Mountain Gorilla

WWF



After a dramatic decline in numbers following their scientific discovery in 1902, dedicated conservation initiatives have ensured that mountain gorilla numbers are now slowly increasing.



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Key facts

Common names
Mountain gorilla; Gorille de montagne (Fr); (Sp)
Scientific name
Gorilla beringei beringei
Location
Virunga mountains, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda; Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda
Population
Approximately 880 individuals
Status
Critically Endangered

Population & distribution

Previous population
In the 100 years since its discovery, the mountain gorilla has endured uncontrolled hunting, war, disease, destruction of its forest habitat, and capture for the illegal pet trade.

These factors led to a dramatic **decline** in numbers. Indeed, there were fears that the mountain gorilla would become **extinct** in the same century it was discovered.

Current population

Thanks to conservation efforts, the population of mountain gorillas has increased from 620 individuals in 1989 to around 880 individuals today. This number is likely to be accurate, as these animals have been intensely monitored since the 1950s.