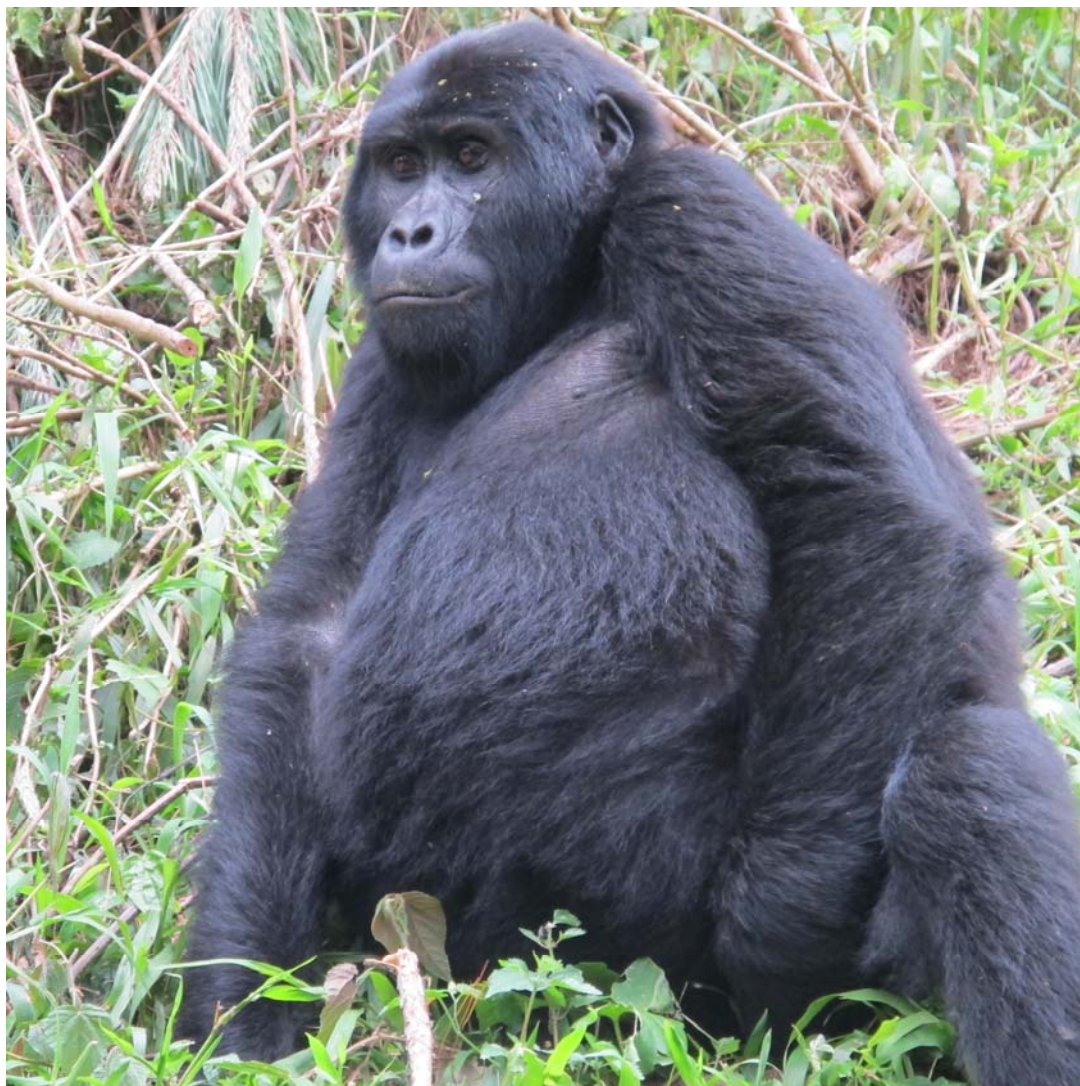


TECHNICAL MISSIONS TO GORILLA RANGE STATES  
TO ASSESS CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

DECISION 15.44



UGANDA – 26 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER 2012

CAMEROON – 28 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2012

GABON – 3 TO 5 DECEMBER 2012

## Introduction

1. In fulfilment of Decision 15.44, the Secretariat conducted technical missions to Cameroon and Gabon, in conjunction with the Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP), ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The purpose of these mission was to assess current enforcement activities relevant to the conservation of and trade in great apes and to identify best practices and challenges in these gorilla range States. The Secretariat and GRASP also used the opportunity to conduct a technical mission to Uganda back to back with the WCO's Project GAPIN II Seminar in Kampala, Uganda.
2. At its 62nd meeting (Geneva, July 2012), the CITES Standing Committee, instructed the Secretariat to report on the technical missions at the present meeting. The present document, which contains the findings of the technical mission, was prepared in accordance with Decision 15.45.

