



Save the Gorillas

You're invited to a chat session with
Leonardo DiCaprio and
Sir Arthur C. Clarke!



Chat hosted by Yahoo! Chat

Date: September 27th
Time: 7:30 pm PST/10:30 pm EST



on behalf of



Dian Fossey

GorillaFund

CONSERVATION RESEARCH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

LEONARDO DICAPRIO and SIR ARTHUR C. CLARKE
ONLINE CHAT for THE DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND,
a call for GORILLA-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY,
7:30 - 8:40pm, September 27th 2001 at YAHOO.COM

Yahoomc: We'll get started in a few minutes

Yahoomc: As many of you know..

Yahoomc: Leonardo is passionately committed to helping the environment..

Yahoomc: and he's particularly interested in the plight of endangered gorillas..

Yahoomc: Sir Arthur C. Clarke is the author of 2001..

Yahoomc: and he too, is committed to preserving the environment..

Yahoomc: Please send in your questions now!

Yahoomc: We'll get started in a few minutes

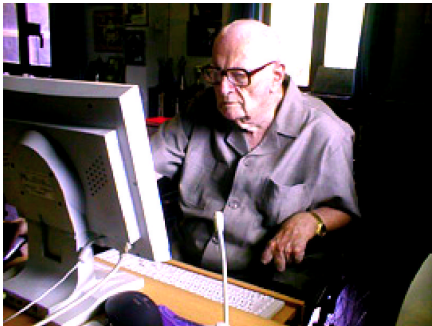
Yahoomc: OK, folks..

Yahoomc: Let's get started with Sir Arthur C Clarke!

Yahoomc: Welcome to Yahoo! Chat

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: This is Arthur Clarke standing by ready to, here in Colombo.

goldy3001: *C. Clark and Leo how do you feel about global warming and the constant problems with our over population?*



sir_arthur_clarke_chat: That's a trillion dollar question!

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: They are still arguing whether global warming is happening, but the consensus is it is

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: We have to cut down on the causes - we have to end the fossil fuel age as soon as possible, use solar energy, and other forms of energy....

lynlee55_98: *Sir Clarke - 2001 was a fantastic look into the future - now that the "future" is here, how is it different from what you had envisioned?*

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: I've often been asked this. Stanley and I made 2001 before men had even landed on the moon, though it was on the way

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: We had to make a movie that wouldn't look ridiculous after we did land...we had to look into the future

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: Where we were wrong was that the space program ground to a halt right after the moon landing, we didn't go onto Mars and Jupiter

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: It's hard to realize that in the 1960's they were talking about human beings being on mars in the 1980's!

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: So these ideas didn't seem fantastic when we wrote the movie

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: We've only explored the solar system with probes.

Yahoomc: OK, and Leonardo DiCaprio is now in the room!

Yahoomc: Welcome to the chat, Leo!

leo_dicaprio_chat: Hello all. Glad to have you with us!

bwindsor99: *Leonardo, as an environmentalist, what made you focus on the endangered gorillas as opposed to any other endangered species?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: It's a complicated question. Partly because they're so closely linked to us. Virtually our cousins.

leo_dicaprio_chat: Animals on the verge of extinction...one of the saddest things in the world to have them wiped off the earth.

leo_dicaprio_chat: It's affected me since I was a young boy.

leo_dicaprio_chat: In no way do we want to make light of the situation in America by talking about gorilla conservation. We discussed postponing the chat, but... this is a desperate situation.

leo_dicaprio_chat: These gorillas are being killed off at an alarming rate. Every day, they get closer to extinction.

leo_dicaprio_chat: Experts say these gorillas are THE most endangered mammals on Earth!

leo_dicaprio_chat: Thank you everyone for being here and trying to give some attention to the subject, especially with all the other situations going on around the world.

not_all_dumbs_are_blonde: *How can we help to save these gorillas from our own little corners of this world?*



leo_dicaprio_chat: Well, it's a seriously complex issue. One that gets into politics in the Congo, but the main thing we're trying to push is that any donations to this effort would be fantastic. It would help people be able to create "Gorilla friendly technology from leading companies"

leo_dicaprio_chat: People need to demand this from companies like Motorola, Nokia, Intel, the items in consumer electronics.

leo_dicaprio_chat: What's going on in the Congo...

and why they're being killed off...

