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0521019869 - Mountain Gorillas: Three Decades of Research at Karisoke

Edited by Martha M. Robbins, Pascale Sicotte and Kelly J. Stewart

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Mountain Gorillas

For the past three decades the mountain gorillas of Karisoke Research Center have been the subject of many studies focusing on their behavior and ecology. Long-term observations on known individuals, from birth to death, as well as data on social behavior within and between groups have led to an understanding of many aspects of the social system of gorillas. The findings have made significant contributions to models of comparative primate behavioral ecology. Mountain gorillas have also been the focus of intense conservation efforts, which have become a model for conservation programs elsewhere. While most of what we know about the genus *Gorilla* is based on mountain gorillas, data on the other two recognized subspecies have increased over the past 20 years. This book highlights and summarizes some of the behavioral, ecological, and conservation work on mountain gorillas, and makes comparisons with findings from other study sites. Aimed at graduate students and researchers in primatology and behavioral ecology, it will also appeal to all those interested in gorilla conservation, and represents the most up-to-date and diverse collection of information available on this endangered ape.

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For the book process

This idea for this book originated from the desire to get Karisoke researchers together to discuss the directions of future research on mountain gorillas. The very first such gathering took place in 1996, at the 16th Congress of the International Primatological Society in Madison, Wisconsin, where the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International organized a round table on this topic. Then, in early 1999, Christophe Boesch and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig graciously supported "Mountain Gorillas of Karisoke: Research Synthesis and Potentials", the conference that was to become the stepping stone for this book. This book includes chapters by most participants of the Leipzig conference, but also includes chapters by Karisoke researchers who could not attend. We want to thank especially all those who contributed chapters

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To Dian Fossey