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World Wildlife Fund's Genocide in Africa

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On Aug. 31, as U.S. troops and relief workers were fighting a losing battle against cholera, dysentery, and starvation, among 1 million Rwandan refugees—one half of them children—in eastern Zaire, the *New York Times* editorial called upon Americans to ponder the fate of Rwanda's gorilla population: "For the moment … Rwanda's gorillas have escaped harm, which is splendid news. Still, the widespread sigh of relief will be muted. Amid so ghastly a human catastrophe in Rwanda, one may feel an uneasy twinge of guilt in worrying about the fate of non-humans. In truth," says the *Times,* striking a Darwinian posture, "all living things are bound together in this calamity, and gorillas are a small evolutionary link away from Homo sapiens.… Fortunately, a census has accounted for all but two of the creatures whose passing would now be almost like a death in the family."

This concern for 650 gorillas is one indication of the extent to which Prince Philip's psychotic confusion of animals with human beings has permeated society.

The *Times* editorial failed to mention that the gorilla home, Virunga Mountain Park, also gave refuge to the guerrillas of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), who have been waging war on Rwanda since October 1990, with full financing and backing of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his puppet-mistress, Lady Lynda Chalker, British Minister of Overseas Development.

The double-use of the park as wild animal reserve and as sanctuary to a British-owned insurgency is not coincidental, but goes to the heart of the British Royal Family's grand strategy for Africa. The segregation of large tracts of land as "national parks," "game reserves," "ecological reserves," has led to untold slaughter of humans and animals throughout Africa.

Today, game reserves and national parks or regional parks occupy 1,998,168 square kilometers of sub-Saharan Africa—8.2% of the land area, an extent five times the size of California and eight times the size of the United Kingdom. Although some countries, like Mauritania, have been relatively unscathed by the park plague, Tanzania has 40% of its land locked in "parks."

As in Rwanda, the parks have multiple purposes:

• Taking huge tracts of land out of circulation for economic productive purposes. Although the United Nations magazine *Choices* predicts that "by the year 2000 nearly half the country of Zimbabwe will be raising its cash from wildlife," the creation of such parks is one of the biggest land-clearing operations since Genghis Khan leveled Central Asia in the thirteenth century. As one British source put it: "When the British wished to keep people *out* of an area, they tended to make it into a game reserve, which gave them a raison d'être. 'This is a game reserve, so you can't be here.'" Over 17% of the land of tiny Rwanda is locked up in such reserves.

• While taking land out of circulation for development, the reserves often squat on land that has potentially wealthy yields of strategic resources. For example, the border-area parks of Niger cover an undeveloped uranium field.

• Park administration by extra-national agencies such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is a direct assault on national sovereignty. Under the guise of fighting poachers, administration often involves paramilitary forces. "The function of the national park is to keep control of that land out of the hands of the local government," one expert informed *EIR.* "The national park is governed by a board of trustees, at least they originally were.… These were autarchies controlled by white conservationists, all of whom were military people."

In five countries in Africa—Cameroon, Zaire, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Zambia—the WWF directly administers at least one park. In five other countries, the parks are administered by other international agencies, such as the U.N. Development Program, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

• The parks are safe havens and staging grounds for insurgencies of all stripes. As documented below, many reserves and parks straddle borders, with the parks functioning as "militarized zones." Prince Philip's WWF was administering the gorilla program in the Virunga Park, while the RPF was using the Virunga to maraud Rwanda. In fact, RPF-sponsor Uganda has been

