



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**CONCERTED ACTION FOR  
CHIMPANZEE (*Pan troglodytes*) BEHAVIOURAL DIVERSITY AND CULTURES <sup>1</sup>**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

**Proponents**

The proponents of the proposed Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioral Diversity and Cultures are the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) Primate Specialist Group (PSG) Section on Great Apes (SGA) Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures (WGCC) and the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity. The WGCC is led by Drs. Erin Wessling and Crickette Sanz of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, who are also members of the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, and therefore currently serve as a bridge between these groups. These two working groups are aggregations of the leading experts in chimpanzee behavior and conservation (WGCC) and of the relevance of animal cultures, and other aspects of sociality, to (migratory) species conservation (CMS), and therefore are prominently placed to advise on conservation policy that is specifically aimed at preserving chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures. Further, members of the WGCC have a proven track record of contributing to regional action plans for chimpanzee conservation and therefore are uniquely positioned to work with Range States (as defined in Decision 13.140 of UNEP/CMS/ScC SC5/Inf.6) on implementing transboundary conservation initiatives and monitoring their effectiveness.

**Target species, lower taxon or population, or group of taxa with needs in common**

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) were included in CMS Appendices I and II at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Manila, 2017; UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.25.1.1), because "members of the species frequently and predictably cross national jurisdictional boundaries and for similar reasons that both gorilla species were added to Appendix I and II of the Convention". The proposal accepted at this time noted that "The 2016 IUCN Red List assessment of *Pan troglodytes* (Humble et al 2016a) maintained the species classification as Endangered" and "estimated a likely species-level reduction in chimpanzee numbers for the period 1975-2050 (approximately three chimpanzee generations) to be in excess of 50 per cent across the majority of its range". There are four recognized subspecies of chimpanzees (*P. t. ellioti*, *P. t. schweinfurthii*, *P. t. troglodytes*, *P. t. verus*; Humble et al. 2016).

**Geographical range**

Extant chimpanzee populations occur in Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal,

<sup>1</sup> The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Sierra Leone, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. All of these are Parties to CMS, with the exception of Sierra Leone and South Sudan. Chimpanzees are reported to be likely extirpated in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo.

### **Summary of activities**

The CMS Expert Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity previously proposed a Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa, which aimed to improve conservation efforts and promote the understanding and protection of animal cultures. However, while this Concerted Action effectively targeted the conservation of an especially conspicuous aspect of chimpanzee behavior, significant components of chimpanzee behavior and large swaths of chimpanzee populations are not included in this Concerted Action, thereby reducing the efficacy of such a mandate. With insights gained from the effective implementation of the Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa, it became apparent that a more comprehensive approach was needed to further efforts to account for behavioral variation and culture in this behaviorally complex species. Therefore, the CMS Expert Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity concurred during the “2nd CMS Workshop on Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity - Part II” that the initiative should be replaced by a broader Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures, focusing on the conservation of chimpanzee behavioral diversity and culture. This expanded outlined a multi-faceted approach and associated activities to appropriately address threats to chimpanzee behavioral diversity. The first step involved defining targets and developing best approaches in concert with practitioners and policymakers to address active conservation needs. The second step to address these needs involved targeting behavioral diversity research to rectify persistent and broader data gaps, and establishing a clearinghouse to aggregate these data for meaningful outputs. Another core component of these expanded conservation efforts involved incorporating a framework to embed local conservationists and researchers. In addition to substantially broadening the scale and scope of activities outlined in the previous CMS Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa, the current Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures includes an integrated approach for facilitating greater interaction among all stakeholder groups that more holistically addresses the incorporation of behavior into conservation needs and approaches. This is a critical aspect of the Concerted Action that has not only increased the effectiveness of our activities, but also promotes the sustainability of transboundary conservation initiatives.

