



Empowering Conservation:

An Evening with Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

CivSource South Africa hosted a truly remarkable evening, starring none other than the illustrious Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka. Her extraordinary odyssey not only defied the odds but also underscored the immense potency harboured within fervour, unyielding resolve, and the synergy of united endeavours. In this narrative, her journey radiates as a living proof that these forces possess the profound ability to mould a more luminous destiny for both the realms of wildlife and human societies.



Image caption: Captured moments: Children who attended the book signing, seizing the opportunity for a photo with Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka.

Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, an esteemed 2022 Edinburgh Medal recipient, National Geographic Explorer, and the esteemed winner of the Sierra Club Earthcare Award, has dedicated her life to the cause of wildlife conservation. Her journey began humbly, with caring for stray animals at home and founding a wildlife club during her school days. Hailing from an African society steeped in male dominance, she displayed unwavering determination to rise above gender-based barriers, ultimately becoming Uganda's first wildlife veterinarian. Her pivotal role in treating the critically endangered mountain gorillas of Bwindi National Park brought her global recognition.

However, Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka's journey didn't end there. She went on to establish the non-profit organization [Conservation Through Public Health](#). This pioneering initiative prioritizes human health as a means to safeguard wildlife, emphasizing the interconnectedness of ecosystems and communities. Complementing her non-profit efforts, she launched the social enterprise [Gorilla Conservation Coffee](#), a platform that not only protects endangered gorillas but also promotes the well-being and prosperity of local human communities, thus becoming a true steward of the planet.

Guests had the exclusive opportunity to meet and engage with Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka during a book signing session from 16:00 to 17:15 at the Higher Ground Restaurant. Though the Ambassador of Uganda, Mr. Paul Amoru, couldn't attend, his representative, Major General Fred Tolit, added an official touch to the event on behalf of the Uganda High Commission in South Africa.

As the clock struck 17:30, the evening transformed into an engaging dialogue. The opening address was gracefully delivered by Mr. Swithin Munyantwali, a Ugandan lawyer and a close friend of the Kalema family. Following this, Mr. Lawrence Zikusoka took the stage, introducing his wife with genuine pride. Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka herself shared an insightful overview of her journey, from her early days at Kibuli Secondary School, a time when Uganda grappled with civil unrest on multiple fronts.

Mr. Chris Marais skillfully guided an enthralling Q&A session, sparking dynamic exchanges that resonated with the lively voices of a captivated audience.

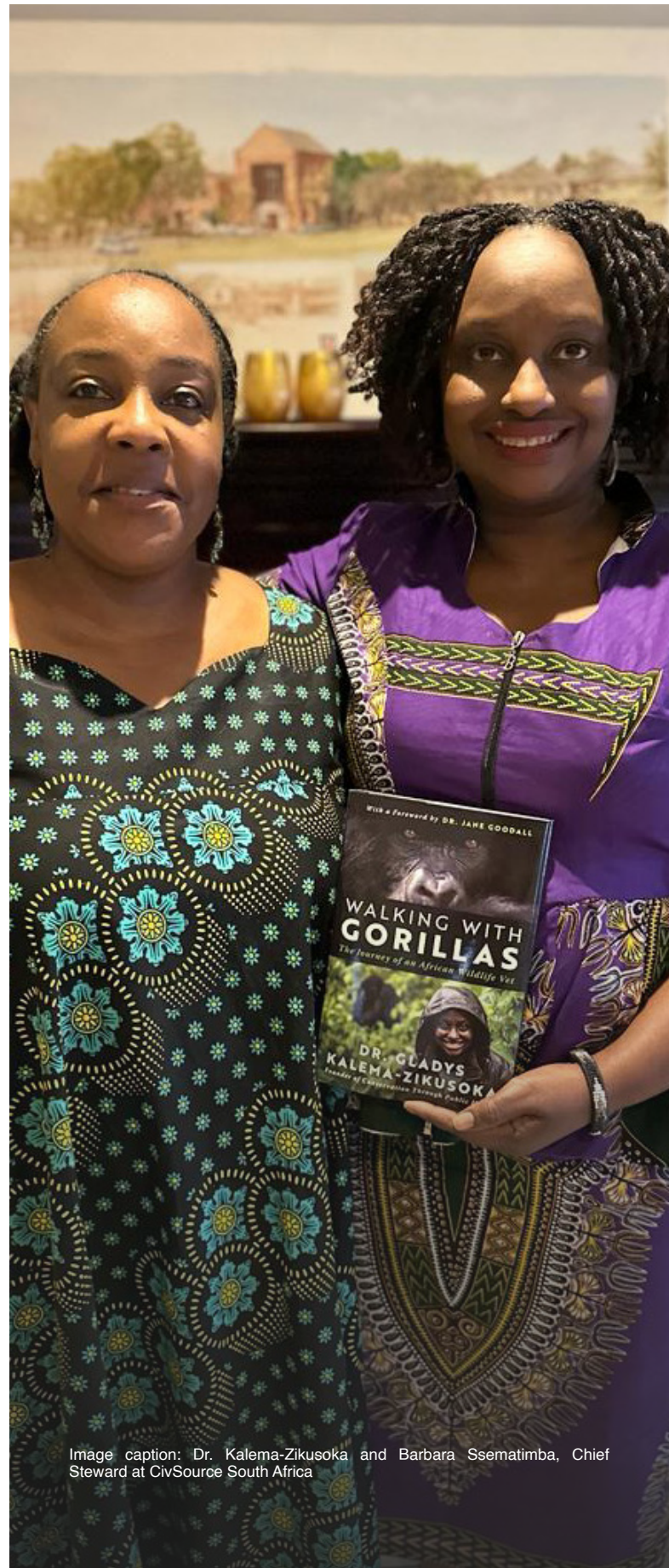


Image caption: Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka and Barbara Ssematimba, Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa

The event reached its conclusion with the official closure by Maj. Gen. Fred Tolit. He delivered a speech on behalf of the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda in South Africa, capturing the essence of Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka's work and the importance of her advocacy.



Image caption: Positioned second from the left, Maj. Gen. Fred Tolit, representing the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda in South Africa.

In the heart of Johannesburg, Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka's evening left an indelible mark, a testament to the transformative potential of individuals driven by passion, courage, and a collective commitment to nurturing our planet and all its inhabitants.

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Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa



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Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka
Founder and Conservation Therapist

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Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka