

Gorilla Timeline

- 1847 - Thomas Savage discovers gorilla skull and recognizes it as a new species.
- 1902 - Captain Robert von Beringe from Germany was the first European to identify the Mountain Gorilla on the Sabyo volcano. Because of him, the Mountain Gorilla is classified as *Gorilla gorilla beringei*.
- 1904 - Cross River gorilla identified from discovery of skull bones.
- 1925 - The Albert National Park established as a gorilla sanctuary, later renamed the Virunga National Park.
- 1933 - King Kong is released and the killing of gorillas for sport increases.
- 1956 - The first ever gorilla is born in a zoo, named Colo.
 - 1959 - George Schaller, American zoologist, studied the mountain gorillas.
- 1967 - Dian Fossey, founder of Karisoke Research Center, begins her study of gorillas.
- 1983 - Dian Fossey releases her famous book, "Gorillas in the Mist", which was later turned into a film.
- 1985 - Dian Fossey asks Ruth Morris Keesling to help her save the mountain gorillas and provide veterinary care. Fossey was later murdered on December 26 in her cabin at Karisoke Research Center, 248 mountain gorillas are alive and none are in captivity. Dian Fossey's estate votes to transfer the Digit Fund to Englewood, Colorado, USA, to affiliate with Morris Animal Foundation. Keesling elected Digit Fund President.
- 1986 - Begins global speaking engagements to bring awareness to the plight of the mountain gorilla.
- 1987 – Keesling creates the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project and has a veterinary laboratory built in Rwanda. Dr. James Foster was hired as chief veterinarian. The Digit Fund name was changed to Dian Fossey Gorilla fund. Keesling opens the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund – Europe office in London.
- 1994 - The beginning of the civil war in Rwanda, 22 mountain gorillas are killed, one million people perish in the conflict.
- 1996 Keesling establishes the WARM Department at Makerere University to start the teaching of wildlife veterinary medicine to the Africans.
- 2000 – Dr. Theogene Rudasingwa, Rwanda's Cabinet Director, appoints Keesling head of a governmental task force. The Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund establishes to administer projects.
- 2002 – MGCF hosts 100th Anniversary of scientific identification of Mountain Gorillas. Keesling wins Lifetime Achievement Award from British Airways for conservation efforts. Andreas Von Beringe, Grandson of the late German Captain visits the gorillas for the first time with MGCF.
- 2005 - Gorillas are first observed using tools in the wild.
- 2009 - Named "Year of the Gorilla".
- 2010 Silverback Pale Ale a hand crafted beer released in Colorado as the first beer to help support the critically endangered mountain gorillas.
- 2013 - Keesling establishes; "Ruth Keesling Wildlife Health and Research Centre" at Makerere University; mountain gorilla population estimate is 880.