

sion. They have another benefit as well: They provide firewood, which ICRAF estimates now falls 40% short of demand, tempting farmers to harvest it illegally from the forest.

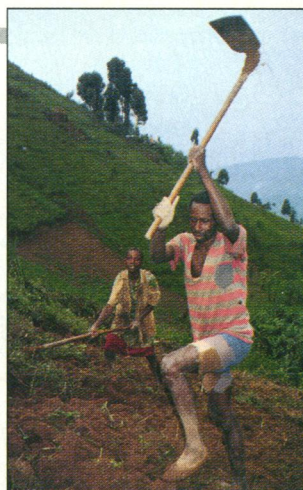
Within the last 6 months, DTC and Ugandan National Parks have also attempted to increase the benefits of the forest to the local people by introducing a "multiple use program" that allows locals to harvest controlled amounts of produce from the forest. Under the program, which is still in its pilot stage, designated villagers can collect plants, including vines for basket-making and medicinal plants such as the bark of *Prunus africanum*, which reportedly cures stomachache. The villagers may also visit the forests' mineral springs and tend their beehives.

This approach seems to be bringing home the message that resource conservation and development are linked: Speaking through a translator, farmer Velleriano Turyananuka said, "The park will help educate us and bring us money so that we will be at a higher stage of development." At the moment, he admitted, he can't afford the 5000 Ugandan shillings per child (about \$5.50) to keep his five

children at school.

Turyananuka's optimism could be extinguished quickly, however, if the foreign funds supporting the projects at Bwindi and Mgahinga begin to dry up. Today, Uganda is riding a tide of international goodwill—and hence foreign aid—triggered by the country's spectacular economic and political resurrection following the years of chaos when the country was ruled by dictators Idi Amin and Milton Obote. But few people expect the current level of assistance to continue for long.

To help protect the Bwindi and Mgahinga projects from fluctuations in foreign aid, the World Bank is creating Africa's first conservation trust fund, the Mgahinga and Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust. In January, the bank approved a \$4 million international endowment that will



Good times ahead? Velleriano Turyananuka and daughter Tumusime work their fields.

generate about \$100,000 per year. Sixty percent of the money is earmarked for home-grown conservation and development projects (for example, the cultivation of medicinal plants that are traditionally harvested from the forests), and the remaining 40% will be used for forest conservation research and park management. "The Bwindi trust is the hope for the future," says Aveling.

But despite the optimism that surrounds the mountain gorilla conservation efforts, Butynski sees one major cause for concern: "We've

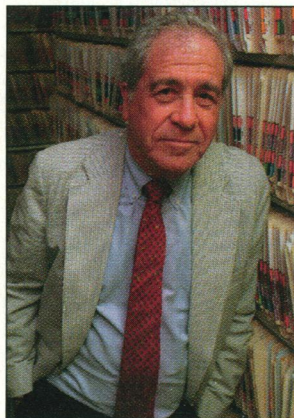
done just about every conservation project you can think of" to save Bwindi, he says. "If we have to devote that much effort into saving every 330-square-kilometer piece of rain forest in Africa, we are not going to be able to save very many of them."

—Rachel Nowak

BIOMEDICAL POLICY

Fisher Given New Role In Cancer Project

SAN DIEGO—Bernard Fisher, the University of Pittsburgh surgeon who was ousted last year as head of a major breast cancer research project, is back with the project in a new capacity. On 13 March—a year to the day after a *Chicago Tribune* article pulled the rug out from under his career—Fisher was named scientific director of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP), the group he co-founded and headed for 27 years.



Chief scientist. Bernard Fisher, back with the NSABP.

The announcement was made by Norman Wolmark, Fisher's longtime friend and collaborator, who succeeded him as chair and principal investigator of the NSABP. Wolmark simply introduced Fisher as the group's first scientific director, at the NSABP annual meeting here. Fisher later told *Science* that he will be in charge of the scientific agenda of the NSABP, writing manuscripts and "doing my own research." The position was designed by officials of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which funds the NSABP, and the executive committee of the project, with input from Fisher himself.

Fisher's new appointment represents a remarkable turnaround. On 29 March last year, NCI demanded his resignation as chair of the project because of concerns about his man-

agement of the more than 500 research centers that participate in the NSABP. Fisher's troubles had started when the *Chicago Tribune* detailed the results of a federal investigation that concluded that a Montreal surgeon had falsified data on six women he had enrolled in an NSABP study establishing the safety of breast-sparing lumpectomy as an alternative to mastectomy. Then came media reports of additional falsifications by the same surgeon and a bruising set of hearings by a congressional subcommittee headed by Representative John Dingell (D-MI), who sharply criticized Fisher's management of the project.

Fisher began to fight back last July, when he filed a lawsuit against the University of Pittsburgh, which he says violated his right to due process by caving in to NCI's demands for his removal. That suit is still pending. Then, on 6 March, he filed suit against NCI and other federal agencies, because "scientific misconduct" warnings had been placed on computer listings of 148 of his papers. The next day, a federal judge ordered the agencies to remove the labels and publish an apology to Fisher, who has never been found guilty of misconduct.

Fisher's reinstatement to the project was greeted with enthusiasm among his support-

ers at the meeting here. He was given a standing ovation, and University of California, Berkeley, geneticist Mary-Claire King praised him for standing firm. "There is nothing more heroic than stubbornness in a good cause," said King, who in 1990 discovered the chromosomal location of *BRCA1*, the breast cancer susceptibility gene. Hints of conciliation even came from Bruce Chabner, NCI's outgoing director of cancer treatment, who with former NCI Director Samuel Broder is widely regarded as responsible for Fisher's ouster. Chabner spoke of "harsh and often irresponsible attacks from the press and from Congress" last year. He offered no apology for NCI's actions, however.

But meeting participants were eager to put the episode behind them. Fisher said it's time to get back to "scientific thought and accomplishment that will put an end to breast cancer. That's what this is all about." Acting NCI Director Ed Sondik went to the meeting "to affirm NCI's continuing commitment to the NSABP."

First, though, Fisher will complete a reanalysis of the lumpectomy study. Although NCI has already done its own reanalysis and found the conclusions unchanged, Fisher has yet to publish his recalculation of the results. Fisher said earlier this week that his manuscript will be finished "very shortly. ... This is a very meticulous process, and we don't want to make any mistakes."

—Jane Erikson

Jane Erikson is a medical reporter with The Arizona Daily Star.