

Gentle GIANTS



Although gorillas are protected in all 10 African countries where they are found, the apes are still in danger because of poaching,

disease, conflict in the areas where they live, and the loss of forest due to logging, mining and farming.

"Here in Uganda's national parks, the gorillas are pretty safe," says Benson. "But in other countries, people still eat them, or sell their meat or body parts for trophies."

The ebola virus (a fast-spreading deadly disease) has also been devastating to the western lowland gorillas, and during the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it's thought that over 70% of eastern lowland gorillas were killed for food, with conflict in the area still a threat.

"The good news is that the mountain gorilla population is increasing," says Ian. "But with just 720 left in the wild, these gentle giants still need our protection."

Gorillas are mainly vegetarian, eating stems, fruits and leaves – but sometimes tickly termites and ants!

Did you know...?

Gorillas are apes, like orang-utans. The easy way to tell the difference between an ape and a monkey, is that monkeys have tails!

Be a top tracker!

Bwindi guide, Zipora, gives her top tips for tracking mountain gorillas...

1 "As gorillas move through the forest, they disturb the vegetation – the direction in which it's pointing will tell you which way the gorillas are going."

2 "Look out for broken branches and left-over bark peelings – you could have found a gorilla's snack spot!"

3 "Finally, keep an eye open for gorilla poop – if it's fresh, they could be close by!"

