



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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TENTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Bergen, 20-25 November 2011  
Agenda Item 16b

## REVIEW OF ARTICLE IV AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED

- I. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Tenth 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 and their Habitat**, to accompany document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. The report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

## EXAMEN DES ACCORDS DE L'ARTICLE IV DEJA CONCLUS

1. Le Secrétariat diffuse ci-joint, pour l'information des participants à la dixième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur les espèces migratrices, le rapport développé fourni par le Secrétariat Intérimaire de l'**Accord sur la Conservation des Gorilles et leurs Habitats**, pour accompagner le document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. Le rapport est fourni sans avoir été mis au point, dans le format et la langue dans lesquels il a été soumis.

## REVISIÓN DE ACUERDOS ARTÍCULO IV YA CONCLUIDOS

1. La Secretaría adjunta, para información de los participantes a la décimo Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre Especies Migratorias, el informe completo presentado por la Secretaría provisional del **Acuerdo sobre la Conservación de Gorilas y sus hábitats**, en complemento en el documento UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. El informe se presenta sin modificaciones editoriales, bajo la forma y en el idioma original.



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

ACCORD CMS GORILLA



CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

## Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitat Report of the Interim Secretariat

*(The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS), acting as the Interim Gorilla Agreement Secretariat, has prepared the following report for the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention. This report covers the period December 2008 until November 2011)*

### Hosting of the Agreement

1. Following a decision of the First Meeting of the Parties of the Gorilla Agreement, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat is acting as the interim Secretariat to the Gorilla Agreement. As no additional funds had been budgeted by either the CMS COP or the Gorilla Agreement MOP, coordination of the Agreement continues to be done by existing UNEP/CMS staff in addition to their regular duties. A consultant, partly funded by Monaco and Germany, assisted for the organization of the First Technical Committee meeting in March 2011 and the preparation of the Second Meeting of the Parties (MOP2), which is taking place back-to-back with CMS COP10. From June 2011 until the end of 2014, the German government is funding a position in the CMS Secretariat, the holder of which will spend part of her time on supporting the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement.

### First Meeting of the Parties (MOP1)

2. The First Meeting of the Parties took place in Rome, Italy, in December 2008. MOP1 designated the UNEP/CMS Secretariat as the interim Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement, as requested by the Paris Negotiation Meeting and agreed by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee of CMS (both 2007). MOP1 also established the Technical Committee. It adopted Action Plans for the conservation of gorillas, and adopted a resolution on a monitoring and reporting system for the Agreement. The full report of the meeting can be found at [http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/mop1\\_mtg\\_docs.htm](http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/mop1_mtg_docs.htm).

### Year of the Gorilla Campaign

3. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat designated 2009 as “Year of the Gorilla” in order to increase the visibility of the Gorilla Agreement.

4. CMS allied with the UNEP-led Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) for the campaign, these partners being key in reaching out to governments, the relevant NGO community and the general public. The campaign catalyzed over 100 related activities, undertaken by the Secretariat, Parties and partners.

5. The dedicated website [www.yog2009.org](http://www.yog2009.org) was one of the campaign's main information tools, along with a blog, bilingual posters, leaflets, a desk diary, stickers and pins. In all, over 70,000 materials were printed by CMS, reaching an estimated audience of 300,000 people. An additional 50,000 promotional products, carrying the YOG logo, were produced by affiliated zoos, reaching an additional 50,000 people. The campaign prompted 120 press articles in English in 2009 alone, in addition to over 75 articles in French, German and Spanish.

6. Campaign partners also created key reference materials, including the GRASP Rapid Response Assessment report "*The Last Stand of the Gorilla: Environmental Crime and Conflict in the Congo Basin*", financed by France and UNEP, and the WAZA education manual entitled "*All About Gorillas*".

7. Mr. Ian Redmond OBE proved to be a very active campaign ambassador, undertaking a "State of the Gorilla Journey" through seven of the 10 range states in late 2009, writing a blog about his travels, as well as undertaking a lecture tour of the USA, and numerous other appearances and media interviews.

8. A major scientific symposium on gorillas was organized by the German government, resulting in the "Frankfurt Declaration" ([http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/frankfurt\\_symposium.htm](http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/frankfurt_symposium.htm)), which outlined the main threats faced by gorillas and suggested ways to address them. In addition to the support of the 160 stakeholders present at the symposium, the Declaration has been subsequently endorsed by FAO, CBD and UNESCO.

9. During the Year of the Gorilla, €100,000 was raised for selected field projects, including:

- Fuel-efficient stoves: a Gorilla Organisation project supported with funds raised during a US lecture tour by Ian Redmond for the YoG (~ €14,500). The project supplied stoves which use up to 70% less fuel to local communities around the Virunga National Park, thereby helping mitigate deforestation. The funds were sufficient to cover project expenses for one year.  
Funds raised: ~€14,500.
- PALF (Project to Apply the Law on Fauna): Wildlife Law Enforcement project in the Republic of Congo, received funds raised during the YoG (€5,340) as well as a voluntary contribution from Monaco (€5,000) and a contribution from a WAZA partner zoo (€3,900).  
Funds raised: ~€14,240.
- A WCS Project aimed at promoting community involvement in Cross River Gorilla conservation (€13,000 raised by WAZA)  
Funds raised: ~€13,000.
- A GTZ project aimed at improving surveillance and monitoring of Eastern Lowland Gorillas (voluntary contribution of €50,000 by Germany plus €6,000 raised by a WAZA zoo).  
Funds raised: ~€56,000.

