



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014

Agenda Item 22.1

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS

1. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, the report provided by the Interim Secretariat of the **Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitat**, to accompany document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.1.
2. The Report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.



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

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

This report covers the period December 2011 - July 2014)

I. Recruitment of new Parties

1. Uganda deposited its instrument of accession to the Gorilla Agreement on 1 July 2014, in the margins of the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council. It shall become the seventh Party to the Agreement on 1 October 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 to date is as follows:

Gorilla gorilla diehli

2.1 A Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014-2019 has been developed by a large group of stakeholders, led by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Producing the Plan was possible thanks in part to financial assistance from Norway to the Gorilla Agreement. The revised Action Plan will be considered for adoption at the Third Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement (MOP3) and can in the interim be accessed on the CMS website. The Secretariat attended and partly funded the planning meeting for this IUCN Action Plan for the Cross River Gorilla, held in Cameroon, February, 2012. Both the Nigerian and Cameroonian Gorilla Agreement focal points were present.

Gorilla gorilla 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 in 2013 by IUCN.

Gorilla beringei 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.

4. GRASP is scheduled to convene an East Africa Regional Meeting on 4-5 September, 2014 in Bujumbura, Burundi. This will include the three East African Gorilla Agreement Parties, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, and will focus on sustainable tourism, illegal trade and extractive industries.

5. The 9th GRASP Executive Committee meeting, of which CMS is a member, is scheduled for 21-22 August 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

III. Conservation Projects

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

6. 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:

7. 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 was completed in 2014.

IV. Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement

8. 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 presented to COP11.

9. 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.

10. The CMS Secretariat was re-elected to the GRASP Executive Committee in 2013. 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 has since then continued to liaise with UNEP in this regard.

11. In addition, and as requested by CMS Resolution 10.9, on the Future Shape, the CMS Secretariat has undertaken an assessment of MOUs and their viability. As responsibility for the Gorilla Agreement lies with the CMS Secretariat, and is not independently financed, we included the Agreement in this assessment, which can be found as document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.3.

V. Postponement of Third Meeting of the Parties

12. The 41st Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (27-28 November 2013) made a recommendation discouraging the practice of holding meetings of species agreements, such as the Gorilla Agreement, back-to-back with meetings of the Conference of the Parties. This together with a lack of funds to finance a Third Meeting of Parties (MOP3) has made it necessary to postpone MOP3 until further notice. The Secretariat informed Gorilla Agreement and CMS Parties of the decision to postpone MOP3 on 17 July 2014 through notification 2014/023.

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

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

VI. Financial Status:

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

16. 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