

ACCORD CMS GORILLA



Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats

UNEP/GA/MOP4/Report

Original: English

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Introduction and Meeting structure

1. As per the instruction to the Interim Secretariat through [Resolution 3.4](#), the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats (Gorilla Agreement MOP4) was organized in conjunction with the Third Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) Council Meeting. This was the first such jointly organized meeting, requiring a unique meeting structure. MOP4 was organized with funding from the Government of Luxembourg.
2. In order to cater to the specific requirements of the Gorilla Agreement, while taking advantage of the substantive discussions planned for the GRASP Council, the following structure was followed for the meeting: MOP4 was opened in the early morning of 11 December to undertake two hours of formal business of the Gorilla Agreement after which all delegates of both meetings attended the joint sessions of MOP4 and GRASP Council — from the Council's opening on the same day to its closing on 14 December 2023. On 15 December, Parties to the Gorilla Agreement reconvened independently for a final day of discussions, adoption of resolutions, and closure of MOP4.
3. The Interim Secretariat took note of pressing gorilla conservation matters discussed at the joint sessions to draft proposed resolutions for consideration for adoption by the Meeting on its last day.
4. This Meeting Report reports on all agenda items of the independent sessions of Gorilla Agreement MOP4 and on specific agenda items of the joint sessions of Gorilla Agreement and Third GRASP Council Meeting that were most relevant to the Gorilla Agreement. The annexed participants list only includes participants of the independent session of Gorilla Agreement MOP4.
5. The GRASP Secretariat will publish its own report for the Third GRASP Council Meeting.

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023 (8:00 – 10:00) **INDEPENDENT SESSION OF GORILLA AGREEMENT MOP4**

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened by the Chairperson of MOP3, Stephen Fred Okiror of the Government of Uganda, with the presence of delegations from Angola, Central African Republic, Gabon, Nigeria and Uganda (more than one-half of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement having delegations at the Meeting thereby attaining quorum). Rwanda joined the Meeting on its third day.
7. MOP3 Chairperson invited Clara Nobbe to provide opening remarks on behalf of the Interim Secretariat. Ms. Nobbe welcomed the delegates to the meeting, explained the structure of the meeting and provided the rationale for this unique structure.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

8. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to adopt the Rules of Procedure as adopted by MOP3. The Rules of Procedure as adopted by MOP3 were adopted for MOP4.

Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers

9. Pursuant to Rule 5 of the adopted Rules of Procedure the Meeting was invited to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.
10. The Meeting elected Miguel Xavier Neto Gonçalves of the Government of Angola as Chairperson of MOP4 and Aimée Mekui Allogo of the Government of Gabon as Vice-Chairperson.
11. Following the election of the MOP4 Officers, the Chairpersonship of MOP3 by Uganda officially concluded and the Chairperson of MOP4 presided over the following agenda items.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule

12. The provisional annotated agenda and meeting schedule were presented, and the Meeting was invited to agree to the structure of the Meeting and adopt the agenda for the independent sessions of MOP4. The agenda for the joint sessions with the Third GRASP Council Meeting was adopted at the first session of the Council following the adjournment of the first independent MOP4 session.

Agenda item 5: Establishment of Credentials Committee

13. Pursuant to Rule 3, Parties were invited to nominate representatives for the Credentials Committee to review the credentials submitted by Parties to the Interim Secretariat. Central African Republic, Nigeria and Uganda formed the Credentials Committee. Uganda was elected as Chairperson of this Committee.
14. The Credentials Committee met following the adjournment of the first independent session of MOP4 to review the credentials submitted by Parties and made its report on the last day of MOP4, reporting that the credentials of Angola, Central African Republic, Rwanda and Uganda were found to be in order.

Agenda item 6: Admission of Observers

15. The Chairperson referred to document UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.2 Admission of Observers and invited Parties to express any objections.
16. In accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, all observers registered for the meeting were considered and, subsequently, admitted.
17. Following the publication of UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.2 two additional bodies expressed an interest in being admitted as observers and the Chairperson decided to put this expression of interest to the Parties who did not object, thereby admitting two additional observers to the last day of the Meeting. The complete list of observers can be found within the list of participants annexed to this document.

Adjournment of the first independent session of MOP4

18. The Chairperson adjourned the first independent session of MOP4 and invited delegates to join the joint sessions of MOP4 and the Third GRASP Council Meeting that ran until Thursday, 14 December 2023 at 18:00.