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: The situation is rather complicated. There is a material based on the element Tantalum which is used in computers, all your cell phones, it's absolutely vital to our technology, and the main source is in the Congo and the gorilla habitat

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: The locals collect this element and in the process cut down their habitat, their trees, and in the process, also kill the gorillas for meat, it's a terrible situation.



lizzielovesleo: Will stopping the use of cell phones be effective in helping stop the mining of Coltan?

leo_dicaprio_chat: Stopping the use of cell phones would be more harmful to the Gorillas. We have to find a way to work with the people who are involved in mining tantalum.

leo_dicaprio_chat: Gorillas can actually benefit from having this material in their back yard

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: Everyone needs to benefit - we can't stop the production, it would bring down our civilization with no cell phones, but we have to make everyone benefit.

purplekirstendk: Hi Leonardo. What projects - apart from this chat - are planned to gain intl. awareness of the illegal mining of coltan, the unnecessary use of same for high tech products and the fatal result in respect to the gorillas? Until recently I didn't personally have the slightest idea that my cell phone could contain such stuff and have any connection what so ever to the gorillas - trust this goes for most of us....

leo_dicaprio_chat: Neither did I until I started to understand the issue

leo_dicaprio_chat: It's important to understand we want to urge the public to look for gorilla friendly technology. Write to your organizations for cellular phones to find out where this Coltan is coming from. Help make it a positive thing for the gorillas.

geoff_394: What can we learn from people like Dian Fossey?



sir_arthur_clarke_chat: The reverence for all forms of life, and particularly those, of course, closest to us

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: On a personal note, I hope you've seen Gorillas In the Mist Sigourney Weaver who played her, she reminded me as a 11 year old girl, she saw her first copy of Playboy magazine, when she was rifling my briefcase while I was visiting her father!~

trishtheangel: *Is the use of Tantalum going to affect technology in the way you use it in your life, Leo?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: I think it's up to this organization to figure out a way for people to be aware whether or not their products are gorilla friendly

leo_dicaprio_chat: I wanted to get into some surprising things I learned recently with Penny Patterson and Koko. The subject of how closely we are related to them. How it's almost a form of speciesism, the same as racism or sexism

leo_dicaprio_chat: By killing these animals off, we're placing ourselves on a higher plane
Like genocide

leo_dicaprio_chat: Koko's reaction to the WTC center attack. She said, she felt very sorry about what happened!

leo_dicaprio_chat: She gave an audible sigh. She responded to things like life and death

Here's a conversation where an interviewer asked where animals go when they die. Her answer was, "A comfortable hole, bye bye"

leo_dicaprio_chat: "When do they die?", her answer was "When they are unhappy or old."

leo_dicaprio_chat: Very profound things come from this gorilla. Almost like the closest thing to contacting alien life forms, communication with another species that has a moral belief system

leo_dicaprio_chat: To lose these animals would be an insane tragedy.

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: If one day any superior alien comes to earth, we may be judged by the way we've treated the other inhabitants of our planet.

Josh2282: *Do you see an American government role in this cause?*

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: Obviously governments have to play some role, but private individuals will start it, and then convince their governments

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: It all starts with the individual.

leo_dicaprio_chat: Absolutely. More active in all walks of the environmental struggle, from Global warming to endangered species

leo_dicaprio_chat: As an economic superpower, we could make some dramatic changes. I want to really thank everyone for being a part of this chat. It means American citizens are focused on these kinds of issues. It shows that you know it's important.

sir_arthur_clarke_chat: I'm very glad to have joined you for this, and I hope the work we're doing will make the world a better place for human beings and all life forms.

leo_dicaprio_chat: www.leonardodicaprio.org/gorilla



sir_arthur_clarke_chat: Thank you Leo for the bottle of Tammany Hall wine you sent me, with the note that says, "I hope you live to drink this in 3001!"...I think that's a bit optimistic, but thank you!

leo_dicaprio_chat: Goodbye Arthur. Thank you so much!

goldy3001: *Leo and C. Clark, what are your main goals for our future? What do you hope to achieve by 2003?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: Well, considering that the Eastern Lowland Gorilla's population two years ago was around 8000. With 400 being killed off a month, it's now down to about 800. This is a crisis situation for these animals. By doing this chat and being further involved, we can bring awareness to this issue

leo_dicaprio_chat: When you buy a can of tuna, it's dolphin safe. When we buy our cell phones, I want to see that they're gorilla friendly. These "animals" are not only so closely linked to us and have similar trains of thought, but they took over 7 million years to develop into these perfections of nature and we cant afford to wipe them out in the blink of an eye

leo_dicaprio_chat: Anything anyone can do to preserve these life forms for generations to come... would be wonderful.

pri_t_e_g_rly83: *what could I do in my club at school to help save the gorillas?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: You could write to the mobile phone companies, or have your school write a letter. It would make quite an impact on them: Nokia, Motorola, Intel

leo_dicaprio_chat: It would really help to drive this matter home. The other thing is to go to my site, www.leonardodicaprio.com/gorilla

crenshinabonn: *wouldn't it be a good idea to start an organization like the Red Cross for these types of animals?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund is an organization LIKE that. There have been calls for an UN Agency for Endangered Species. There's a lot of scope for that. At the moment, there is not one... but..

leo_dicaprio_chat: it would be very useful.