## Uganda

3. The mission to Uganda comprised two parts: (1) participation from 26 to 27 September 2012 in a seminar for African law enforcement officers, during which general information was collected on wildlife law enforcement and illegal trade in great apes; and (2) a technical mission at the national level from 28 September to 1 October 2013.

## Project GAPIN II seminar in Uganda

4. The Secretariat and GRASP participated in a seminar under Project GAPIN II<sup>1</sup> hosted by WCO in cooperation with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) on 26 and 27 September 2012, in Kampala. As part of the seminar, law enforcement and conservation activities in gorilla range States were discussed during an afternoon session. Law enforcement officers (predominantly from Customs) from five gorilla range States (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Uganda) and twelve other African countries (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), as well as representatives from the Ugandan CITES Management Authority, the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) participated in this session. Law enforcement officers were requested to complete a questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat. The questionnaire provided a basis for discussion and contained a number of questions on wildlife law enforcement and illegal trade in great apes, which were aimed at obtaining an overview of national enforcement activities and responses in the mentioned countries.

## Results of the questionnaires completed during the seminar

5. Twenty law enforcement officers (18 Customs officers, one enforcement investigator and one officer from LATF) completed the questionnaire mentioned in paragraph 4 above.
6. The Secretariat has drawn the following main conclusions from the information provided in the questionnaires:
  - a) The illegally traded wildlife specimens most commonly detected by Customs officers at borders are ivory, birds and reptiles. Most officers indicated that illegal trade in great apes was rarely encountered.
  - b) Senior managers in Customs are often unaware of the important role of their agencies in controlling trade in endangered species and combating illegal wildlife trade. It was reported that wildlife trade was regarded as a low priority and that Customs administrations primarily focused on revenue collection.
  - c) Customs officers from Burkina Faso, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zambia indicated that resources available to combat and detect illegal wildlife trade (e.g. detector dogs, x-ray machines and scanners) were inadequate, while 11 other countries (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the

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<sup>1</sup> Project GAPIN (Great Apes and Integrity), was implemented by WCO and funded by the Swedish Government. GAPIN I was conducted from October 2010 to March 2011 and the main focus was illegal trade in great apes. Another vital component in the project was promoting a culture of integrity with the aim to prevent corrupt practices that could fuel illegal wildlife trade. The first project GAPIN was followed by GAPIN II, which was conducted from January to December 2012. This second project had the same target as GAPIN I, but its scope was broadened to include other threatened species, such as elephants, pangolins and rhinoceroses. The Seminar followed up on a series of practical training workshops for frontline officers during 2012, emphasizing the importance of cooperation in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade and the need to resist corruption.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) indicated that they had access to special equipment such as x-ray machines or scanners;

- d) The majority of respondents indicated different authorities, such as wildlife authorities, the police or gendarmerie, interacted when they detected illegal wildlife cases. However, there were indications that inter-agency law enforcement cooperation posed significant challenges in some countries, and some Customs officers stated that they never or rarely communicated with the CITES Management or Scientific Authorities or other national law enforcement agencies when cases of illegal wildlife trade were detected;
- e) Customs officers from several countries (e.g. Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mali, Mozambique and Zambia) indicated that they had no national systems through which intelligence could be shared with police or other enforcement authorities in the country;
- f) Officers from Guinea, South Africa and Uganda indicated that corruption was a big obstacle to wildlife law enforcement in their countries;
- g) Customs officers from Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo stated that illegal trade in bushmeat posed an enforcement challenge in these countries. Following the discussion, it was evident that bushmeat presents a significant identification challenge to authorities, especially when the meat is dried, cooked or smoked, and it is therefore unclear if great ape meat is illegally traded. Many countries lack forensic capacity to conduct detailed analyses (e.g. DNA-profiling); and
- h) Customs officers from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central Africa Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia indicated the need for capacity building among authorities involved in combating illegal wildlife trade in the following fields: wildlife enforcement training for Customs officers; training in species identification; how to do risk profiling; increased awareness of wildlife smuggling techniques; training in intelligence management; and how to conduct intelligence-driven investigations and training in the use of specialized investigation techniques, such as controlled deliveries to combat wildlife crime.

#### Other findings

- 7. Information provided by the GRASP representative that participated in the mission indicates that the most significant pressures on great apes are habitat loss and fragmentation of habitats, poaching for bushmeat, illegal trade in live animals, and diseases. In some protected areas, armed conflicts and instability pose additional serious threats to great ape populations. GRASP mentioned that, following the rescue of two infant gorillas in separate confiscations on 13 and 20 September 2012, the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN, Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature) was particularly concerned about the impact of armed conflicts on gorillas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Civil war and illegal resource extraction by armed militias in the areas where gorillas live have made it extremely difficult for ICCN and other conservation groups to monitor and protect this endangered species.
- 8. There is a lack of reliable information from law enforcement agencies on transnational illegal trade in great apes, which makes it difficult to estimate the scale of this trade. However, it would appear from feedback received that the level of illegal international trade is relatively limited. This is further supported by the results of WCO projects GAPIN I and GAPIN II, during which no cases of illegal trade in great apes were detected, even though these projects had specifically been targeting this trade. During the Project GAPIN II seminar, GRASP and the non-governmental organizations Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust and The Last Great Ape organization (LAGA) mentioned that illegal trade in great apes had been detected in the following countries: Cameroon, Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. It was further alleged that Cairo has been a major transit point for great apes moving from Africa into the Middle East and Asia since the mid-1990s.
- 9. WCO developed a *Great Apes Identity Card*, available in English and French, as part of project GAPIN. This identity card is based upon a card that was initially developed following a meeting of the CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force. These cards, and other species identification materials, are available on

ENVIRONET<sup>2</sup>. Customs authorities and other law enforcement agencies are encouraged to use these identity cards in their daily operational activities. Such use should be complemented by close cooperation with national CITES authorities, species experts and non-governmental organizations, when species identification assistance is needed.

10. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on available capacity-building tools for law enforcement officers at the GAPIN II seminar in Uganda, and it encouraged Customs officers to use the online capacity-building materials available through the CITES Virtual College. Some of the needs identified by the GAPIN II seminar participants, such as species identification material and CITES training for Customs officers, can be effectively addressed through the use of the CITES Virtual College.

## Technical missions

### Uganda

11. On 28 September 2012, the Secretariat and GRASP representatives met with officials from the CITES Management Authority and the Wildlife Authority in Uganda. The Secretariat also conducted a field visit to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park on 29 September to 1 October 2012 (including two travel days).
12. The mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) is found in two isolated sub-populations, in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, close to the south-western border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in the Virunga Massif straddling the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo (Virunga National Park), Rwanda (Volcanoes National Park) and Uganda (Mgahinga Gorilla National Park). Approximately half the world's population of mountain gorillas is found in Uganda. Efforts to protect the mountain gorillas in the three range States of this subspecies have proved to be very successful. A census of the Bwindi mountain gorilla was conducted in 2011 and the results of the survey, released in November 2012, showed an increase in the Bwindi population from 302 in 2006 to 400 in 2011<sup>3</sup>. The global population of mountain gorillas is now estimated to be 880. Uganda also hosts approximately 5,000<sup>4</sup> Eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in forests located in the western part of the country.
13. Regions where mountain gorillas are found have been severely affected by instability as a result of armed conflicts for a long time. Nevertheless, the protection of the gorillas has been well maintained. A transboundary management cooperation agreement for protected areas has been in place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda since 2004. An informal process of transboundary collaboration to protect this species commenced in 1991 through informal collaboration between field staff working in protected areas in the three countries. A 10-year Transboundary Strategy Plan for the Central Albertine Rift Transboundary Protected Area Network was signed in 2006, and a five-year Strategic Plan (2010-2014) for the network was refined in 2009, including the identification of prioritized strategies. The plan includes strategies to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement, strengthen collaboration with CITES and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on international wildlife trade and to assess the status of enforcement of CITES legislation in all three countries. Rangers interviewed by the Secretariat indicated that good cooperation exists between the three countries, with regular meetings and exchange of information taking place. It was also reported that members of the local community are in general well-motivated to report illegal activities to law enforcement officers.
14. Mountain gorilla tourism is one of the most significant sources of tourism revenues in Uganda and, as a result, mountain gorillas are well-protected. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that local communities benefit directly from gorilla tourism, such as revenue-sharing schemes. The Secretariat believes that other gorilla range States should consider implementing similar schemes in cooperation with GRASP.
15. Wildlife authorities indicated that they worked closely with district governments, local leaders and community members to combat poaching and other illegal activities. They also reported good cooperation at the national level among the CITES Management Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), ICPO-INTERPOL's National Central Bureau, the police and the military. UWA indicated that ICPO-INTERPOL had provided training to UWA officers on the use of the INTERPOL