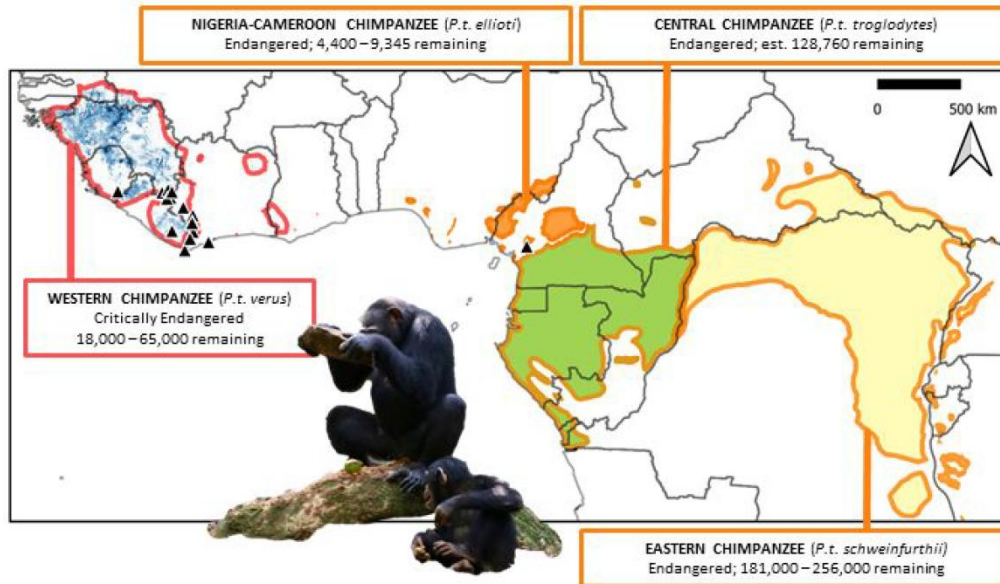


Figure 1. Distribution and status of the four subspecies of chimpanzee [source: Wessling et al. 2025]. Subspecies are outlined in colors corresponding to their IUCN Red Status, with red indicating ‘Critically Endangered’ and orange indicating ‘Endangered’. The relative modelled density of western chimpanzees across their distribution is shown in blue (0.1 - 6.3 km<sup>2</sup>), with solid black triangles indicating reported nut-cracking locations. Photo inset: © Liran Samuni / Tai Chimpanzee Project.

### Associated benefits

In light of the imminent threat of population declines and the ongoing challenges faced by chimpanzees, it is crucial to adopt swift, efficient, and effective approaches for their conservation. Particularly, there is a pressing need for conservation strategies that not only enhance action efficiency and encourage participation but also foster increased motivation for the preservation of this species. If these approaches can also provide holistic solutions to improve the prospects of long-term success, they should be embraced. Recognizing the significance of behavior, particularly behavioral variation, as a fundamental aspect of chimpanzee longevity and persistence represents a vital step toward implementing a comprehensive conservation approach for this behaviorally-complex species. By incorporating the consideration of behavioral variability into conservation efforts, we have begun to enhance our effectiveness in chimpanzee conservation. Nonetheless, any new approaches must be aligned with and complement existing considerations and targets in chimpanzee conservation, rather than competing with them. When executed proficiently and completely, the integration of behavioral variability into conservation practices will introduce a new dimension that strengthens conservation efforts.

The actions surrounding the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures have been integrated into existing parallel conservation and research frameworks to ensure complementarity and longer-term sustainability of all activities. The success of the integration of these activities into broader frameworks has been facilitated by the formation of a Steering Committee, including proponents active in diverse chimpanzee conservation initiatives. Inherent in this approach is the embedding of chimpanzee nationals from Range States at the core of the leadership and implementation of activities, and the engagement of relevant local governmental and non-governmental organizations as critical partners.

Several of the aforementioned proposed activities have resulted in the creation of collaborative structures between Range States and international research organizations and universities, while also fostering support for governmental biomonitoring campaigns and the tailoring of research methodologies and approaches to improving chimpanzee monitoring efforts. Overall,

these activities bridge parallel conservation approaches in a manner that is in the process of enhancing and accelerating broader efforts for chimpanzee conservation.

