



**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kerry Bowman**



Kerry Bowman holds academic appointments with The [University of Toronto](#) in Family and Community Medicine and serves with The University of Toronto's School of the Environment.<sup>[1]</sup> He has also worked extensively with patients as a [clinical bioethicist](#). Bowman follows a range of bioethical issues, including end-of-life decision making, ethical questions in emerging technology, such as genomics, [gene drive](#) and [CRISPR-Cas9](#),<sup>[2]</sup> cloning and reproductive ethics. He is also concerned with a variety of animal and environmental ethical questions, particularly de-extinction. Bowman's role as an ethicist informs the work he does as a wildlife conservationist, which focuses primarily on the [great apes](#), as well as the interface of human cultures with conservation initiatives. A former member of the board of directors for the [Jane Goodall Institute](#) of Canada, Bowman is an ethics consultant to Jane Goodall Institute Global and the founding president of the Canadian Ape Alliance. This organization operates and oversees projects in the Eastern [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) (DRC).

Bowman was featured in a 2002 Discovery Channel documentary called "Bushmeat," which traced the path of the illicit [bushmeat](#) trade from the [Congo Basin](#) to an underground meat market in [Cameroon](#) and beyond,<sup>[8]</sup> and in "The Ghosts of Lomako",<sup>[9]</sup> a 2003 Nature of Things documentary in which Bowman traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo to study the endangered bonobo ape. He also appeared<sup>[10]</sup> in "Gorilla Doctors" (2014), a CBC The Nature of Things documentary focusing on the protection of mountain gorillas in Virunga, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

***United Nations Environment Programme***

Bowman has served with the United [Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP), as author with the fourth [Global Environment Outlook](#) (GEO-4) in 2007 and as a contributing author and expert reviewer with GEO-5 in 2012. He was also involved in Global Environment Outlook 6, examining the connection between human health and the environment. Bowman is now focusing on the protection of the Amazon rainforest and the threat of zoonotic diseases to human well being.



### ***North Korea***

Since 2010, Bowman has joined a number of international delegations to [North Korea](#) (DPRK) that focused on environmental improvement and youth environmental education in relation to environmentally improved agricultural and environmental practice. Bowman is also one of the few researchers who has travelled the entire length and breadth of North Korea, twice as part of an international delegation and once on a solo expedition.

### ***Uncontacted Peoples***

Bowman has recently turned his attention to the relationship between the protection of indigenous land and its environmental/climatic benefits. This work has brought him into the range of some of the world's last remaining isolated and [uncontacted indigenous communities](#). Although never seeking to make contact, he is one of the few Canadian researchers to have actually seen uncontacted people, and has spent time with indigenous groups of the western Amazon, including those only just recently contacted by the outside world. His work has included remote regions of [Papua New Guinea](#), the Andaman islands as well as into the eastern Congo's [Ituri](#) rainforest, where he cohabited among the [Mbuti pygmies](#). His travels have taken him to a remote tribal mountain village in Papua New Guinea, as well as into the Congo's remote Ituri rainforest, where he cohabited with the Mbuti pygmies. On a trip to the Andaman Islands, he experienced a rare, unplanned and unexpected encounter with members of the secluded Jarawa tribe.

### ***International Environmental initiatives***

Bowman is the founder and president of The Canadian Ape Alliance – an environmental non-government organization working in alliance with Congolese NGO's, in the Eastern Congo dedicated to balancing human wellbeing with protection of the Eastern Lowland Gorilla and its natural habitat. Bowman established the Kahuzi-Biega Environmental School in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in 2003. The initiative was designed to give young students an opportunity to acquire a basic education as well as an understanding of their role in environmental and wildlife conservation. Bowman is a key researcher on the rapidly expanding Eastern Congo Biodiversity Corridor Project now including over 300,000 hectares. Bowman has been researching the rising threat of zoonotic disease transmission and the wildlife markets around the world. He has been documenting and publishing on the relationship between protected Indigenous territories in the Amazon as a means of biodiversity and forest protection. Bowman has done fieldwork with all four great ape species in both [Indonesia](#) and [Central Africa](#). He has observed in their natural habitat the [Sumatran rhinoceros](#) ([Aceh](#), Sumatra, Indonesia, 1981), the [Bactrian camel](#) ([Gashun Gobi Desert](#), western China, 2012), the [Javan rhino](#) ([Ujung Kulon National Park](#), Java, Indonesia, 2013), as well as all species of [big cats](#), including the [snow leopard](#) ([Hemis National Park](#), [Ladakh](#) region, India, 2015). In his research excursions abroad, he has observed many endangered species in situ, including all five rhino species, all of the world's big cats including the snow leopard, all of the great apes, including most subspecies, as well as the Bactrian camel in the Gobi desert.