



Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats



Interim Secretariat provided by the Convention on Migratory Species

REPORTING FORMAT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT'S ACTION PLANS

Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Agreement's Action Plans

Convention on Migratory Species

Gorilla Agreement National Report

for

**Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*)
Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*)
Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*)
Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)**

I. Law enforcement

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen law enforcement at all sites and implement SMART
Area/Site of action:	All sites ((Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS), Mbe Mountains and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP))
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	SMART-based anti-poaching patrols supported at all 3 CRG sites in Nigeria.
Results:	Anti-poaching patrols have reduced levels of hunting at all 3 sites. Law enforcement monitoring improved at all 3 sites using SMART.
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	WCS produces SMART reports on quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of political will to prosecute arrested offenders by government agencies.
Further action required:	Implementation of existing laws, including all CITES regulations. Improve prosecution of offenders.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Nigeria National Park Service (NPS) and Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC), Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (Camm).

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Training program to raise awareness of laws and processes of wildlife law enforcement by park rangers, Eco guards, conservation workers, community leaders, judicial personnel and law enforcement agencies.
Area/Site of action:	All sites
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Awareness created for rangers at all 3 sites on the Cross River State Administration of Criminal Justice Law, the Cross River State Forestry Commission Law, and the Nigeria National Park Service Law
Results:	Increased awareness and understanding among rangers of relevant wildlife laws.
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS produces SMART reports on quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	Organize refresher training

Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, Cross River National Park (CRNP), CRSFC
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Action point identified in Action Plan :	Eradicate all illegal farms at Afi and ensure no new farms are allowed to develop
Area/Site of action:	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Farms mapped, but not eradicated yet
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of political will from Cross River State Government, lack of government interest in the management and protection of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
Further action required:	Illegal farms at Afi are expanding each year and unless they are removed the long-term future of the wildlife sanctuary, and the gorillas therein, is uncertain.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, WCS, NCF, Pandrillus

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen protection by increasing the number of anti-poaching patrols; effective prosecution of all poachers arrested to serve as a deterrent
Area/Site of action:	All sites
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Number of patrols in CRNP doubled (16 patrols completed per month), 4-6 patrols completed per month in Afi and Mbe, facilitated by WCS
Results:	Wire snares removed, but hunting and farming remains widespread across the sanctuary. No gorillas killed at AMWS since 2012.
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of interest and political will from Cross River State Government in the management and protection of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Although some arrests have been made, there is weak political will by government to prosecute

Further action required:	Effective prosecution needed at all 3 sites to serve as an effective deterrent.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, CRNP, WCS, Pandrillus

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Review and clearly demarcate existing boundaries of AMWS and possible extension to Olum Hills and Kakwagom-Irruan area
Area/Site of action:	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Demarcation of existing boundary of AMWS and survey of Olum Hills and Kakwagom-Irruan area completed.
Results:	Boundaries are marked and being maintained.
Publications, reports, maps:	Report available from WCS Nigeria Program
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of interest and political will from Cross River State Government in the management and protection of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
Further action required:	Regular boundary maintenance required.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, WCS,NCF

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen existing community patrol system including introduction of more effective penalties
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Patrol strategy in Mbe is regularly updated. 4-6 patrols currently implemented per month by WCS-employed Eco guards; but community-enforced penalties need to strengthen to be an effective deterrent.
Results:	Bylaws drafted and endorsed by Boki LGA. Levels of hunting have decreased in Mbe, no gorillas killed since the 1980s.
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/

Difficulties encountered:	Inter-community rivalry and disputes within the nine communities and the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM) over benefit sharing
Further action required:	Enforcement of community bylaws
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CAMM, WCS, CRSFC, Boki LGA

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Review all practical options for the resettlement of people living in the existing enclaves
Area/Site of action:	Cross River National Park (Okwangwo Division)
Date of action:	No action
Action undertaken:	No action
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Little or no political will for resettlement, and significant cost involved. Enclave communities now agitating for road construction rather than resettlement.
Further action required:	Final decision on resettlement required by federal government. Redemarcate enclave boundaries, draft rules and regulations for continued occupation of enclaves.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Federal Government of Nigeria, Nigeria National Park Service (Pks), Cross River State Government

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen levels of protection through improved management, removal of bush sheds, monitoring, ranger training, construction of ranger posts and provision of essential equipment including vehicles
Area/Site of action:	Cross River National Park (Okwangwo Division)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Patrols by park rangers have reduced levels of hunting in certain areas and removed hundreds of bush sheds.
Results:	One new ranger post constructed. There have been no cases of gorilla poaching in Okwangwo since 2011?
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/

