



WEAR IT WILD

MOUNTAIN GORILLA

Hi, I am the mountain gorilla, a subspecies of the Eastern gorilla species. The other subspecies, the Eastern lowland gorilla is on average bigger than me, but I'm still powerful and strong.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about me.

DID YOU KNOW

Males defend their females and offspring using their large size in intimidating displays involving charging and chest-beating.

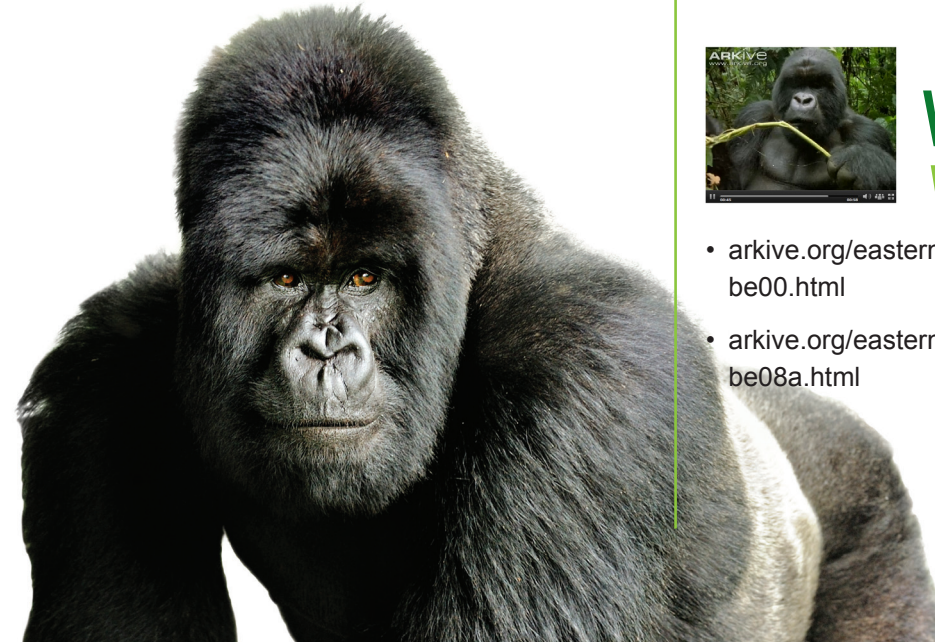
Where I live

I live in tropical forests, in high altitudes between 2,500 metres and 4,000 metres in central Africa. Here there are just two isolated populations: one in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda, and one in the Virunga volcanoes – which span the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/campaign_with_us/virunga/



CHARACTERISTICS

- I have a heavy body shape and dark coat.
- Male mountain gorillas can weigh up to 180kg and females up to 90kg.
- I also have a broad chest and long arms.
- I mainly move around on the ground. I walk on all fours using clenched fists and flat feet. I can climb trees if I need to.



MY FAMILY

Mountain gorillas generally live in groups with several females and their young, and one dominant male. I usually live in a group of about 10 gorillas – but groups of 65 have been seen.

Dominant males are known as 'silverbacks' because they have a patch of silver hair on their back and hips.



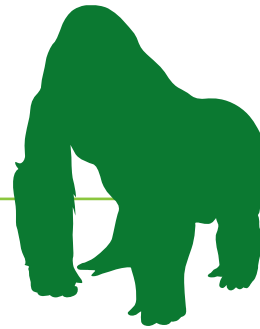
VIDEO

Watch footage of me:

- arkive.org/eastern-gorilla/gorilla-beringei/video-be00.html
- arkive.org/eastern-gorilla/gorilla-beringei/video-be08a.html

FEEDING

- I am an omnivore.
- I mainly eat leaves, shoots and stems, and because of my size I must eat a lot during the day to survive.

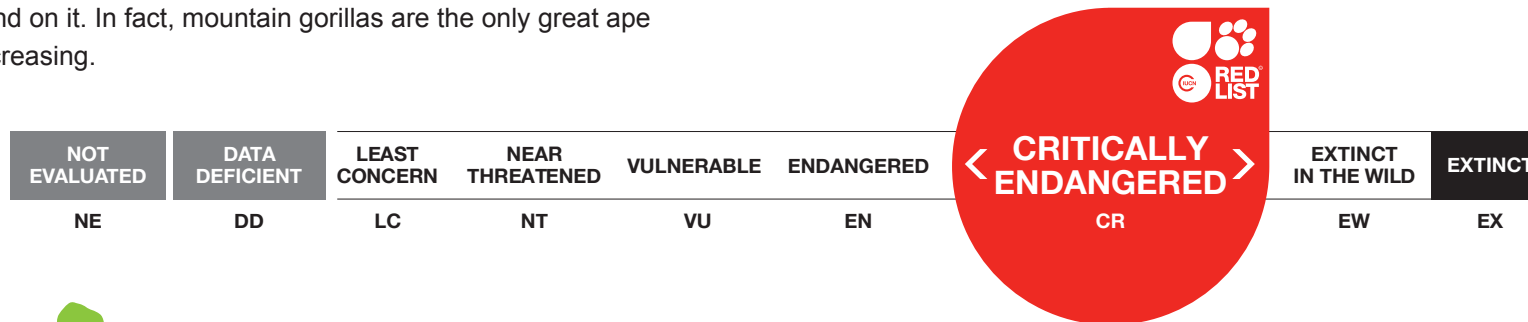


DID YOU KNOW

As I eat lots of different leaves, shoots and stems over a wide area, the natural balance in the food chain would be disrupted without me.

CLASSIFICATION

I am classified as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, but conservation efforts are taking place to protect my population and increase our number to make sure the environment remains healthy for the people and other wildlife that depend on it. In fact, mountain gorillas are the only great ape whose numbers are increasing.



STATUS



The main threat to my species is people. A lot of my habitat has been lost to make more room for people, which means my species are threatened with habitat loss. Humans also use the natural resources found in my habitat – particularly wood for fuel. I can catch human diseases from the people that enter my habitat.

The area where I live has been affected by years of conflict between people and this makes efforts to conserve my species even more difficult.



Traps that are set in the wild to catch other wildlife may accidentally injure and even kill my species too.

It is estimated there are around 880 mountain gorillas left in the wild.

www.wwf.org.uk/wildlife/mountain_gorilla/