



Environment: journeys through a changing world

A Community with Habituated Gorillas

Caption

Buhoma (three habituated gorilla groups)

Phili, Gorilla Trekking Porter

Now Buhoma is improving. It's developing a bit, because of the tourism. It was all bush, there were no shops, the market was 40km walk away and it was 30km walk to the clinic. Now they have built a clinic which is nearby the Park, only 5minutes drive away. Now I can't die because of the medicine.

Manaseh Twinamasiko, Local Resident

We used to walk from here to a hospital, which is about 4 hours driving from here. Now we have a health centre nearby which is a great change. I was born here in Buhoma, I'm a real citizen of Uganda and Bwindi. When gorilla tourism started the changes I can tell you, we had no permanent building, house. We had no, any, school. Now we are roofing with iron sheets and we have a secondary school. Education has totally changed. Children used to go far from here but tourism has supported us, by building schools and there is a big building of 5 classrooms. So at least some money was coming from the tourism, going back to the village. Job creation was formed when tourism came in. We have some managers, born here, some Park staff, born here. Rangers, guides here - they all come from this village. So, the income, the job creation was totally increased.

Phili, Gorilla Trekking Porter

I work as a porter in Bwindi and I have been doing this for seven years. We are 65 in number. I carry bags for tourists and I get some money which can help me and my family. So I buy food and pay school fees and I am trying to build a good house where I will be staying with my family. I've almost finishing it, it has six rooms and maybe if god wishes I will put in electricity.

Tugumisirize Yese, Local Entrepreneur

There are some how we gain from having tourists. Some how we develop when we are seeing tourists and thus I think that within a few more years, let me say ten, the area will have developed even more.

James Byamukama, International Gorilla Conservation Programme

The incomes of the people has increased and their standard of living has improved as well. And communities that don't have tourism, around the areas you can see the difference and they envy them very much.