



**Agreement on the
Conservation of Gorillas
and their Habitats of the
Convention on
Migratory Species**

Distribution: General

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**NATIONAL REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 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

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| 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, Mbe Mountains and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park) |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Anti-poaching patrols supported at all 3 CRG sites in Nigeria and SMART introduced. |
| Results: | Anti-poaching patrols have reduced levels of hunting at all 3 sites. SMART working well and has helped strengthen law enforcement at all 3 sites |
| Publications, reports, maps etc.: | WCS produces SMART reports on quarterly and annual basis, see https://nigeria.wcs.org/ |
| Difficulties encountered: | There is only limited use of SMART by the PkS in Okwangwo independently of WCS |
| Further action required: | More support needed for PkS to build capacity and encourage use of SMART independently of WCS. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Nigeria National Park Service (PkS) and Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC), Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM) |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Establish a LAGA-type collaboration in Nigeria with MoU between NGOs and government |
| Area/Site of action: | Nigeria |
| Date of action: | Not done |
| Action undertaken: | Not done |
| Results: | NA |
| Publications, reports, maps: | NA |
| Difficulties encountered: | It is not clear if LAGA (the EAGLE network) is willing to work in Nigeria |
| Further action required: | Contact EAGLE network to determine level of interest in Nigeria |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Federal Ministry of Environment, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Nigeria Customs Service |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Training program to raise awareness of laws and processes of wildlife law enforcement by park rangers, ecoguards, conservation workers, community leaders, judicial personnel and law enforcement agencies. |
| Area/Site of action: | All sites |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Training undertaken on the new wildlife law for Afi rangers and local judges and chiefs in 2016 |
| Results: | Greater awareness was created. |
| Publications, reports, maps: | Report available from WCS |
| Difficulties encountered: | NA |
| Further action required: | Training for Okwangwo rangers needed |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Nigeria National Park Service (PkS), Cross River State Forestry Commission, WCS, NESREA |

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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: | Not done |
| Action undertaken: | Not done |
| 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: | Cross River State Forestry Commission, WCS, Pandrillus |

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| 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: | Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | 4 patrols a month by Afi rangers, 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 has not been a single prosecution and this is therefore no deterrent at all |
| Further action required: | Effective prosecution needed at Afi (and all 3 sites) to serve as an effective deterrent. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Cross River State Forestry Commission, WCS, Pandrillus |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Review started but was not completed. Surveys of Olum Hills and Kakwagom-Irruan area completed. |
| Results: | Boundaries are marked but require maintenance. |
| 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 maintenance required. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC), WCS, Pandrillus |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Patrol strategy in Mbe is regularly updated. Currently there are 4 patrols per month by WCS-employed ecoguards; but community-enforced penalties are weak and have not been an effective deterrent |
| Results: | Bylaws drafted and reviewed but not yet 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: | Slow action by Boki LGA. Inter-community rivalry and disputes within the nine communities and the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM) over benefit sharing |
| Further action required: | Ratification and enforcement of community bylaws enforced by Boki LGA |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CAMM, WCS, CRSFC, Boki LGA |

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| 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 |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Patrols by park rangers have reduced levels of hunting in certain areas and removal of hundreds of bush sheds. |
| Results: | No new ranger posts 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 and training 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, including field equipment for rangers especially firearms. Construction of ranger posts and provision of essential equipment including vehicles |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Nigeria National Park Service, WCS |

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

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| 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 |

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| 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: | Lack of funds and political will. |
| Further action required: | Review draft management plan and ensure ratification by National Parks Board |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Nigeria National Park Service, WCS |

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|---|---|
| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Landcover analysis of Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo landscape completed in 2013/14 and is currently being updated. |
| Results: | 21% forest loss from 1986 to 2010. |
| Publications, reports, maps etc.: | Report available https://nigeria.wcs.org/ |
| Difficulties encountered: | Bulldozing of Afi River Forest Reserve (corridor between Afi and Mbe) by Cross River State Government (?) for cocoa plantation |
| Further action required: | More effective protection of Afi River Forest Reserve by Cross River State Forestry Commission |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRSFC, 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Ranger patrols of currently unoccupied lowland areas of Okwangwo completed 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 Cross River State Forestry Commission |
| Further action required: | Patrols of Afi River Forest Reserve needed. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRSFC, WCS, Pandrillus, CAMM |

III. Monitoring and related research

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Additional gorilla surveys done in the Olum Hills and Kakwagom-Irruan. Gorilla guardian program established at Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. |
| Results: | Better levels of community support |
| Publications, reports, maps: | WCS 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 |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Modelling study completed by Andy Plumptre in collaboration with WCS colleagues and others. |
| Results: | Paper drafted and has been submitted to 'Biological Conservation' for publication after it was rejected by the Journal of Applied Ecology |
| Publications, reports, maps: | Publication of study expected in 2019 |
| Difficulties encountered: | NA |
| Further action required: | None |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Andy Plumptre (KBA Secretariat), WCS |

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|---|---|
| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| 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) |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| 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

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Study designed, fecal samples collected from gorillas but samples for humans and livestock not yet collected |
| Results: | NA |
| Publications, reports, maps: | NA |
| Difficulties encountered: | Securing CITES export permits for the fecal samples is a lengthy process. |
| Further action required: | Collect remaining samples and complete disease threat assessment |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | Emory University, WCS, North Carolina Zoo, Pandrillus, CAMM, CRSFC, PkS |

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| 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, PkS |

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|---|---|
| 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 |

V. National Policy and legislation

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Revise existing legislation including the Endangered Species Decree |
| Area/Site of action: | Nigeria |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| 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, NESREA |

VI. Institutions and funding

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

VII. Transboundary activities

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Establish a transboundary Takamanda-Okwangwo protected area complex and investigate options for World Heritage Site status |
| Area/Site of action: | Nigeria and Cameroon |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Numerous transboundary meetings held between Nigeria and Cameroon as well as extensive community consultations. Nigeria has 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 |
| Publications, reports, maps: | Transboundary workshop reports are available |
| Difficulties encountered: | Political support in Cameroon is uncertain, Cameroon has not yet submitted a similar proposal to UNESCO |
| Further action required: | Cameroon to submit their own tentative listing to UNESCO as soon as possible |
| Implementing organization: | Federal Government of Nigeria, PkS, WCS |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Not done |
| Results: | NA |
| Publications, reports, maps: | NA |
| Difficulties encountered: | Location of MoU document between Nigeria and Cameroon had been disputed/lost for a number of years and progress stalled. Although the original version has been found and is now ready for signing, a new version has recently been produced by Cameroon and unfortunately this is likely to delay the process further. |
| Further action required: | Cameroon to return revised version of MoU to Nigeria for consideration. Transboundary workshop planned for Abuja in September. |
| Implementing organization: | Federal Government of Nigeria, PkS, WCS |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Joint patrols conducted from 2014 to 2017; no exchange visits done since 2017. |
| Results: | Joint patrols helped protect important transboundary region |
| Publications, reports, maps: | Joint patrol reports/maps available |
| Difficulties encountered: | Insecurity in Cameroon has meant that no joint surveys or patrols have been possible since 2017. |
| Further action required: | Joint patrols not feasible until the security situation in Cameroon improves. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | PkS, CRNP, WCS |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Facilitate joint biological surveys and data exchange |
| Area/Site of action: | Okwangwo (and Takamanda, Cameroon) |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | SMART data exchanged with WCS Cameroon and with the PSMNR project. Joint patrols between Okwangwo and Takamanda also collected biological data as a secondary objective. |
| 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: | PkS, WCS |

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| 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 PkS |
| Further action required: | Develop GIS capacity within CRNP and PkS |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | WCS, PSMNR, CRSFC, CRNP, PkS, NCZ |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Conduct annual range-wide CRG partners meeting |
| Area/Site of action: | Nigeria and Cameroon |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | A series of 'annual' meetings between Nigeria and Cameroon |
| Results: | The last annual partners meeting was held in Calabar in 2015. |
| Publications, reports, maps: | Workshop reports available from WCS |
| Difficulties encountered: | Momentum was lost following staff changes within WCS Cameroon and USFWS, combined with insecurity in Cameroon, and logistical challenges arranging a date suitable for all partners |
| Further action required: | Convene an annual CRG partners meeting in 2019 |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | USFWS, PkS, CRNP, CRSFC, CAMM, WCS, NCZ, Arcus |

