



# Rwanda – Voices of Hope

by Michael Grosspietsch

Newsletter Issue No. 17 (August 2007)

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Editor:  
Michael Grosspietsch



[voh@newdawnassociates.com](mailto:voh@newdawnassociates.com)

## **Editorial**

Last weekend I learned the hard way what it means to be soaking wet and freezing during Rwanda's dry and supposedly hot season. My partners and I were on a boat on Lake Kivu with our friends from the COOPAC coffee cooperative in Gisenyi. Not only did it start to rain heavily, but also were the waves so high and unpredictable that we were frequently hit by the cold lake waters. So much about climate change...

On a much nicer note, we managed to initiate a new tourism experience that will be available to interested visitors in Gisenyi in a few weeks' time. It combines a boat trip to stunning islands and shores of Lake Kivu with the exciting activities related to coffee. On a one-day excursion, visitors can learn everything they always wanted to know about where their coffee actually comes from and how it gets to the shops.

Gishamwana Island is the venue of a small personal coffee picking workshop. Our hosts from COOPAC allowed me to help them pick some coffee cherries which we then followed through the entire process of selection, depulping, washing, fermentation, pre-drying, drying and so on. I never imagined that so many different steps were necessary to ensure that the coffee has a very high quality.



Our second stop was the coffee washing station at Nyamwenda. This is a huge place, and I can only guess how busy it must be when over 500 coffee farmers work here day and night during the main coffee season of March to June. Our COOPAC guides explained the different steps which were not much different to what we had just experienced with our hand-picked coffee. Only that we did the work manually, while this station has a capacity of 1,000 tons of coffee...

Back in Gisenyi, the third and final stop led us to COOPAC's coffee factory where further selection, cleaning and packing steps are completed. In the end, we were totally amazed, were offered a cup of fresh coffee that was roasted in front of our eyes, and had not only learned about coffee and the work of an exemplary cooperative, but also about the opportunities and failings of the fair trade movement.

Once ready, the established excursion will benefit a number of the COOPAC members directly and indirectly. This way, the Kivu Coffee Tour will become the latest success story in Rwanda's growing network of high value educational and community-based tourism products. More information will be available at [www.newdawnassociates.com](http://www.newdawnassociates.com) soon. Feel free to also contact me. Happy reading!

## Yoga coming to Rwanda

Yoga is a luxury – but it doesn't have to be! In the third week of September, the US-based People to People Ambassador Programs organize a trip for American social workers to Rwanda. One member of this delegation will be Angela Cerkevich. Angela is a professional yoga teacher in Washington DC, and she specializes in using massage and yoga therapeutically for self-healing purposes.

On her own initiative, Angela decided to extend her personal stay and to offer yoga training to Rwandans through the local NGO "Never again". To finance her activities, she is holding a **Peacefulness Fundraiser** at the **Flow Yoga Studio** in **Washington DC** on September 8 at 1:30pm. The following is the Studio's introduction:

*Join yoga teacher Angela Cerkevich in sharing the benefits and blessings of yoga in Rwanda. She will be traveling to Kigali for a month and volunteering her services to teach yoga to local Rwandans. Angela will be working with the post genocide-formed peace group "Never Again" ([www.neveragainrwanda.org](http://www.neveragainrwanda.org)). In addition, she will also be contributing her time to develop several small yoga-based women's empowerment groups. Angela has been steadily focusing her studies on yoga as a tool for depression, anxiety and trauma recovery.*



*The fundraising event will begin with a guest speaker on the need for alternative health care in Rwanda. After a Q and A session, a class will be given in gentle yoga asana, pranayama, and mindfulness meditation. Mantras and guided visualization that will be used in Rwanda to promote peacefulness of mind and spirit will be the focus.*

**Donations:** Suggested donation is US\$40. All proceeds from this event will be used in providing yoga props and yoga teacher training to Rwandans.

For more information, contact Angela at [acerkevich@aol.com](mailto:acerkevich@aol.com) or visit the Studio at [www.flowyogacenter.com](http://www.flowyogacenter.com).

