



African Forest Elephant © Roger de la Harpe



Young Grauer's Gorilla © LMIMAGES

Protect Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorillas from Poaching

The dense tropical rainforest of the eastern Congo Basin is the only place where the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla, a subspecies of Eastern Gorilla, is found. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) holds more than 264 million acres of this rainforest—the largest amount in Africa and three times the size of Montana. But more than 80% of this vast area is totally unprotected against unregulated, unsustainable hunting for bushmeat, slash-and-burn agriculture and illegal artisanal mining.

As a direct result of poaching and extreme habitat loss in the DRC, the Grauer's Gorilla's population has sharply declined over 75% in recent decades. Only an estimated 4,000 individuals survive today, a loss of 13,000 gorillas since the mid 1990s. Urgent and targeted conservation action is the only hope for survival for this magnificent species.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, seek \$1,072,712 to conserve 325,000 acres for what may be one of the most important populations of Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorillas that survives—for now—outside protected areas. Government designation of four new Community Forests will establish local communities as the legal stewards of the forests with the authority to prevent land-grabbing for illegal settlements and the exploitation of resources.

STOP DEFORESTATION AND LOCK UP VAST STORES OF CARBON

Keeping habitat intact is essential to the long-term survival of many species living here—especially the large mammals—and to preventing the release of ancient carbon. These forests in eastern DRC sequester an estimated 74,248,633 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents that, if released, would equate to emissions from burning over 7 billion gallons of diesel.

Over 11,000 species of diverse flora and fauna shelter in the Nkuba forests, including the Grauer's Gorilla, Endangered Eastern Chimpanzee, Okapi and Grey Parrot. Their legal designation as Community Forests expands species' access to safe habitat and a critical wildlife corridor connected to Kahuzi-Biega National Park to the southeast and Maiko National Park to the north.



325,000
ACRES

\$1,072,712
PROJECT COST

\$3.30
COST PER ACRE

74,248,633 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Eastern Gorilla (CR),
African Forest Elephant (CR),
Grey Parrot (EN),
Chimpanzee (EN),
Giant Ground Pangolin (EN),
White-bellied Pangolin (EN)