VIII. Tourism

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Gorilla tourism committee established in Cross River by the CRSFC but was discontinued following the change in government in 2015 |
| 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 new administration |
| Further action required: | To be discussed during revision of new action plan in 2019 |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRSFC, PkS, CRNP, CRSTB, WCS |

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| 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 and conservation interest from CRSFC/Cross River State Government |
| Further action required: | Discuss during review of action plan in 2019 |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRSFC, CRSTB, WCS |

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|---|--|
| 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: | |
| Further action required: | |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | PkS, CRSFC, WCS, Pandrillus |

IX. Education and Awareness

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Conservation education and outreach program across 60+ communities. |
| Results: | More than 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 (PkS) and WCS |

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| 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 |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| 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. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRNP, CRSFC, PCI Media Impact, Pandrillus, Nigeria National Park Service and WCS |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Expand current ‘Communication for Behavior Change Campaign’ |
| Area/Site of action: | Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | The radio series ‘My Gorilla My Community’ is now in its 6th series, and is broadcast on CRBC from Calabar and Ikom |
| Results: | Impact of the radio program will be assessed in 2019 through a questionnaire survey, and compared to the 2014 baseline |
| Publications, reports, maps: | - |
| Difficulties encountered: | CRBC has limited coverage in rural areas and gaps between seasons (funding). |
| Further action required: | Broadcast on private radio stations such as HitFM to expand audience. Impact survey in 2019. |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | WCS and PCI Media Impact |

X. Community based work

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Decision taken by the 9 Mbe communities to seek for legal title to their land through a ‘Certificate of Occupancy’ |
| Results: | Letters from each community have been submitted to a lawyer who has been engaged to handle the application on behalf of 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: | Survey the land and submit application for a ‘Certificate of Occupancy’ to Cross River State Government. |
| Implementing organizations: | CAMM, CRSFC, WCS |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Existing community land-use plans have not been enforced or implemented. . |
| Results: | Protection of a buffer zone and corridor between Mbe and Okwangwo has been discussed 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, CRSFC, WCS |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Provide necessary support and capacity building to CAMM |
| Area/Site of action: | Mbe Mountains |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| 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 |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Review and demarcate Mbe boundaries |
| Area/Site of action: | Mbe Mountains |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Boundary demarcation fully completed |
| 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 |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| 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 |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| 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 PkS 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 ‘compoundment’ of offences which has emboldened youths in some communities to resist arrests by park rangers |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRNP, CRSFC, CAMM, WCS |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Training of hunters in bee-keeping and training for women's groups in sustainable bush mango harvesting. |
| Results: | Bee-keeping may have helped reduce levels of hunting. |
| Publications, reports, maps: | - |
| Difficulties encountered: | Snail farming did not work well. Problems with honey harvesting and marketing. |
| Further action required: | Better marketing of 'Gorilla Honey' and sale/storage of bush mango by women's groups to ensure higher profits |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | CRNP, CRSFC, WCS, CAMM |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Training of more than 100 farmers at all 3 sites in improved cocoa production. |
| Results: | New improved cocoa seedlings planted on old farms |
| 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 |

XI. Any other action undertaken

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Although a specific CRG graduate scholarship fund has not yet been established, 2 staff from WCS are currently enrolled on a UK Masters program 2018/19 |
| 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, the Gorilla Organization |

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| Action point identified in Action Plan : | Promote inter-site staff exchange programs to other gorilla research sites in Africa |
| Area/Site of action: | Africa |
| Date of action: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | Although not an exchange program, valuable trips to Uganda and Rwanda for young gorilla biologists were arranged by Cleveland Zoo and North Carolina Zoo through the 'Gorillas Across Africa' program |
| Results: | Momentum from the 'Gorillas Across Africa' program helped to create the African Primatological Society in 2018 |
| Publications, reports, maps: | - |
| Difficulties encountered: | Lack of funds available to continue the program |
| Further action required: | - |
| Contacts/Implementing organization: | NCZ and Cleveland Zoo |

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| 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: | 2014-2019 |
| Action undertaken: | More than 10 student internships and volunteer placements created with the WCS Nigeria Program during the period 2014-2019 |
| 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 |

ACRONYMS USED

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| 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 |
| EAGLE | Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement |
| LAGA | Last Great Ape Organization |
| 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 |
| PkS | 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 |