## School link between Henry Box and Muhura

In late June, Graeme Riddell ([graeme\\_riddell@hotmail.com](mailto:graeme_riddell@hotmail.com)) updated me on the school link between his UK-based Henry Box School and their Rwandan partner school in Muhura. We had met in Kigali in 2003, the year of establishment of the school link. Since then, exchange visits between the schools have become an annual event. The following is the background of the school link:

*The Henry Box School 'Voices from Rwanda' link was established in 2003 with the aim of educating students and breaking down cultural barriers between young people in Witney and those at our partnership school in Muhura. Since then, the effectiveness and sustainability of the link has grown thanks to the generous support of individuals and trusts who have made this possible.*



*The Henry Box School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school in Witney, West Oxfordshire. Muhura School is a poor rural school run by the Anglican diocese of Byumba in northern Rwanda. Many of the students from the school are from very poor backgrounds and a number are orphans (as a result of the 1994 genocide or AIDS) and come from child headed households. Despite the relatively modest backgrounds of the students who attend each school, an emphasis is placed on individual care for each student ensuring their ability to develop academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. This has ensured that both schools achieve relatively high academic standards and a determination to look outwards and play a significant role in standing up against injustice in an increasingly globalized world.*

*The 'Voices from Rwanda' link has grown and matured over the years and has had a major impact on both schools and both communities. In the past two years, the Henry Box School has paid to send two British teachers to Rwanda for one year to teach and train teachers at Muhura School. In July 2005, a team of 15 from Henry Box School visited Rwanda and helped to build a widows' house and a new classroom at Muhura School. A return visit by students from Rwanda to Witney took place in 2006. Most significant has been the development of curriculum projects jointly run by both schools (sponsored by the DfID Global School Partnership Scheme) which have helped to break down cultural barriers and allows for annual teacher and student exchanges between the two schools. The link has become so successful in impacting and changing young people's lives that it is now being used by such organizations as VSO, the British Council and Comic Relief as an example to emulate in training sessions across the UK.*

*In Witney, the link has had a significant impact on the whole community. The students have spoken about it at local church and community groups. They have run film showings of 'Shooting Dogs' and 'Hotel Rwanda' at the local cinema to educate people about the Rwandan genocide and have recently been at the forefront of encouraging students to be active citizens by raising awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur, meeting with David Cameron and putting pressure on the government to keep Darfur at the top of the political agenda.*

*A Rwanda club run by Year 8 students at the school has helped to raise awareness about such issues as Fair Trade. Most significantly, both schools took part in 'The Global Campaign for Education' meeting with David Cameron to talk about the millions of students out of education worldwide.*

**Project aims:**

- 1. To promote a greater understanding in the UK and Rwanda of life in another culture through developing joint curriculum projects between the Henry Box School and Muhura School and through promoting student and teacher exchange trips.*

2. *To educate and inform students in the UK about the genocide in Rwanda and other challenges facing Central Africa so as to mobilize students at Henry Box to take effective action and to become active citizens.*
3. *To contribute to the further development of Rwanda by improving education standards at Muhura School through a student sponsorship scheme, helping to buy textbooks and school equipment and improving infrastructure such as classroom buildings.*

More information about the school link is available at [www.voicesfromrwanda.org](http://www.voicesfromrwanda.org).

## **Endangered – help for the mountain gorillas by supporting the people**

The Austrian NGO Endangered has made it its objective to save endangered animals around the world. In Rwanda, the NGO is actively involved in mountain gorilla protection. Its members are recognizing, however, that the only chance to achieve this goal is to involve and support the people of the region. The concept of a national park invariably leads to the competition between local communities and conservation activities, as water, firewood and hunting for meat is usually prohibited. Endangered's work aims, therefore, at providing alternative water sources, medical help, support to the most disadvantaged and general education in exchange for an understanding and support in the protection of the unique natural environment and, in particular, the mountain gorillas.

