



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 11.5

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS AND THEIR HABITATS
(GORILLA AGREEMENT)**

Prepared by the Interim Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement

Summary:

This document reports on the progress to implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (Gorilla Agreement). It presents the financial status and requests the Conference of the Parties to provide in-kind contributions to the Interim Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement.

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

Background

1. Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) lists two Gorilla species: *Gorilla gorilla* and *Gorilla beringei*. This listing covers all four gorilla sub-species: Mountain Gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*); Western Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*); Eastern Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla beringei graueri*); and Cross River Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*).
2. The Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (Gorilla Agreement) was concluded as an Article IV (3) AGREEMENT under CMS in 2007. The Agreement aims to facilitate Parties in taking co-ordinated measures to maintain gorillas at a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status. All four sub-species are covered by the Agreement.
3. The CMS Secretariat continues serving as the Interim Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 3.3 *Institutional Arrangements for the Gorilla Agreement*, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement (MOP3, Entebbe, 2019). Further details are available on the Gorilla Agreement [website](#).

Status of Ratification

4. As of 1 December 2019, seven of the ten Gorilla Range States are Parties to the Agreement: the Central African Republic, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. Three Range States are yet to accede to the Agreement: Angola, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea (Table 1). No further accessions occurred during the period between the twelfth and thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the CMS.

Table 1: Status of ratification and accession to the Gorilla Agreement (as at 1 December 2019)

| Range State | Date of Entry into Force |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Angola | - |
| Cameroon | - |
| Central African Republic | 1 June 2008 |
| Congo | 1 June 2008 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 1 June 2008 |
| Equatorial Guinea | - |
| Gabon | 1 October 2008 |
| Nigeria | 1 June 2008 |
| Rwanda | 1 June 2008 |
| Uganda | 1 October 2014 |

Activities prior to the Third Meeting of the Parties

5. Between 2017 and 2019, activities under the Gorilla Agreement were limited due to the severe financial situation of the Agreement. The CMS Secretariat absorbed the operational costs of the Gorilla Agreement and maintained basic secretariat services.

6. The Interim Secretariat continued its efforts to enhance collaboration and harness synergies with ongoing activities under GRASP based on the proposal for cooperation between GRASP and the Gorilla Agreement¹. As a member of GRASP Executive Committee, the Interim Secretariat attended its meetings in 2017 and 2019 to strengthen cooperation between the Gorilla Agreement and GRASP.
7. In 2017, a conservation project was implemented, using funds provided by the United Nations Environment Programme. The project aimed at positively changing community knowledge, attitudes and behaviour related to Cross River Gorillas. The activity was conducted in the Nigeria-Cameroon Transboundary Region and episodes for a community radio drama were produced.

Third Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement

8. The Third Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement (MOP3) was held from 18 to 20 June 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda with the generous financial contribution made by the Government of Luxembourg. This Second Meeting of the Parties had been held in 2011.
9. The Meeting reviewed the [Rules of Procedure](#) and decided to include Rule 6.4 to have the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties also represent the Meeting of the Parties during the intersessional period. The Chairperson represents the Meeting of the Parties as required, promotes the Agreement and carries out functions that may be entrusted to him/her by the Meeting. The current incumbent of this office is the Government of Uganda.
10. The Meeting adopted the following five resolutions:
 - [Resolution 3.1: Updating of the Action Plans](#)
 - [Resolution 3.2: Possible Synergistic Action on Chimpanzees](#)
 - [Resolution 3.3: Institutional Arrangements for the Gorilla Agreement](#)
 - [Resolution 3.4: Strengthening Cooperation between the Gorilla Agreement and the Great Apes Survival Partnership \(GRASP\)](#)
 - [Resolution 3.5: Budget and Programme of Work \(2019-2021\) of the Gorilla Agreement](#)
11. In accordance with Resolution 3.1, the following IUCN Action Plans will serve as Action Plans under Article VIII of the Gorilla Agreement. Parties will implement the Agreement by conducting activities in line with the Action Plans.
 - a) Regional Action Plans for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015-2025;
 - b) Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014–2019; and
 - c) Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Conservation Action Plan 2012-2022 as revised in 2015.
12. For the Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), Parties will continue implementing the existing Action Plan developed in 2008.

¹ Notification 2015/30

13. Parties examined possible synergistic conservation actions between Gorillas and Chimpanzees given the fact that CMS COP12 listed the Chimpanzee on CMS Appendices I and II. Through Resolution 3.2, Parties decided not to extend the scope and mandate of the Gorilla Agreement for the conservation of Chimpanzee. Instead, Parties invited Chimpanzee Range States to consider the submission of a proposal for Concerted Actions on Chimpanzees to CMS COP13.
14. Regarding the institutional arrangements of the Agreement, Parties requested the CMS Secretariat to continue functioning as the Interim Secretariat. At the same time, Parties requested the Interim Secretariat to work with the GRASP Secretariat, the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Secretariat and any other partners to undertake an analysis on workable options for hosting the Agreement Secretariat.
15. Parties discussed proposed enhanced cooperation with GRASP and, through Resolution 3.4 decided on the following:
 - a) Joint Focal Points: Parties should strengthen coordination among their relevant national authorities and appoint the same national focal point for the Gorilla Agreement and GRASP;
 - b) Joint Meetings: The Interim Secretariat and the GRASP Secretariat should work together to organize the Fourth Meeting of the Parties in conjunction with the Third GRASP Council meeting, subject to the availability of financial resources;
 - c) Joint Scientific Advice: The GRASP Scientific Commission, instead of the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement, should provide scientific advice on the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement in accordance with Article VI, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Gorilla Agreement and continue its services unless otherwise decided;
 - d) Joint Work Programme: The Interim Secretariat and the GRASP Secretariat should develop joint activities relevant to gorilla conservation to be presented as the proposed programme of work of the Gorilla Agreement at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties and the Third GRASP Council meeting;
 - e) Joint Outreach and Fundraising: The Interim Secretariat should engage in joint outreach and fundraising activities with the GRASP Secretariat as well as in cooperation with other relevant partners to enhance conservation of Gorillas for the implementation of the programme of work adopted by the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement.
16. To strengthen cooperation and coordination, the MOP also requested the Interim Secretariat to work with the GRASP Secretariat to formalize cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding or other collaborative arrangements, as appropriate.
17. Through Resolution 3.5, Parties adopted a new programme of work and budget for the period 2019-2021. Considering the financial challenges of the Agreement and the fact that conservation actions on the ground need to be prioritized, it was agreed that priority will be given to project development activities in order to support Parties implement the Agreement. The Parties will work with the Interim Secretariat as well as other relevant stakeholders to develop such project proposals.

Implementation of the Programme of Work (2019-2021)

Conservation Projects

18. The Interim Secretariat is supporting the GRASP project on transboundary collaboration for the conservation of the critically endangered Cross River Gorilla in Cameroon and Nigeria. The project implementation has been delayed due to the security situation in Cameroon. Under the project, the Interim Secretariat will contribute to the analysis of the implementation of the CMS and Gorilla Agreement provisions through national legislation in Cameroon and Nigeria.

Communication and Outreach

19. To commemorate the World Gorilla Day 2019 (24 September), the Interim Secretariat prepared an outreach video² to encourage the conservation of Gorillas. The video was shared with the Gorilla Agreement National Focal Points to support awareness-raising activities.

Financial Status

20. The Agreement has been facing financial challenges. No Party has paid its agreed annual contributions of €3,000 since 2013. As of 31 December 2019, the total arrears stand at € 126,038.
21. As of 31 December 2019, the Parties' contributions to the Agreement stands at €34,021 (inclusive of PSC). After MOP3, the Government of Luxemburg provided additional €20,000 (inclusive of PSC) as voluntary contributions to the Gorilla Agreement.
22. Parties have recognized the severe financial situation, which led to the reduction of activities. At MOP3, Parties reiterated the importance of recovering the arrears to improve the operation of the Agreement while noting the Agreement's unique situation in that all seven Parties are developing countries.
23. Parties have acknowledged the fact that the basic operational costs³ of the Interim Secretariat cannot be covered by the Parties' agreed annual contributions even if all Parties pay their contributions⁴. Therefore, Parties decided to request in-kind contributions from the CMS Secretariat to maintain the operation of the Interim Secretariat.

Requests to CMS COP13

24. The Gorilla Agreement MOP requested the CMS Secretariat to remain as the Interim Secretariat of the Agreement. Further to this, the Gorilla Agreement MOP invites the Conference of the Parties to CMS to provide the CMS Secretariat staff time as an in-kind contribution to the Gorilla Agreement as set out in Table 2 section c. Without the in-kind contributions, the Agreement will not be able to maintain the operation of the Interim Secretariat.
25. The Gorilla Agreement MOP further invites CMS Parties, non-Party Range States, donor governments, other organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the Agreement, either financially or in-kind, in order to assist the Gorilla Agreement Parties with its implementation.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdtPVMaWaPY&feature=youtu.be>

³ The basic operational costs of the Interim Secretariat are approximately €65,000 which is beyond the total annual contributions by the Parties (€21,000).

⁴ See [UNEP/GA/MOP3/Doc.18](https://www.unep.org/documents/default.asp?docid/11472)

Table 2: Budget and Programme of Work of the Gorilla Agreement (2019-2021)⁵**a. Parties' contributions**

| Budget lines | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Staff | | | | |
| 1 | Consultant for project development | 0 | 14,000 | 0 |
| Subtotal | | 0 | 14,000 | 0 |
| Activities of the Secretariat | | | | |
| 2 | Staff travel for project development | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| Subtotal | | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| 4th Meeting of the Parties | | | | |
| 3 | Logistical arrangements | 0 | 0 | 20,000 |
| 4 | Travel support | 0 | 0 | 15,000 |
| Subtotal | | 0 | 0 | 35,000 |
| Communication and outreach | | | | |
| 5 | Printing of flyers, information materials | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Subtotal | | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Total | | 1,700 | 15,700 | 37,200 |
| Programme Support Costs (13%) | | 221 | 2,041 | 4,836 |
| Total (Parties' contribution) | | 1,921 | 17,741 | 42,036 |

b. Withdrawal from the remaining funds (reserve)

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 6 | Consultant for project development | 13,275 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Small scale projects | 0 | 13,275 | 0 |
| Subtotal | | 13,275 | 13,275 | 0 |
| Programme Support Costs (13%) | | 1,725 | 1,725 | 0 |
| Total (Reserve) | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| Grand Total (Parties' annual contributions + Reserve) | | 16,921 | 32,741 | 42,036 |

c. CMS In-Kind contribution

| | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Staff | | | | |
| 8 | Executive Secretary, CMS, D-1 (4%) | 8,729 | 8,903 | 9,082 |
| 9 | Programme Officer CMS P4 (10%) | 15,904 | 16,222 | 16,547 |
| 10 | CMS Programme Officer P2 (20%) | 21,755 | 22,190 | 22,634 |
| 11 | Administrative Assistant G4 (5%) | 3,071 | 3,132 | 3,195 |
| 12 | Conference Service Assistant G5 (2%) | 1,389 | 1,417 | 1,445 |
| 13 | Information Management and Communications CMS P2 (2%) | 2,176 | 2,219 | 2,263 |
| 14 | Administrative and Fund Management Unit P4 (3%) | 4,771 | 4,867 | 4,964 |
| 15 | Administrative and Fund Management Unit G6 (3%) | 2,354 | 2,401 | 2,449 |
| Subtotal | | 60,150 | 61,353 | 62,580 |
| Operational Cost | | | | |
| 16 | Office supplies/IT equipment | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 17 | Office equipment, furniture | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Services | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 19 | Maintenance of computers/photocopiers | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 20 | Communications (Telephone, fax, postage etc.) | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Subtotal | | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| Grand Total (CMS in-kind contribution) | | 63,050 | 64,253 | 65,480 |

d. Grand Total (Parties' contributions and CMS in-kind contributions)

| | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--------------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Grand Total | | 79,971 | 96,994 | 107,516 |

⁵ As contained in [Resolution 3.5](#). For further details, please see [UNEP/GA/MOP3/Doc.18](#)