Kaleidoscope

Rwanda’s gorilla-naming ceremony booms

Since 2005 Rwanda has held an annual gorilla-naming ceremony known as *Kwita Izina*, in order to create awareness around conservation efforts for the endangered mountain gorillas. Each year the ceremony attracts a larger crowd, with numbers increasing by 25% since 2010.

This year’s ceremony was attended by Senegalese-born American pop star Akon, Nigeria’s ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo and South Africa’s former First Lady, Graça Machel. A celebrity line-up is used to increase Rwanda’s global tourism appeal and create awareness around conservation efforts for the endangered mountain gorillas.

The Rwandan Development Board’s chief executive Clare Akamanzi says they aim is to grow tourism income to $800m by 2024, which would be achieved by “marketing Rwanda as a tourist destination in innovative ways”.

Last year, the East African nation earned $438m from the sector.

Kofi Annan laid to rest in Ghana

The former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Atta Annan, was laid to rest in his native Ghana after a state funeral attended by leaders from all over the world. Annan, a Ghanaian national and Noble Peace Prize laureate, died in a Swiss hospital in August at the age of 80.

His family have shared emotional and powerful tributes, describing him as a ‘special father’ and an ‘extraordinary human being’.

The funeral was dominated by customary rites for Annan, a dignitary of Ashanti lineage, who was granted a royal title by the Ashanti king in 2002. The elders said the rites were necessary to clear the path for a peaceful ‘travel’ for their royal.