As a non-profit organization, Endangered depends on donations. To this effect, the members organize events in Austria, such as multimedia presentations as well as the annual "Night of the Gorillas" in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. Entrenched in the bylaws is a "100% policy" concerning donations, meaning that 100% of donated money is used for the project work. Not a single cent is wasted on travel or administrative expenses. National and international partners include SN Brussels Airlines, Bayer AG Austria, Royal Canin Waltham, Allianz Versicherung and the Parish of Rwaza in Rwanda.

Projects on the ground around Volcanoes National Park include the following:

### **Medical support**

In cooperation with the ORTPN, Endangered has chosen to support the hospital in Shingiro which provides medical care for 250,000 people in the region. Anything from basic instruments and even gloves, needles and syringes is missing. HIV is another major problem. Endangered received a list from the authorities and is now trying to provide the requested items. Visits to Shingiro are exclusively made together with ORTPN staff in order to show the community that the support is available because of conservation and tourism activities.

### **Education of rangers**

Although Rwanda has a long history in conservation, continuing education in the field was rare. In collaboration with the famous Austrian musician Andy Lee Lang, Endangered has offered a scholarship for a national park ranger to take part in a 12-week extensive conservation course at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey, UK in 2008. The flight is sponsored by SN Brussels Airlines.

### **Water cisterns**

Although the northern parts of Rwanda receive ample amounts of rain water, rain water collection and harvesting is almost non-existent. Since water collection from sources within the national park is prohibited, the communities find it difficult to have access to clean drinking water. Endangered has so far engaged in the construction of two water cisterns near the national park. The locations were chosen in collaboration with the



ORTPN. In the future, Endangered further plans to provide at least one new water cistern per year, with a cost of about US\$ 5,000 each.

### **Batwa community**

A small Batwa community that traditionally lived within the park boundaries has been resettled on land outside the park which they do not own themselves. This community used to survive on hunting, an activity that is now prohibited. Endangered has recognized their unique cultural heritage, consisting of amazing music and dancing activities. They decided to produce a CD of Batwa songs in collaboration with the Austrian production company BWK, and now sell the CD for €10 or US\$ 12. 100% of the profits benefit the community and are usually used to buy the land on which they live.

### **Rwaza Orphanage**

Together with the local authorities as well as the Parish of Rwaza, Endangered supports 52 orphaned children in Rwaza. In June 2007, the NGO has started to construct new buildings as well as an education center for conservation and a library that will be open not only for the children but also for students and interested members of the community and visitors. The goal is to teach the community the advantages of conservation and national parks so that they develop an interest to save the unique nature they have in and around Volcanoes National Park.

If you are interested to support the children at Rwaza, for example €300 can buy food for all 52 children for one month or sponsor one year of secondary school for one child.

For more information, please contact the Directors Claudia and Manfred Hochleithner at [hochleithner@aon.at](mailto:hochleithner@aon.at) or visit [www.endangered.at](http://www.endangered.at).

## **Gender equality in education in Rwanda**

by Shirley Randell ([srandell@bigpond.com](mailto:srandell@bigpond.com))

In the last ten years, Rwanda, a country which lost a million people in 100 days in the 1994 genocide, has made impressive progress in improving girls' access to public education. An advanced education strategic plan and strong donor alignment appear to be critical to this success, in the primary sector in particular. The Government of Rwanda is on track to achieve universal primary education by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the 'Education for All' principles.

The gender gap increases at secondary and again at tertiary levels. Girls' admission to government secondary schools (generally better than private schools) is largely based on performance in the primary leaving examination, in which boys consistently out-perform girls, a trend which is repeated in the jump to tertiary level. In public universities, women constitute only 25 percent of students and boys are more often the recipients of highly-coveted government scholarships.

The reasons entrenching girls' underperformance are multiple. Historic marginalization as well as sustained perceptions of traditional gender roles and patriarchal social convention continues to keep girls out of the classroom. The gender-biased nature of the curriculum, its delivery and the school environment also needs immediate attention. There are few female teachers or role models for girl students, especially in the fields of science and technology. Many schools further lack adequate dormitory or sanitary facilities, and gender-based violence in schools remains a widespread problem.



