

registrars get between sh3m and sh5m, depending on the level of the court.

long-term plan to improve their pay.

The President has occasionally

practicing income-generating activities besides their monthly salaries,

Gorilla population increases

By Gerald Tenywa

The population of mountain gorillas in Uganda's Mgahinga National Park in Kisoro, Rwanda and DR Congo has increased to 604, according to Bashir Hangi, the spokesperson of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

According to a press statement from the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration, this is the highest number of gorillas to be encountered in Virunga Massif (a landscape shared by the three countries) given that only 480 mountain gorillas were encountered in 2010.

The estimate brings the total number of gorillas, including Bwindi's population, to 1,004. Bwindi's gorilla population was estimated at 400 in 2011. This means that the gorilla population has surpassed the 1,000th mark ever since gorilla conservation efforts were stepped up in the 1990s. The census is conducted after every five years

in the two gorilla homelands: Virunga-massif and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park has a habituated group of gorillas-Nyakagezi group with nine gorillas (four silver backs, two adult females, one juvenile-female and an infant). It also has wild solitary males that move on their own.

"The population boom is good for conservation, as well as tourism. The tourists coming to the region will not spend a lot of time looking for gorillas because they are more in population," Hangi said.

He added: "The increase in population shows that our conservation efforts are

producing results. It also shows that the collaboration efforts by the three countries to fight poaching are working."

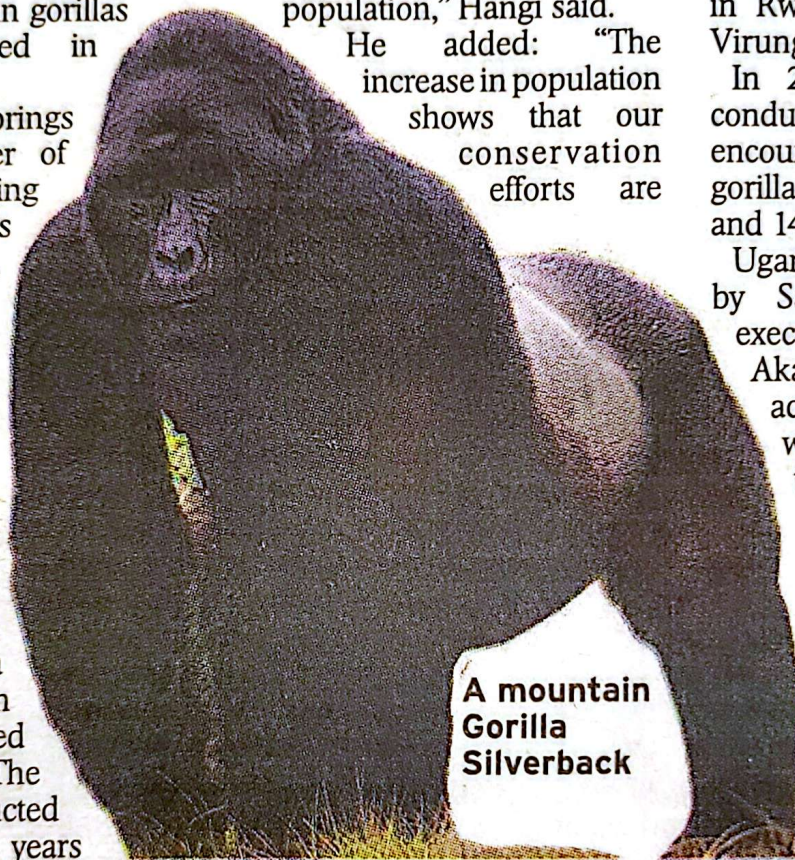
The census results were released at Serena-Kivu in Rwanda (near the border between Rwanda and DR Congo). The 604 gorillas stay in 41 groups and 14 solitary males (do not belong to any group).

The mountain gorillas were found in Mgahinga National park, Mikenso sector of Virunga National Park in DR Congo and Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, which is part of Virunga massif.

In 2011, the experts who conducted the census encountered 480 mountain gorillas staying in 36 groups and 14 solitary males.

Uganda was represented by Sam Mwandha, UWA's executive director and Akankwasah Barirega, the acting commissioner of wildlife conservation in the tourism industry.

Mountain gorillas are described as critically endangered species. This means that if nothing is done to protect them from poaching and their habitat from encroachment, they could become extinct.



A mountain Gorilla Silverback