MONDAY 11 to THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023 (10:00 – 18:00) **JOINT SESSIONS OF GORILLA AGREEMENT MOP4 AND** **THIRD GRASP COUNCIL MEETING**

Agenda item 11: Update on the Status of Great Apes and their Habitats

19. Hjalmar Kühl of the GRASP Scientific Commission presented an update on the status of great apes and their habitats. He presented the Ape Populations, Environments and Surveys (A.P.E.S.) database, an initiative of the Section on Great Apes (SGA) of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group supported by a large number of funding organizations, non-governmental and governmental organizations and research institutions. The overall, long-term goals of the A.P.E.S. initiative are:
- to archive all existing ape population survey data in a secure repository,
 - to make them available to the ape conservation and research community and
 - to provide up-to-date information on the status of apes
20. The A.P.E.S. database has been used for the GRASP-SGA Status Report on great apes to the CITES Standing Committee in 2018 and its update in 2023; for various scientific articles on the distribution, population abundance, temporal change of great apes; and for the development of online tools, such as the carbon tool showing the overlap between great ape and forest carbon stocks.
21. He reported a contraction in geographic range for most taxa of great apes; that distributions within the geographic ranges have become increasingly discontinuous for most taxa; that some ranges include large areas without great apes, others are much more detailed (e.g. Asian great apes); and that great ape geographic ranges have become less informative for establishing the great ape conservation status.
22. He reported that the density distribution of all great ape taxa is characterized by low densities across a large proportion of their geographic ranges and restricted areas with high densities. This has strong implications for e.g. future creation of protected areas (e.g. availability of areas) or risk assessments.
23. On taxon level abundance he reported that between 600,000-800,000 great apes remain in the wild, but that taxon level abundance provides an incomplete picture of the conservation status of great apes as it does not reflect the degree of fragmentation and population isolation.
24. He reported that with the exception of the Mountain Gorillas, which increased in abundance, all other great ape taxa (no information for Cross River Gorillas) show population declines:
- The percent annual change ranges from -1,5% to -7,4%
 - Even with a decline of -1,5% per year, this accumulates to a loss of >50% of the population within few decades.
 - As slowly reproducing species this puts them into an extinction vortex.
25. According to A.P.E.S. the major direct threats to great apes are poaching; habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation due to development and mining among others; disease;

and illegal live trade.

26. He noted that the effectiveness of existing protected areas needs to be improved and the process of expansion of the protected area network (such as through the 30 by 30 target as agreed through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) to ensure inclusion of great ape populations as the vast majority of great apes live outside protected areas, these populations and habitats deserve greater attention and require the development of new strategies.

Agenda Item 12: Presentation of the GRASP Review and Key Recommendations

27. The GRASP Review covered the request of Gorilla Agreement MOP3 for the GRASP Secretariat to consider hosting the permanent Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement. The review finding was that GRASP Partners were largely in favour of the GRASP Secretariat hosting the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat, but that the GRASP Secretariat was not in a position to host the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat at this time. The recommendation was to consider this option once the other actions proposed in the Review were successfully implemented and if and when that point is reached to conduct an independent study on the implications of adding the Gorilla Agreement to the responsibilities of the GRASP Secretariat.

Agenda Item 14: Great Apes and Health

28. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Founder and CEO of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) gave a keynote speech on the importance of public health to gorilla conservation for the benefit of humans and gorillas. She stressed the need to follow the best practice guidelines available for all persons (tourists, scientists, rangers, and others) intentionally approaching gorillas.

Agenda Item 17: Working Group on Illegal Trade

29. The GRASP Working Group on Illegal Trade (WGIT) was established and held its first meeting during the Third GRASP Council Meeting. The meeting of the GRASP WGIT included two presentations on technologies to help identify the origins of great apes or great ape parts.
30. Mark Moseley of the Directorate of Forensic Services Science – Imaging Team of the Metropolitan Police of the United Kingdom presented a methodology to identify the origins of gorillas based on photographs of their hands and feet through the analysis of ridges in the skin. He encouraged GRASP Partners to submit photographs of gorilla hands and feet to build up the database that is used for identification.
31. Tomas Marques-Bonet of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra presented the glocalization methods for great apes using DNA and encouraged GRASP Partners to submit non-invasive samples (faeces or hair) for integration in their database together with GPS data of the locations where they were collected.

