



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

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THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
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Agenda Item 14

## DISCUSSION ON UPDATING THE ACTION PLANS

*(Prepared by the Interim Secretariat)*

### **Background**

1. Article VIII of the Gorilla Agreement provides that Action Plans should be developed to implement the Agreement. In particular: “The Action Plan specifies the actions that the Parties shall undertake in relation to all species and sub-species of gorillas and priority issues, under the following headings, consistent with the general conservation measures specified in Article III of this Agreement:
  - a) conservation of all species and sub-species of gorillas,
  - b) habitat conservation;
  - c) management of human activities;
  - d) research and monitoring;
  - e) education and information;
  - f) implementation and enforcement of gorilla conservation policies;
  - g) reduction of the impact of disease;
  - h) contribution to the sustainable development of local communities; and
  - i) reduction of human-gorilla conflicts”.
2. The Agreement further stipulates that the Action Plan shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.
3. At the First Meeting of the Parties held in Rome in November 2008, the Parties adopted four Action Plans drafted by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Science based on existing plans<sup>1</sup>. These Action Plans continue to guide the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement.
4. The Interim Secretariat submitted the Action Plans to the present meeting as information documents:

UNEP/GA/MOP3/Inf.3 Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*);  
 UNEP/GA/MOP3/Inf.4 Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*);  
 UNEP/GA/MOP3/Inf.5 Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*);  
 UNEP/GA/MOP3/Inf.6 Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei berengei*).

<sup>1</sup> See UNEP/GA/MOP2/Doc.16

## **Gorilla Action Plans developed during the intersessional period**

5. At the Second Meeting of the Parties held in Bergen, Norway in November 2011, the Parties noted that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other organizations were in the process of updating the Action Plans on Gorilla species. Therefore, the Parties instructed the Interim Secretariat by [Resolution 2.4](#) to monitor the revision process of the Action Plans for the four sub-species and to circulate them to all Parties, other Range States and interested stakeholders, once finalized.
6. Since the Second Meeting of the Parties, the following Action Plans have been developed in consultation with the Gorilla Range States:
  - a) Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*)
    - IUCN (2014) Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015-2025<sup>2</sup>
  - b) Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*)
    - IUCN (2014) Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014–2019<sup>3</sup>
  - c) Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*)
    - IUCN (2012) Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Conservation Action Plan 2012-2022<sup>4</sup>
7. The Interim Secretariat informed the Parties of the Revised Regional Action Plan for Cross River Gorilla with [Notification 2014/23](#) in 2014 and of the Regional Action Plan for Western Lowland Gorillas with [Notification 2015/016](#) in 2015 as required by [Resolution 2.4](#).
8. These Action Plans prepared by IUCN contain elements that are in line with the elements specified by Article VIII 1 of the Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> IUCN (2014). Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015–2025. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group. 56 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Dunn, A., Bergl, R., Byler, D., Eben-Ebai, S., Etiendem, D. N., Fotso, R., ... & Morgan, B. J. (2014). Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014–2019. IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group and Wildlife Conservation Society.

<sup>4</sup> Maldonado, O., Aveling, C., Cox, D., Nixon, S., Nishuli, R., Merlo, D., Pintea, L. & Williamson, E.A. (2012). Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (Kahuzi-Biega, Maiko, Tayna and Itombwe Landscape): Conservation Action Plan 2012–2022. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation & Tourism, Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature & the Jane Goodall Institute. 66pp

**Recommended actions**

9. In light of the above, the Parties are invited to:
- a) Review the progress in the implementation of the four action plans in accordance with Article VIII of the Agreement;
  - b) Consider the adoption of the three Action Plans, which were developed by IUCN during the intersessional period:
    - Regional Action Plans for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015-2025;
    - Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014–2019; and
    - Grauer’s Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Conservation Action Plan 2012-2022;
  - c) Continue implementing the Action Plan 2008 - Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) as contained in document UNEP/GA/MOP3/Inf.6;
  - d) Actively participate in the development and the review of Action Plans on Gorilla sub-species; and
  - e) Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex I of this document.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 3.X**

*Deeply concerned* by the vulnerability of Gorilla populations and the high risk of extinction they face;

*Reiterating* the determination to take co-ordinated measures to maintain Gorillas in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status as stipulated in Article II.1 of the Agreement;

*Also recalling* Resolution 2.4 which instructed the Interim Secretariat to monitor the revision process of the Action Plans for the four sub-species;

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

1. *Adopts* the following Action Plans as contained in Annex 1 to 3 of the Resolution to support the implementation of the Agreement:
  - a) Regional Action Plans for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015-2025;
  - b) the Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014–2019; and
  - c) Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Conservation Action Plan 2012-2022;
2. *Encourages* Parties to continue conservation efforts as outlined in the Action Plan for Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei berengei*) adopted at the First Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Urges* Parties to carry out conservation measures in line with the Action Plans;
4. *Encourages* Parties to participate actively in the review of existing Gorilla Action Plans and the development of new ones;
5. *Instructs* the Interim Secretariat to monitor the revision and review process of the Action Plans and keep Parties, Range States and other interested stakeholders informed.