Difficulties encountered:	Violent resistance from communities over arrest of offenders; lack of equipment for rangers especially firearms and vehicles. Weak levels of prosecution do not function as an effective deterrent (offences are compounded rather than prosecuted in court). Encroachment and logging are growing problems in Okwangwo.
Further action required:	Additional patrols needed; field equipment for rangers especially firearms and provision of vehicles
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Nigeria National Park Service (NNPS), WCS,NCF

II. [Species and habitat protection] / [Conservation management]

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Assess implication of drill release on AMWS
Area/Site of action:	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS)
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	Not done
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Official permission for the drill release at Afi in 2015 was not sought from CRSFC or the Federal Ministry of Environment
Further action required:	Assess potential impact of any future drill release on AMWS, and evaluate possible alternative sites for the release
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, Pandrillus, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Review draft management plan and ensure ratification by National Parks Board
Area/Site of action:	Cross River National Park (Okwangwo Division)
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Delays finding a suitable consultant to lead the process.
Further action required:	Review draft management plan and ensure ratification by National Parks Board
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Nigeria National Park Service, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Complete threat assessment and management options for priority connectivity areas
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Landcover analysis of Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo landscape updated in 2018.
Results:	Annual deforestation rate declined during 2010-2018 (1.36%) compared to 2000-2010 (2.22%) but remained higher than the deforestation rate in the 1986-2000 period (0.09%).
Publications, reports, maps etc.:	Report available https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Ongoing deforestation of Afi River Forest Reserve (corridor between Afi and Mbe) from farm encroachment and illegal logging.
Further action required:	More effective protection of Afi River Forest Reserve by Cross River State Forestry Commission
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, CRNP, WCS, Pandrillus, CAMM

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Manage and protect priority area of connectivity, including unoccupied habitat into which the gorilla population could expand given greater protection
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Regular ranger patrols of currently unoccupied lowland areas of Okwangwo including joint patrols with Mbe ecoguards
Results:	Levels of hunting and logging reduced in lowland areas of Okwangwo
Publications, reports, maps:	Report available https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of political will to protect Afi River Forest Reserve by the CRSFC
Further action required:	Patrols of Afi River Forest Reserve needed.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, WCS, Pandrillus, CAMM

III. Monitoring and related research

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Conduct further gorilla distribution and abundance surveys, including use of novel approaches such as the Gorilla Guardian program
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Ongoing surveys of Okwa Hills and other areas around AMWS by gorilla guardians.
Results:	Better levels of community support
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS reports on quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	No management plan for AMWS
Further action required:	Maintain gorilla guardian program at AMWS.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, WCS, NCF

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Modelling of future scenarios to predict changes in habitat distribution, connectivity and population size
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Modelling study completed by Andy Plumptre in collaboration with WCS colleagues and others.
Results:	Results submitted for publication
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	None
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Andy Plumptre (KBA Secretariat), WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Assess the use of genetics to calibrate nest-count population estimates
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)

Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Gorilla fecal samples collected at all 3 sites and sent to MPI in Germany for analysis
Results:	Results expected in 2019
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Analysis has been slow
Further action required:	Complete genetic analysis of samples as soon as possible and publish results.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, North Carolina Zoo, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI)

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Continue and expand long-term socio-ecological research
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Long-term socio-ecological research (at Afi) was discontinued in 2006. Additional studies published by Inaoyom Imong in 2014.
Results:	Improved understanding of Cross River gorilla habitat and feeding needs in Nigeria
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	Funding and conservation priorities
Further action required:	Encourage long-term socio-ecological research by local students and universities
Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, MPI, NCZ, CRNP, CRSFC

IV. Human and gorilla health

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Assess disease threat posed by humans and livestock and determine which factors are most important in determining severity of risk
Area/Site of action:	All sites (Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Fecal samples collected from gorillas at all sites and being analyzed at Emory University, USA
Results:	Results expected in 2024/25
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Securing CITES export permits for the fecal samples was a lengthy process.
Further action required:	Collect human and livestock fecal samples and complete disease threat assessment
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Emory University, WCS, North Carolina Zoo, Pandrillus, CAMM, CRSFC, NPS, FMENV

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Develop and implement employee, researcher and community health measures to reduce risk of disease transmission
Area/Site of action:	Not done
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Development of health measures is dependent on completion of assessment of disease threat (above)
Further action required:	Develop and implement employee, researcher and community health measures to reduce risk of disease transmission
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Emory University, WCS, North Carolina Zoo, Pandrillus, CAMM, CRSFC, NPS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Conduct awareness raising campaign to increase understanding regarding risks of disease transmission to gorillas
Area/Site of action:	Not done
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	Conduct awareness raising campaign to increase understanding regarding risks of disease transmission to gorillas
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Emory University, WCS, Pandrillus ,NCF, FMENV

