



THE PARIS GORILLA DECLARATION ON THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS AND THEIR HABITATS

Paris 22-24 October 2007

DETERMINED to implement the decision of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to list gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla s.l.*) on Appendix I of the Convention;

NOTING that this listing was motivated by the unfavourable conservation status of gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla s.l.*) and the conviction that they would significantly benefit from international cooperation that could be achieved by a multilateral agreement;

AWARE of the exceptional significance of great apes for the natural and cultural heritage of mankind;

RECOGNISING that numerous and sound efforts have already been devoted both by governments and non-governmental organisations for the preservation of the various populations that constitute *Gorilla gorilla s.l.*;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the continued rapid decline and persistent fragility of these populations, widely observed in spite of these efforts;

CONVINCED that the conservation of the species is intimately linked to that of the precious and exceptional forest habitats it frequents;

CONSCIOUS that the conservation of great apes has unique implications in terms of interactions with human use of the land and its resources as well as in relation to human health;

CONCERNED by the degradation of conservation status in the hindrance of conservation efforts brought about by the situations of tensions and conflicts within the range of gorillas;

NOTING that great ape populations in a favourable conservation status can constitute a considerable asset for countries and areas that hold them;

ENCOURAGED by the interest of Range States and all actors of African conservation in the preservation of the unique patrimonial value that gorillas represent;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcome of the First Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the First Council Meeting of the Great Apes Survival Project (Kinshasa, September 2005), including the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the decision of the Fifth CMS Conference of the Parties to undertake a Concerted Action on *Gorilla beringei* and the need, noted by the Eighth Conference in Resolution 8.5 to develop an appropriate instrument to support the Concerted Action for *Gorilla gorilla s.l.*;

CONVINCED that the conclusion of a multilateral agreement and its implementation will contribute significantly to the conservation of gorillas and their habitats in the most efficient manner, and will have benefits for many other species of animals and plants; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that effective implementation of such an agreement will require assistance to be provided to some Range States for research, training and monitoring of gorillas and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of this Agreement,

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RANGE STATES OF GORILLA POPULATIONS, meeting in Paris on 22-24 October 2007, have concluded an AGREEMENT within the meaning of article IV, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species.

Through this AGREEMENT the Parties shall take measures to conserve all populations of gorilla; and to this end, the Parties shall:

- (a) accord the same strict conservation for gorillas in the Agreement Range as provided for under Article III, paragraphs 4 and 5 (excluding the exceptions (a) through (d) specified for paragraph 5), of the Convention;
- (b) identify sites and habitats for gorillas occurring within their territory and ensure the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites, in liaison with those bodies listed in Article IX, paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Agreement, concerned with habitat conservation;

- (c) coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or re-established throughout the entire range of all species and sub-species, in particular where habitats extend over the area of more than one Party to this Agreement;
- (d) coordinate their efforts to eradicate activities related to poaching, and to take concerted, energetic measures to control and monitor them, particularly in transboundary habitats in the States concerned by the present Agreement;
- (e) reinforce and support capacity building measures of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies;
- (f) support initiatives to stop the spread of Ebola and other infectious diseases and to find a cure for Ebola;
- (g) investigate problems that are posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures, including habitat rehabilitation and restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat;
- (h) cooperate in emergency situations and undertake, as appropriate, international concerted actions in accordance with relevant national and international legal frameworks;
- (i) when such emergency situations affect people in the region, Parties must seek to ensure that humanitarian agencies take into account the environmental impact of their relief efforts and coordinate with the relevant authorities designated by the Parties to this Agreement;
- (j) take all efforts to prevent conflicts between humans and gorillas through appropriate land-use planning. Where human-gorilla conflict occurs, parties must take measures to reduce the conflict, with expert advice. These measures must be humane, consistent with the terms of this Agreement and to the benefit of both humans and gorillas;
- (k) cooperate in the development, harmonisation and enforcement of national policies and legislative measures for the conservation of gorillas and their habitats;
- (l) analyse the training requirements for, *inter alia*, gorilla surveys, monitoring and forest conservation management to identify priority topics and areas for training, and cooperate in the development and provision of appropriate training programmes;
- (m) initiate or support research into the biology and ecology of gorillas including the harmonization of research and monitoring methods and, where appropriate, the establishment of joint or cooperative research and monitoring programmes;
- (n) develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of gorilla conservation issues in general and of the particular objectives and provisions of this Agreement;
- (o) exchange information and results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes;

- (p) cooperate with a view to assisting each other to implement this Agreement, particularly in the areas of research, training, monitoring and public awareness; and
- (q) encourage awareness-raising about the importance of protecting gorillas, while cooperating with other States and international organisations to develop public education programmes on gorilla conservation.

Done in Paris on 26 October 2007, in presence of: