



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Doc.5
March 15, 2011

Original: English

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO THE AGREEMENT ON
THE CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS AND THEIR HABITATS
Kigali, Rwanda, 29-30 March 2011

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS), acting as the Interim Gorilla Agreement Secretariat, has prepared the following report for the first meeting of the Technical Committee to the Agreement. This report covers the period from December 2008 until March 2011.

Hosting of the Agreement

1. 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 had been budgeted by either the CMS COP or the Gorilla Agreement MOP, coordination of the Agreement continues to be done by existing UNEP/CMS staff in addition to their regular duties. A consultant, partly funded by Monaco and Germany has been assisting in the meantime, a situation which cannot be guaranteed in the future.

First Meeting of the Parties (MoP1)

2. The First Meeting of the Parties took place in Rome, Italy, in December 2008. MoP1 designated the UNEP/CMS Secretariat as the interim secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement and established the Technical Committee. It adopted Action Plans for the conservation of gorillas, and adopted a resolution on a monitoring and reporting system for the Agreement. The full report of the meeting and the two Resolutions adopted can be found at UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.2 and UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.3.1 and 3.2

Year of the Gorilla Campaign

3. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat designated 2009 as “Year of the Gorilla” in order to increase the visibility of the Gorilla Agreement.

4. CMS allied with the UNEP-led Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) for the campaign, these partners being key in reaching out to governments, the relevant NGO community and the general public. The campaign catalyzed over 100 related activities, undertaken by the secretariat, Parties and partners.

5. The dedicated website www.yog2009.org was one of the campaign's main information tools, along with a blog, bilingual posters, leaflets, a desk diary, stickers and pins. In all, over 70,000 materials were printed by CMS, reaching an estimated audience of 300,000 people. An additional 50,000 promotional products, carrying the YOG logo, were produced by affiliated zoos, reaching an additional 50,000 people. The campaign prompted 120 press articles in English in 2009 alone, in addition to over 75 articles in French, German and Spanish.

6. Campaign partners also created key reference materials, including the GRASP Rapid Response Assessment report "*The Last Stand of the Gorilla: Environmental Crime and Conflict in the Congo Basin*", financed by France and UNEP, and the WAZA education manual entitled "*All About Gorillas*".

7. Mr. Ian Redmond OBE proved to be a very active campaign ambassador, undertaking a State of the Gorilla Journey through seven of the 10 range states in late 2009, writing a blog on the journey, as well as undertaking a lecture tour of the USA, and numerous other appearances and media interviews.

8. A major scientific symposium on gorillas was organized by the German government, resulting in the "Frankfurt Declaration" (see UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.7), which outlined the main threats faced by gorillas and suggested ways to address them. In addition to the support of the 160 stakeholders present at the symposium, the Declaration has been subsequently endorsed by FAO, CBD and UNESCO.

9. More details on activities undertaken during the campaign can be found in UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.4.

10. During the Year of the Gorilla, €100,000 was raised for selected field projects, including:

- Fuel-efficient stoves: a Gorilla Organisation project supported with funds raised during a US lecture tour by Ian Redmond for the YoG (~ €14,000). The project supplied stoves which use up to 70% less fuel to local communities around the Virunga National Park, thereby helping mitigate deforestation. The funds were sufficient to cover project expenses for one year.
Funds raised: ~€14,500.
- PALF (Project to Apply the Law on Fauna): Wildlife Law Enforcement project in the Republic of Congo, received funds raised during the YoG (€5,340) as well as a voluntary contribution from Monaco (€5,000) and a contribution from a WAZA partner zoo (€3,900).
Funds raised: ~€14,240.
- A WCS Project aimed at promoting community involvement in Cross River Gorilla conservation (€13,000 raised by WAZA)
Funds raised: ~€13,000.
- A GTZ project aimed at improving surveillance and monitoring of Eastern Lowland Gorillas (voluntary contribution of €50,000 by Germany plus €6,000 raised by a WAZA zoo).
Funds raised: ~€56,000.

11. In addition, there were a number of small fundraising initiatives undertaken by

individual YoG-supporters.

12. An independent evaluation of the YoG and other CMS species campaigns was commissioned by CMS. In addition to the results reported above, it concluded that the campaign was very effective at raising awareness on gorillas and the threats they face, and that the success of the campaign was especially pronounced when measured against the limited resources available. However, it noted that most activities focussed more on audiences in the western world, and that the goal of generating significant funds for field projects within a one year time frame, with limited staff, was unrealistic. Nevertheless, the focus on a few “priority projects” was deemed useful for awareness raising and sparking media interest. The full evaluation report is available at UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.5.

Ad-Hoc meeting in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

13. In June 2009, in the margins of the above-mentioned Frankfurt Gorilla Symposium, an ad hoc meeting of Gorilla Agreement stakeholders, including representatives of several gorilla Range States and major NGOs took place. The main outcome was an agreement that the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Terrestrial Mammals would act as the interim Technical Committee until the formation of the Agreement’s Technical Committee was complete. The report of this meeting is available in UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC1/Inf.6.

Action Plans

14. Under the provisions of Article VIII of the Agreement, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, together with the range states and international experts, developed Action Plans for all four gorilla subspecies, drawing heavily on existing IUCN great ape action plans. These were then adopted by the First Meeting of the Parties Rome in 2008. These Action Plans were updated to incorporate comments and input received after the First Meeting of the Parties. The updated versions are available as UNEP/CMS/GOR-TC/Inf.8.1 - 8.4.

15. While aspects of the Action Plans have been addressed through the projects and activities mentioned in this report, a lack of funding for the Agreement has made it difficult for UNEP/CMS to drive further implementation. However, it is expected that range states and NGOs operating within their borders will have undertaken a number of the actions listed here.

Finances

16. As agreed at the first Meeting of the Parties, each Party is expected to pay an annual subscription of €3,000. To date only one Party has complied: the host of the Technical Committee meeting, the Government of Rwanda has paid for both 2009 and 2010. Invoices were sent to Parties on March 17, 2010, and again on July 7, 2010. As a result of the non-payment by most Parties, the Gorilla Agreement and its activities have, to date, been funded entirely from contributions from donors.

17. The CMS Standing Committee, at its 37th meeting in November, 2010, expressed concern at the apparent lack of commitment shown by the Gorilla Agreement Parties, as evidenced by the non-payment of overdue contributions. They noted that this situation could be very discouraging to potential donors asked to contribute funds to an initiative to which the range states themselves had yet to demonstrate a firm commitment. The Vice-

chair of the Standing Committee sent a letter to all range states that same month, urging Parties to pay their contributions, and urging non-Parties to accede to the Agreement.

18. This meeting has been made possible by grants from Monaco and Germany, both of whom have also made funds available for past field activities. UNEP/CMS Secretariat on behalf of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement thanks these donors and specifically looks to Governments and organizations to further sponsor and promote such activities aimed at implementing the Agreement's Action Plans

19. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat continues to encourage Parties to pay their contributions as soon as possible.

20. Full details of the financial situation will be outlined in the financial report and budget, which will be presented to the Second Meeting of the Parties.

Second Meeting of the Parties

21. The 2nd Meeting of the Parties will take place in Bergen, Norway, on 26-27 November 2011, immediately following CMS CoP10.