V. National Policy and legislation

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Revise existing legislation including the Endangered Species Decree
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Endangered Species Act of 2004 was reviewed and penalties increased to act as a stronger deterrent.
Results:	President Buhari signed the Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Amendment Act in 2016. National Park legislation was also revised.
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	Greater awareness of new legislation and training for judiciary, customs, police etc.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV), National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)

VI. Institutions and funding

There are no action points in the Cross River gorilla action plan that relate to this.

VII. Transboundary activities

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Establish a trans-boundary Takamanda-Okwangwo protected area complex and investigate options for World Heritage Site status
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria and Cameroon
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Numerous transboundary meetings held between Nigeria and Cameroon as well as extensive community consultations. Both Nigeria and Cameroon have submitted a proposal to UNESCO for the creation of a World Heritage Site in Cross River
Results:	Strong support for creation of a transboundary world heritage site in Nigeria and Cameroon
Publications, reports, maps:	Transboundary workshop reports are available
Difficulties encountered:	Political and armed conflict in Cameroon and COVID-19 delayed progress
Further action required:	Political and armed conflict in Cameroon needs to be resolved
Implementing organization:	Federal Government of Nigeria, FMENV,NPS, WCS, NCF

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Workshop to sign transboundary agreement by relevant ministries in Nigeria and Cameroon
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria and Cameroon
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Final draft of MoU document between Nigeria and Cameroon developed and ready for signing
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	New Minister of Environment appointed and needs time to settle in before a date for can be agreed.
Further action required:	Transboundary workshop planned for Abuja in to move World Heritage Site nomination process forward.
Implementing organization:	Federal Government of Nigeria, FMENV,NPS, WCS, NCF

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Conduct regular joint patrols and exchange visits between Okwangwo and Takamanda
Area/Site of action:	Okwangwo (Nigeria) and Takamanda (Cameroon)

Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	No joint patrols or exchange visits conducted due to insecurity on the Cameroon side
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Insecurity in Cameroon has meant that no joint patrols or exchange visits have been possible since 2017.
Further action required:	Joint patrols not feasible until the security situation in Cameroon improves.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	NPS, CRNP, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Facilitate joint biological surveys and data exchange
Area/Site of action:	Okwangwo (and Takamanda, Cameroon)
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	SMART data exchanged with WCS Cameroon and with the PSMNR project.
Results:	Effective transboundary links established between Nigeria and Cameroon.
Publications, reports, maps:	Patrol reports and workshop reports available from WCS
Difficulties encountered:	Insecurity in Cameroon has meant that no joint surveys or patrols have been possible since 2017.
Further action required:	No further action feasible until the security situation in Cameroon improves.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	FMENV,NPS, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Continue to develop a regional GIS database as a planning tool for conservation
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria and Cameroon
Date of action:	2014-2019
Action undertaken:	Digital maps exchanged with WCS Cameroon and with the PSMNR project

Results:	Joint maps produced for transboundary proposals to UNESCO and others, although a formal GIS database for the region has not been officially established.
Publications, reports, maps:	Transboundary maps available from WCS
Difficulties encountered:	Little or no GIS capacity within CRNP and the NPS
Further action required:	Develop GIS capacity within CRNP and NPS
Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, PSMNR, CRSFC, CRNP, NPS, NCZ

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Conduct annual range-wide CRG partners meeting
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria and Cameroon
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	A series of 'annual' meetings between Nigeria and Cameroon
Results:	The last annual partners meeting was held in Yaoundé in 2016.
Publications, reports, maps:	Workshop reports available from WCS
Difficulties encountered:	Joint transboundary workshops suspended due to COVID-19 and insecurity in Cameroon
Further action required:	Convene an annual CRG partners meeting in 2024
Contacts/Implementing organization:	USFWS, NPS, CRNP, CRSFC, CAMM, WCS, NCZ, Arcus

