



# Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

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SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
Bergen, Norway, 26-27 November 2011  
Agenda Item 14

## INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGREEMENT

(Prepared by the Interim Secretariat)

### I. Background

1. The Meeting to negotiate the Gorilla Agreement, in Paris, 22-24 October, 2007, adopted a Resolution on Interim Arrangements for the CMS Gorilla Agreement. *Inter alia*, it requested the CMS Standing Committee to mandate the CMS Secretariat to provide interim secretariat services to the Agreement in close cooperation with the UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) secretariat and other institutions of GRASP. The CMS Standing Committee, at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in November, 2007, accepted this.
2. For the First Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to the CMS Gorilla Agreement, on 21 November, 2008, the Secretariat report was prepared jointly by CMS and GRASP. The budget adopted by the meeting, included GRASP personnel within the Secretariat.
3. MOP1 considered the establishment of a Secretariat for the Agreement. The Executive Secretary noted that the CMS Secretariat had been operating as the Secretariat of the Agreement, although no professional level staff were available to provide the necessary support. He proposed that the arrangement continue, but with a programme officer and support officer to allocate around 10 per cent of their time to the Agreement, while other components of the Secretariat would come from GRASP.
4. The Parties agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that the CMS Secretariat should continue to act as Interim Secretariat for the Agreement, and that the role of GRASP in providing secretariat services should be explicitly mentioned.
5. At this time, in late 2008, the CMS Secretariat was preparing to launch the 2009 Year of the Gorilla (YOG) Campaign. GRASP, together with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), became official partners, and both provided considerable in-kind as well as financial input to the YOG campaign, the results of which are presented in documents UNEP/GA/MOP2/Inf.4 and Inf.5.
6. GRASP was without a Coordinator from mid-2009 to mid-2011, leaving little time for the remaining staff to interact with the Gorilla Agreement. Nonetheless, one of the most notable achievements relating to the Gorilla Agreement in this time was the publication of *The Last Stand of the Gorilla*. It was produced by GRASP, with French YOG funding, and featured interviews conducted by the YOG Ambassador with

Range State stakeholders from Ministers to poachers.

## **II. The Present Situation**

7. The CMS Secretariat continues to provide interim Secretariat services, although with only one staff member to administer this Agreement plus 14 other species-related MOUs, it has not been able to devote the required amount of time to the Agreement, as would be necessary to move it forward substantially and sustainably.
8. In 2011, the Government of Germany pledged resources for a P2 position for 3 ½ years for CMS. The additional staff member will work about 40 per cent on the Agreement, which will be considerable boost to the Secretariat capacity.

## **III. Secretariat Arrangements for Other Legally Binding Agreements under the Auspices of CMS**

9. Legally binding CMS Agreements normally have their own independently run secretariat funded by Parties and provided by either UNEP or a national institution.
10. Of the seven Agreements currently in force, three have totally independent, Party-funded secretariats, provided by national governments (ACAP, ACCOBAMS and Wadden Sea Seals), while another two have independent and Party-funded Secretariats, which are provided by UNEP (AEWA and EUROBATS). For the ASCOBANS Agreement, the Secretariat is merged to and provided by CMS, while funding comes from Party contributions. Only the Gorilla Agreement has both its secretariat functions provided by CMS Secretariat and nearly all funding coming from within CMS Secretariat budget for other programmed activities.
11. The Gorilla Agreement is unique among the CMS Agreements, in that it does not include any Party which could be considered a donor. There are only 10 Range States, all in Central and East Africa, and six of which are Least Developed Countries. Even if all Range States were Parties, and all paid their agreed contributions, there would be an annual sum of €30,000 to fund the Secretariat and implement activities. This being the case, it is clear that finding sufficient resources will remain a challenge for the future implementation of the Agreement.
12. This situation puts the Gorilla Agreement in a vulnerable position, where any reduction in funding to the CMS Secretariat, or increases in mandate, from new agreements, for example, could mean a reduction in resources available for allocation to the Gorilla Agreement.
13. As Party contributions are unlikely to be able to support a functioning secretariat in the near future, the Parties may wish to consider possible other options for Secretariat arrangements.

## **IV. The Way Forward**

14. Options for future administrative arrangements for the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat to be funded by the Parties plus voluntary contributions could include the following:
  - a. A Party hosting the permanent Secretariat

- b. Another institution, such as UNEP or GRASP taking on the role of permanent Secretariat
- c. The CMS Secretariat remaining as the interim Secretariat, while seeking formal or informal arrangements with other institutions to provide support and secretariat services to the Agreement.
- d. The CMS Secretariat acting as the permanent Secretariat, while looking for synergies with other institutions in the implementation of the Agreements activities, for example, in holding joint meetings, undertaking joint activities, etc.

Action requested:

- The Meeting of the Parties is invited to consider the way forward and adopt the attached draft resolution.

## INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGREEMENT

*Recalling* that the Meeting to negotiate the Gorilla Agreement in October 2007, requested the CMS Standing Committee to mandate the CMS Secretariat to provide interim secretariat services to the Agreement in close cooperation with the UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) secretariat and other institutions of GRASP;

*Further recalling* that MOP1 considered the establishment of a Secretariat for the Agreement and agreed that the CMS Secretariat should continue to act as Interim Secretariat for the Agreement, and that the role of GRASP in providing secretariat services should be explicitly mentioned;

*Welcoming* the prominent role played by GRASP in supporting the Year of the Gorilla Campaign, in 2009;

*Appreciating* the decision of CMS COP 10 that the CMS secretariat continues to provide interim secretariat services to the Gorilla Agreement for the next triennium;

*Noting with concern* that the Gorilla Agreement is unique among the CMS Agreements, in that it does not have its own independent Secretariat, and is not able to fund one from Party contributions alone;

*Realizing* that this situation puts the Gorilla Agreement in a vulnerable position, where any reduction in funding to the CMS Secretariat, or increases in mandate, from new agreements, for example, could mean a reduction in resources available to be allocated to the Gorilla Agreement;

### The Meeting of the Parties of the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

1. *Requests* the CMS Secretariat to act as the Interim Secretariat for the next triennium;
2. *Instructs* the Interim Secretariat to investigate future options for the administrative arrangements for the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. A Party hosting the permanent Secretariat
  - b. Another institution or organization, such as UNEP or GRASP taking on the role of permanent Secretariat
  - c. The CMS Secretariat remaining as the Interim Secretariat, while seeking formal or informal arrangements with other institutions to provide support and secretariat services to the Agreement.
  - d. The CMS Secretariat acting as the permanent Secretariat, while looking for synergies with other institutions in the implementation of the Agreements activities, for example, in holding joint meetings, or undertaking joint activities.
3. *Instructs* the interim secretariat to prepare a formal proposal for consideration and possible adoption at MOP 3.