Improving girls' access to education and promoting gender equality is critical to social, political and economic development. Rwanda's vision to prioritize the science and technology sectors (at the university level and in the allocation of government funds and scholarships) is failing girls, who are not pursuing science and technology subjects in equal numbers to boys. This is largely due to social factors which depict a male-orientated world, reinforced by teachers and classroom practices.

Despite patterns of discrimination, affirmative action programs have been used very successfully in Rwanda to redress the balance, in particular through the Forum for African Women Educationalists who have established all-girls' secondary schools, and the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology's Women's Empowerment Program. These have both been models of excellence that have helped women achieve high levels of success in secondary examinations and graduate into university courses. Rwanda's success story will come with its ability to ensure that educational policies which promote gender mainstreaming are incorporated into district, local and school levels, as is consistent with its Vision 2020 development plan.

### **ORTPN news: Fire in Akagera**

A few days ago, the ORTPN sent out a sad press release about a fire in Akagera National Park that was suspected to have been caused by poachers. Their aim could have been to distract the attention of the ORTPN patrol units in the Park while they continued to poach wildlife. Furthermore, wildlife is generally attracted by the burnt ashy patches and, therefore, very susceptible to poachers at such a time. According to ORTPN statistics, most of the poachers that have been caught are from nearby Tanzania. They come to illegally poach the wildlife and fish in the Park.

*Our Office would like to sympathise with four of our game rangers who sustained severe burn injuries and are now admitted in a critical condition at King Faysal Hospital. The burns are a result of a wild fire that broke out around 4pm on August 21, 2007 in Magash in the north eastern part of Akagera National Park. The rangers were among a rescue team that tried to put out the blazing fire that is suspected to have been sparked off by poachers.*

*The Chief Park Warden, Mr. Robert Komire, who was at the scene confirmed that "the four were burned after they were engulfed by the blazing fire as they tried to put it out. They were then trapped as the wind changed direction to encircle them, which made it hard for them to escape". One of them called for help and was rescued, but all sustained severe burns. They were rushed to Nyagatare Hospital where they were immediately given a transfer to King Faysal Hospital in Kigali.*



*While at the hospital, the acting Director General, Mr. Ntaganda Alfred, said that "the four are now under intensive care and doctors are closely monitoring their state to ensure their health is restored".*

*Despite the previous fire outbreaks in the Park, this is the first time that such an incident has occurred. We regret the accident and also acknowledge the bravery of our staff. We are grateful for the support from the army, police, local administrators and nearby communities who are helping us during this crisis.*

For further information, contact the ORTPN at [public\\_relations@rwandatourism.com](mailto:public_relations@rwandatourism.com) or [info@rwandatourism.com](mailto:info@rwandatourism.com), or visit [www.rwandatourism.com](http://www.rwandatourism.com).

## Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

a press release by Indigo PR ([llacon@indigoprco.com](mailto:llacon@indigoprco.com))

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is due to open this August under the management of the award winning luxury safari camp operator, Governors Camp. With all their properties located in Kenya, this is Governors' first lodge in Rwanda and will be run and managed together with SACOLA, the local community trust, to support established initiatives reaching some 30,000 people living close to Volcanoes National Park.

Entirely set up to enjoy one of life's most thrilling nature experiences – visiting the endangered mountain gorillas – the exclusive accommodation will comprise five cottages, two suites and one family suite. Each cottage boasts a private veranda, sitting room and fireplace ideal for relaxing after a day's trekking, and the terracotta tiled roofs and local stone will give the lodge an authentically stylish feel.

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge enjoys a suitably dramatic setting on the lush slopes of the volcanoes, just 10 minutes drive from the park headquarters. From here, any one of the habituated gorilla families can be easily visited, as well as birding expeditions, trips to the bustling market town of Ruhengeri and the beautiful nearby lakes Kivu and Burera.