mcewen_k: *What goal do you have set for yourself regarding to preserving the lives of gorillas?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: I'd like to just find any way possible to ensure their survival. It starts not just with me but anyone out there to look into to what they buy as a consumer and what they can do, donation wise

leo_dicaprio_chat: The goal is to bring these gorillas OUT of the Endangered List... they are the MOST endangered mammals on earth

leo_dicaprio_chat: When numbers drop that far down, you don't have that many dominant males and that makes you unable to ensure the survival of the species. To fight off disease for example, it's important to have strong members

leo_dicaprio_chat: We need to get these animals to a comfortable population level again. If people come BACK to my site in a few days, we'll have the addresses posted where you can send your letters

leo_dicaprio_chat: www.leonardodicaprio.com/gorilla Do it TOMORROW!

aimee_rose_22: *Question for both Arthur C. Clarke and Leonardo DiCaprio: Have either of you had any up-close and personal experiences with these Gorillas, and if so, please describe them.*

leo_dicaprio_chat: No, I've not met these animals in the wild. I plan on going to the National Park and trying to have some sort of experience. Like the rest of you, I've seen Gorillas in zoos. But you can ask that if people eat them in the wild as bush meat, why cant we just move them to preserves? Why? Its because they don't migrate and don't transplant

leo_dicaprio_chat: There is no place to take them, or any way to get them there

leo_dicaprio_chat: Unfortunately, the misfortune of the cards has found this mineral found in their homeland.

krystal_l_s_1984: *Leo: Do you ever consider incorporating issues such as these into your movies?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: Specifically, I'd love to do an environmental film. It would have to be done very well. It's a hard subject matter to take on. It's very morbid. It would certainly be a depressing film, considering how sad and what's in store for us in the future

leo_dicaprio_chat: But I would absolutely be enthusiastic as long as it was well made and hit important issues. So far, I haven't seen a real environmental film since Gorilla's in the Mist.

lynlee55_98: *I read that there are only 650 gorillas believed to be left in the wild. How much time will it take for them to become extinct if nothing is done to save them?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: If nothing is done to save them?

leo_dicaprio_chat: It could be as little as 2-3 months!

leo_dicaprio_chat: Once again, this is why we decided that this chat had to be done today

And addressed now

leo_dicaprio_chat: It couldn't wait another day.

krystal_l_s_1984: *Why can't we take these Gorilla's out of their habitat and breed them somewhere else as they are doing with the Panda's?*

Yahoomc: Greg is answering this one...

leo_dicaprio_chat: There were only ever 2 or 3 mountain gorillas in captivity. Mountain gorillas are very highly strung animals. If we tried to relocate them, we'd lose a good portion due to the stress and trauma of the operation. It would be counterproductive.

pat_mtl_3: *Would you consider doing and hosting a documentary on the subject, Leonardo?*



leo_dicaprio_chat: Absolutely!

leo_dicaprio_chat: I just wish that people would watch these. I did something on the subject matter of Global Warming

leo_dicaprio_chat: I would be up to it and I wish people would pay more attention to these subjects. We can't lose sight of these issues and the future of Mother Earth.

darcee_chaplick: *Do you think that schools do enough to educate children about environmental issues?*

Yahoomc: Greg answering this one

leo_dicaprio_chat: The idea of schools "twinning" with other schools in faraway places... by linking the schools together. One in North America and one in Africa, for example. They communicate and discuss the issues they're dealing with.

ottawacoer: *Do you think more education need to be made on this matter Leo?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: absolutely

leo_dicaprio_chat: anything we can do to bring up public awareness is ESSENTIAL. Anyone who wants to contribute, please go to leonardodicaprio.org

leo_dicaprio_chat: we wouldn't be as involved in this if we didn't believe in it. We can learn a lot from these gorillas. They have learned to coexist with each other in a peaceful and fair way . We can learn a lot from them

leo_dicaprio_chat: About interacting with each other. We haven't even tapped into it yet.

goldy3001: *Leo I think you have what it takes to make a difference! Never give up a good cause is how I think. Would you ever consider running for governor?*

leo_dicaprio_chat: I actually have a campaign next year! I was going to keep it a surprise
Yes. :)

leo_dicaprio_chat: I'm just kidding.

bwindsor99: *Leonardo, I want to congratulate you for your commitment to the environment...even in your official web page, you dedicate more space to the environment that to yourself!*

leo_dicaprio_chat: Thank you so much

leo_dicaprio_chat: Thanks for the compliment and I hope to do that as long as I live. It's a lifelong commitment. There must be many of you out there who take this as serious as I. A lifelong pursuit

leo_dicaprio_chat: Once again, in closing, please contribute if you can and demand gorilla friendly cell phones. We'll post up places tomorrow where you can write to for the issue

leo_dicaprio_chat: Here's one more quote from KOKO...

leo_dicaprio_chat: A conversation between Koko and his trainer - She asked for a quote, saying she couldn't come up with any ideas. Koko said "Bad", and the trainer asked about what gorillas know that people don't. "Don't know."

leo_dicaprio_chat: Then the trainer asked what is the meaning of life. Koko's answer was, "Polite people. People help good"

leo_dicaprio_chat: It proves once and for all how closely related we are to these fast diminishing creatures. And I hope and urge you all will do something about it

leo_dicaprio_chat: Thank you

leo_dicaprio_chat: Peace on Earth



the LA chat team