

ACCORD CMS GORILLA



# Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats

UNEP/GA/Resolution 4.1

Original: English

## PRIORITY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE GORILLA AGREEMENT

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Paris, December 2023)

*Deeply concerned* by the threats to and vulnerability of gorilla populations and the high risk of extinction they face;

*Recalling* Resolution 3.1 which instructed the Interim Secretariat to monitor the revision process of the Action Plans for the four sub-species;

*Further recalling* that the Meeting to negotiate the Gorilla Agreement in October 2007, requested the CMS Standing Committee to mandate the CMS Secretariat to provide interim secretariat services to the Agreement in close cooperation with the UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) Secretariat and other institutions of GRASP;

*Appreciating* the decision of CMS COP13 that the CMS Secretariat continue to provide interim secretariat services to the Gorilla Agreement for the next triennium;

*Noting with concern* that the Gorilla Agreement is unique among the CMS Agreements, in that it does not have its own independent secretariat, and is not able to fund one from Party contributions alone; and

*Realizing* that this situation puts the Gorilla Agreement in a vulnerable position, where any reduction in funding to the CMS Secretariat, or increases in mandate, from new agreements, for example, could mean a reduction in resources available to be allocated to the Gorilla Agreement;

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

### Conservation status of gorillas and their habitat

1. *Requests* Parties to submit their data to the Ape Populations, Environments and Surveys (A.P.E.S.) database, initiated by the Section on Great Apes of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group with the long-term goal to:
  - archive all existing gorilla population survey data in a secure repository;
  - make them available to the ape conservation and research community; and
  - provide up-to-date information on the status of and threats to gorillas;

2. *Requests* Parties to establish/expand/maintain/strengthen the legal status of protected areas in areas, where applicable, with a high-density or abundance of gorillas as identified by the A.P.E.S platform and ensure that protected areas with gorillas are well connected in order to maintain high levels of population variability of gorilla populations and thereby improve the conditions for their long-term survival;
3. *Requests* Parties to partake in the CMS National Legislation Programme to ensure that their legislation is harmonized with that of other gorilla Range States to adequately protect the species across its range;
4. *Requests* Nigeria and invites Cameroon in following up on the recommendations emanating from the report: *Legal Assessment of the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Gorilla Agreement in Cameroon and Nigeria (2021)*, with the support of the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;
5. *Requests* Parties to increase their efforts on raising the awareness of consumers of gorilla derivatives, local communities, law enforcement agents and the judiciary about the inherent value of gorillas and their vital role for ecosystems with the aim of stopping the intentional killing of gorillas;

### **Gorilla Action Plans**

6. *Encourages* Parties to continue conservation efforts as outlined in the IUCN Action Plans adopted at the First Meeting of the Parties (Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei berengei*)) and Third Meeting of the Parties (Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015 – 2025, Revised Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) 2014 – 2019, and Conservation Action Plan 2012 - 2022 for the Grauer's Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo);
7. *Encourages* Parties to participate actively in the review of existing IUCN Gorilla Action Plans and the development of new ones, where applicable;
8. *Agrees* to implement the IUCN Action Plans on any of the four sub-species, once developed and formally endorsed by all Range States through the IUCN action planning process;
9. *Instructs* the Interim Secretariat to monitor the review process, revision and implementation of the IUCN Action Plans and keep Parties, Range States and other interested stakeholders informed;

### **Gorillas and health**

10. *Requests* Parties to ensure that all rangers, scientists, tourists or other persons intentionally approaching gorillas adhere to the standards and best practice guidelines as set by IUCN such as the *Best Practice Guidelines for Great Ape Tourism* to reduce the risk of disease spillover between people and gorillas;

### **Illegal trade**

11. *Encourages* 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;

12. *Encourages* Parties to submit information on illegal trade in great apes and great ape body parts to the GRASP Ape Seizure Database;

#### **Large scale development and great apes**

13. *Urges* Parties to require private companies operating in gorilla habitat work with the ARRC (avoid, reduce, restore and conserve) Task Force of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Section on Great Apes to avoid and minimize negative impacts on gorillas and their habitat, from energy, extractive, and associated infrastructure projects;
14. *Encourages* Parties to participate in the Primate WATCH program of the ARRC Task Force with the aim of strengthening the capacity of their primatologists to advise and interact with the private sector for improving the mitigation of its impacts on gorillas.

#### **Sustainable finance**

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to support the Parties in finding and/or developing sustainable finance solutions for the implementation of gorilla conservation activities;

#### **Institutional arrangements**

16. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species to remain the Interim Secretariat of the Agreement;
17. *Instructs* the Interim Secretariat to submit this request for secretariat services for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its 14th meeting; and
18. *Agrees* to move the Secretariat to the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration and requests the Interim Secretariat to send a notification to all Parties to confirm their agreement.