VIII. Tourism

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Assess CRG range for potential development of: i) general ecotourism; ii) tourism based on the presence of gorillas (unhabituated) and possibly iii) habituated gorilla tourism.
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Discussions held with Cross River State Tourism Bureau (CRSTB) but not much progress made due to lack of political will and commitment by the government
Results:	Only limited progress made in 2014/15 before the change in government but Mbe was identified as a possible site for gorilla habituation, rather than Afi
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Political changes in Cross River, and limited interest in conservation by the past administration
Further action required:	To be discussed during revision of new action plan likely in 2024
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, NPS, CRNP, CRSTB, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Assess completion of recommendations from the 2007 Afi gorilla tourism feasibility study. Implement recommendations not yet achieved (or consider another pilot site in Nigeria).
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of political will and conservation interest from CRSFC/Cross River State Government
Further action required:	Discuss during next review of action
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRSFC, CRSTB, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Develop guidelines for tourism operations (gorilla or other), including health and hygiene issues and staff training programs
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	Not done
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	Engage with CRSG and CRSTB to develop guidelines
Contacts/Implementing organization:	NPS, CRSFC, WCS, Pandrillus

IX. Education and Awareness

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Further develop and expand conservation education and outreach programs throughout the CRG range based on school conservation clubs, use of radio and TV broadcasts, and conservation films
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Conservation education and outreach program across 60+ communities.
Results:	Over 60 school conservation clubs active across the landscape including regular field trips and exchange visits
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS quarterly and annual reports, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Many communities remote and inaccessible.
Further action required:	Recruit additional staff to strengthen the education program
Contacts/Implementing organization:	Nigeria National Park Service (NPS) and WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Develop locally made conservation film/DVD
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	Not done
Action undertaken:	NA
Results:	NA
Publications, reports, maps:	NA
Difficulties encountered:	Funds not available
Further action required:	-
Contacts/Implementing organization:	PCI Media Impact, NCZ, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Upgrade education materials and produce a regular newsletter
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Although newsletter not done, a variety of education materials produced including branded exercise books for local schools, T-shirts, stickers and roll-up banners.
Results:	Greater awareness created as a result of the materials produced.
Publications, reports, maps:	WCS quarterly and annual reports, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Funding constraints
Further action required:	More education materials needed including endangered species poster and illustrated notebooks and guidebooks.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRNP, CRSFC, PCI Media Impact, Pandrillus, Nigeria National Park Service and WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Expand current 'Communication for Behavior Change Campaign'
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	The radio series 'My Gorilla My Community' is now in its 9th series, and is broadcast on CRBC from Calabar and Ikom and a private radio station, Hit FM
Results:	Impact of the radio program was assessed in 2019 through a questionnaire survey, and compared to the 2014 baseline
Publications, reports, maps:	Impact assessment report available from WCS
Difficulties encountered:	CRBC has limited coverage in rural areas and gaps between seasons (funding).
Further action required:	Further expand reach and audience by broadcasting on additional radio stations.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS and PCI Media Impact

X. Community based work

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Define legal status of Mbe Mountains and complete gazettement as a community forest or a community wildlife sanctuary
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Boundary survey of the Mbe Mountains Conservation Area completed, and survey map officially lodged with Cross River State Government as part of gazettement process.
Results:	Certificate of lodgment of survey with Cross River State Government obtained for CAMM.
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	A community forest or a community wildlife sanctuary does not provide full legal protection to the community land.
Further action required:	Continue process to obtain a 'Certificate of Occupancy' from Cross River State Government.
Implementing organizations:	CAMM, CRSFC, WCS, FMENV

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Examine existing community-based land-use plans and investigate how they can be used to protect the buffer zone and habitat corridors
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Work with two communities to protect corridor between Mbe and Okwangwo and surrounding buffer zone in Mbe.
Results:	Protection of a buffer zone and corridor between Mbe and Okwangwo ongoing with the 2 relevant communities
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	Mistrust by local communities and competing commercial interest in the land within the buffer zone/corridor for large-scale cocoa plantations.
Further action required:	-
Implementing organizations:	CAMM, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Provide necessary support and capacity building to CAMM
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Various training exercises provided to CAMM including proposal writing, financial management and book-keeping and forest governance.
Results:	Capacity of CAMM has improved and they managed 2 grants independently of WCS.
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	CAMM is not yet independent and requires long-term support and capacity building.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CAMM, CRSFC, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Review and demarcate Mbe boundaries
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Boundary demarcation fully completed and resulting map registered with CRSG
Results:	Little or no encroachment as a result of visible and well-maintained boundaries
Publications, reports, maps:	Boundary map available from WCS
Difficulties encountered:	Mistrust between the 9 communities and conflict over the relative amounts of land donated by each community has delayed progress in the Mbe Mountains
Further action required:	Regular maintenance
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CAMM, CRSFC, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Develop models for community-based conservation of gorillas, incorporating lessons learned from existing initiatives
Area/Site of action:	Mbe Mountains

Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Despite a number of challenges and setbacks the community conservation project in the Mbe Mountains has been remarkably successful
Results:	Case study written up and published online as one of the IUCN Panorama Solutions
Publications, reports, maps:	https://panorama.solutions
Difficulties encountered:	Mistrust between the 9 communities and conflict over the relative amounts of land donated by each community has delayed progress in the Mbe Mountains
Further action required:	Mbe-model could be replicated in Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CAMM, CRSFC, WCS, NCF

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Encourage local participation in protected area management activities
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Some limited participation in 'local organizing committees' established by CRNP. The 9 communities surrounding the Mbe Mountains actively participate in conservation through CAMM.
Results:	Local participation in the management of Mbe has made conservation efforts more effective at the site compared to Okwangwo and Afi
Publications, reports, maps:	Quarterly and annual reports from the Mbe Mts, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Periodic conflict between the NPS and enclave communities in Okwangwo and Okwa over arrests made inside CRNP. Conflict between the 9 Mbe communities and CAMM.
Further action required:	Better prosecution of offenders to serve as a stronger deterrent and less use of 'compounding' of offences which has emboldened youths in some communities to resist arrests by park rangers
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRNP, CRSFC, CAMM, NCF, WCS

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Develop alternative livelihood activities to reduce pressure on forest resources (eg tourism, non-extractive resource use and income-generating activities such as micro-enterprises)
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Training and support for sustainable cocoa production and training and support for women's groups in sustainable bush mango harvesting.
Results:	Livelihood support helping to reduce levels of hunting and other illegal activities.
Publications, reports, maps:	Quarterly and annual reports from the Mbe Mts, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/
Difficulties encountered:	Improving access to market and ensuring farmers receive sufficient premiums for deforestation-free cocoa as incentive.
Further action required:	Increased access to premiums and sale/storage of bush mango by women's groups to ensure higher profits
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRNP, CRSFC, WCS, NCF, CAMM

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Promote land-use planning, improved agricultural practices and community forestry in areas surrounding gorilla habitat to act as a buffer zone to core gorilla sites
Area/Site of action:	Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Training and support for of more than 1000 farmers at all 3 sites in improved cocoa production.
Results:	New improved cocoa seedlings planted on old farms to improve productivity
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	Signing of conservation contracts with each farmer to limit cocoa production to land that has already been cleared
Further action required:	Expand program to include more farmers
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRNP, CRSFC, CAMM, WCS, NCF

XI. Any other action undertaken

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Seek funding for a Cross River gorilla conservation graduate scholarship fund
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Although a specific CRG graduate scholarship fund has not yet been established, 2 staff from WCS were supported to successfully complete UK master's programs; one currently enrolled on UK PhD program
Results:	Ymke Warren Memorial Conservation Award established in 2013 for early career great ape biologists and managed by the Gorilla Organization
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	-
Further action required:	-
Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, NCZ, NCF, the Gorilla Organization

Action point identified in Action Plan :	Promote inter-site staff exchange programs to other gorilla research sites in Africa
Area/Site of action:	All 3 CRG sites - Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	Valuable exchange visits organized between Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo staff as well as visits to WCS regional office in Kigali, Rwanda
Results:	Improved understanding of sites and support for planning and implementation of conservation activities
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	Lack of funds to expand program
Further action required:	-

Contacts/Implementing organization:	WCS, NCF, CRSFC, CRNP, FMENV
Action point identified in Action Plan :	Strengthen links with universities, provide opportunities for student internships and volunteer programs
Area/Site of action:	Nigeria
Date of action:	2020-2023
Action undertaken:	More than 10 student internships and volunteer placements created with the WCS Nigeria Program during the period 2020-2023
Results:	Some of the interns were later employed by WCS
Publications, reports, maps:	-
Difficulties encountered:	NA
Further action required:	Further strengthen links with universities in Nigeria such as Calabar, Ibadan etc.
Contacts/Implementing organization:	CRNP, CRSFC, WCS, NCF, FMENV

ACRONYMS USED

AMWS	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
CAMM	Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains
CRG	Cross River Gorilla
CRNP	Cross River National Park
CRSFC	Cross River State Forestry Commission
CRSTB	Cross River State Tourism Bureau
LGA	Local Government Area
MGMC	My Gorilla My Community
MPI	Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
NCZ	North Carolina Zoo
NESREA	National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency
NPS	Nigeria National Park Service
PSMNR	Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
FMENV	Federal Ministry of Environment
NCF	Nigerian Conservation Foundation