



**CONVENTION ON
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SPECIES**

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Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

Summary:

The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, the report provided by the Interim Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas.

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

(This report covers the period August 2014-September 2017)

Recruitment of new Parties

1. The Republic of Angola informed the CMS Secretariat, that its Parliament had ratified the Gorilla Agreement on 25 April 2013. However, as depositary to the Agreement, the CMS Secretariat has not yet received the documents of accession. Angola would become the eighth Party to the Agreement. Two additional non-Parties remain: Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

Cooperation with the UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)

2. The CMS Secretariat continues serving on the GRASP Executive Committee. France, which is also a member, recommended at the 7th Meeting of the Executive Committee that a process be formalized whereby consideration be given to the links between the Agreement and GRASP, recognizing the challenges of securing resources for the implementation and support to the Agreement. The CMS Secretariat confirmed its willingness to work with GRASP on this, when it attended the 8th Meeting and developed in close collaboration with the GRASP Secretariat a proposal for cooperation with GRASP.
3. A proposal for cooperation with GRASP was circulated to all Parties of the Gorilla Agreement and CMS Parties on 16 December 2015 by [Notification 2015/30](#) and comments were invited until 31 January 2016. No substantive comments were received on the proposal and the Secretariat proceeded planning the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement (MOP3) as suggested.
4. The proposal was also introduced at the informal meeting of GRASP Partners, held on 23 May 2017 in London, where it received great interest. The proposal can be reviewed on the CMS website ([Proposal for cooperation between GRASP and the CMS Gorilla Agreement](#)). It is suggested that the proposal be discussed at the next Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement.

Conservation Projects

- a) *My Gorilla My Community* radio drama programme
5. A small-scale funding agreement was concluded with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Cameroon and Nigeria on 1 August 2015 for a project to positively influence the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding conservation of Cross River gorillas in Nigeria and Cameroon through a weekly radio drama and magazine show. The project successfully produced Season 3 (26 episodes) of the *My Gorilla My Community* radio drama programme. By the financial closure of the project on 3 May 2017, more than half of the episodes had been successfully broadcast, helping to improve knowledge in areas where knowledge was low, and influencing change in attitudes and behaviors towards Cross River gorillas and their habitat in Nigeria and Cameroon. The remainder of the episodes
- b) *Establishment of a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve between Cameroon and Nigeria*

6. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety has confirmed funding for a UNEP GRASP project to conserve the critically endangered and fragmented Cross River Gorilla populations in Nigeria and Cameroon (as well as the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee). The project will be implemented by UNEP GRASP with support of the CMS Secretariat.

Third Meeting of the Parties

7. Arrangements were made with UNEP GRASP to convene MOP3 back-to-back with the 3rd GRASP Council in November 2016 and a Notification to Parties was sent out to that effect ([Notification 2015/30](#)). On 22 September 2016, however, UNEP informed GRASP Partners that “the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which physically hosts the GRASP Secretariat, is currently revising its Biodiversity commitments and it was felt the process could impact the GRASP Council agenda.” Parties to the Gorilla Agreement were subsequently notified ([Notification 2016/25](#)) that CMS would have to follow UNEP’s decision and postpone MOP3.
8. Offers for financial support of MOP3 from Parties to the Gorilla Agreement and other donors are kindly requested.

Financial Status

9. The assessed contributions for Parties to the Agreement are set at €3,000 per annum for each of the six Parties.
10. Since the Agreement’s entry into force in 2008, the following contributions were received:

2011	Rwanda	€6,000
2012	Republic of Congo	€8,962
2013	Democratic Republic of Congo	<u>€12,000</u>
		€26,962

11. The Secretariat continues to encourage Parties to pay their annual contributions to the Gorilla Agreement and clear any arrears as soon as possible.