Agenda Item 18: Large Scale Development and Great Apes Discussion

32. Conrad Savy of the World Bank Group International Finance Corporation (IFC) presented the IFC's Performance Standards (PS) that aim to safeguard, among other things, biodiversity (in particular Performance Standard 6 (PS6)). He also presented Guidance Note 73 to PS6 that notes that special consideration for great apes should be given and that the IUCN/Species Survival Commission (SSC) Primate Specialist Group (PSG) Section on Great Apes (SGA) must be consulted in case of projects possibly

impacting great apes, and to involve the SGA in the development of any relevant mitigation strategies.

33. Dirck Byler, Vice Chair of the SGA presented on the ARRC (avoid, reduce, restore, conserve) Task Force that principally provides advice to the private sector on projects in great ape habitat; and builds local capacity through the Primate WATCH program that trained 17 primatologists in 9 African countries on advising and interacting with the private sector to improve the mitigation of their impacts on apes.

Agenda Item 22: Innovative Finance Strategies to Benefit Communities who Live with Great Apes

34. Shela Patrickson presented the work of the Sustainable Finance Coalition (SFC). The SFC has as a goal to find, design and mobilise tailor-made finance solutions for nature. The SFC designs each finance solution strategically and effectively through testing and incubating, then implementing, then increasing finance to scale. The SFC is also working on developing a set of solution sheets unpacking specific finance solutions – and therefore providing an overview of some of the finance options to be considered in a naturescape.
35. Aleksander Brackowski of Griffith University and Duan Biggs of Northern Arizona University made a presentation titled Building Financial Instruments to Benefit People and Great Apes. They presented different examples on how wildlife conservation can be financially sustainable and a source of revenue for local communities living with and near wildlife. They presented a potential model of a great ape finance credit linked to occupancy, whereby communities living with great apes would receive financial benefits for the recorded presence of the species and propose a pilot project in Kyambura, Tanzania.

Agenda Item 24: Request to Host the Secretariat of the CMS Gorilla Agreement

36. The GRASP Council accepted the recommendation as contained in the GRASP Review to only consider the option of the GRASP Secretariat hosting the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat once the other actions proposed in the Review were successfully implemented and if and when that point is reached, to conduct an independent study on the implications of adding the Gorilla Agreement to the responsibilities of the GRASP Secretariat.

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023 (9:00 – 17:00) **INDEPENDENT SESSION OF GORILLA AGREEMENT MOP4**

Agenda Item 27: Statements from Parties on progress made and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement

37. Parties were invited to answer the following three questions when making their statements:
 - a. What are the three main activities you have undertaken to conserve Gorillas and their habitats since MOP3 in June 2019?
 - b. What have been the main challenges you have encountered?
 - c. Which three activities are you planning for the next years and what are the associated needs you have in that regard?
38. Key points from each of the Parties' statements are summarised below along with the discussions that emanated from the questions and answers.

39. In their statement, Angola reported on:

Activities:

- The increase in numbers of rangers and checkpoints in Mayombe Forest has led to the stabilization of gorilla populations.
- Established partnership with the Republic of Congo on the confiscation of animals and their reintroduction in the DRC, given the difficulties encountered with reintroduction in Angola.
- Opened a sanctuary for great apes in the Mayombe National Forest.

Challenges:

- Mayombe National Park is very small and located in an area with large oil reserves, whose exploitation take priority over wildlife conservation.
- Limited resources for conservation.

Planned activities:

- Reactivate the Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Protected Area initiative with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.

40. In their statement, Central African Republic reported on:

Activities:

- The implementation of an effective anti-poaching strategy to prevent habitat destruction and gorilla poaching.
- A study to understand the number of gorillas in the Dzanga-Sangha protected areas, the composition of their groups, their distribution and their behaviour, which will help to better protect them.
- Continuing to promote habituation of gorilla groups to ensure that tourist visits continue to benefit the population and make them aware of the importance of gorillas.
- Raising community awareness of strictly protected species (including great apes).

Challenges:

- Poaching of great apes due to the proximity of logging concessions within the Dzanga-Sangha protected areas (which open the way for hunters and farmers in prohibited areas).
- Destruction and loss of ape habitats.
- The loss of certain habituated groups.

Planned activities:

- Continue the habituation program for new groups to ensure that they can always be visited (since tourism can help improve the economic situation of the region, and therefore the protection of the gorillas).
- Try to include the Dzanga-Sangha protected areas in major tourist circuits.
- Improve the information network to find out whether interest in gorilla hunting is increasing at any given time.

