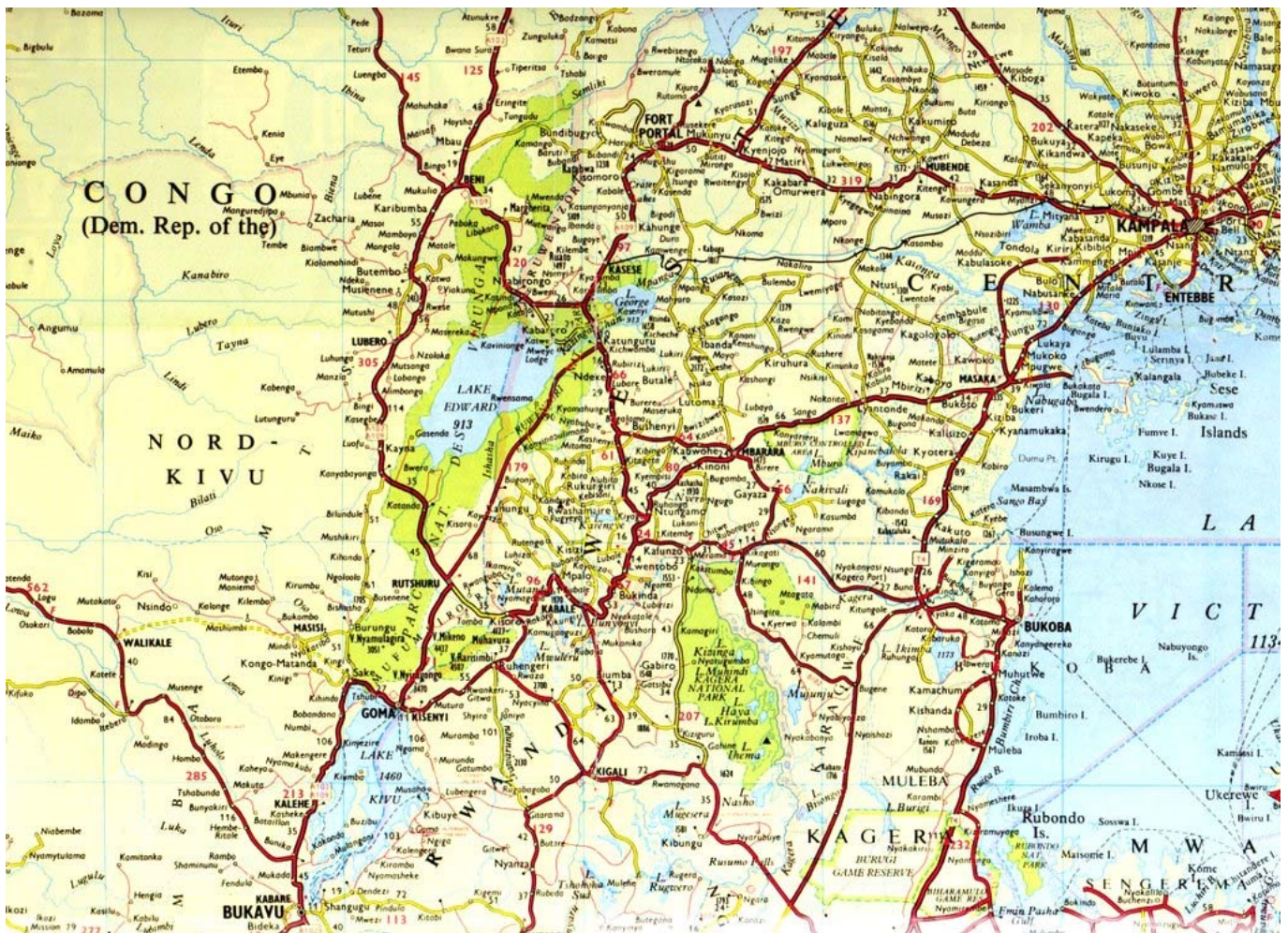
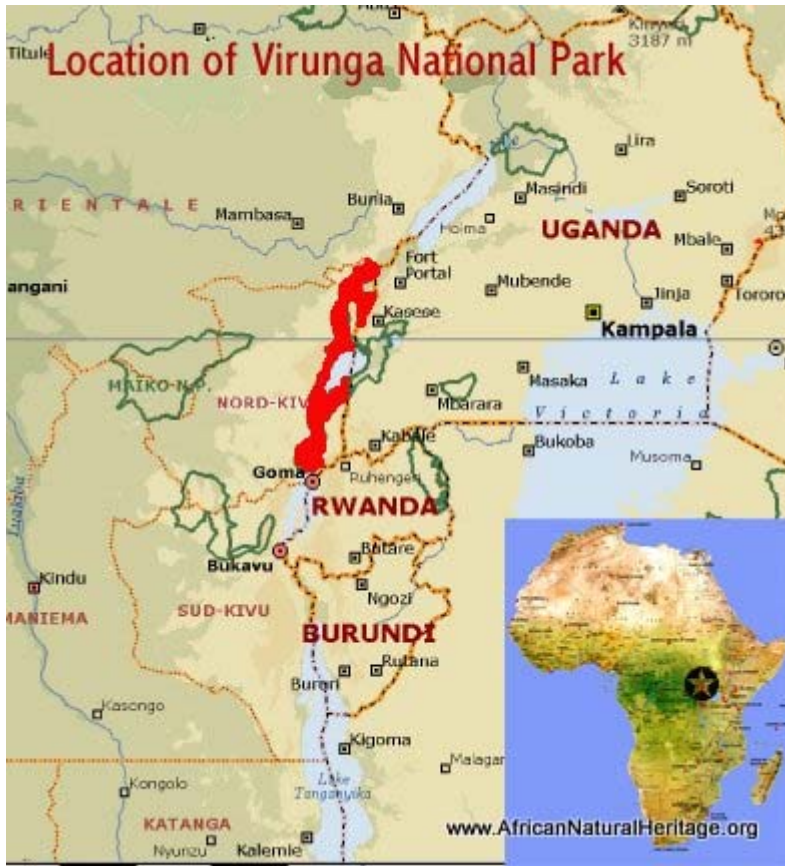
