



the
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organization



"IF ONLY WE HAD MORE FOOD RATIONS, RANGERS COULD CARRY OUT MORE PATROLS AND PROTECT MORE GORILLAS."

Henry Cirhuza, The Gorilla Organization, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

February 2023

Dear Friend

You're deeper in the forest than you've ever been. You know you're close now. Maybe half a mile to go. But you're so hungry. You've been fighting your way through the densest part of the forest for days. All your rations are gone. You have no choice. You have to turn back...

I'm sure you already know that there's nothing rangers won't do – no sacrifice they're not prepared to make – to keep gorillas safe.

But even the bravest rangers simply can't protect gorillas without the food rations they need to carry on.

The gorilla habitats that rangers patrol in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda are some of the toughest places in the world to operate. They are mountainous, wet and they're often very cold.

That means rangers need as much nutrition as they can possibly take on board. They're like long-distance runners: the more fuel they have the longer they can keep on going. Every extra step they take gives more protection to gorillas.

But I can't send rangers out into the unknown without the calories they need to keep on going until the job is done.

I'm never very comfortable asking for donations – I'm not a fundraiser, after all – I spend my life protecting gorillas. But I know you are a true friend to the gorillas, and just how much they mean to you. So please make a donation today if you can. Anything you can give today will help us go the extra mile to save gorillas from extinction.

It's not that rangers don't have enough food rations for their current missions. It's just that we all know there is so much more we could do – if only we had more. We know there are more gorillas out there. And they urgently need our protection.

Please turn over...





Every time I go on my rounds rangers ask me the same questions: *"Please, why can't we stay in the forest longer? The gorillas need us. Are there really no more rations to go round? It breaks our hearts to leave them all alone."*

It really hurts to say no to such determined and selfless men. But at the moment, I have no choice. That's why we all – including the rangers and the gorillas they protect – need your support once more today.

It's simple. The more food rations we can provide for rangers, the more additional patrols we can carry out. The more patrols we carry out, the more gorillas we can protect. The more gorillas we protect, the more babies will be born, survive and thrive. That's how we'll save these wonderful creatures from extinction.

I can't bear the fact that rangers have to turn back simply for lack of rations. Picture the scene. The rangers can see the trails left by illegal hunters ahead of them – and hear the sounds of their gunshots. But they just can't go any further. They have nothing left in the tank, and no more rations to refuel with.

It's just too horrible to think about.

When I talk about food rations, I don't mean special scientific concoctions. I mean simple stuff like dried fish, cassava porridge and beans. They're really high in calories and give rangers the stamina they need to protect gorillas in the toughest conditions.

Because the fish, the cassava flour and the beans are dried, they're light to carry too. So rangers aren't loaded down with unnecessary baggage. They can boil them up with water in the forest. It's not cordon bleu cuisine, but at the end of a long day's trek in the freezing fog it's exactly what they need to keep going.

It's cheap too. But it isn't free. We have to buy most of it at the markets in the bigger towns outside the forest and then transport it to camp.

And the costs really add up quickly. Every ranger we send out needs two hot meals a day. And that means it takes a lot of money to keep them going. Money we depend on generous supporters like you to provide.

As you can see, rangers really are desperate to do more to protect gorillas. But they can't do it without your help. **The more rations they have, the more extra patrols they can make, and the more we can all do to save gorillas from extinction.**

So please make a donation today, and please be as generous as you can. You'll be helping some of the bravest men you could ever meet to keep on going the extra mile for gorillas. They – and I – will thank you forever for all your kindness.

Yours sincerely

Henry Cirhuza
Programme Manager
The Democratic Republic of the Congo



P.S. In the heart of the forest, when it feels like you're surrounded by danger, it's good to remember that people thousands of miles away have a place in their hearts for you. So please make a donation today and stay by the rangers' side.

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HOW YOUR GIFT WILL PROVIDE EXTRA FOOD RATIONS, KIT AND EQUIPMENT TO HELP RANGERS PROTECT MORE GORILLAS

Rangers will run any risk to save gorillas from extinction. And they desperately want to do more. But they can't do it without fuel. So please make a donation today to help them get the rations, kit and equipment they need to keep up their lifesaving patrols in some of the harshest terrain on earth.

You could help give rangers more food rations so they can carry out more patrols

Each group carries their food with them into the forest, and cooks on camp fires in the morning and at night.

Your donation could also help provide pots, pans and spoons. Rangers have to take everything with them on patrol – from spoons and bowls to eat with to pans to cook their food.

You could give them the kit and equipment they need



Please make your donation today

You can give by phone on **01435 511088**

or securely online at **www.gorillas.org/donate**

Images by kind permission of Sara & Joachim Huber-Schwegler



**MORE RATIONS EQUALS
MORE RANGER PATROLS**





MORE RANGER PATROLS = MORE GORILLAS PROTECTED

Every day, rangers make unimaginable sacrifices to save gorillas from extinction. And they're desperate to do more. But they can only do that if they have the food rations they need. **The more rations they have, the further they can go to protect gorillas.**

MORE GORILLAS PROTECTED = MORE BABY GORILLAS BORN

Without baby gorillas, there can be no hope for the future. If rangers can carry out more patrols, they can make sure more mother gorillas give birth successfully. **Will you help make sure they have the rations they need to do more?**

MORE BABY GORILLAS BORN = A FAR BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL FOR ALL GORILLAS





Female gorillas only become sexually mature around the age of 12 and they only give birth about once every four years, so every baby gorilla is incredibly precious.

More rations will mean more patrols. And more patrols will mean that more baby gorillas have the chance to grow into adults and have babies of their own. This means all gorillas have a far better chance of survival in the future.

**BUT RANGERS CAN ONLY CARRY
OUT MORE PATROLS IF THEY
HAVE MORE FOOD RATIONS.
AND MORE RATIONS COST MONEY.
WILL YOU HELP PROVIDE THEM?**

Anything you give will help rangers give gorillas more of the protection they so desperately need. Thank you.

Please make your donation today

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WILL YOU HELP RANGERS GET THE FOOD RATIONS THEY NEED TO GO FURTHER FOR GORILLAS?

Rangers can stay in the forest for longer

Rations are the fuel that keeps rangers going. They can only stay on patrol for as long as they have food.

Rangers can go further into the forest

Rations give rangers the calories they need to keep going the extra mile to protect gorillas from illegal hunters.

Rangers protect more gorillas

The longer they can patrol, and the further they can go, the more gorillas rangers can keep safe.

Rangers find and destroy more deadly traps

More food rations will give rangers the endurance they need to keep scouring the forest for deadly and well-hidden traps.



**MORE
RATIONS
MEANS...**

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