Governors' Camp leases the lodge from SACOLA which will use the rental and other income to finance its socio-economic development and conservation objectives in the area. More than 10 years on since the genocide of 1994, today's guests will recognize the incredible spirit of reconciliation and the high level of political stability in Rwanda and will be encouraged to take time to understand past events and appreciate the truly remarkable progress the country has made since then.

**Facilities:** En-suite bathrooms, shower, double basins, flush toilet, hot and cold running water. Room service on request and laundry arranged daily.

**Room Rates:** High season \$570 per night, mid season \$506 per night and green season \$304 per night (based on two sharing). Supplement for the suites is \$200 per night. Rates include full board accommodation. Exclude drinks, gorilla trekking permits, transfers to / from Kigali.

For more information, contact Governors Camp at [reservations@governorscamp.com](mailto:reservations@governorscamp.com) or visit [www.governorscamp.com](http://www.governorscamp.com).

## Nziza, Inc.

by Lori Peacock ([lpeacock@columbus.rr.com](mailto:lpeacock@columbus.rr.com))

What do 11 year old school children from Kigali have in common with 11 year old school children in Columbus, Ohio? Quite a lot!

Since February 2007, children from the Rubirizi Primary School in Kigali have been exchanging letters with children at the Great Western Academy in Columbus, Ohio, USA through a penpal program created by Nziza, Inc., a non-profit organization recently formed in the United States. According to Lori Peacock, Director for Nziza, the program is off to a good start. "The children have exchanged letters 6 times so far. They talk about all sorts of subjects. They share their

daily life, talk about their families and their family pets. They tell each other about their favorite games and their favorite foods. It's exciting to be talking to a child from another part of the world."

Some of the letters are quite touching. Sometimes being able to write each other so many times can develop into a real relationship. One young lady from Columbus has said that her penpal in Kigali is her "best friend".

Normal mail delivery between the two countries can take up to 3 months. So, how have these children been able to exchange hand written letters so often? "This program would not work without Damien Nkurunziza from The Wellspring Foundation. Damien is the link who keeps the program going in Rwanda. We began the project by sending the letters via Express mail. This was an expensive option, but worth every penny because the children were able to share letters on a regular basis". Using express mail, it took from 3 to 6 days to receive the new batch of letters. But Ms. Peacock adds, "the expediency of the exchange helped to keep the children's interest high in the program".



Ms. Peacock and Mr. Nkurunziza now scan the letters and send them in batches via email. This eliminates the high cost of express mail and the letters arrive even sooner. Nziza, Inc. hopes to expand the program to other schools and to students of different ages. Ms. Peacock says, "the school year in the United States begins in September, and there are already 3 classrooms in different schools who are interested in the program this year."

You also may be wondering how children who speak Kinyarwanda and French are able to communicate with children who speak English. Thanks to the multi lingual teachers at Rubirizi Primary School the children are able to write in Kinyarwanda and the letters are translated into English. When they receive letters from their American penpals, the letters are translated from English to Kinyarwanda.

Damien Nkurunziza works for the Wellspring Foundation in Kigali as the Development Director. He is also a volunteer on the board of the Kigali City School. Lori Peacock is a Program Manager for Exel, Inc. in Westerville, Ohio. She also volunteers as the Director of Nziza, Inc.

## **4<sup>th</sup> International Marathon for Peace – May 11, 2008**

Soroptimist International of Europe and the Rwandan SI clubs are already planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Marathon for Peace which will take place in Kigali on May 11, 2008. This is their first announcement:



*The International Marathon for Peace is an initiative of Soroptimist International of Europe. This project started in 2004-2005 with the theme "Women building peace" of Soroptimist International of Europe in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of Rwanda. In 2006 and 2007, it continued with "Women building peace through local heritage". And on May 11, 2008, there will be our fourth Marathon for Peace!*



*Why should you go?*

*If you are interested in a beautiful country and lovely peo-*

ple in the middle of Africa, you should take your chance – either as a runner or as an encouraging spectator or traveler.