10. In addition, there were a number of small fundraising initiatives undertaken by individual YoG-supporters.

11. An independent evaluation of the YoG and other CMS species campaigns was commissioned by CMS. In addition to the results reported above, it concluded that the campaign was very effective at raising awareness on gorillas and the threats they face, and that the success of the campaign was especially pronounced when measured against the limited resources available. However, it noted that most activities focussed more on audiences in the western world, and that the goal of generating significant funds for field projects within a one-year timeframe, with limited staff, was unrealistic. Nevertheless, the focus on a few “priority projects” was deemed useful for awareness raising and sparking media interest. The full evaluation report is available at [http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/gor\\_tc1\\_documents/inf5\\_evaluation\\_yearof\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/gor_tc1_documents/inf5_evaluation_yearof_e.pdf).

### **Ad-Hoc meeting in Frankfurt am Main, Germany**

12. In June 2009, in the margins of the above-mentioned Frankfurt Gorilla Symposium, an ad hoc meeting of Gorilla Agreement stakeholders, including representatives of several gorilla Range States and major NGOs took place. The main outcome was an agreement that the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Terrestrial Mammals would act as the interim Technical Committee until the formation of the Agreement’s Technical Committee was complete.

### **Action Plans**

13. Under the provisions of Article VIII of the Agreement, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, together with the range states and international experts, developed Action Plans for all four gorilla subspecies, drawing heavily on existing IUCN great ape action plans. These were then adopted by the First Meeting of the Parties in Rome in 2008. These Action Plans were updated to incorporate comments and input received after the First Meeting of the Parties and will again be subject to discussion at MOP2.

14. While aspects of the Action Plans have been addressed through the projects and activities mentioned in this report, a lack of funding for the Agreement has made it difficult for UNEP/CMS to drive further implementation. However, it is expected that Range States, and NGOs operating within their borders, will have undertaken a number of the actions listed here. A reporting system is being developed to determine implementation of the Action Plans, and will be discussed in depth at MOP2.

### **Finances**

15. As agreed at the first Meeting of the Parties, each Party is expected to pay an annual subscription of €3,000. To date only one Party has complied: the host of the Technical Committee meeting, the Government of Rwanda has paid for both 2009 and 2010. Invoices were sent to Parties on March 17, 2010, and again on July 7, 2010, and Parties were reminded of their arrears at the First Technical Committee Meeting in March 2011. As a result of the non-payment by most Parties, the Gorilla Agreement and its activities have, to date, been funded almost entirely from contributions from donors.

16. The CMS Standing Committee, at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting in November, 2010, expressed concern at the apparent lack of commitment shown by the Gorilla Agreement Parties, as evidenced by the non-payment of overdue contributions. They noted that this situation could be very discouraging to potential donors asked to contribute funds to an initiative to which the Range States themselves had yet to demonstrate a firm commitment. The Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee sent a letter to all Range States that same month, urging Parties to pay their contributions, and urging non-Parties to accede to the Agreement.

17. Funded by a grant from UNEP, a consultant drafted the first phase of a GEF-proposal for a

large-scale transboundary gorilla conservation project, in early 2011. The success of the proposal is not yet known.

18. Germany has kindly agreed to provide a P-2-level staff member from mid-2011 until the end of 2014 to help with the coordination of the Agreement, providing much-needed additional resources. However, in the long term, a solution for permanent staffing of the Gorilla Agreement still needs to be found.

19. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat thanks the donor countries and specifically looks to Governments and organizations to further sponsor and promote activities aimed at implementing the Agreement's Action Plans.

20. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat continues to encourage Parties to pay their contributions as soon as possible.

21. Full details of the financial situation will be presented to MOP2.

### **First Meeting of the Technical Committee (March 29-30 2011, Kigali, Rwanda)**

22. After presentations of national reports on relevant gorilla conservation activities by the range states, main points discussed at the meeting were:

- Transboundary gorilla conservation: the model of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Secretariat, which is the result of cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, was presented as an example from which other Range States benefit.
- Reporting/Monitoring: it was agreed to focus initially on the more accessible issue of creating a reporting system. The Agreement would consider the more complex issue of monitoring at a later date. It was agreed that the Secretariat would draft a format for national reports, and share it with the Parties for their inputs. This has been done and a reporting format is expected to be agreed at MOP2.
- Three additional expert positions for the Technical Committee still needed to be filled, as laid out in the Agreement text. The additional experts would cover the fields of forest management and conservation, environmental law, and wild animal health. Nominations have since been collected and a decision is expected at MOP2.
- Wildlife law enforcement was also discussed. Members requested the CMS Secretariat to approach the International Consortium Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), the CITES MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme and COMIFAC with regard to increasing cooperation and including gorilla conservation in their relevant work plans and activities.

23. His Excellency, the Rwandan Minister of Environment and Lands, Stanislas Kamanzi, closed the meeting, which was attended by a total of 36 participants, including nine representatives of Range States, one GRASP representative, representatives of three non-Range States, eight IGO representatives, eleven NGO representatives, two Secretariat staff, one CMS Ambassador, and one report writer.

24. The meeting report, as well as all recommendations and documents can be viewed at [http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/gor\\_tc1\\_meetingdocs.htm](http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/gor_tc1_meetingdocs.htm).

### **Second Meeting of the Parties**

25. The 2nd Meeting of the Parties will take place in Bergen, Norway, on 26-27 November 2011, immediately following CMS CoP10. Among other things, the abovementioned issues of a reporting system, additional experts for the Technical Committee and law enforcement cooperation will be discussed.