

May 12, 2010

Press Opportunity: Art of Conservation Sponsors Children's Tennis Tournament in Rwanda

Musanze, Rwanda – On Saturday, May 22, two weekends prior to Kwita Izina, Rwanda's annual Mountain Gorilla Naming Ceremony, Art of Conservation (AoC) will host the "Sports for Gorillas Children's Tennis Tournament" in Musanze. The competitors are members of the AoC-sponsored Children's Tennis Team, which is composed of 15 young people between the ages of 10 and 16 who live near AoC's headquarters in Musanze. Coach Antoine Musengimana will umpire the matches, with players matched by skill level. All players will receive small prizes for participation. During the tournament, artwork made by students participating in AoC's conservation education program will be on display.

The tournament will begin at 9:00 am at the Musanze District tennis courts. All media are welcome to attend. High-quality photos will be made available after the tournament.

The tennis tournament is one of many events in Musanze District planned to commemorate Kwita Izina and World Environment Day, both of which occur on June 5. Kwita Izina is an annual Rwandan celebration when all of the baby mountain gorillas born in Volcanoes National Park over the last 12 months receive names. The ceremony is attended by politicians, celebrities, local people, and conservationists from around the world. This year, Rwanda is also the official host country of World Environment Day, a United Nations-sponsored event which draws public attention to the environment and environmental issues.

About Art of Conservation

Art of Conservation, Inc., works in poor rural communities bordering Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, teaching schoolchildren and other community members about the importance of maintaining a healthy environment for both people and animals and instilling them with an understanding and respect for themselves, their peers, and the natural world. Art of Conservation approaches learning through a unique method, using visual, auditory, and performance arts to teach lessons and inspire creativity in its students. In partnership with other organizations which attend directly to the well-being of the Volcanoes National Park ecosystem and its resident mountain gorillas, Art of Conservation seeks to fill the education gap in the local communities through its activities. More information: www.art-of-conservation.com
<<http://www.art-of-conservation.com/>>

Press Contacts:

Molly Feltner

AoC Communications Manager (for questions in English)

+250 (0) 783885168

mollyfeltner@gmail.com

Olivier Habimana

AoC Staff Manager (for questions in Kinyarwanda)

+250 (0) 788539991

haboliver2002@yahoo.fr