### **Timeframe**

If this renewal of this Concerted Action is approved at the 2026 CoP, it would be expected that most of the activities described will continue to be underway in early 2027. Some potential actions outlined above are open-ended, but a report on their progress would be submitted in 2028.

### **Relationship to other CMS actions**

In 2015, the CMS Expert Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity was established to advise on how knowledge of animal culture and other aspects of sociality can be used to inform conservation efforts for migratory species (populations that cyclically and predictably cross-national jurisdictional boundaries). Commenting on this initiative, the Executive Secretary stated that CMS is breaking new ground by looking at the issue of animal culture, social complexity, social learning, and the role of individuals and groups of individual animals as repositories of social knowledge. It was further recognized that this work could have fundamental repercussions on current approaches to transboundary conservation.

The CMS Expert Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity held a workshop in April 2018 during which it was suggested that the nut-cracking behavior of chimpanzees could serve as a valuable pilot project to test the effectiveness of targeting animal cultures for conservation. While the importance of pursuing the conservation of nut-cracking chimpanzee population in each of the Range States separately was recognized, the value of a Concerted Action is to facilitate collaborations and activities across four contiguous states (three of which are CMS Parties), improving the conservation outlook for these particular populations, and highlighting the importance of understanding and protecting animal cultures more generally (Brakes et al. 2019, 2021). As a result, the Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa was proposed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th Meeting in Gandhinagar, in February 2020.

A second workshop on Animal Culture and Social Complexity was held in April 2023. Based on the Intersessional Report and Progress Reports for the Concerted Action for the Nut Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa, it was suggested that this initiative be closed and replaced by a Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures which would focus more broadly on conservation of chimpanzee behavioral diversity and culture. The Concerted Action for the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioural Diversity and Cultures was proposed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th Meeting in Samarkand, in February 2023.

Relevant resolutions and initiatives:

1. Resolution 11.23 (Rev.COP12) *Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity*
2. UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 13.1 *Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes verus) of West Africa*
3. UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 14.1 *Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes) Behavioural Diversity and Cultures.*

Relevant frameworks produced by the CMS Expert Working Group on Culture and Social Complexity and the IUCN SSC PSG SGA Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures:

Brakes, P., Dall, S. R. X., Aplin, L. M., Bearhop, S., Carroll, E. L., Ciucci, P., Fishlock, V., Ford, J. K. B., Garland, E. C., Keith, S. A., McGregor, P. K., Mesnick, S. L., Noad, M. J., di Sciara, G. N., Robbins, M. M., Simmonds, M. P., Spina, F., Thornton, A., Wade, P. R., Whiting, M. J., Williams, J., Rendell, L., Whitehead, H., Whiten, A. and Rutz, C. (2019). Animal cultures matter for conservation. *Science*, 363(6431).

Brakes, P., Carroll, E. L., Dall, S. R. X., Keith, S. A., McGregor, P. K., Mesnick, S. L., Noad, M. J., Rendell, L., Robbins, M. M., Rutz, C., Thornton, A., Whiten, A., Whiting, M. J., Aplin, L. M., Bearhop, S., Ciucci, P., Fishlock, V., Ford, J. K. B., di Sciara, G. N., Simmonds, M. P., Spina, F., Wade, P. R., Whitehead, H., Williams, J. and Garland, E. C. (2021). A deepening understanding of animal culture suggests lessons for conservation. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B - Biological Sciences*, 288(1949).

Carvalho, S., Wessling, E. G., Abwe, E. E., Almeida-Warren, K., Arandjelovic, M., Boesch, C., Danquah, E., Diallo, M. S., Hobaiter, C., Hockings, K., Humle, T., Ikemeh, R. A., Kalan, A. K., Luncz, L., Ohashi, G., Pascual-Garrido, A., Piel, A., Samuni, L., Soiret, S., Sanz, C. and Koops, K. (2022). Using nonhuman culture in conservation requires careful and concerted action. *Conservation Letters*, 15(2), e12860.

