



Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

Distribution: General

UNEP/GA/Resolution 2.1

Original: English

COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING FOR IMPROVED WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its Second Meeting (Bergen, 26-27 November 2011)

Recognizing that the lack of enforcement of existing wildlife laws plays a major role in the decline of gorilla populations;

Aware that the issue of wildlife law enforcement is being addressed by governments supported by a number of international organizations, together embodying significant knowledge and experience concerning the relevant issues;

Acknowledging that the sharing of information among countries and with relevant international law enforcement organizations is key to gaining an overview of trends and hotspots in illegal trade in live gorillas and gorilla body parts;

Considering the need for all Range States to accede to the Gorilla Agreement so as to cooperate in the cross-border law enforcement measures for the management of gorilla populations;

Recalling that the Gorilla Agreement has been supporting several projects aimed at improving the enforcement of relevant national laws;

Appreciating the role played by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), comprised of the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), and *noting* that the CITES Secretariat chairs the Consortium;

Recalling that the First Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement requested the Interim Secretariat to seek and implement improved coordination with existing law enforcement organizations and other relevant programmes, including ICCWC;

Further appreciating the experience of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and the role played by its implementing organs in building capacity for law enforcement in Africa;

Noting the need to enhance multilateral cooperation in law enforcement and the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements; and

Further noting the development of an Action Plan to reinforce the implementation of wildlife legislation by the COMIFAC states under their Convergence Plan;

*The Meeting of the Parties to the
Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats*

1. *Urges* all Range States that are not yet Parties to the Agreement to accede in order to effectively carry out cooperative law enforcement measures for gorilla conservation;
2. *Requests* Parties to identify law enforcement issues as a priority in their gorilla conservation plans and activities;
3. *Urges* non-Party Range States as well as other stakeholders to consider according law enforcement issues related to the conservation of gorilla populations, the priority attention they deserve;
4. *Calls upon* the Parties to submit to the INTERPOL General Secretariat, via their INTERPOL National Central Bureaux and using the *Ecomessage* system, information relating to the poaching of and illegal trade in gorillas. The resulting up-to-date and international database can lead to more efficient and targeted law enforcement activities;
5. *Recommends* non-Party Range States equally to submit to the INTERPOL General Secretariat, via their INTERPOL National Central Bureaux and using the *Ecomessage* system, information relating to the poaching of and illegal trade in gorillas;
6. *Calls upon* the National Customs Authorities of Range States to use the World Customs Organization's Central Enforcement Network (CEN) to submit data on seizures of gorilla contraband and live animals;
7. *Encourages* all Range States to make use of existing law enforcement capacity-building materials, such as the Controlled Delivery manual, the Wildlife Smuggling Concealment handbook and the Questioning of Wildlife Smugglers manual published by CITES and INTERPOL for their law enforcement activities;
8. *Encourages* the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to recognize the seriousness of illegal international trade in gorillas, and to provide support to the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement;
9. *Further encourages* the ICCWC to share information, provide information material and tools, as well as invite Range States to participate in the capacity building activities for customs and law enforcement officers and prosecutors;
10. *Instructs* the Interim Secretariat to keep abreast of planned ICCWC activities and to ensure that Agreement Focal Points and Technical Committee Members are, where appropriate, involved;
11. *Calls upon* the Interim Secretariat to share relevant information to be incorporated into ICCWC work plans, as and when appropriate;
12. *Further calls upon* the Parties, other Range States and the Interim Secretariat to cooperate with law enforcement bodies and regional enforcement networks, such as the Lusaka Agreement on cooperative enforcement operations directed at illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and its operational arm, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force where appropriate; and
13. *Urges* the Gorilla Range States to consider acceding to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.