

Helping people. Saving gorillas.



THE DIAN FOSSEY
GORILLA FUND®
INTERNATIONAL

2015 Annual Report | Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

gorillafund.org



“There was no way that I could explain to dogs, friends, or parents my compelling need to return to Africa to launch a long-term study of the gorillas. Some may call it destiny and others may call it dismaying. I call the sudden turn of events in my life fortuitous.” - Dian Fossey

Dr. Dian Fossey is remembered throughout the world for her heroic struggles to study and protect the gorillas of Africa’s Virunga mountains. She founded the Karisoke Research Center in 1967, between Mt. Karisimbi and Mt. Visoke, and began a long-term study of the gorillas, under the auspices of Dr. Louis Leakey. Fossey habituated the gorillas to human presence, gained their trust and brought new information to the world about their lives. And she began to care for them deeply, worrying about the many threats to their future.

In 1978, one year after her favorite gorilla, Digit, was killed by poachers, she established the Digit Fund to raise money for gorilla protection. Fossey was killed in her cabin at Karisoke on Dec. 26, 1985, and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund carries on her work today.

Today, thanks to Fossey’s legacy, mountain gorillas are the only ape species whose numbers are known to be increasing.



A message from the CEO and the Chair of the Board



What it takes to Save Gorillas

After nearly 50 years of protecting and studying wild gorillas in Africa, we have learned that conservation is a complex commitment, one that requires many dynamic elements working together to achieve results.

Our success in saving gorillas depends on knowledgeable and passionate teams, daily attention and vigilance, an understanding of science and the natural world and a web of invested people and communities. It is only when all these parts come together that we can effectively save important species and their habitats.

We've also been reminded this year that conservation requires leaders who cast a hopeful and pragmatic vision, and organizations that measure themselves against their own intended impact in the world. We do this by continually asking ourselves whether any new action or program will help ensure stable and healthy gorilla populations in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With decades of experience and the largest scientific database on gorillas, the Fossey Fund is considered the world's center for gorilla protection and study. We know that our model of conservation – the combination of daily protection, cutting-edge science, equipping and teaching, and community empowerment – really works to save gorillas. And we are now successfully applying the same model to the rapidly declining Grauer's gorillas in nearby Congo, in an area that has received almost no protection or study.

We are happy to note that 2015 was one of our best ever in many ways, all of which are outlined in this Annual Report.

But, having learned what works to save gorillas means we have also accepted an incredible challenge, one we cannot face alone. We know that to save gorillas it takes all of us – communities, scientists, field staff, support staff, local authorities, and our many generous supporters and partners – all working together.

We feel privileged to add our names to the list that includes Dian Fossey and all those who have worked so hard to save gorillas all these years.

Thank you for joining us! Your giving makes wild gorilla conservation possible and because of you, the gorilla team remains strong, committed and hopeful.



Sincerely,

Tara Stoinski, Ph.D.

President and CEO/Chief Scientific Officer



Dwight Scott

Chair of the Board of Trustees
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund
Director, San Diego Zoo

2016 Board of Trustees

HONORARY CHAIR

Sigourney Weaver
Actor and Conservationist

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dwight Scott - Chairman
Director
San Diego Zoo

Judith C. Harris - Chair Elect/Vice Chair
Conservationist and Citizen

Joanne Truffelman - Vice Chair
Executive Director
Chemistry Atlanta

Greggory Hudson - Treasurer
Executive Director & CEO
Dallas Zoo and the Aquarium at Fair Park

Richard A. Horder - Secretary
Partner
Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter LLP

Jackie Ogden, Ph.D.
Vice President
Animals, Science and Environment
Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, US

Rebecca F. Rooney
Philanthropist and Conservationist

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christian Bale
Actor and Conservationist

Sibi Bale
Actor and Conservationist

Oliver Baltuch
CEO
Renderstorm, Inc.

