

CLP Career Placement Update

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1. What activities have you accomplished in the past **six months?** (100-200 words)

Overall, the past six months of career placement, I performed in various activities in Volcanoes National Park field and community around the Volcanoes National Park and office-based activities. These activities included SMART data entry, data cleaning and generating reports, these were done while I was in the office my tasks was to check each single data which was collected on the field every day to ensure the quality of data from both ranger-based monitoring activities and human wildlife conflict monitoring data, then I have been supported in generating report from SMART database for both ranger based monitoring activities and human wildlife conflict data. After that I have been collaborated with rangers of anti-poaching teams in the patrols where I supported the field teams in quality data collection through enhancing their understanding of the importance of every single data and ensure professional work and recording of all observations. Also, I collaborated with gorilla monitoring teams where I facilitated in gorilla identification and overall data collection activities through working closely with trackers based on advance knowledge in terms of ecological processes and best practices in data collection. However, I conducted the patrol with community scouts supporting in human wildlife conflict management and reminded them to optimize data collection by recording all incidents and addressing the issue the met with while they were on the field collecting data. Additionally, during field work I conducted it shown that, they were new rangers who was not familiar with SMART software, so I supported in preparation and delivering the refresher training for recently recruited park staff who had not received formal SMART training previously. Finally, I have been participated in Kwita izina community exhibition took place at Kinigi RDB office, we were explaining to communities and tourists the activities of IGCP to conserve endangered mountain gorillas and their habitat as well as wildlife in general the targeted audience was not achieved effectively due to Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda. Moreover, I attended Conservation Management and Leadership training which prepared by CLP at The Ellen Campus of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund in Kinigi. This was an incredible training, as I gained skills about communication and project management.

2. What are the results and impacts of these activities **for conservation?** (100-200 words)

During this internship, the activities I performed have various impacts in conservation of wildlife and their habitat. I mostly focused on the field work, to support the field staff in their routine work including gorilla monitoring and anti-poaching patrols. The data quality was improved due to all teams as anti-poaching and gorilla monitoring now, they understood the role of collecting all observations and positions as required. Together with rangers, I engaged in shock patrols, where we were able to dismantle poachers' snares both targeting antelopes and buffalos, but which are not normally selective, gorillas can also get caught in those snares laid for antelopes and patrol coverages was increased. Moreover, the rangers were trained regarding to recently recruited, this training had equipped them with various knowledge about SMART software details, the most important position they must record, the most of them they became familiar with SMART software even there few according to their ages and some are not educated. With gorilla monitoring teams, I continuously shared my knowledge on the importance of that endangered species and called them to cautiously monitor gorillas keeping in mind their vulnerability to human diseases and pathogens and continue to keep the legal standard distance from gorillas. Additionally, the report made from SMART Database was shared with park management, which then was referred to for field staff evaluation because it shows individual performance and overall coverage. As outcome, the management embraced the way the SMART report can serve as a basis for staff deployment and overall park management if effectively utilised.

3. What **skills** and **knowledge** you have learnt? (100-200 words)

Over the period of this placement, I have learnt a lot of skills and knowledge, including technological, field work experience, leadership skills, communication skills, ecological skills of mountain gorillas and tracking skills. Facilitating in SMART data entry, cleaning, and generating report from SMART database of Volcanoes National Parks, this allowed me to understand the use of technology in conservation. Working in the field with park workers in the different areas of the park was important as field work experience in both unfavourable conditions like rainfall and favourable situations. I was taught how to remove and destroy snares, also this alerted me the level of threats our wildlife is facing. Collaborating with gorilla monitoring teams was beneficial because of I have gained many skills from gorilla tracking team, the names of plant species gorillas feed on, which increased my understanding about the gorilla feeding ecology. Moreover, the ranger's refresher trainings and conducting the field work with anti-poaching teams, gorilla monitoring and around the volcanoes, equipped me with leadership skills and communication skills due to the preparation, organization and implementation of those events, it is not only communication and leadership only but also, I gained critical thinking and team collaboration that are key of the achievement of the conservation goals. These experiences equipped me with the confidence and expertise needed to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts and excel in future roles.

4. What have you learnt about working for your **host organisation?** (100-200 words)

IGCP is a coalition of three international conservation organizations for securing the future of mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) through collaborating with national parks and local communities around the mountain gorillas' habitat. During this placement I have gained a lot of skills and knowledge from my host organization. IGCP like teamwork and collaboration which are the way to success of the project. Also, every activity I have performed together with my supervisors and other colleagues what had taught me about hard work and time management. Furthermore, the IGCP operates with integrity and accountability to ensure that all efforts are transparent. Additionally, IGCP also engages the local communities around the mountain gorilla's habitat, for increasing their awareness of protecting wildlife as the one of the ways to reach to sustainable conservation.

5. Have you been in contact with any **alumni** from the CLP network? (100-200 words)

Yes, I have been in contact with alumni from CLP, and those connections have been valuable both personally and professionally. There are CLP platforms like LinkedIn, WhatsApp group and other Alumni network events like storytelling call. I attended CML training conducted at DFGF, Ellen DeGeneres campus at Kinigi. I was meeting with many CLP alumni from different countries. This was wonderful opportunity to meet with them because we shared a dissimilar experience about our projects, and it was a suitable time for me to make connections to them, there some of them we are still in contact day by day with sharing ideas and personal updates. I was meeting with CLP career placement alumni during the storytelling call. Also, this was helpful because I got the time to share my story with colleagues. Additionally, the training is very helpful in terms increasing connection and profession, if there are any opportunities to attend any workshop, I would like to ask to be involved.