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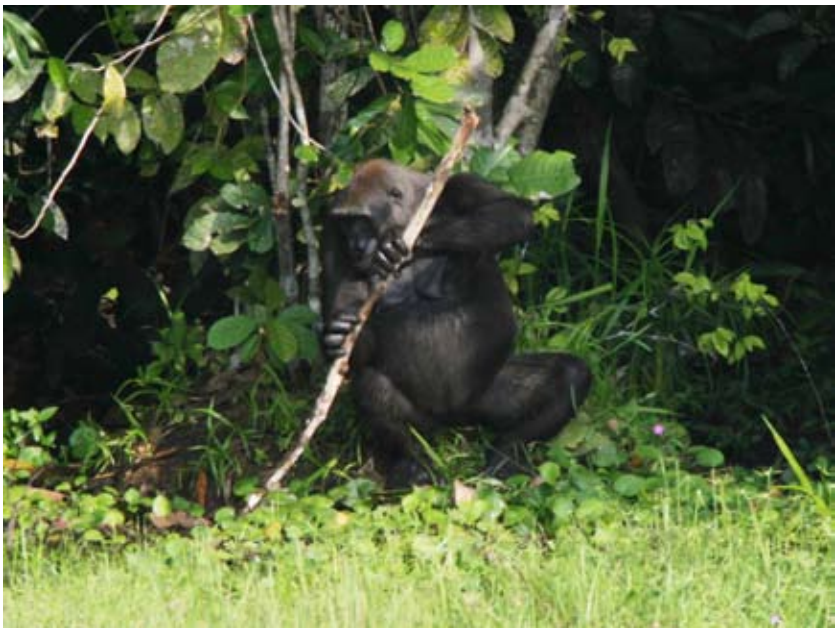

T. Breuer, M. Ndoundou-Hockemba, V. Fishlock

Africa's game parks, set up by the British in the last century, give refuge not only to gorillas, but also to guerrillas deployed to destabilize nations.

profiting from the dislocation of the gorillas caused by the RPF operations. According to *Africa Analysis,* the RPF invasion had sent Rwanda's gorillas running to Uganda, giving Museveni the opportunity to launch his own "eco-tourism program." Without the safe havens provided by the Royal Family's park system, the protracted civil and border wars afflicting Africa since the 1970s would have been impossible.

Mourning the Tsetse Fly

The parks have wreaked havoc with the economies and ecologies of Africa. The park system decreased the total energy throughput in the entire ecological system, leading to the proliferation of parasites and disease. This degradation of the human environment has aided in causing the conditions under which new diseases—such as AIDS—are now coursing through a depleted population.

The case of the tsetse fly proves the point. African tribesmen had long kept the tsetse fly—which carries the deadly disease Trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness—in check through extensive cultivation and bush clearance. The tribesmen understood that the fly lived off wild game, particularly antelope. For this reason, many tribal chiefs opposed the creation of the parks, and the related ban on hunting, as a threat to their herds.

In 1892, the Zulu protested that the rise of cattle sleeping sickness was due to the increase of large game under the protection afforded by the government. This theory was proven in 1894 by Dr. David Bruce, who then fought for a change in policy, with limited success. In the area run by the British South Africa Company, colonial authorities suspended game laws and began the elimination of game in an effort to stop the disease. The change brought howls of protest from the Society for the Preservation of Fauna of the Empire. Dr. George Prentice, a medical missionary, denounced the conservation movement to the British Colonial Office: "I hold that those who are responsible for the game laws are responsible for the presence of the tsetse, and that victims of Trypanosomiasis are martyrs to the foolish policy of game protection. Any official, high or low, or any member of the Society for the Preservation of Fauna who, in the face of known facts, asserts the contrary, may prove the sincerity of his assertion by allowing us to experiment upon him with our local forms of tsetse."…

Today, according to the admissions of Lee and Gerry Durrell, writing for the Conservation Monitoring Centre at Cambridge, England, an entity financed by Prince Philip's WWF, "blood-sucking tsetse flies inhabit 10 million square kilometers of tropical Africa, in a wide band across the continent that takes in 34 countries." The authors bemoan modern-day spraying methods which have rendered new areas tsetse-free. In fact, "the tsetse-free areas are growing so fast that … there is a real possibility that the spread of livestock onto marginal land will become a threat to wildlife.… The eradication of the tsetse fly may be Africa's misfortune."

Or, as Bruce Kinloch, chief park ranger for Tanzania, Malawi, and Uganda, mourns the decline of the tsetse: "The tsetse had long discouraged the often destructive and frequently wasteful use by humans of extensive regions of scenically beautiful, unspoilt wilderness, the natural home of the great game herds."

Vector spraying in the national parks is strictly forbidden. Trypanosomiasis has been on the rise since the mid-1980s, especially in Lady Lynda Chalker's Uganda.