Collaborative Archival Preservation and Capacity Building : Wisconsin, JGI & CRSN

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16th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Kigali, 21-26 November 2016

OUTLINE

- CENTRAL AFRICA INITIATIVE (CAI)
- PARTNERSHIPS IN CENTRAL AFRICA
- PARTERNSHIPS IN DRC
 - CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES NATURELLES (CRSN)
 - - CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN HYDROBIOLOGIE (CRH)
 - BUKAVU UNIVERSITIES (UOB, UCB, UEA, ISP)
- COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS
 - - MAP PRESERVATION (with JGI & CRSN)
 - CAPACITY BUILDING (with CRSN & Bukavu Universities)
 - LIBRARY RESTORATION & UPDATING (with CAMP)
- CONCLUSION
 - Goals & Challenges

Central Africa Initiative (CAI) CENT AFRICA INITIATI

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

http://africa.wisc.edu/cai/en/

CAI background

- Founded in 2012 by Don Waller and Aliko Songolo
- Interdisciplinary approach to promoting conservation education, research, and knowledge exchange in Congo Basin
- 2012 trip to Cameroon & Gabon, 2015 trip to DRC & Rwanda, several CBFP meetings
- Variety of Central African, North American, and European partners





Central African partners

- Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles Lwiro
- Parc National de la Bénoué (Cameroon)
- Chimère Diaw & African Model Forest Network
- Zac Tchoundjeu & World Agroforestry Centre
- Other Cameroonian and Congolese research institutions (EFG, U. Dschang, Bukavu universities)



Why CRSN - Lwiro?

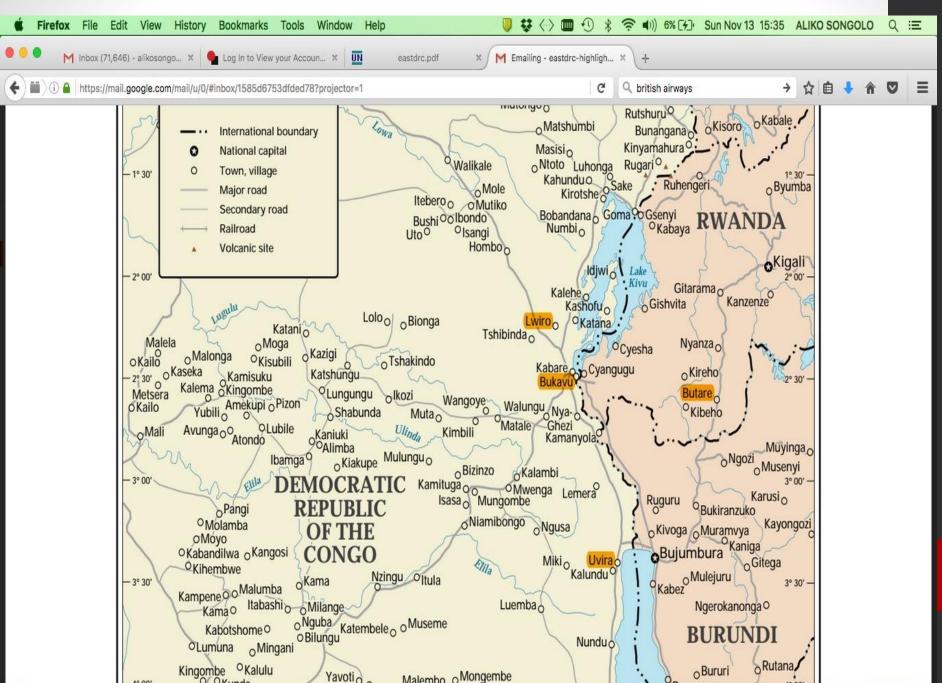
- Central Location in rich biodiversity area
- Ready-made infrastructure
- Established organizational structure
- Seven decades of ongoing crucial scientific research
- Need for enhanced research funding and cooperation related to conservation, ecology, agriculture, climate change, etc. in the region

