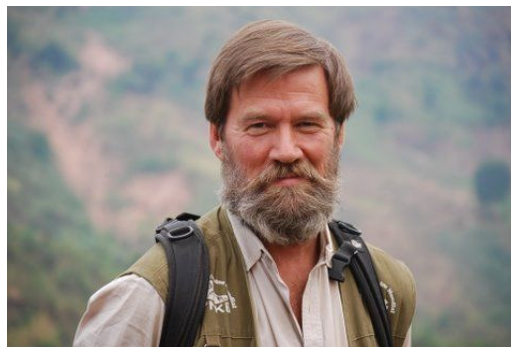


Ian Redmond Appointed CMS Ambassador

Bonn, 28 May 2010 - Ian Redmond OBE has accepted the Executive Secretary's invitation to become a CMS Ambassador. Ian Redmond's reputation and commitment have spread across the world as Ambassador of the Year of the Gorilla. He is a tropical field biologist and conservationist, renowned for his work with great apes, elephants, polar bears, reptiles and amphibians. For more than 30 years he has been associated with Mountain Gorillas, through research, filming, tourism and conservation work. In his new role as CMS Ambassador he will advocate the cause of all species covered by the Convention.



In 2008 Ian was appointed Ambassador for the CMS-led, the Year of the Gorilla (YoG) campaign because of his expertise and achievements in the world of conservation. As YoG Ambassador, Ian Redmond travelled to the African gorilla range states to gain a first-hand impression of the state of the gorilla and documented them in his blog and in videos available on the YoG website. During his "State of the Gorilla Journey" he interviewed presidents, scientists, loggers, miners, poachers, park rangers, conservationists and the proverbial "man or woman in the street", to speak on camera about what gorillas mean to them and what they think the UN initiative might achieve.

Ian Redmond also undertook a lecture tour to the United States in 2009, where he addressed the public to promote the conservation of gorillas and to raise funds for projects locally and globally. In the run up to the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, he focused on the importance of large mammals like gorillas and elephants as keystone species that maintain their habitats' biodiversity and help stabilize the global climate.

Ian Redmond said: *"I am delighted to dedicate myself as CMS Ambassador to the cause of migratory animals. They contribute to the unique diversity of ecosystems by providing essential services for our own survival. It is no good protecting them in one part of their range if they are being hunted or losing their habitat in another. While taking into account the needs of people who share or depend on their habitats, we must also recognise that these species are made up of individual animals. I care passionately about them and the future of all life on Earth."*

Born in Malaysia and reared in Yorkshire, after graduating from University, he went to Africa in 1976 to join Dr Dian Fossey in studying and protecting the mountain gorillas of Rwanda and Zaire. This work led to his involvement in documentary film-making. He went on to do the first study of cave elephants on Mt Elgon, Kenya, a trans-boundary protected area shared with Uganda. Ian Redmond has appeared in or helped to make more than 50 documentary films for the BBC, National Geographic Society, Discovery Channel, TF1, etc.

Putting conservation principles into practice, he has led anti-poaching patrols, guided film crews and special interest tours into close encounters with gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans and elephants, and worked to support local conservationists during the civil wars in Rwanda and D.R. Congo. His work on behalf of animals was recognised in 1996 with the presentation of the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) Humane Achievement Award, at a ceremony in Hollywood, California. He was appointed OBE for services to conservation in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2006.

Ian Redmond's appointment brings the number of current CMS Ambassadors to four, joining the Kenyan conservationist Kuki Gallmann, the Norwegian Peter Schei and the British journalist and environmentalist, Stanley Johnson. The title of CMS Ambassador is bestowed upon outstanding personalities in recognition of their past and future role in promoting the conservation of wild migratory animals and the objectives of the Convention.

CMS Ambassadors foster connections to science, conservation networks, politics and economy to convince the public of the unique value and the services provided by migratory animals as nature based assets.

Photo of Ian in the eastern DRC courtesy of Mick O'Donnell, Channel 7