

# MOUNTAIN GORILLA

## Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei beringei*

With a thick coat to keep them warm at high altitude, the mountain gorilla is the second largest of all gorilla subspecies – only the Eastern lowland gorilla is bigger.

DESCRIBED AS A NEW SPECIES IN **1902** ENDANGERED BY **1986**

FEWER THAN

# 1200

LEFT IN THE WILD

Gorillas are one of our closest living relatives and share approximately

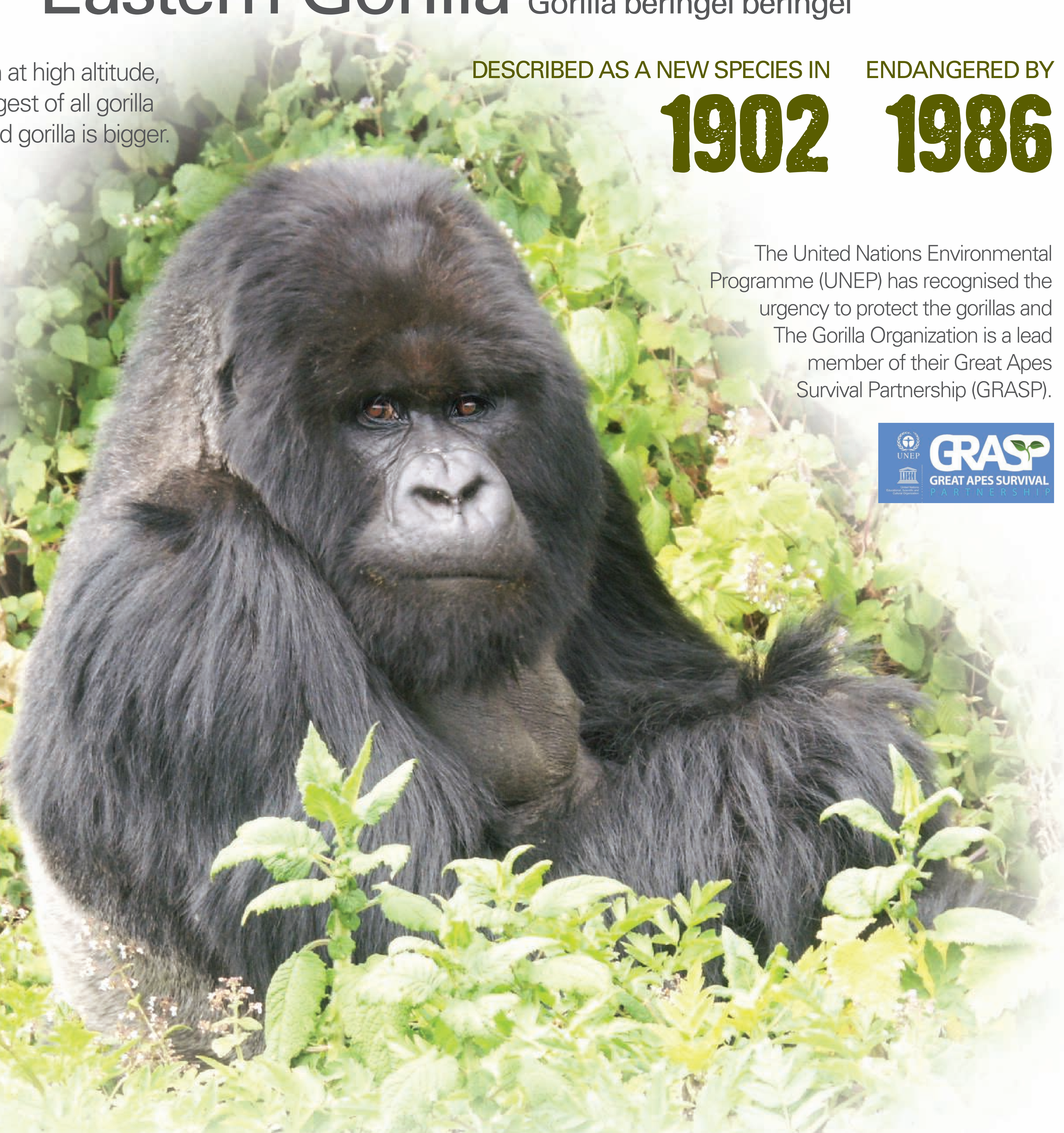
# 98%

of our DNA profile.

An adult gorilla eats around

# 30KG

of food a day consisting of wild celery, bamboo, thistles, stinging nettles, bedstraw and certain fruit. These plants provide sufficient moisture so that gorillas do not need to drink water.



The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has recognised the urgency to protect the gorillas and The Gorilla Organization is a lead member of their Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP).



## THREATS

### POACHING

- Gorillas are maimed or killed by traps set for other animals.
- Abduction of infants for illegal selling to zoos and as pets. This often results in other adult gorillas being killed in the process.

