

Announcements

Mission Statement

The SHPI is an interdisciplinary group that aims to understand the complex nature of human–primate interactions. We provide conservation practitioners with tools to manage interactions to minimise negative exchanges and promote coexistence in landscapes of increasingly rapid change.



IUCN SSC PRIMATES
**SECTION ON
HUMAN-PRIMATE
INTERACTIONS**

HUMAN-PRIMATE-INTERACTIONS.ORG



Responsible Primate-Watching
for Primate Tourism Professionals

SARA VAUTERS, MAURITIE F. VAN DER MEULEN



Responsible Primate-Watching
for Tourists

SARA VAUTERS, MAURITIE F. VAN DER MEULEN



by Chloe Chesney

Best Practice Guidelines

Responsible images of primates

Reading List

Ethnography, inclusivity and ethics in conservation

Position Statements

Human provisioning of primates
Primate consumption for wild meat
Primates in agroecosystems
The use of primates in biomedical research

Recommendations for Responsible Primate Tourism

Documents for (1) tourists, (2) tourism professionals and (3) case studies

Advice for Conservation Practitioners

Unregulated human provisioning of primates

COMING SOON...

Recommendations for the construction and maintenance of canopy bridges for primates

ARTIS
AMSTERDAM
ROYAL ZOO



Announcements

New IUCN Best Practice Guidance to Protect Great Ape Population Health

IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, Section on Great Apes

Across their range, great apes are severely threatened by habitat loss, poaching, disease and the impacts of climate change, with all 14 great ape taxa classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2026). Anthropogenic pressures drive great ape population declines and as humans encroach further into their habitats, closer proximity and more frequent overlap between humans and great apes occur, increasing opportunities for disease transmission. In parallel, interest in great ape tourism continues to increase and, while this should serve as an important tool to support conservation, tourism can also elevate the risks of disease transmission if not adequately managed. As our closest genetic relatives, great apes are highly vulnerable to human diseases, many of which do not naturally occur in wild great apes. It is therefore critical to ensure that disease mitigation strategies are strictly implemented.

To support those working to conserve great apes, including protected area authorities, conservation practitioners, scientists, researchers, and others working in or close to great ape habitat, the first guidelines dedicated to great ape health were published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2015 (Gilardi *et al.* 2015). This open access publication provides detailed recommendations for disease prevention, and health monitoring, and remains highly relevant today. Since then, a great deal of new scientific research on diseases—viruses, bacteria, and parasites—that impact great apes has been published, new diagnostic tools developed, and real-world disease outbreaks experienced, including the global COVID-19 pandemic and Ebola in West Africa and in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. A synthesis of critical new information to aid practitioners in managing health in great ape populations is now available in a new supplement (Gilardi *et al.* 2025), which can be downloaded from the IUCN website and the African Primates' website (here).



[Click to download the supplement](#)

REFERENCES

- Gilardi, K.V., Gillespie, T.R., Leendertz, F.H., Macfie, E.J., Travis, D.A., Whittier, C.A. & Williamson, E.A. (2015). *Best Practice Guidelines for Health Monitoring and Disease Control in Great Ape Populations*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2015.SSC-OP.56.en>
- Gilardi, K.V., Düx, A., Gillespie, T.R., Kalema-Zikusoka, G., Leendertz, F., Nze-Nkogue, C., Patrono, L.V., Raphael, J., Sulistyo, F., Syaluha, E.K. & Whittier, C. (2025). *An Update on Great Ape Population Health, Disease Control and Outbreak Response. Supplement to the Best Practice Guidelines for Health Monitoring and Disease Control in Great Ape Populations*. Sunderland-Groves, J.L., Williamson, E.A. & Macfie, E.J. (eds.). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group. 31 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2305/JEPK4717>
- IUCN. 2026. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Version 2026-2. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>

