



Press Release
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Dublin Zoo's Baby Gorilla is Named Kituba

Dublin Zoo is delighted to announce Kituba as the name chosen for the baby western lowland gorilla who was born on Sunday, 27 March. Kituba is one of the main languages spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa, where the gorillas are found.

Visitors to Dublin Zoo and Facebook friends were invited to suggest names for the newest arrival, based on his West African origin. Dublin Zoo received an overwhelming response from the public with thousands of names suggested. The selected name was proposed by Caoileann Carton from Knocklyon, Dublin who has won a family pass and a meet and greet with the gorilla team.

Ciaran McMahon, team leader for the gorillas said: "The baby gorilla is thriving and getting stronger every day. It won't be long now before the young gorilla's feet touch the ground. Soon his mother Lena will let him down to explore a little but won't let him stray too far."

The birth of Kituba is a significant success for Dublin Zoo which takes part in the European breeding programme. Western lowland gorillas are classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. The numbers of these primates living in the wild is expected to fall by over 80% between 1980 and 2046 with commercial hunting and a highly contagious Ebola virus being the two main threats facing their survival.

Kituba and the rest of his family mum Lena, dad Harry, brothers Alfie and Evindi and sister Mayani can be seen at Dublin Zoo today.

For further information visit Dublin Zoo on Facebook www.facebook.com/dublinzoo or www.dublinzoo.ie.

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