Wessling, E. G., Whiten, A., Soiret, S. K., Scholfield, K., Samuni, L., Rutz, C., Redmond, I., Pintea, L., Lanjouw, A., Koops, K., Kamgang, S. A., Kalan, A. K., Ikemeh, R. A., Humle, T., Hobaiter, C., Frisch-Nwakanma, H., Freymann, E., Doumbe, O., Brakes, P., Abwe, E., & Sanz, C. (2025). Concerted conservation actions to support chimpanzee cultures. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 38020240143. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2024.0143>.

### Conservation priority

Three subspecies of chimpanzees (*P. t. ellioti*, *P. t. schweinfurthii*, *P. t. troglodytes*) are classified as Endangered by the IUCN Red List, with the fourth subspecies (*P. t. verus*) listed as Critically Endangered (Humble et al. 2016). All four subspecies are under great and imminent threat, with widespread population declines, and a myriad of threats facing these subspecies across Africa (Humble et al. 2016).

Chimpanzees are behaviorally diverse, with each new population studied exhibiting behavior or behavioral variants not previously known to science (e.g., Boesch et al. 2020). Therefore, continuing losses of chimpanzee populations equate to losses in chimpanzee behavioral diversity (Kühl et al. 2019). Behavioral flexibility allows chimpanzees to occupy a diverse array of habitats (e.g., Wessling et al. 2020, Kalan et al. 2020) and also may buffer them against anthropogenic encroachment (Hockings et al. 2015). Further, certain behaviors allow chimpanzees to exploit otherwise unattainable resources upon which individuals depend (McGrew 1992, Sanz and Morgan 2007). Collectively, these observations point to the likelihood that preserving chimpanzee behavioral diversity, and the capacity to maintain this diversity, are critical for ensuring the species' long-term survival.

Further, anthropogenic disturbance has a clear effect on chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures, both as expressions of behaviors and the persistence of behavioral reservoirs (Kalan et al. 2020) as well as dampeners of local and species-level behavioral diversity (Kühl et al. 2019). With behavioral diversity representing such a critical facet of chimpanzee biology, it is imperative that behavioral diversity be considered as a conservation target alongside traditional conservation metrics, such as population abundance and genetic viability, as it has been well established that the ability to respond flexibly to non-static environmental (social and ecological) conditions are a major component of chimpanzee life and survivability (Hockings and McLennan, 2012; McLennan and Hockings, 2014; van Dijk et al. 2021). Further, beyond utilitarian approaches to population and individual-level survivability, there is value in considering the inherent worth of diverse chimpanzee behavioral expressions as salient and

charismatic examples of the natural heritage of non-human animals. If efforts are not taken to consider chimpanzees, their habitats, and their behaviors immediately in conservation efforts, we risk losing the unique and irreplaceable cultures of our closest living relatives alongside the individuals themselves.

### **Relevance**

The rationale for the inclusion of Chimpanzees in CMS Appendices I and II was that the large ranges of each community are known to span different national jurisdictions. The CMS Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa demonstrated that even a single indicator of animal culture can be impactful in conservation advocacy at regional scales. Considering the diverse cultural repertoires of chimpanzees across their entire ranges (e.g., Kalan et al. 2020), it is likely that key indicators of behavioral diversity span across jurisdictional boundaries between CMS Parties. The potential conservation benefits of stronger partnerships among Range States to implement specific activities to identify and preserve chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures has yet to be realized but could have significant impacts on the effectiveness of conservation practice and policy.

### **Absence of better remedies**

While the enforcement of national mandates is also essential to effecting meaningful conservation change, a Concerted Action is appropriate to the aforementioned goals given the frequent ranging of chimpanzees across boundaries of more than twenty CMS Parties. The Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures directly addresses the need for coordination across the subspecies ranges and will enable strategic collaboration among Parties to work together on developing and implementing activities. As with transboundary collaboration, approaches to preserving a species' behavioral diversity necessitate broad perspectives and high-level approaches that are inherent to a body like the CMS.