- If you are a runner, this will be the most challenging run you have ever done. You have a choice of a marathon, a half marathon and a FunRun of 5km.
- If you are a keen traveler and want to participate in the marathon or visit this picturesque country and the projects of the Rwandan Soroptimist clubs, and meet local people, don't hesitate and get all the information and book.

Your visit will be of great importance for the rebuilding of Rwanda – through goodwill and understanding, and economic development.

Further information:

- Hafdís Karlsdóttir ([hafdis@in.is](mailto:hafdis@in.is)), SIE 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President
- Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini ([betmar@tele2.lu](mailto:betmar@tele2.lu)), initiator of the Peace Marathon for Soroptimist Europe
- Luud Roos ([l.roos10@kpnplanet.nl](mailto:l.roos10@kpnplanet.nl)), past Governor of the Dutch Union of SIE
- websites: [www.soroptimisteurope.org](http://www.soroptimisteurope.org), [www.kigalimarathon.com](http://www.kigalimarathon.com)

## Recommended background material

**From previous newsletter editions (please have a look there):**

- *Africa: Continent of economic opportunity* ([angela@ste.co.za](mailto:angela@ste.co.za))
- *Guide des destinations indigènes* ([www.indigene-editions.fr](http://www.indigene-editions.fr))
- *Keepers of memory* ([alegisi2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alegisi2004@yahoo.co.uk))
- *With what remains* ([victoria.bullock@hodder.co.uk](mailto:victoria.bullock@hodder.co.uk))
- *Steve, l'enfant égaré* ([uwayisaba@hotmail.com](mailto:uwayisaba@hotmail.com))
- *100 Days* ([alegisi2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alegisi2004@yahoo.co.uk))
- *Rwanda alive: those who listen* ([info@gng.org](mailto:info@gng.org))
- *Guide André – 75 restaurants in Kigali* ([avak2000@hotmail.com](mailto:avak2000@hotmail.com))

## Some international tour operators offering Rwanda

If you are a tour operator and would like to be included on this list, please contact the editor.

### United Kingdom

**Absolute Africa** (0208-7420226; [absaf@absoluteafrica.com](mailto:absaf@absoluteafrica.com); [www.absoluteafrica.com](http://www.absoluteafrica.com))  
**Discovery Initiatives** (01285-643333; [enquiry@discoveryinitiatives.com](mailto:enquiry@discoveryinitiatives.com); [www.discoveryinitiatives.com](http://www.discoveryinitiatives.com))  
**Live Travel** (020-88946104; [phil.haines@live-travel.com](mailto:phil.haines@live-travel.com); [www.live-travel.com](http://www.live-travel.com))  
**Rainbow Tours** (020-72261004; [info@rainbowtours.co.uk](mailto:info@rainbowtours.co.uk); [www.rainbowtours.co.uk](http://www.rainbowtours.co.uk))  
**Reef and Rainforest Tours Ltd** (01803-866965; [alan@reefandrainforest.co.uk](mailto:alan@reefandrainforest.co.uk); [www.reefandrainforest.co.uk](http://www.reefandrainforest.co.uk))  
**Safari Consultants Ltd** (01787-228494; [bill@safariconsultantuk.com](mailto:bill@safariconsultantuk.com); [www.safari-consultants.co.uk](http://www.safari-consultants.co.uk))  
**Sarus Bird Tours** (0161-7617297; [nigel@sarusbirdtours.co.uk](mailto:nigel@sarusbirdtours.co.uk); [www.sarusbirdtours.co.uk](http://www.sarusbirdtours.co.uk))  
**Steppes Travel** (01285-650011; [africa@steppestravel.co.uk](mailto:africa@steppestravel.co.uk); [www.steppestravel.co.uk](http://www.steppestravel.co.uk))  
**Sunvil Africa** (020-82329777; [africa@sunvil.co.uk](mailto:africa@sunvil.co.uk); [www.sunvil.co.uk](http://www.sunvil.co.uk))  
**Volcanoes Safaris** (0870-8708480; [salesuk@volcanoessafaris.com](mailto:salesuk@volcanoessafaris.com); [www.volcanoessafaris.com](http://www.volcanoessafaris.com))  
**Wildlife Worldwide** (020-86679158; [sales@wildlifeworldwide.com](mailto:sales@wildlifeworldwide.com); [www.wildlifeworldwide.com](http://www.wildlifeworldwide.com))  
**World Primate Safaris** (0870-8509092; [sales@worldprimatesafaris.com](mailto:sales@worldprimatesafaris.com); [www.worldprimatesafaris.com](http://www.worldprimatesafaris.com))