Gilbert K. Boese, Ph.D.
President
Foundation for Wildlife Conservation

Michael I. Crowther
President and CEO
Indianapolis Zoological Society

Lawrence J. Ellison
Executive Chairman of the Board
and Chief Technology Officer
Oracle Corporation

Nick Faust
Resident Scholar
Center for Geographic Information Systems
Georgia Institute of Technology

Wayne E. Ferguson
President
The Kennel Club of Philadelphia

Lynn Flanders
Assistant General Manager
The Cobb-Marietta Coliseum
and Exhibit Hall Authority

William R. Foster, DVM
President and CEO
Birmingham Zoo

Gil Grosvenor
Chairman Emeritus
National Geographic Society

Alicia Grahn Jones
Partner
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Romain Murenzi, Ph.D.
Executive Director
The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

Ruth S. Musgrave
Attorney and Conservationist

Sandra L. Price
Philanthropist and Conservationist

Andy Serkis
Actor and Conservationist

Janice Gleason Skow
Executive Director
Segera Mission School and Clinic

Daniel K. Thorne
President
Daniel K. Thorne Foundation

EMERITUS TRUSTEES

Glenn L. Felner
Businessman and Rwanda Advocate

Terrance Harps
Chairman and CEO
Global Concessions, Inc.

Terry L. Maple, Ph.D.
Consultant and Former Zoo Director

The Hon. R. Kenton Musgrave
Senior Judge
US Court of International Trade

Mary G. Smith
Editor, National Geographic (ret.)

Mission and Strategic Priorities

Dian Fossey dedicated her life to saving gorillas from extinction. During the nearly 50 years since she established the Karisoke Research Center, those of us who carry on her work have learned that successful conservation is complex, challenging and continuous.

Together with our many partners, we have developed an integrated conservation model for saving the gorillas that we know works, as shown by the increase in the mountain gorilla population in Rwanda over the years since our intensive protection efforts began. And now we use the same model in nearby Democratic Republic of Congo to protect Grauer's gorillas, which are among the world's most-endangered apes.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1 Daily Protection and Monitoring**
Protection of gorillas and their forest homes
- 2 Scientific Research and Dissemination**
Scientific studies essential for developing effective conservation strategies
- 3 Training and Building the Next Generation of Conservationists**
Equipping people in the area of conservation science in Africa and beyond
- 4 Community Engagement and Education**
Engaging the local communities whose lives are inextricably linked to those of the gorillas





A **70 percent decline** in snares in the sectors where we work, as a result of a poacher education campaign



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Daily Protection and Monitoring

GOAL 1 To ensure that gorilla populations are stable

In Rwanda, we do this with daily protection and anti-poaching patrols that monitor some 115 mountain gorillas currently living in 9-11 groups. Each day our tracker teams hike into the forest to locate every group under our care, and to observe the status of each individual gorilla, while our anti-poaching teams conduct patrols to locate snares set in the forest and deter other illegal activities. In Congo, our teams work differently because the Grauer's gorillas there are not habituated to the presence of humans. Therefore, we follow their trails to collect information and use remote cameras to collect photographs without disturbing them.

Accomplishments in 2015

Daily protection within a **700-square-kilometer area** of unprotected forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo that includes approximately 150 Grauer's gorillas as well as some 200 chimpanzees and other important wildlife



18 months, the longest period in a decade without a gorilla caught in a snare



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Scientific Research and Dissemination

GOAL 2 To have the best information available for use in preserving the gorillas and their ecosystems

This provides knowledge and the best basis for creating effective conservation strategies. And we also learn important things about the gorillas that inform our understanding not only of these amazing animals but of nature in general.



Accomplishments in 2015



Produced 20 academic papers on gorillas and gorilla conservation, adding to the more than 275 scientific publications based on data collected at Karisoke

Continued to build our biodiversity program, and monitored and studied other species in gorilla habitat, including golden monkeys, birds, amphibians and bamboo (*a key gorilla food plant*)



Collected more than 23,000 hours of data to add to one of the largest databases of information on any animal and the source for much of the scientific knowledge about gorillas





OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Training and Building the Next Generation

GOAL
3

To build the foundation for long-term, sustainable conservation and science in the field, as well as local conservation leadership

The Fossey Fund is dedicated to enhancing the capacity of our staff, as well as students and scientists in Rwanda and Congo. By creating educational opportunities for local people who live in and around gorilla habitat, from primary schools to universities, and by bringing young scientists to Karisoke for field studies, we are actively contributing to building the conservation culture in the countries where we work.

