



DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT

# A year of impact

If ever there was a year where impact was truly the dominant theme, 2022 was that year for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. We reached our 55th year of existence and opened our transformative Ellen DeGeneres Campus. We expanded our mountain gorilla research expertise in Rwanda, dramatically increased our protected area of the critically endangered Grauer's gorillas in the DR Congo and impacted a record of number people through our community support programs.

The impact outlined in this report shows just how big, broad and effective our work has been and still is, but it's not just numbers that tell the story. It's the gorillas and other biodiversity, the people and the places behind these numbers that really matter – like the Congolese women we taught to read and write, the first African Fossey Fund staff member to complete a doctoral degree, the 600,000 acres of pristine forest that we protect, the kitchen gardens providing food to thousands of people who live near the forests and the gorillas who were spared from the 2,500 snares we removed.

It is a privilege to be able to report these accomplishments and astonishing to reflect that it was all started 55 years ago by one woman alone in the forest with a goal – to study a little-known species in danger of imminent extinction.

Our mission today is much broader, because it has to be. We now know that saving gorillas has even bigger implications – **saving gorillas saves our planet**. Protecting gorillas means that we are ensuring a future for a diversity of animals, plants and forests that are critical to the health of the Earth and all humankind. It means that Dian Fossey's legacy has turned into a mighty one, with the ability to make a lasting global impact.

We could never have reached this year's milestones without our loyal and generous community from around the world. Your support and commitment ensure that our efforts and our impact will continue to grow and to make every year as important as this one.

Thank you!



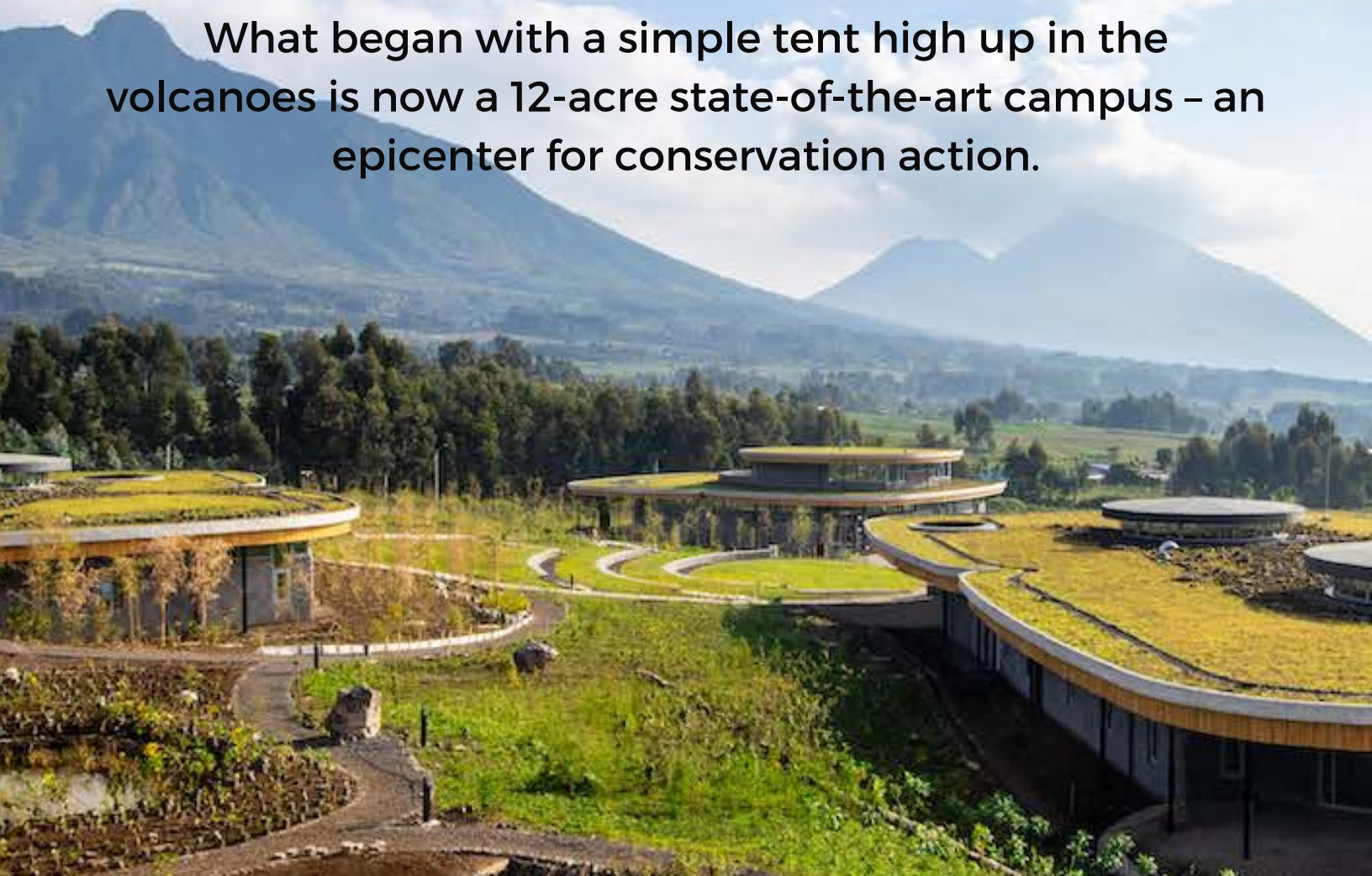
**Dr. Tara Stoinski**  
President & CEO/Chief Scientific Officer