### HABITAT LOSS

- Rapidly expanding human settlements put pressure on the gorilla habitat.
- Fragmentation of forested areas has resulted in the isolation of gorilla groups from each other, reducing genetic diversity.

The region has almost 3 times the population density of the UK

The Congo Rainforest is losing an area the same size as 43,500 FOOTBALL PITCHES EVERY YEAR

IF THE GORILLAS LOSE THEIR HABITAT, WE WILL LOSE THESE CREATURES FOREVER.

### DISEASE

- Regular contact of tourists with the gorillas risks transmission of diseases from humans to the gorillas.
- Domestic animals and livestock can also contribute to disease transmission.

20% of gorilla deaths are caused by human diseases

### WAR AND CIVIL UNREST

- Refugees removing trees for fuel and cooking.
- Increased risk for gorillas through hunting for bush meat.
- Gorillas are at risk from being killed by land mines placed along forest paths.

175 rangers have been murdered whilst protecting the gorillas

### OIL AND GAS

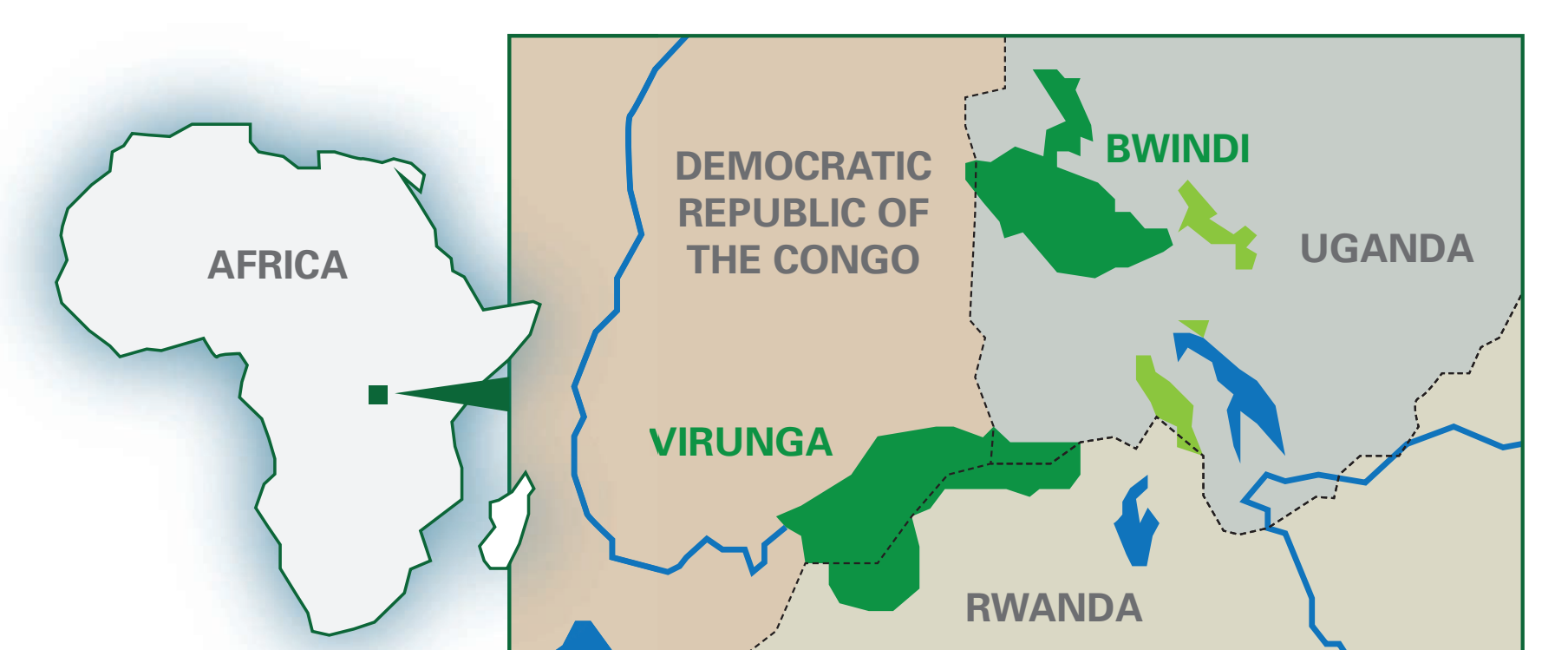
- European oil and gas producers have been granted permission to search for deposits in Virunga National Park.
- While the gorilla habitat does not currently fall within the area to be searched, any development could be disastrous for the gorilla population.

### FEATURES

Like all gorillas, mountain gorillas live in family groups, generally with one dominant adult male (the silverback) and several adult females, along with immature males and females. Other adult males either live singly or as part of all-male groups. Silverbacks can be over 1.9m tall.

### LOCATION

- Virunga National Park - The Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Volcanoes National Park - Rwanda.
- Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mgahinga National Park - Uganda.



### FIND OUT MORE

Please visit [www.gorillas.org](http://www.gorillas.org) to find out how together we are helping to save these magnificent creatures from extinction.