Accomplishments in 2015

2,000+18



Conducting outreach programs, including classroom discussion, nature hikes, citizen science and teacher training. We reached over **2,000 students and trained 18 teachers.**

Conservation and the environment are not included in the national curriculum in Rwanda and these programs are critical to engaging young children in the conservation conversation.

Supporting 19 Fossey Fund field staff to pursue graduate or undergraduate degrees



Engaging 395 Rwandan undergraduate students in programs led by Karisoke staff





OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Community Engagement and Education

GOAL 4 To create the basic conditions necessary to support effective conservation activities where they are most needed

Conservation cannot be done in isolation, so we work closely with local communities in Rwanda and Congo to improve critical needs, especially those that may affect nearby gorilla habitat, like clean water and health care. By engaging local communities where we work, we commit to improving their understanding of gorillas and the unique environment in which they live, and to improving human health and well-being. Local conservation education and outreach is essential in this region, given the significant population density, and the Fossey Fund has programs that focus on each level of society.

Accomplishments in 2015

Helping a community of 20,000 people adjacent to the national park through our **building of a computer center/library and a maternity ward**

20,000



Bringing 37 community leaders into the park to see gorillas and facilitating discussion groups to **address conflict** between the local communities and the park

Having approximately 3,500 people from eight villages and three schools attend **conservation-related films** organized by Fossey Fund education staff. This activity is extremely popular because local communities do not have electricity for televisions.

3,500



At the heart of the Fossey Fund

Every day for nearly 50 years, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International has been protecting gorillas in the wild. In that time, many individuals — both gorillas and people — have given life to that mission. These individuals remind us of the inextricable link between animals and human beings and why our particular version of that dynamic union is so compelling — and worthwhile.



“It was their individuality combined with the shyness of their behavior that remained the most captivating impression of this first encounter with the greatest of the great apes.” - Dian Fossey



Silverback Cantsbee

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund intimately knows all the gorillas in our care. We know their birthdays, personalities and histories. Some gorillas we’ve known for a very long time. The oldest living male we monitor was first observed by Dian at birth. His name is Cantsbee. When Cantsbee’s mother, whom Fossey presumed to be a male gorilla, gave birth, she exclaimed in disbelief, “It can’t be!” Soon after, the infant gorilla became “Cantsbee.”

As a 37-year-old silverback, Cantsbee holds the record for the longest reign of leadership the Fossey Fund has

ever observed. From 1995-2015, he led Pablo’s group, which reached a record high of 65 individuals. In recent months, Cantsbee’s son, Gicurasi, challenged his father for dominance. During one challenge in December, staff reported that for the first time, Cantsbee exhibited rare submissive behavior. Since the start of 2016, it’s become clear that a peaceful dominance shift has occurred. Gicurasi seems to follow in the steps of his emblematic silverback father, protecting his group with strength and care. We hope this means an even longer life for Cantsbee!



Tracker Jean Bosco Ntirenganya

While all Fossey Fund trackers must be committed to a job that requires courage, perseverance and strength, Jean Bosco Ntirenganya distinguishes himself as exemplary through his extreme love and devotion for his job and his dedication to personal development. Jean Bosco is an inspiration to younger trackers and has proven himself as a leader. He has risen in the ranks from a tracker to a data technician and all in relatively short time. Even after being bitten by a stressed silverback during an intervention to remove an infant gorilla from a snare, Jean Bosco remained steadfast and quickly regained his confidence to return to work with the gorillas. “Being bitten by a gorilla is such a traumatic event that some people never fully recover from

it. He is very courageous,” says the Director of the Karisoke Research Center, Felix Ndagijimana.