41. In their statement, Gabon reported on:

Activities:

- Revising national legislation on wildlife crimes to the penal code, aiming to afford gorillas the same protections as elephants.

- Enlisting the support of workers in forest concessions to support anti-poaching activities and DNA sampling.

Challenges:

- Gorilla numbers are unknown, a census is urgently needed.
- Human activities in gorilla habitats are increasing.

Planned activities:

- Continue debt conversion agreements for the protection of gorilla habitats.
- Establish an emergency intervention system with the Ministry of Health based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Start gorilla tourism in Gabon as an alternative source of income for local communities and to contribute to gorilla conservation funds.

42. In their statement, Nigeria reported on:

Activities:

- Awareness raising in local communities and schools in local languages.
- Destruction of poachers' sheds.
- The creation of alternative livelihoods and divergence of local communities away from gorilla habitat for the harvesting of cocoa and bush mangoes by providing them with seedlings and farming equipment.

Challenges:

- Poachers are rarely prosecuted, because of the ignorance of judiciaries about the value of wildlife.
- Harvesting of bush mangoes and cocoa in protected areas.
- Low number of rangers due to low salary payments.

Planned activities:

- Review of federal laws and increase of legal penalties for wildlife crimes.

43. In their statement, Rwanda reported on

Activities:

- Improvement of wildlife laws and prosecution of crimes.
- Developing a Mountain Gorilla Action Plan with the Range States and IUCN.
- Expanded Volcanoes National Park by 500 hectares as part of a pilot study for a larger expansion of the park that includes land restoration, resettlement of local communities and development of alternative sources of livelihoods.
- Local communities around Volcanoes National Park now receive 10% of revenue from gorilla conservation.
- Development of contingency plans for COVID-19 and pandemics in general.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 pandemic effect on tourism and subsequently on gorilla conservation income.
- Increase of inter-group interactions resulting in increases in infanticides due to increasing number of gorillas in a small habitat.

Planned activities:

- Continue the project to increase the size of the Volcanoes National Park by 1,020 hectares.
- Complete the development of a Mountain Gorilla Action Plan with the Range States and IUCN.

44. In their statement, Uganda reported on:

Activities:

- Strengthening the provisions of the law and improving enforcement by revising the Uganda Wildlife Act in 2019 to enhance incentives and strengthen penalties for wildlife crimes to make it highly deterrent.
- Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan recently approving the East African Community Wildlife Management Policy (2023) that seeks to strengthen collaboration among partner States to sustainably manage the region's resources including transboundary protected areas.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 pandemic: increased poaching using wire snares, reduced revenues for gorilla conservation from tourism, and threats to Mountain Gorillas from the human pathogen.
- Climate change and invasive species that contribute to increased human-wildlife conflict.

Planned activities:

- Conducting a gorilla census to scientifically determine population growth indicated by the over 80 births registered in the habituated families since the last census in 2018.
- Expanding and improving gorilla habitat by effectively managing the buffer zone to mitigate human – wildlife conflict and support community livelihood. The state will undertake manipulation and removal of invasive species.
- Strengthening law enforcement operations by implementing innovative strategies based on lessons learnt from COVID-19 which include fly camps and technological solutions (Camera traps, UAVs, Acoustics etc.).

45. Following the Parties' statements, the Chairperson opened the floor for questions. The Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration asked why non-Mountain Gorillas are not habituated and used for tourism. CMS Ambassador Ian Redmond responded that Western Gorillas are more fearful of humans and take much longer to habituate than Eastern Gorillas due to the different local practices and traditions of local communities such as the consumption of gorilla meat in certain parts of West Africa. Wildlife Impact stressed that habituation and tourism can only happen if local contexts guarantee the protection of gorillas and that habituating gorillas in areas where gorillas are not strictly protected would be irresponsible at this time.

Agenda Item 28: Report of the Interim Secretariat

46. The Interim Secretariat introduced document UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.3 Report of the Interim Secretariat, presenting the work conducted during the intersessional period. Key elements included the following:
- The Interim Secretariat supporting the accession to the Gorilla Agreement by the Government of Angola, which took effect on 1 January 2021.
 - The publishing of the report "Legal Assessment of the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Gorilla Agreement in Cameroon and

Nigeria" in October 2021.