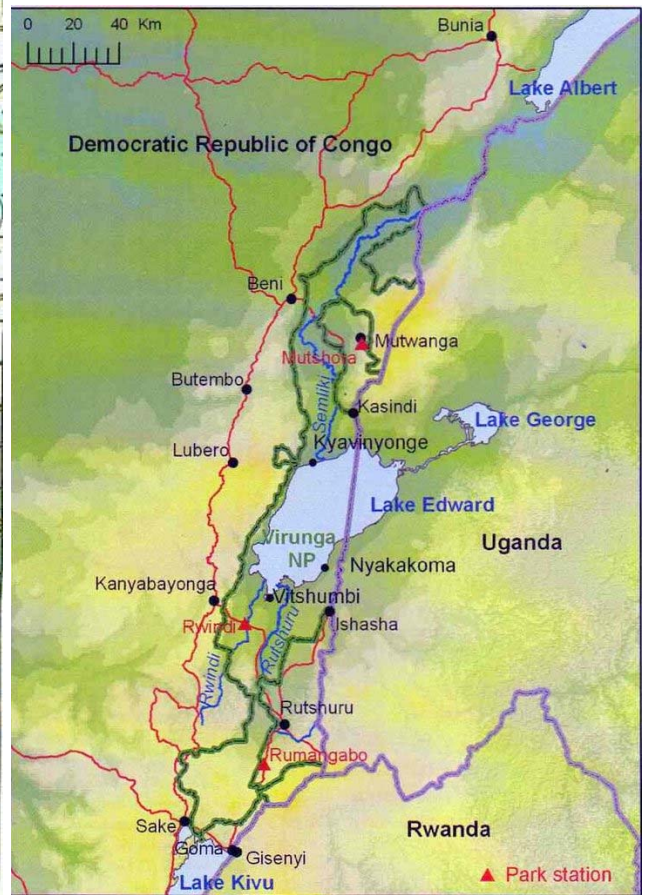
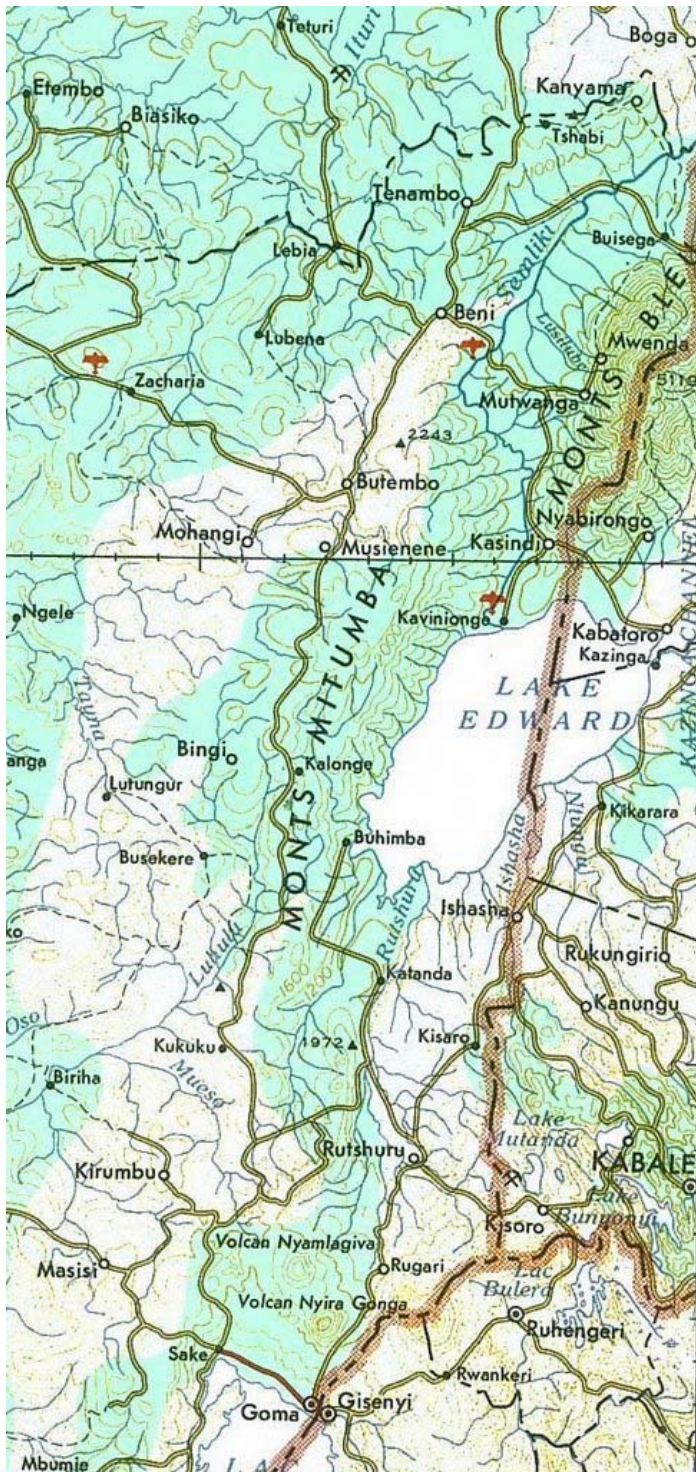