The CMS framework is an ideal platform for promoting the adoption of cross-boundary monitoring and policy initiatives for the conservation of chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures as it is one of few international bodies formally prioritizing the consideration of behavior in conservation, while inherently capable of fostering and facilitating complex, collaborative engagement with this issue across a diverse stakeholder network. Once renewed by the Parties, other partners will be encouraged to continue coordinating the implementation of activities outlined in the Concerted Action which will benefit the entire species.

### **Readiness and feasibility**

Grounded in the extensive literature on chimpanzee culture (see Kühl et al. 2019, Kalan et al. 2020, and Whiten 2021, 2022), the Concerted Action has been effective in integrating these concepts in conservation practice. Specifically, working groups have been established and have begun implementing Activities 1 - 6. Multiple stakeholders to chimpanzee conservation are already active in the articulation of avenues of ape behavior to conservation issues (e.g., IUCN WGCC, IUCN A.P.E.S. Database, Wessling et al. 2022, Kühl et al. 2019, McLennan and Hockings, 2014) and therefore are invested in the development of the proposed activities for conservation implementation. Drs. Erin Wessling and Crickette Sanz bridge both proponent groups to this Concerted Action and actively lead multiple chimpanzee conservation platforms at the local (e.g., long-term research projects with conservation mandates at particular sites), regional (Western Chimpanzee Action Plan Implementation Committee), and thematic (WGCC) scales.

The WGCC has been appointed as the Steering Committee of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures. This group has already identified multiple potential avenues of support for the proposed activities, which creates diverse opportunities for successful fundraising. Renewal of the Concerted Action by the CMS Scientific Council and adoption at CoP14 provides validation for funding applications to support the activities outlined in the previous sections. Potential funders and granting agencies not only recognize the global significance of such continued endorsement, but also hold the CMS review and consultation process in very high regard.

### **Likelihood of success**

There is already strong evidence that the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures has a very high likelihood of success. The previous Concerted Action for the Nut-Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa highlighted the need for the involvement of local communities and practitioners, development of best practice guidelines, collaboration with a repository for behavioral data, and coordination of international efforts to conserve chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures. These points have been addressed by the current Concerted Action. Further assurance of the successful execution of these activities is based on the active involvement of key stakeholders working on relevant issues across the chimpanzee range. During the next phase of this initiative, we also anticipate increased collaboration with CMS focal points in chimpanzee Range States that will have the effect of enhancing the implementation of conservation strategies for chimpanzees across Africa.

Continued successful implementation of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures could be jeopardized by a lack of financial support. To identify sources of funding, the activities in the Concerted Action have been summarized in concept notes that will be circulated to the CMS and potential supporters to gauge interest.

### **Magnitude of likely impact**

The impact of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures will extend across the entire range of this species, including several CMS Parties (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda). There is significant potential for synergy across these Range States that has not previously been realized through national efforts to conserve chimpanzees.

### **Cost-effectiveness**

Significant financial resources (in excess of \$500,000) will be required to accomplish the activities outlined in the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures. Adoption of the Concerted Action by the CoP will provide endorsement for these initiatives that can be cited in funding applications by the Steering Committee and its affiliates, Range State governments, organizations working in the chimpanzee range, and scientists. Potential donors may comprise Range State and non-Range State governments, foundations active in biodiversity conservation and environmental protections and coordination and should be complementary to existing funding targeting ape research and conservation.

The Steering Committee will provide guidance on the prioritization of the activities proposed should only partial funding be made available. While few activities are cumulative or contingent upon the completion of others (e.g., Activity 7 is contingent upon Activities 3 and 6), the majority of these activities can be initiated in parallel to one another, thereby permitting partial

completion of the Concerted Action to be achieved even in absence of complete funding for all activities.