- The signing of the Collaborative Agreement between the Gorilla Agreement Interim Secretariat and UNEP as host of the GRASP Secretariat in April 2022.

47. Germany inquired whether the Interim Secretariat followed up with the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria on the implementation of recommendations of the legal analysis report and requested that if not, direction to do so be included in a resolution. The Interim Secretariat took note and added an operative clause on the matter in Resolution 4.1.

Agenda Item 29: Report of the Depositary

48. The Interim Secretariat introduced document UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.4: Report of the Depositary. It was recalled that the CMS Secretariat was the legal depositary for the Gorilla Agreement, and it was currently also acting as the Interim Secretariat. Angola had acceded to the Agreement in 2021 and as of 12 October 2023, eight Parties had joined the Agreement: Angola, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. The Range States (Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea) remain non-Parties to the Agreement.

Agenda Item 30: Institutional Arrangements for the Agreement

49. The Chairperson invited the Executive Secretary of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC) to present a proposal for the GVTC to host the permanent Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement at their offices in Kigali, Rwanda.
50. The Executive Secretary of the GVTC informed Parties that it was responding to a request emanating from [Resolution 3.3](#) adopted at MOP3 requesting the Interim Secretariat to work with the GVTC Secretariat to undertake an analysis on workable options for permanently hosting the Secretariat. As such the GVTC submitted a proposal to host the secretariat that is annexed to UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.3.
51. The Executive Secretary listed the following as the advantages of the GVTC hosting the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat:
- The GVTC is based in a gorilla Range State and is an intergovernmental body composed of three Gorilla Agreement Parties (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda).
 - The Government of Rwanda, as the potential host of the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat, is supportive of this move and would extend the appropriate privileges to the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat as it has done with the GVTC.
 - The GVTC Secretariat has wide experience in the management of collaboration and coordination between gorilla Range States, as well as with development partners - resulting in the growth of the population of Mountain Gorillas.
 - Rwanda offers visa free entry for all African countries.
 - The GVTC Secretariat has a parallel structure with the current Gorilla Agreement Interim Secretariat, so the agreement services can easily be streamlined within the GVTC Secretariat as part-time of the existing staff.
 - The cost of living and office operation costs in Kigali, Rwanda are lower than in Bonn, Germany.
52. The Parties were all favourable of this proposal and recognized the benefits of moving the Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement permanently to the GVTC. However, questions arose on the legal steps required for this move; and on whether high-level political confirmation was required to make this decision or whether to vote on the matter.

53. The Interim Secretariat agreed that following the Meeting it would provide to the Parties and the GVTC an explanation of the legal and operational steps to be taken for the move of the Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement from the CMS Secretariat to the GVTC.
54. The GVTC Executive Secretary urged the Parties to come to a decision sooner rather than later as their proposal may not stand in the longer future.
55. The Parties unanimously agreed that the Gorilla Agreement Secretariat should move to the GVTC pending high-level confirmations from all Parties collected by the Interim Secretariat through a notification to be sent before the end of January 2024.

Agenda Item 31: GRASP Scientific Commission replacing the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement

56. The Chairperson asked the Parties if they agree with the GRASP Scientific Commission, instead of the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement continuing to provide scientific advice on the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement as MOP3 had agreed through [Resolution 3.4](#).
57. The Parties expressed concern that with such a decision the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement, that is as one of the bodies of the Gorilla Agreement as per the Agreement Text, would be abolished.
58. The Interim Secretariat clarified that the question was not to abolish the Technical Committee but to request the GRASP Scientific Commission to provide its services in its stead as the two bodies had very similar mandates and in an effort to pool resources while they are limited.
59. The Parties agreed with the GRASP Scientific Commission, instead of the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement continuing to provide scientific advice on the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement.

Agenda Item 32: Outcomes of MOP4

60. The Interim Secretariat presented the draft Resolution contained in UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.5/Rev.1 that includes directions on priority conservation measures for gorillas based on the substantive discussions held in the joint sessions of MOP4 and the Third GRASP Council meeting; and on the institutional arrangements of the Gorilla Agreement.
61. On the Conservation status of gorillas and their habitat the Parties negotiated an operative clause on the establishment/expansion/maintenance/strengthening of legal status of, protected areas in areas with a high-density or abundance of gorillas as identified by the A.P.E.S platform to best conserve gorillas and their habitats.
62. Furthermore, the Parties agreed to request Nigeria and invite Cameroon to follow up on the recommendations contained in the report *Legal Assessment of the Implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Gorilla Agreement in Cameroon and Nigeria* (2021).
63. On the theme of illegal trade, the Interim Secretariat proposed operative clauses urging Parties, in partnership with GRASP, to take images of gorilla hands and feet and submit them to the database of the Forensic Imaging Team of the Metropolitan Police of the United Kingdom; and to submit non-invasive samples (hair and faeces) to the Comparative Genomics Lab of Pompeu Fabra University, to facilitate the identification

