

GO TO ZIMBABWE THE MAP



In 1995, an expedition traveled to the Virunga region of the Congo in search of the rare Type IIb blue diamond; these valuable minerals make up less than 0.1% of all natural diamonds and contain significant boron impurities that classify them as p-type electrical superconductors.

This was the second of three expeditions funded by TraviCom, who sought to obtain these rare diamonds for industrial use in their patented laser technology.

The expedition was led by African native, Monroe Kelly, and included members of UC Berkeley faculty and Romanian philanthropist, Herkermer Homolka. UC Berkeley primatologist, Peter Elliot, brought a female juvenile mountain gorilla (Amy) for release into the wild near an area highly populated with mountain gorillas while Homolka traveled with the intention of locating a bountiful diamond mine beneath the fabled Lost City of Zinj.

The expedition located the Lost City of Zinj and the Type IIb diamond mine, however the unstable geology of the area and the discovery of an highly aggressive species of grey gorilla, violently ended TraviCom's second expedition into the Congo.

This map intends to document the geographic and geological hazards encountered by the TraviCom Expedition in the Virungas Mountains that sit in East Africa's Great Rift Valley. There are 8 volcanoes in the range south of Lake Edward, 3 of which are active. The colorization represents population density of mountain gorillas however the entire terrain is thick mountain rainforest.

Sources: World Resources Institute with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Le Referential Geographique Commun

Geographic Coordinate System: WGS1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Rendered in 3D, at scale 1:117,364 ft
 1 mile 5 miles

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