



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



41st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 27-28 November 2013

UNEP/CMS/StC41/18d

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

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Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

Interim Secretariat provided by the Convention on Migratory Species



REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

(Submitted by the Interim Secretariat)

I. Recruitment of new Parties

1. 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. We are following up with the national focal point on this. Angola would become the seventh Party to the Agreement. Three additional non-Parties remain: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Uganda.

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 to date is as follows:

Gorilla gorilla diehli

2.1 The Secretariat attended and partly funded the planning meeting for the new IUCN Action Plan for the Cross River Gorilla, held in Cameroon, February, 2012. The final draft of the plan has not yet been released by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Both the Nigerian and Cameroonian Gorilla Agreement focal points were present.

G. g. gorilla

2.2 The planning meeting for the updated version of the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Gorillas in Western Equatorial Africa was held in Brazzaville in May 2013. The meeting was attended by five Gorilla Agreement national focal points.

Gorilla beringei graueri

2.3 The new Action Plan for “Grauer’s Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (2012-2022)” was released earlier this year by IUCN.

G. b. beringei

2.4 The Ten Year Transboundary Strategic Plan for the Central Albertine Rift Transboundary Protected Area Network was adopted in 2006. This predated the entry into effect of the Gorilla Agreement.

Additional regional meetings:

3. GRASP convened a Central Africa Regional Meeting on May 25-26, 2013 in Brazzaville, Congo, back to back with the IUCN Action Planning meeting. Participants, including five Gorilla Agreement focal points, discussed illegal trade and law enforcement; transboundary collaboration and regional priorities.

III. Conservation Projects

(a) Cross River gorilla: Community-based conservation of the Cross River gorilla:

4. With funding from Norway, the Secretariat contracted the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in January 2012 to implement this US\$133,000 project. The project, which was successfully completed in June 2013, addressed key threats to the conservation of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla (*G. g. diehli*) in Nigeria and Cameroon through support to community-based forest conservation in significant areas of the gorillas' range. The project also supported a key planning exercise for all stakeholders in the region to develop a new five-year Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River gorilla.

(b) Wildlife Law Enforcement Projects in Central Africa:

5. With funding from Monaco, the Secretariat contracted the NGO Conservation Justice in August 2013, to implement a €26,000 project aiming at supporting the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement, by assisting the governments of Gabon, Cameroon and Congo to increase wildlife law enforcement capacity, produce effective deterrents to the killing of great apes and other threatened wildlife, and monitor the illegal wildlife trade and other activities detrimental to ape survival. The project will be completed by the end of 2013.

IV. Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement

6. Resolution 2.3 on Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement requested the Interim Secretariat to consult with GRASP on future possibilities for coordinating the work of the Secretariat.

7. The CMS Secretariat was re-elected to the GRASP Executive Committee earlier this year. France, which is also a member, recommended at the 7th Meeting of the Executive Committee that a process be formalized whereby consideration be given to the links between the Agreement and GRASP, recognizing the challenges of securing resources for the implementation and support to the Agreement. CMS Secretariat confirmed its willingness to work with GRASP on this, when it attended the 8th Meeting and will continue to liaise with UNEP in this regard.

8. In addition, and as requested by CMS Resolution 10.9, on the Future Shape, the CMS Secretariat is undertaking an assessment of MOUs and their viability. As responsibility for the Gorilla Agreement lies with the CMS Secretariat, and is not independently financed, we have included the Agreement in this assessment. A draft of this report will be circulated to Parties in the near future.

V. Financial Status:

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

Bonn, 11 November 2013