### USA

**Africa Adventure Company** (800-882-9453; [noltingaac@aol.com](mailto:noltingaac@aol.com); [www.africa-adventure.com](http://www.africa-adventure.com))  
**Ker & Downey** (281-3712500; [info@kerdowney.com](mailto:info@kerdowney.com); [www.kerdowney.com](http://www.kerdowney.com))  
**Volcanoes Safaris** (770-7300960; [salesus@volcanoessafaris.com](mailto:salesus@volcanoessafaris.com); [www.volcanoessafaris.com](http://www.volcanoessafaris.com))

### Germany

**Globetrotter Select** (08171-997272; [info@globetrotter-select.de](mailto:info@globetrotter-select.de); [www.globetrotter-select.de](http://www.globetrotter-select.de))  
**Top Trail Tours** (0221-2708960; [info@toptrailtours.de](mailto:info@toptrailtours.de); [www.toptrailtours.de](http://www.toptrailtours.de))

### Switzerland

**Zingg Event Travel AG** (01709-2010; [zet@bluewin.ch](mailto:zet@bluewin.ch); [www.zingg safaris.com](http://www.zingg safaris.com))

### South Africa

**Unusual Destinations (Pty) Ltd** (011-7061991; [rita@unusualdestinations.com](mailto:rita@unusualdestinations.com); [www.unusualdestinations.com](http://www.unusualdestinations.com))  
**Wild Frontiers** (011-7022035; [wildfront@icon.co.za](mailto:wildfront@icon.co.za); [www.wildfrontiers.com](http://www.wildfrontiers.com))

### Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania

**The Far Horizon, Uganda** (41343468; [info@thefarhorizons.com](mailto:info@thefarhorizons.com); [www.thefarhorizons.com](http://www.thefarhorizons.com))  
**Origins Safaris, Kenya** (020-331191; [info@originsafaris.info](mailto:info@originsafaris.info); [www.originsafaris.info](http://www.originsafaris.info))  
**R&N Xplorer Africa Safaris, Kenya** (723684974; [rnxploresafaris@gmail.com](mailto:rnxploresafaris@gmail.com); [www.gorillasafaris.netfirms.com](http://www.gorillasafaris.netfirms.com))  
**Volcanoes Safaris, Uganda** (41346464; [salesug@volcanoessafaris.com](mailto:salesug@volcanoessafaris.com); [www.volcanoessafaris.com](http://www.volcanoessafaris.com))

There are also many tour operators in Kigali that can arrange visits to Rwanda, including international travel and vehicle-hire. For details contact the **Rwandan Office of Tourism and National Parks (ORTPN)**:  
+250-576514; [info@rwandatourism.com](mailto:info@rwandatourism.com); [www.rwandatourism.com](http://www.rwandatourism.com)

“**Voices of Hope**” is the successor of “**Behind the Headlines**”, edited by Janice Booth.

It is encouraged by the Rwandan Embassy in London and by the Rwandan Office of Tourism and National Parks (ORTPN).

Nevertheless, the content is the sole responsibility of the editor who, on the other hand, relies on the adequacy of the contributions. He promises that the information contained in this newsletter is correct to the best of his knowledge.

**Article contributions** are highly welcome: If you would like to send an article, or if you have ideas or comments, please get in touch at [voh@newdawnassociates.com](mailto:voh@newdawnassociates.com).

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