

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, acting as the Interim Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement).

This report covers the period August 2014 - July 2015.

I. Recruitment of new Parties

1. Uganda became the seventh Party to the Agreement on 1 October 2014 after the instrument of accession was deposited with the Secretariat on 1 July 2014. The Republic of Angola has informed the CMS Secretariat, that its Parliament ratified the Gorilla Agreement on 25 April 2013. However, as depository to the Agreement, the CMS Secretariat has not yet received the documents of accession. Angola would become the eighth Party to the Agreement. Two additional non-Parties remain: Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

II. Progress on the Development of new Action Plans

2. Resolution 2.4 instructs the Interim Secretariat to monitor the revision process of the various Action Plans for the four sub-species and to circulate them to all Parties, other Range States and interested stakeholders. Progress since August 2014 has been as follows:

Gorilla gorilla diehli

2.1 Further edits have been made to the IUCN Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014-2019 since it was first published. The latest version is available on the CMS Gorilla Agreement website.

Gorilla gorilla gorilla

2.2 Following a planning meeting in 2013 attended by five Gorilla Agreement national focal points, the IUCN Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015-2025 has now been published and is available on the CMS Gorilla Agreement website for download.

Relevant regional meetings:

3. GRASP is scheduled to convene its 10th Executive Committee meeting from 22-24 September 2015 at the CMS headquarters in Bonn, Germany. Representatives from four great ape Range States, two non-Range States, UNEP, UNESCO, the Orangutan Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, CITES and CMS are expected to participate.

III. Conservation Projects

(a) **Using entertainment education to protect Cross River Gorillas in Nigeria and Cameroon**

4. With funding from the CMS Small Grants Programme replenished through UNEP, the Secretariat contracted the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2015 to implement this €14,969 project in Nigeria and Cameroon. A new radio serial drama will be developed under the “My gorilla – my community” series with 13 scripts focussing on transboundary gorilla conservation matters. This educational format has proven to be successful in addressing behaviour and attitudes of target communities within the gorilla range where rates of illiteracy are high. The series is due to be broadcast weekly on two regional radio stations from early 2016 onwards.

IV. Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement and Third Meeting of the Parties

5. Following a decision of the First Meeting of the Parties of the Gorilla Agreement, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat is acting as the Interim Secretariat to the Gorilla Agreement. As no additional funds have been budgeted by the CMS COP or the Gorilla Agreement MOP, coordination of the Agreement is currently undertaken by existing UNEP/CMS staff, in addition to their other duties. Details of the allocation of UNEP/CMS Secretariat resources can be found in the Programme of Work adopted at COP11 (Resolution 11.1). The Gorilla Agreement will further benefit from the appointment of a new P3 CITES/CMS Liaison Officer in July 2015. This position is being financed until 2017 by Germany.

6. In line with Resolution 2.3 on Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement, the Interim Secretariat is currently in consultation with GRASP regarding closer collaboration of both instruments. The Third Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement is tentatively scheduled to be held back-to-back with the Third GRASP Council in 2016 in Indonesia.

7. The Secretariat would like to encourage Parties to pay their annual contributions to the Gorilla Agreement and clear any arrears as soon as possible.

8. Offers for financial support of MOP3 from Parties to the Gorilla Agreement and other donors are kindly requested.

V. Financial Status:

9. The assessed contributions to the Agreement are set at €3,000 per annum for each of the seven Parties.

10. Since its entry into force in 2008, all contributions received, set out below, represent less than one third of the expected total:

2011	Rwanda	€6,000
2012	Republic of Congo	€8,962
2013	Democratic Republic of Congo	<u>€12,000</u>
		€26,962