.
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 Mountain Gorillas, Rwanda, 2011
- 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.
March 2020

Ranger Training Workshops

Humans to Gorillas and other Respiratory Diseases from How to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19
Figure 3. Seven-metre reference at the UWA briefing point BINP, Uganda.
Annalisa Weber et al, 2019

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

- Gorillas are approached at distances less than or equal to 3 m: 20%
- Humans are approached at distances less than or equal to 3 m: 80%
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.
- Park staff, tourists and researchers with flu or cough should not be allowed to go to the forest.
Great Ape Viewing Regulations

- Viewing of gorillas at a minimum distance of 7 meters at all times.
- Dig a hole 30 cm deep and cover it after going to the toilet at all times.
- Minimum distance of 7 meters viewing of gorillas at all times.
- Wearing of face masks by every person visiting the gorillas, including park staff, tourists, veterinarians and researchers.
- In the forest, cover it after going to the toilet.
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
Zo ku tuturiza
Engagi nari
Endwara
Kutaturiza

Prevention
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.

Symptoms of 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.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent the coronavirus.

Coronavirus spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Keep a safe distance (2 meters or 6 feet) between yourself and other people. Especially with people who are unwell.

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.

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.

Prevent Disease Transmission Between People and Gorillas

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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.

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 among local communities and from people to gorillas at Bwindi.
Preventing the spread of COVID-19 among local communities and from people to gorillas at Bwindi
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, other respiratory diseases, scabies, HIV, diarrheal diseases)
- Awareness on zoonotic diseases
- Report homes visited by gorillas
- Voluntary Family Planning
- Sustainable agriculture
- Nutrition
- Gorilla and forest conservation
- Prevent illegal entries in the forest
- Awareness on zoonotic diseases
- Report homes visited by gorillas
- Ecotourism
- How to prevent and control Infectious disease (COVID-19, TB, other respiratory diseases, scabies, HIV, diarrheal diseases)
- Good hygiene and sanitation

We are training 270 VHCTs to conduct Behaviour Change Communication in 6 high human and gorilla conflict parishes.
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.
- Fundraising drives for animals in the wild and in zoos, such as Uganda Wildlife Education Centre.
- Provision of Food for the most vulnerable.

In the absence of Tourism, how do we ensure that the wildlife is protected?
Ride 4 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:
- a premium to CTPH (NGO) from sales
  • $0.25/kg (green coffee)
  • $1.50/kg (roasted, packaged coffee)

In built support of conservation and public health through

LOCAL FARMERS:
CONSERVE
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
PRODUCT

100% PREMIUM BLEND:

• 100% Arabica Coffee

SIZES:

- 500g
- 250g
- 125g

WE ARE WORLDWIDE:

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

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

Protecting Gorillas and supporting the Local Community
How can the Media Help?

• Influence the general public
• Influence decision makers and policy makers
• Stimulate citizen action
Thank You Very Much