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<sup>2</sup> ENVIRONET is the WCO's secure online real-time communication tool for information exchange and cooperation in the area of environmental border protection among Customs administrations, competent national agencies, international organizations and their regional networks, as well as other enforcement authorities bearing similar responsibilities.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.fauna-flora.org/news/census-confirms-growing-mountain-gorilla-population/>.

<sup>4</sup> World Atlas of Great Apes and their conservation (UNEP, WCMC and GRASP, 2005).



ecomessage system. UWA further indicated that great apes were fully protected by national legislation and that Uganda was implementing a process to revise its Wildlife Act to address gaps, such as weak penalties for wildlife crime. The revised Wildlife Act will be presented to Parliament in 2013.

16. Uganda established a Tourism Police Force in February 2012. The Tourism Police work with UWA rangers to enhance security in national parks and wildlife reserves. There are also plans to establish a new intelligence unit within UWA. This unit will gather information on poaching and illegal wildlife trade from all regions of the country, and it will work with other intelligence agencies to address wildlife crime. UWA expressed the need for training on the gathering and analysis of intelligence for this new intelligence unit once established.
17. From discussions with wildlife authorities, it appears that poaching of gorillas is not common in Uganda. It was reported that poachers with hunting dogs killed a mountain gorilla in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in June 2011. Three men were arrested for the killing, but they were released after paying low fines (USH 50,000 or USD 19 on each count).
18. It was further reported that Ugandans traditionally do not eat meat from great apes, and that no significant great ape bushmeat trade exists in the country.
19. All available information suggests that illegal trade in gorillas and other great ape species is limited in Uganda. Authorities however reported that the killing of elephants and illegal trade in ivory are of increasing concern in the country.
20. Authorities highlighted the need among the judiciary for awareness-raising on the serious nature of wildlife crime as well as a significant need for species-identification training among enforcement authorities in Uganda.

#### Cameroon and Gabon

21. The Secretariat conducted technical missions to Cameroon and Gabon in cooperation with GRASP, ICPO-INTERPOL, UNODC and the WCO, from 28 November 2012 to 5 December 2012. The joint technical mission team met with representatives from the CITES Management Authorities, Customs, police, wildlife authorities, prosecution authorities and non-governmental organizations. The team also visited the Mefou Primate Sanctuary in Cameroon and a Gendarmerie control post in N'Toum, Gabon.

#### Cameroon

22. The mission to Cameroon was conducted from 28 to 30 November 2012. The technical team met with representatives from the following authorities and non-governmental organizations: the *Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune* (MINFOF, Ministry of Forests and Fauna), *École de Faune de Garoua* (Garoua Fauna School), the ICPO-INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Central Africa, the *Ministère des Finances, Direction Générale des Douanes* (Ministry of Finance, Customs General Directorate), the World Wildlife Fund Central Africa Regional Programme Office (WWF CARPO), WWF Cameroon, LAGA, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and APE Action for Africa.
23. Two subspecies of chimpanzee are found in Cameroon: the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) and the Central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*); and two subspecies of the Western gorilla: the cross-river gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) and the western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). All of these are spread throughout the equatorial regions of the country. The estimated populations of great apes in Cameroon are: 3,380 Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, 30,000 central chimpanzees, 150 cross-river gorillas and 15,000 western lowland gorillas<sup>5</sup>. According to the APES portal<sup>6</sup>, the global population of central chimpanzees is between 70,000 and 116,500 specimens, that of Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees between 3,500 and 9,000, that of cross-river gorillas between 250 and 300, and that of western lowland gorillas of 150,000 specimens (of which 70 % live in the Congo).
24. To enhance protection of great ape habitat, Cameroon has put in place formal transboundary conservation agreements, namely the Sangha Trinational with the Central African Republic and the Congo, and the so-called TRIDOM collaboration agreement with the Congo and Gabon. Through these agreements,

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<sup>5</sup> World Atlas of Great Apes and their conservation (UNEP, WCMC and GRASP(2005).