of the origins of illegally traded gorillas. Parties did not agree with the inclusion of these directions in the Resolution at this time as they did not have sufficient information on these databases to make a decision.

64. Parties agreed to include an operative clause encouraging Parties to collaborate with accredited rescue centres and sanctuaries and other conservation partners, whenever possible, in the care, rehabilitation, and rewilding of confiscated live gorillas, following IUCN guidelines.
65. Parties agreed to include an operative clause encouraging Parties to submit information on illegal trade in great apes and great ape body parts to the GRASP Ape Seizure Database.
66. On the institutional arrangements of the Agreement, and in follow-up to the discussion under Agenda Item 30 the Parties decided to request the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species to remain the Interim Secretariat of the Agreement and to submit this request to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its 14th meeting.
67. The Parties agreed to move the Secretariat to the GVTC and requested the Interim Secretariat to send a notification to all Parties to confirm their agreement.
68. At the end of this agenda item negotiations on Resolution 4.1 Priority Conservation Measures and Institutional Arrangements of the Gorilla Agreement concluded and it was ready for adoption under Agenda Item 34: Adoption of Resolutions.

Agenda Item 33. Budget and Programme of Work (2024-2026) of the Gorilla Agreement

69. The Interim Secretariat presented its financial report for the period 2019 – 2023; the proposed Budget and Programme of Work for the period 2024 – 2026; the status of Parties' annual contributions to the Agreement; and the draft Resolution 4.2 Budget and Programme of Work (2024 – 2026) of the Gorilla Agreement, as contained in UNEP/GA/MOP4/Doc.6.
70. The Meeting took note of the financial report for the period 2019 – 2023 without any comments.
71. The Meeting briefly discussed whether an activity should be included for the GRASP Scientific Commission to support Parties in the updating and development of Gorilla Actions Plans and for any other gorilla conservation priorities in the proposed Budget and Programme of Work for the period 2024 – 2026.
72. The Chair of the GRASP Scientific Commission clarified that Gorilla Agreement Parties (all of which are GRASP Partners) can approach the GRASP Scientific Commission for advice or support as they require and that the Scientific Commission would support to the extent possible.
73. Parties agreed to adopt the proposed Budget and Programme of Work for the period 2024 – 2026 as presented by the Interim Secretariat.
74. The Meeting took note of the dire situation of the status of Parties' annual contributions to the Agreement, and there was consensus that Parties need to start contributing regularly and as agreed through the resolutions of the Meetings of the Parties.

75. The Meeting was reminded that through Article IV.5 Parties are encouraged to develop sustainable fundraising mechanisms for the Agreement.
76. Parties decided to retain the level of annual contributions at €3,000.
77. At the end of this agenda item negotiations on Resolution 4.2 Budget and Programme of Work (2024 – 2026) of the Gorilla Agreement concluded and it was ready for adoption under Agenda Item 34: Adoption of Resolutions.

Agenda Item 34: Adoption of Resolutions

78. The following Resolutions were adopted:
 - Resolution 4.1 *Priority Conservation Measures and Institutional Arrangements of the Gorilla Agreement*
 - Resolution 4.2 *Budget and Programme of Work (2024 – 2026) of the Gorilla Agreement*

Agenda Item 35: Report of the Meeting

79. The Chairperson proposed that the meeting report be finalized after the meeting, due to the time and resource constraints. The report would be cleared by Meeting participants as soon as possible after the meeting. As there were no objections, the Meeting agreed on the proposed approach to finalize the meeting report.

Agenda Item 36: Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

80. The Chairperson invited proposals and offers from Parties and observers on the date and venue of the Fifth Meeting of the Parties. No proposals or offers were made.

Agenda Item 37: Any Other Business

81. No items were raised.

Agenda Item 38: Closure of the Meeting

82. The Chairperson, commending the active engagement of delegates and thanking the interpreters and the Interim Secretariat, closed the Meeting.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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