

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | March 9, 2020
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Meghan Sawyer
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

Zoo shares first photos of baby gorilla *Mom Uzumma and baby are thriving and bonding*

SEATTLE—Uzumma (uh-zum-ma), a western lowland gorilla, gave birth to a healthy boy on March 4 at Woodland Park Zoo. The zoo is pleased to share the first photos and video of the first-time mom and her newborn: <https://blog.zoo.org/2020/03/uzumma-and-baby-thriving-and-bonding.html>

The baby, who is not yet named, is the first offspring between 12-year-old Uzumma and 20-year-old Kwame (KWA-may).

The new mom and baby remain off view in the sleeping dens where they can bond in a hushed, comfortable environment and staff can closely monitor them.

Stay tuned to updates by following the zoo's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).
#GrowingUpGorilla.

Woodland Park Zoo supports conservation efforts for the western lowland gorilla and mountain gorilla through the [Mondika Gorilla Project](#) and [Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund](#).

To help save gorillas, the public can drop off used handheld electronics at the zoo: cell phones, smartphones, iPods, iPads, tablets, adapters, chargers, MP3 players, handheld gaming systems and accessories that come with them. The handheld electronics are turned over to [ECO-CELL](#), which operates a strict NO LANDFILL program and reimburses organizations for their recyclable contributions. ECO-CELL reuses mineral ore from these devices to reduce the demand for unsustainable coltan mining in the Congo that destroys habitat for critically endangered gorillas. The zoo directs funds from ECO-CELL toward the Mondika Gorilla Project and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

The western lowland gorilla lives in seven countries across west equatorial Africa: southeast Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. All gorillas are endangered; the western lowland gorilla is critically endangered. The estimated population of western lowland gorillas in the wild is about 300,000. Gorillas are endangered for the following primary reasons: poaching for the bushmeat trade; habitat destruction caused by logging, mining, and slash and burn agriculture; infectious diseases such as the Ebola virus which has recently become a great threat, killing many gorillas; and climate change, which is causing the drying of the region, creating negative impacts on forest ecology and species.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

Winter zoo hours through April 30: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. Save 30% off summer admission rates now through March 31: www.zoo.org/visit.

###

