



Environment: journeys through a changing world

Habituation – New Tourist Activities

James Byamukama, International Gorilla Conservation Programme

This forest is important both internationally, nationally and locally. Besides mountain gorillas this is a very rich biodiversity forest. We have a lot of other primates, we have baboons, velvet monkeys and red tailed monkeys. Also this is the only forest the world over where you find two higher primates living besides one another, here there are mountain gorillas and chimpanzees. It's quite unique you can't find that anywhere else. We also have duikers, forest elephants, a variety of birds, butterflies and so many trees. It's a wonderful forest, just look out and see how beautiful it is. It's scenic beauty. Wonderful!

[shots of the forest]

Martin Musinguzi, Warden for Tourism

Bwindi is 331 square kilometres. It is also a World Heritage Site. I'm looking at tourists staying in the area for quite a longer time. Many of the tourists come for gorilla tourism and then after that other activities come next, like nature walks and even birding. I'd like to develop butterfly tourism so those interested can extend the time they're days in the Park. Benefits of tourism have been concentrated around the Buhoma area and therefore the local people are very vigilant and ready to defend their forests at all costs, because of the benefits that they are seeing derived by tourist activities in Buhoma.