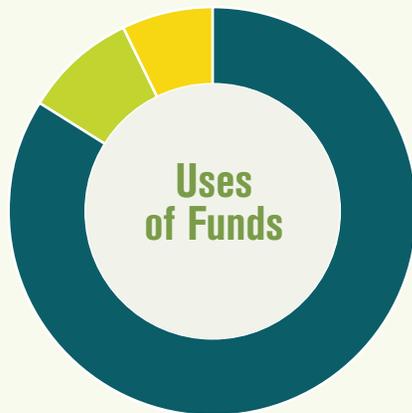
Jean Bosco’s courage extends from the field to his personal life, too. When he joined the Fossey Fund, he had not completed his high school education. He says, “Before I began my job in 2007 as a tracker, there was no hope that I would go back to school.” After expressing a desire to finish his degree, he asked the Fossey Fund if he could work only on weekdays and use the weekends as time to go to school. Soon after receiving his high school diploma, he enrolled in college, with the support of Partners in Conservation (PIC), a Fossey Fund partner. We are proud of Jean Bosco’s resilience in and out of the forest.

2015 Financial Report

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International has been making history – in many important ways – for almost 50 years now! **We would like to thank our many loyal and generous donors**; without them we would not be able to carry on the vital mission of protecting gorillas and their habitats in Africa. From all of us at the Fossey Fund, thank you for making a difference!



- 54% Individuals
- 33% Foundations
- 5% Partner Organizations
- 4% Government Grants
- 3% Corporations
- 1% Earned Income



- 84% Field Programs
- 9% Fundraising
- 7% Management and General

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Individuals	\$ 2,004,191
Foundations	1,255,824
Partner Organizations	191,821
Corporations	137,055
Government Grants	144,960
Earned Income	964
Total Revenue	\$ 3,734,815

USES OF FUNDS

Karisoke Research Center	\$ 1,193,852
Grauer's Research & Conservation	619,658
Science, Education, and Communications	1,096,942
Fundraising	323,822
Management and General	226,929
Total Expenses	\$ 3,461,203

Change in net assets	\$273,612
Net assets, start of year	\$2,953,165
Net assets, end of year	\$3,226,777

Based on the 2015 Audited Financial Statements

Five Ways to Give

5 things YOU can do RIGHT NOW to help gorillas

- 1 Become a sustaining donor** Support our efforts year round by making a recurring gift. You choose how much and how often you want to give – it's a simple way to make a big impact for gorillas. To become a sustaining donor, [click here](#).
- 2 Make a gift of stock** Share your shares with gorillas and maximize your tax savings. We would be happy to talk to you; simply call 404-624-5693 and ask to speak with our Chief Advancement Officer, or e-mail us at 2help@gorillas.org.
- 3 Become a Legacy Society member** Let your legacy be the conservation of gorillas in the wild. By including the Fossey Fund in your will or other estate plans, you can ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to see mountain gorillas in their native habitat. For more information, please visit our [Dian Fossey Legacy Society](#) page.
- 4 Take advantage of workplace giving** Many employers will match your gift, enabling you to double or triple your contribution to help gorillas. Ask your employer for a matching gift application and send it with your contribution. Or, if your workplace participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), you can contribute to the Fossey Fund through payroll deductions. Our CFC number is 11249.
- 5 Donate online** Make an instant impact by visiting and [donating online](#). Every gift can make a difference in the effort to see gorillas thrive.





The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International relies upon the generosity of individuals, foundations, companies, governments, and other organizations **to help ensure the survival of gorillas** in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the flourishing of communities who live in close proximity to gorilla habitats. In addition to the many supporters we would like to thank for their charitable contributions in 2015, we would especially like to recognize the following funders.

Partners and Sponsors

Collaborating Funders

Collaborating Funders make significant investments to achieve mutual goals for conservation, often providing their support over multiple years.

ANONYMOUS
FOUNDATION

THE MILTON AND
TAMAR MALTZ FAMILY
FOUNDATION

ORACLE®

DigitalGlobe



Corporate Sponsors

Sponsors provide financial and in-kind resources to enable the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to carry out its mission each year.

Preservationist Level

Kilpatrick Townsend, LLP
Nature's Path – EnviroKidz

Visionary Level

Corning® Gorilla Glass®
Maine Beer
Vacations to Go



THE DIAN FOSSEY
GORILLA FUND®
INTERNATIONAL

In addition to these Collaborating Funders and Corporate Sponsors, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund depends upon the generous support of other marketing partners throughout the world who provide donations from the sale of their goods and services.



Helping people. Saving gorillas.

800 Cherokee Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30315
800-851-0203 • gorillafund.org

gorillafund.org