Maps and Satellite Images of Virunga National Park





Topographic maps of the Virunga National Park (World Heritage Site)



Satellite view of a section of Africa's western (Albertine) Rift Valley from Lake Albert (top right of picture) to Lake Kivu (centre, bottom), showing the entire length of the Virunga National Park (which occupies the western (Congolese) half of the valley). Protected forests on the (eastern, right) Ugandan side of the valley can be clearly seen (from north to south: Bugoma, Itwara, Kibale, Kasyoha-Kitomi, Kalinzu-Maramagambo, Bwindi and Mgahinga). The uninterrupted Congo Basin rainforests stretch off to the west (left side of picture).



Satellite view of the Virunga National Park from the north-east. Prominent features within the park include the Rwenzori mountains and Semiliki Valley (bottom left), Lake Edward (middle), the volcanoes and lava fields in the southern part of the park and Lake Kivu (top right)



Satellite image of the northern half of Virunga National Park and protected areas on the Ugandan side of the international border, seen from the north-east. Prominent features are the Rwenzori Mountains and Semliki Valley (bottom, right of centre) and Lake Edward (top, left of centre).



Satellite view of a section of Africa's western (Albertine) Rift Valley between Lake Edward (bottom left) and Lake Kivu, viewed from the north-west. Three world heritage sites in this region are shown, including the southern half of Virunga National Park (bottom, left side), Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (middle, left) and the highland section of Kahuzi-Biega National Park which sits on the top of the escarpment above Lake Kivu (middle, right). On the opposite of the rift Valley, Rwanda's extensive Nyungwe Forest National Park is clearly visible on the escarpment above Lake Kivu.



Satellite image of the Semliki Valley (bottom of photo) and the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains, from the west.



The central part of the Rwenzori Mountains from the south, showing the snow-capped peaks of Mounts Speke, Stanley (Margherita) and Baker, and the area of the main hiking routes up the steeper western side (left) and around Uganda's 'central circuit' (right).



Satellite image of the course of the Semliki River in its lower reaches, the northern-most part of the Virunga National Park (and its lowest point).



Satellite image of the middle-reaches of the Semliki River which flows from Lake Edward northwards into Lake Albert. Until recently a series of rapids along the Semliki (shown here) had prevented crocodiles from colonising Lake Edward from its northern neighbour.



Satellite view of the southern portion of Virunga National Park from the north-west. Prominent features of this area include the bare lava fields arising from recent eruptions of the Mount Nyamulagira volcano (centre right), the five dormant volcanoes of the border area between Congo, Rwanda and Uganda (top left) and Lake Kivu (top right).



The volcanoes region of Virunga National Park, showing the cone and lava fields of active Mount Nyamulagira (top left), white fumes and steam arising from Mount Nyiragongo (bottom left), and the cluster of dormant volcanoes (Mikeno, Karisimbi and Muhavura) which marks the international border area between Congo, Rwanda and Uganda and provides a home to half the world's mountain gorillas.



The boundary of Virunga National Park on the flanks of Mount Karisimbi. The area has seen a massive influx and settlement of refugees fleeing the Rwanda genocide and the fertile volcanic soils are now very intensively cultivated right up to the boundary of the park.



Satellite image of Mount Karisimbi on the Rwanda side of the mountain, showing volcanic features of the area within Volcanoes National Park (which borders Virunga), and the abrupt boundary line between the protected area (left) and adjacent cultivated lands (right).