

Conservation Through Public Health:

At the Crossroads of Community Development and Conservation

Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka



Monday, September 30, at 5:30pm in Irvine 194.

Just across the border from restive Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park draws thousands of tourists each year for its rich biodiversity and mountain gorillas. The park is also a World Heritage site and home to one of the most densely populated rural areas of the country. Population growth increases pressure on valuable forest resources and pushes communities closer and closer to gorilla habitat, threatening the endangered species' survival.

Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) is a grassroots non-profit Ugandan organization that aims to conserve these mountain gorillas and their habitat by sustainably improving the quality of life in nearby communities. The organization's work ranges from monitoring diseases that threaten both humans and gorillas to drawing the link between population, health, and environment. Conservation Through Public Health celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka is a veterinarian and was Uganda's first woman to be the country's wildlife veterinary officer. She is the 2009 winner of the Whitley Gold Award and an Ashoka Fellow.

Sponsors for this talk include: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Ohio University Voinovich School, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Environmental Studies Program, African Studies Program, African Student Union, and Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Studies.