<sup>6</sup> See <http://apesportal.eva.mpg.de/status/species>.

governments and conservation partners aim to work increasingly together to address key conservation threats, such as poaching, illegal mining and illegal logging. A third agreement with Nigeria for the conservation of the cross-river gorilla has been drafted but not yet ratified. Collaboration between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea in the Campo River transboundary area is in its early stages. It was reported that there is also informal collaboration with Chad after the Bouba N'djida elephant poaching incident<sup>7</sup>.

25. It was encouraging to learn that the Government of Cameroon had developed an emergency plan in response to the significant incidents of elephant poaching in Bouba N'Djida National Park, in northern Cameroon, in February 2012. As part of this plan, an inter-Ministerial task force, comprising the Ministries of Finance, Customs, Defence, Forests and Fauna, the police, the gendarmerie and ICPO-INTERPOL has been established. Fifteen-hundred additional eco-guards have been recruited and the military has been deployed to protect Cameroon's border with Chad. Cameroon's Special Forces, the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), were also deployed to secure protected areas.
26. The mission team was informed that Cameroon had a national brigade under the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF), responsible for anti-poaching activities.
27. MINFOF also collaborates closely with a number of non-governmental organizations including LAGA, WWF and WCS on law enforcement. According to information received, these non-governmental organizations provide information about illegal wildlife cases to law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, they provide financial and technical support to the wildlife authority for operations to combat wildlife crime, and through legal advice in court and training.
28. There is a need to strengthen the national inter-agency collaboration between relevant law enforcement authorities in Cameroon. WWF is currently assisting countries in the Congo Basin to set up a National Coordination Unit (NCU) to combat illegal trade in wildlife and dismantle transnational illegal networks. The main tasks for such a unit could be to develop intelligence strategies, including the creation and management of a national database, and to promote awareness, training and capacity building.
29. Information suggests that illegal domestic trade in live great apes and in meat and body parts thereof occurs in Cameroon, but reliable information on the scale of this trade is lacking. Representatives from the ape sanctuary visited by the mission team indicated that they received very few infant great apes at the sanctuary. To their knowledge, none of the great apes that had recently arrived were linked to illegal international trade. New arrivals tended to be adolescents taken from the wild when young and given to the sanctuary when they grew and became unmanageable as pets. Significant domestic consumption of bushmeat occurs in Cameroon and some ethnic groups in the country consume great ape meat. It is difficult to quantify how much great ape meat is consumed, and whether this meat is traded across borders. There is no current capacity to conduct DNA-analysis and identify the species from which bushmeat is derived. Legislation to combat illegal bushmeat trade seems to be inadequate in Cameroon. For example, Customs officers only have legal powers to seize bushmeat from travellers, and are unable to arrest offenders that are smuggling bushmeat. The mission team believes that Cameroon need to identify gaps and limitations in existing measures to control the bushmeat trade, and to take appropriate actions to strengthen the control of trade in bushmeat from CITES-listed species.
30. Information received from authorities suggests that transnational illegal trade in great apes is not common in Cameroon, whereas the killing of elephants and illegal ivory trade are a serious problem in the country.
31. Different authorities in Cameroon indicated that enforcement authorities needed training in CITES-related legislation and species identification, and that the judiciary needed capacity-building in the prosecution of wildlife crime cases. It was also indicated that legislation in Cameroon did not make provision for the use of specialized investigation techniques, such as controlled deliveries.

## Gabon

32. The mission to Gabon was conducted from 3 to 5 December 2012. The technical team met with representatives from the Ministry of Waters and Forests, *Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées* (General Directorate of Fauna and Protected Areas), *Direction Générale des Contre-Ingérences et de la Sécurité Militaire* (General Directorate of Counter-Interferences and Military Security), the gendarmerie, Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN, National Park National Agency), Customs,

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<sup>7</sup> See [http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120228\\_elephant\\_cameroon.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120228_elephant_cameroon.php).

the ICPO-INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), the *Procureur de la République* (state prosecutor), WCS Gabon, WWF CARPO and Conservation Justice.