Several organizations are anticipated to contribute to accomplishing the goals of the Concerted Action, including but not limited to the IUCN and relevant subgroups (PSG, WGCC, A.P.E.S. Database), the CMS Expert Group on Animal Cultures and Social Complexity, several universities and research institutions, as well as a broad stakeholder network of governmental and not-for-profit organizations active in chimpanzee research and conservation. Coordinated activities across Range States will streamline conservation efforts (and avoid duplication of costs), for which coordination of this Concerted Action will provide the mandate.

### Consultations planned / undertaken

This Concerted Action was prepared in consultation with a wide range of experts. It builds upon outcomes from the CMS Workshops on Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity (Brakes et al. 2019, 2021), including the CMS Concerted Action for the Nut Cracking Populations of the Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa. The implementation of this previous Concerted Action led to the involvement of the IUCN SSC PSG SGA Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures, which represents an engagement with >50 wild chimpanzee populations and local stakeholders across ten Range States. The Western Chimpanzee Action Plan and its Implementation Committee have also been integral in formulating the direction and activities outlined in this proposed Concerted Action. In 2022, the WGCC contacted focal points for the Range States of the western subspecies of chimpanzees and has plans to engage with CMS representatives of the other Range States in the coming triennium while implementing the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures.

### Activities and expected outcomes

Activity	Outputs/Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsibility	Funding
Identify specific targets for the protection of chimpanzee behavioral and cultural diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engagement of local communities and stakeholders in discussions about how they would envision defining the culture concept in conservation practice and specific targets for protection</li> <li>▪ Advancement in defining chimpanzee behavioral diversity in practical terms and identifying specific indicators of chimpanzee culture in certain populations (e.g., nut cracking by western chimpanzees, the focus of UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 13.1)</li> </ul>	2026-2027	WGCC, NGOs, and CMS focal points in Range States	Funding not yet secured
Oversee implementation of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity and Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WGCC serves as the Steering Committee for the Concerted Action, whose mandate involves seeking funding for, designing, leading, and implementing the proposed activities</li> <li>▪ Subgroups of the WGCC focus on specific facets of implementation of the Concerted Action, including                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Defining Goals, and Targets for Conservation</li> <li>o Website and Outreach Materials</li> <li>o APES Atlas and WGCC Synergies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2026-2028	WGCC	Funding not yet secured

Activity	Outputs/Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsibility	Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Guidelines for Monitoring Behavioral and Cultural Diversity</li> <li>o Promoting Conservation Advocacy using Chimpanzee Cultures</li> <li>o Formalizing Monitoring Structures of Chimpanzee Behavioral Diversity</li> <li>▪ Continued consultation and exchange with the broader membership of the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, the IUCN SSC PSG, and the IUSN SSC-CEESP Animal Cultures Task Force</li> </ul>			
<p>Develop Best Practice Guidelines for monitoring chimpanzee behavioral and cultural diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of practical guidelines and recommendations for surveying chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures across their geographic range and that is inclusive of diverse expressions of behavioral variability. These guidelines will include the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Overview of the importance and relevance of assessing chimpanzee behavioral diversity and culture as relevant to conservation, across management and policy levels</li> <li>o Specify targets for the protection of chimpanzee behavioral and cultural diversity</li> <li>o Consolidate and improve current practices used to assess chimpanzee behavioral diversity and indicators of culture</li> <li>o Analyze gaps in data on behavioral diversity and cultural indicators for each chimpanzee subspecies according to behavioral categories and geographic coverage, with a particular focus on transboundary areas between Range States</li> <li>o Provide detailed methodological guidance for conducting rapid and long-term field surveys of targets identified for the protection of chimpanzee behavioral and cultural diversity</li> <li>o Outline methods to analyze behavioral diversity data and prepare them for reporting and contribution to centralized databases</li> <li>o Identify examples and suggestions about how findings on chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures can</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>2026-2027</p>	<p>Coordinated by WGCC, with input from the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, and the IUCN SSC PSG</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>