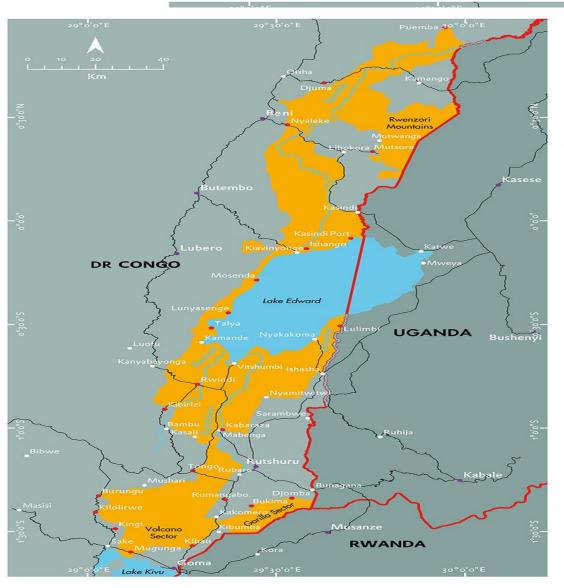


D. R. Congo Protected Areas



CRSN Lwiro is centrally located to take advantage of the rich diversity of the region





VIRUNGA National Park

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

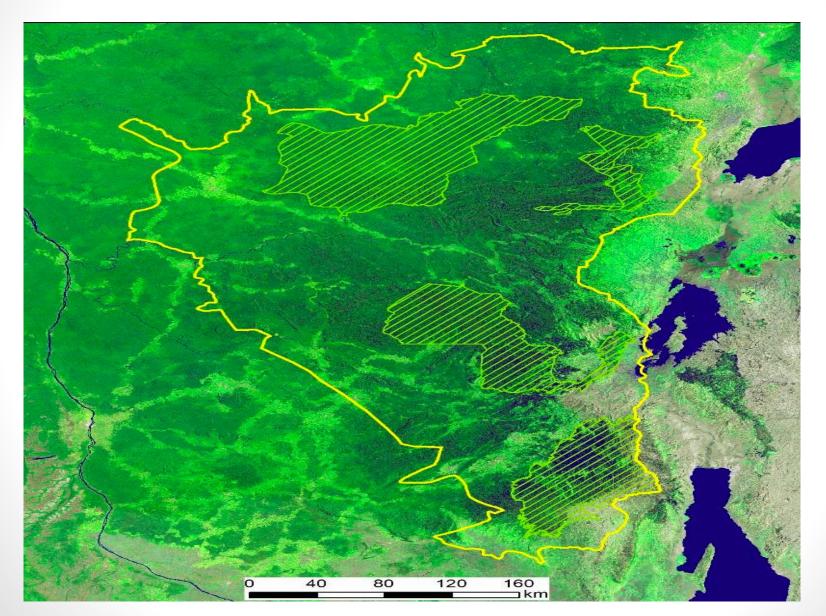
Established in 1925 Africa's Oldest National Park





Mountains near Virunga National Park at the border of Rwanda and northwestern DRC, an area of recent conflict

In addition to the Virunga National Park, Kahuzi-Biega National Park is nearby, and Maiko National Park, the Itombwe Reserve, and Tayna Gorilla sanctuary are within reach.



Centre de Réhabilitation des Primates de Lwiro





Lwiro Primate Sanctuary





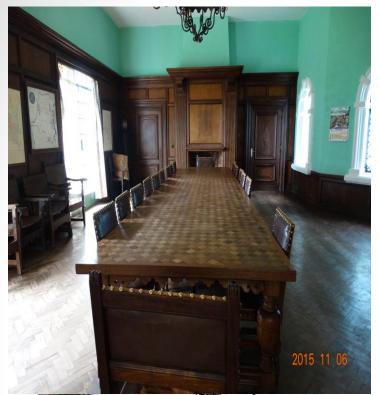
Eastern Lowland Gorillas in Kahuzi-Biega National Park near Lwiro







From IRSAC to CRSN



CRSN Conference Room and Hallways





CRSN Research Laboratories









Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles (CRSN) – Lwiro (DRC)

A partnership to map and archive historic, hand drawn maps from Lwiro (CRSN) that show faunal and floral species distributions and habitat types within the region

- JGI has used the newly digitized (historic) maps to overlay in GIS platforms with current satellite imagery to improve site specific conservation action planning

- In partnership with the UW-Madison Geography Map Library, and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, we have archived 143 (mainly primates) maps to date, yet the total map collection at Lwiro is over 3,000 – we have work to do!