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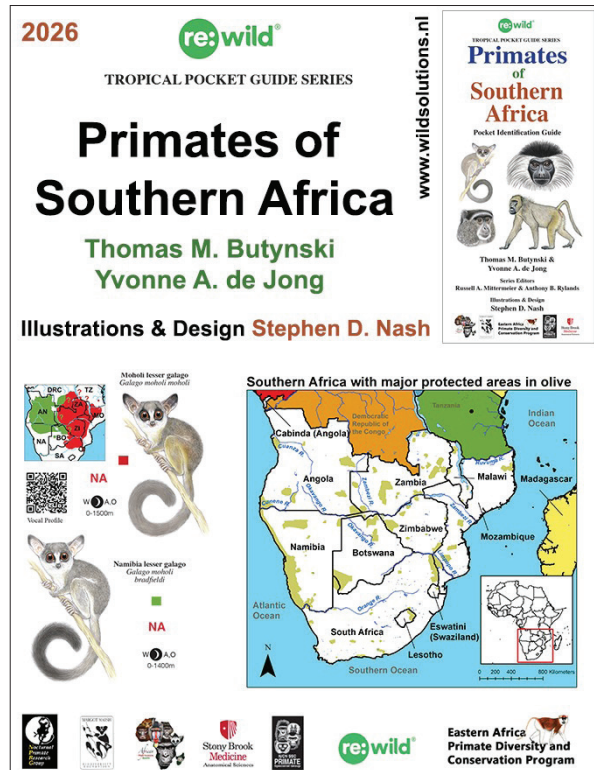
NEW!

Two Pocket Field Guides from the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group.

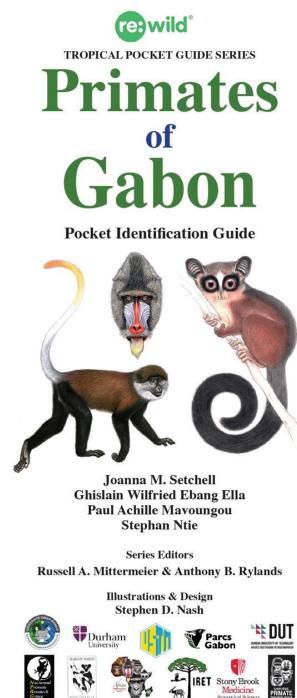
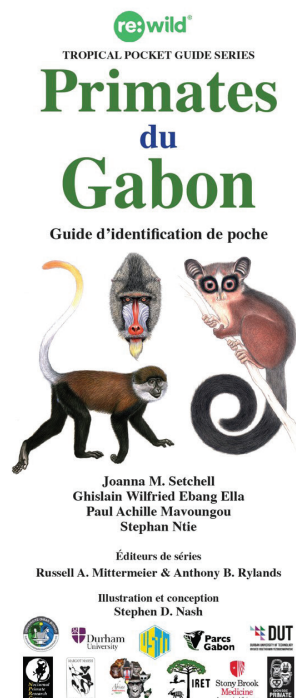
Download FREE digital copies from the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist web site or the *African Primates* web site (here).

While you're there, check out the many other Pocket Field Guides for other primates around the world.

For more information, contact Jill Lucena (jlucena@rewild.org).



New Pocket Guide
French and English
21 species and 23
subspecies of primate
Names in 12 languages,
illustrations, maps, natural
history information, and a
checklist
FREE to download from
http://www.primate-sg.org/field_guides



Announcements



Primate Behavior and Conservation Field Course in Uganda July 15-31, 2027



What You'll Do

Visit Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary

*Observe chimpanzees, gorillas and other
primates in the wild at Semliki and Bwindi
National Park*

Sleep in tents under the stars

Learn to measure animal behavior

Learn to survey primate populations

Learn to measure environmental variables

Visit Queen Elizabeth National Park

Visit a tea plantation

Spend time on a local farm

Shop at local markets

*Learn about the history and culture of
Uganda*

And much more

Registration deadline: May 1, 2027

For information about the field
course, contact us at
kdingess@semlikichimpanzee.org

