



Dr. Ymke Warren
conducting research
on mountain gorillas
during the time she
was based at the
Karisoke Research
Center in the 1990's

The conservation world was shaken by news of the untimely death of Dr. Ymke Warren on 29 June 2010. Dr. Warren had worked in Africa for nearly 15 years, first studying mountain gorillas in Rwanda for her Master's, followed by Ph.D. work on olive baboon ecology in Nigeria and post-doctoral work in South Africa and Namibia. For the past four years, Dr. Warren had worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in western Cameroon coordinating Cross River gorilla research and monitoring. This area of Cameroon, known as the Takamanda Mone landscape, is home not just to Cross River gorillas, but also to chimpanzees, elephants, forest buffalo and endangered species of bird and reptile. During her tenure with WCS, she also helped establish the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary, which was created in cooperation with the local population.

Dr. Warren's professional leadership in developing research, monitoring and capacity-building programs for WCS has played a significant part in directing conservation action for the Critically Endangered gorilla subspecies *Gorilla gorilla diehli*. Her recent work engaging local communities in monitoring ape populations is described in her co-authored article "Successes in Community-Based Monitoring of Cross River Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) in Cameroon," on pages 55-60 of this issue of *African Primates*.

Ymke Warren, the daughter of Henny and Keith Warren, was born in London on 28 May 1970 and educated at Northwood College, Middlesex. She continued her studies at King's College, London, and later completed a Master's degree at University College, London, and her doctoral degree at the University of Surrey, Roehampton. Her post-doctoral work was conducted at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

A tribute page has been established where personal notes can be posted:

<http://www.4apes.com/ymke/>

A charitable fund in her memory also has been established to assist promising young African conservationists:

www.gorillas.org/ymkewarren

A tribute to Ymke also will be presented at the 2010 Congress of the International Primatological Society in Kyoto, Japan (12-18 September). Time and venue TBC.