Pan Troglodyte (common chimpanzee)

the Jane Goodall Institute

Map & Geospatial Data Librarian Jaime Martindale and Program Coordinator Nathan Schulfer prepare Lwiro maps for digitization









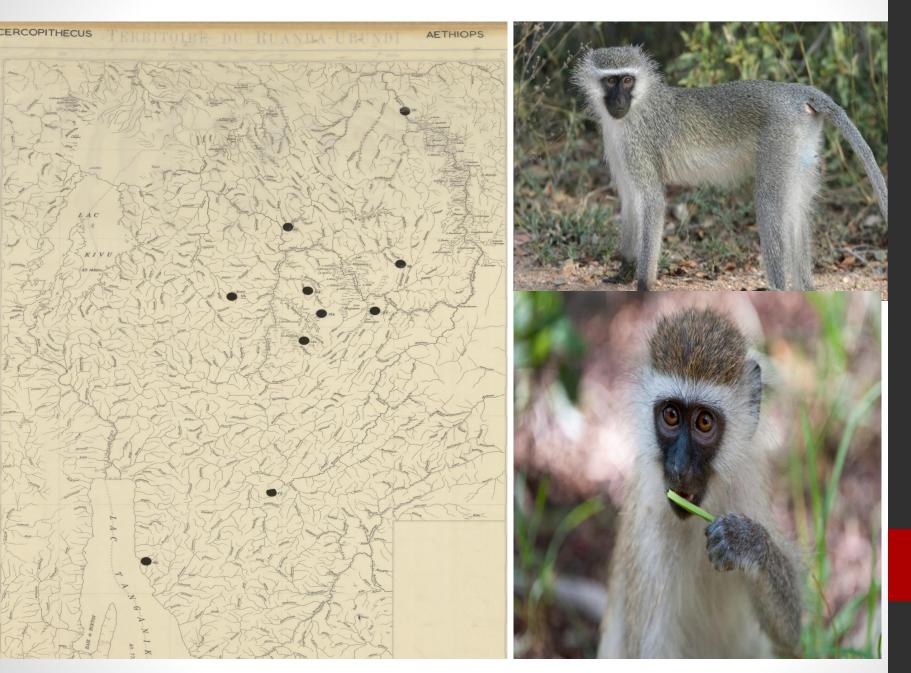
Types of Maps







Distribution of Cercopithecus aethiops in Rwanda & Burundi, ca. 1955



Partial inventory of maps checked out from Lwiro

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Small grants program

- Created Grant Guide, published it on the CAI website, and sent it out to Central African partners
- Initiated collaboration with CRSN on proposals for National Geographic small grants program
- Expanded CAI website to provide links to grant databases and free journals, software, etc.



LIBRARY RESTORATION and UPDATING

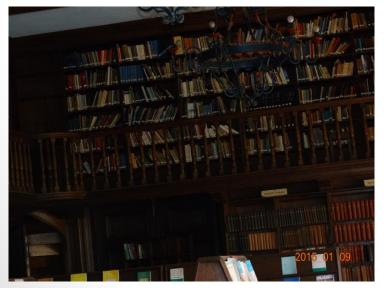
A partnership with Cooperative Africana Materials Projects (CAMP)



Library Collection and Card Catalog









Library personnel with visiting Wisconsin Africana Librarian Emilie Ngonguidjol Songolo, January 2015









Conclusion

Goals

- Improve access to scientific tools for Lwiro partners
- Improve access to online resources through JSTOR's African Access Initiative and other means
- Facilitate two-way short-term visits between Wisconsin and CRSN
 & Bukavu universities
- Provide opportunities for UW graduate students and postdocs to conduct research in the area
- Improve infrastructure

Challenges

- Funding
- Availability of Internet
- Continued political instability

Thank you!