

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGREEMENT

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its Second Meeting (Bergen, 26-27 November 2011)

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 MOPI 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 COP10 that the CMS Secretariat continue 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; and

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 Agreement's 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 MOP3.