# 55 YEARS LATER

What began with a simple tent high up in the volcanoes is now a 12-acre state-of-the-art campus – an epicenter for conservation action.





# THE ELLEN CAMPUS

Gorillas serve as an entry point for a lifetime of conservation activism.

*On February 1, 2022, we opened the doors to our state-of-the-art center for conservation action – The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. And our new home is already making its mark on conservation in Rwanda, the region, and the globe.*

## 25,000+

VISITORS

More than 25,000 people, including local community members, tourists from around the world and 5,500+ school children visited our campus and learned about the important role gorillas play in saving our planet.



## 3,500+

MEALS SERVED TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

Through our partnership with Food & Stuff, many of the school children visiting our campus were provided with a nutritious and tasty meal.







*One of Africa's 10 most-anticipated architectural projects.*  
- CNN

# 300+

## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TRAINED

More than 300 university students, staff, early career scientists and community members participated in 40 trainings, preparing them to be conservation leaders of the future.



Six species of frogs and 59 species of birds have made the campus their home.






# RWANDA



In 2022, our team of more than 150 staff in Rwanda accomplished incredible growth by further expanding our research to include **eight gorilla groups** that are protected by the Rwandan Development Board. These additional groups will allow us to increase our understanding of the gorillas' behavior, habits and needs to better protect and conserve them.

Historically, less than 5% of scientific research papers on African animals are led by Africans, so we are excited to share that in 2022, **45% of our scientific papers were led by African authors**. And, through Fossey Fund scholarships there are seven staff members advancing their education through bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.



**Segasira, the son of "gorilla King" Titus and Tuck, formed his own group in May 2022. We are excited to see him carry on his historic family's legacy.**





# RWANDA

40%

OF OUR RESEARCH  
STAFF ARE WOMEN

26,000+

INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY OUR FOOD  
SECURITY PROGRAMS

Our mushroom cultivation program produced more than **five tons** of mushrooms this year. This co-op currently provides supplemental nutrition and income to forty families and is expanding to more communities in 2023.



425+

INDIVIDUAL GOLDEN MONKEYS IDENTIFIED

Through our ongoing golden monkey research, we have identified more than 425 individuals living in four groups. This is great progress for understanding their behavior, biology and ultimately, their conservation. Golden monkeys are the only other primate in Volcanoes National Park and are classified as endangered with only an estimated 5,000 remaining.



36,600+

TREES PLANTED THROUGH  
NATURE CLUBS



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Congo Basin is the only place on Earth where the critically endangered Grauer's gorillas are found. Their population has **declined by 60% in the last three decades**. Our critical work is addressing these declines by creating community conservation forests where gorillas, wildlife and people can flourish together.



# 50%

INCREASE IN OUR PROTECTED AREA

In 2022 we were thrilled to announce the expansion of our Nkuba Conservation area (NCA), originally established in 2012, by almost 50% - **now covering 600,000 acres of pristine rainforest**.

In addition, we removed 2,500+ snares, spent tens of thousands of hours in the forest protecting and researching the critically endangered Grauer's gorillas and impacted the lives of thousands of people living in and around NCA.

# 2,500+

SNARES REMOVED

"I never imagined I would become a tracker. Now that I am, I regret the time when I killed wildlife. At the time, I didn't know any other way to survive. Before becoming a tracker, I didn't even have a place to live. Now I have a house and enough money to pay for all of my children's schooling and for health insurance." - Fossey Fund Tracker Isoke Tanganyika Meshe



# 10,000+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED

- Through our staff-led programs such as literacy, sewing, agricultural development and fish farming, thousands of community members are now able to earn an income and experience increased food security and improved nutrition. They are now less reliant on the critical forests for resources to support their families.



# 78%

## OF DONATIONS DIRECTLY FUND OUR PROGRAMS



Charity Navigator



✦ FOUR-STAR ✦

We are proud to share that we have earned our sixth consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator – the highest possible rating. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that we not only exceed industry standards but outperform most charities in our area of work. Only 14% of the charities evaluated received at least six consecutive 4-star evaluations. This exceptional designation sets us apart from our peers and demonstrates to the public our trustworthiness.

For more information, please visit [gorillafund.org](http://gorillafund.org)





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