Activity	Outputs/Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsibility	Funding
<p>Foster and support structures that will permit the monitoring of chimpanzee behavioral diversity</p>	<p>improve conservation policies and practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporation of information about chimpanzee behavioral diversity and culture into databases that are accessible and relevant to chimpanzee biomonitoring.</li> <li>▪ Facilitation of incorporation of relevant datasets from local governments, private industry, and researchers into existing databases</li> <li>▪ Specific metrics of progress include the additional number of stakeholders contributing to these databases, the total number of data points included in the expanded repositories, and the number of stakeholders citing information on chimpanzee behavioral diversity from these databases</li> <li>▪ Identification of opportunities where incorporation of information on culture and behavioral diversity into the data repositories could enhance conservation strategies</li> <li>▪ Documentation of how such data repositories have informed the planning and assessment of applications of the culture concept in conservation</li> </ul>	<p>2026-ongoing</p>	<p>WGCC, IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. Atlas</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>
<p>Create a scaffolding framework to elevate local stakeholders to leadership in behavioral diversity research and advocacy of behavioral diversity as a conduit of conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of collaborative opportunities to integrate behavioral monitoring research into efforts to fill data gaps that have been identified in regional action plans</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a stakeholder network of international and local research organizations paired with governmental or non-governmental networks to create training opportunities for local students in Range States</li> <li>▪ Increased support for regional stakeholders to become advocates for chimpanzee cultures</li> <li>▪ Elimination of gaps in biomonitoring efforts across multiple Range States</li> </ul>	<p>2026-2028</p>	<p>WGCC, Supervisors at local institutions, NGOs</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>
<p>Identify the needs of conservation practitioners in the domain of chimpanzee behavior and align conservation efforts to support the needs of these practitioners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of the needs of conservation practitioners and policymakers through early and ongoing consultation</li> <li>▪ Development of robust approaches for implementation of conservation efforts that incorporate behavioral diversity</li> <li>▪ Compilation of evidence that conservation efforts incorporating behavioral diversity in their approaches are useful to conservation practitioners or policymakers.</li> </ul>	<p>2026-2027</p>	<p>WGCC, Practitioners, Policymakers, Other Stakeholders</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>

Activity	Outputs/Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsibility	Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of manageable, implementable pathways for action through consultation across disciplines and active collaboration with stakeholders</li> </ul>			
<p>Increase integration of behavioral surveys into ongoing monitoring efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased awareness among local governments and stakeholders about best practice protocols and data repositories,</li> <li>▪ Increased understanding of the value of incorporating behavioral surveys into monitoring efforts</li> <li>▪ Sustained capacity to engage with local stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Empowerment of local governments and organizations to incorporate behavioral surveys into their current and planned monitoring efforts.</li> </ul>		<p>Local governments and organizations conducting surveys</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>
<p>Provide guidance to stakeholders about how chimpanzee cultures can be responsibly used in conservation advocacy and pilot these advocacy approaches in real-world settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased knowledge- and resource-sharing of educational materials across the chimpanzee Range States, which includes more than 20 Parties of the CMS</li> <li>▪ Outreach and promotion of research publications, outreach activities, guidelines, and policies through media channels of the CMS, IUCN, and affiliations of the chimpanzee stakeholder network.</li> <li>▪ Increased attention to the conservation plight of chimpanzees across local, regional, national, and international scales</li> <li>▪ Specific metrics of success include social media and academic reach, positive outcomes in attitudes towards chimpanzees and chimpanzee-friendly practices</li> <li>▪ Increased support for ongoing public-facing chimpanzee conservation projects.</li> <li>▪ Increased advocacy for conservation actions and policies that increase the protection of chimpanzee behavioral diversity and cultures</li> </ul>	<p>2026-ongoing</p>	<p>WGCC, IUCN, Media channels, Chimpanzee Range States</p>	<p>Funding not yet secured</p>

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