



## **Environment: journeys through a changing world**

*Gorilla Politics*

### **Moses Mapesa, Executive Director, Uganda Wildlife Authority**

We have a lot of government administrations that share the, Bwindi eco system, we have a Kanunga as a district where we have some habituated gorilla groups, we have Kisoro as a district where we also some habituated groups, and Kabale as a district does not have any habituated group.

### **James Byamukama, International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

On the political side the sanctuary is a little bit debatable, you have to look out for the views, which views, who have more of a strong case. For example, Kanu has three habituated groups but they still did more, Sora has one group, and this group they fear is not sufficient because out of the eight permits that are Kringo group, six of them have been tied to a local company, of the community surrounding the park of Bugriantegco. Therefore that means the rest of Sora district is left with only two permits. They would wish to have another group and have more permits, that would make them eight, possibly ten visitors that would be coming and that would make business sense for their community as well as well as hotels and similar hospitality services. But Kabale which has had no habituated group and also has a relatively a bigger portion over the park, certainly would have a stronger case to put across so that there would also be a benefit from the gorilla tourism within their communities.

### **Charity Bwiza, Programme Manager, The Bwindi Trust**

The people of Kabale through their local councils they are trying to negotiate for habituated groups in their districts because they know that they are going to benefit like in Kabara, they don't have any, so the district council is really urging Ugandan authority to habituate one group in Kabara so that they also benefit from the trickle down of benefits from tourists, so their councils are really putting in efforts to lobby Ugandan Wildlife Authority to make sure they habituate their groups in their respective districts.