33. Two great ape sub-species are found in Gabon: the western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and the central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*). The population of chimpanzees is estimated between 27,000 and 64,000 and that of the western Lowland gorilla population is estimated at approximately 35,000<sup>8</sup>. Both western lowland gorillas and chimpanzees are still widespread in the country.
34. Authorities indicated that there is an urgent need to update statistics on the status of great ape populations in Gabon and that the lack of rescue centres for great ape orphans poses a significant challenge in the country.
35. Great apes are fully protected by legislation in Gabon. The penalties for wildlife crime provide a maximum of six months imprisonment or fines up to a maximum of CFA 10,000,000 (USD 20,800). It was indicated that Gabon, as part of the review of the forestry code, is in the process of reviewing its penalties for wildlife crime.
36. Gabon has formal transboundary conservation agreements in place with Cameroon and the Congo (see paragraph 24 above). A partnership also exists between the Ministry of Water and Forestry and the non-governmental organization Conservation Justice on law enforcement-related issues with the aim of protecting great apes and other threatened species in Gabon from illegal hunting.
37. An illicit domestic market for live gorillas and chimpanzees as pets, and for great ape body parts for so-called "black magic" purposes, exists in Gabon.
38. Bushmeat consumption has a long history in the hunter-gatherer societies of Gabon and continues to play an important role in rural communities. However, the majority of people in Gabon do not consume great ape meat. With the aim to control hunting at sustainable levels, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has prepared a regional Global Environment Facility project for the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon to pilot "controlled bushmeat hunting".
39. Customs authorities indicated that x-ray equipment and sniffer dogs would be deployed in Gabon in 2013 to combat illegal trade, including wildlife smuggling.
40. The mission team learned that there was no established mechanism in place for inter-agency collaboration and intelligence-sharing between relevant law enforcement authorities, and no established cooperation between the wildlife enforcement authorities and ICPO-INTERPOL's National Central Bureau. The team encouraged the Gabonese wildlife law enforcement authorities to use INTERPOL's Ecomessage system, as it would provide a uniform intelligence data reporting system for the many different law enforcement agencies involved. The team also learned that WWF was assisting Gabon in setting up a National Coordination Unit (NCU) to combat illegal trade in wildlife and dismantle transnational illegal networks. As park authorities report directly to the President, they enjoy a prominent position within the government and could potentially serve as a "coordination unit".
41. Authorities in Gabon indicated that the country was most severely affected by elephant poaching and the associated illegal trade in ivory, but that illegal trade in great apes was limited.
42. Different authorities in Gabon stressed the need for enforcement authorities to be trained in CITES-related legislation and species identification, and for the judiciary to be trained in the prosecution of wildlife crime cases.
43. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)<sup>9</sup> is currently in consultation with the Government of Gabon to implement the *ICWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*<sup>10</sup> in that country.

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<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.un-grasp.org/Range\\_States/gabon.pdf](http://www.un-grasp.org/Range_States/gabon.pdf), *World Atlas of Great Apes and their conservation* (UNEP, WCMC and GRASP (2005)). The country data for Gabon is outdated. More recent figures on the global great ape populations can be find at the APES portal.

<sup>9</sup> ICWC is a collaborative effort by the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and WCO to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the subregional and regional networks that act in defence of their natural resources.

This would allow a comprehensive analysis of existing measures to protect and monitor wildlife and forest products, and of Gabon's capacity to respond to unlawful exploitation of its resources, and the identification of areas for improvement.

## Final remarks

44. A number of factors affect great ape populations significantly, including habitat loss, poaching for bushmeat, trade in body parts and live animals, disease, armed conflicts and regional instability. Project GAPIN I and II targeted transnational illegal trade in a number of species, including great apes. Several capacity-building events and enforcement activities have been undertaken as part of these projects. Although it is evident that some illegal trade in great apes takes place, no great apes or great ape meat were detected during the implementation of these projects. This suggests that illegal international trade in great ape specimens is generally limited. This is also supported by information provided by the authorities interviewed during the technical missions to Cameroon, Gabon and Uganda.
45. Illegal domestic trade in live great apes and their parts and derivatives occurs in some great ape range States. Very limited information on this trade is available, and its impact on wild populations is currently unknown.
46. Uganda offers an excellent example of successful eco-tourism and cross-border cooperation that could be of benefit to gorilla conservation in many range States.
47. Species-specific identification of bushmeat remains a major challenge for law enforcement officers. Parties are encouraged to make use of the on-line material at the CITES Virtual College such as Green Customs Knowledge Series No. 24 and 25, on *International bushmeat trade originating from West/Central Africa*<sup>11</sup>.
48. Capacity-building needs among authorities responsible for combating illegal wildlife trade include: wildlife enforcement training for Customs officers; training in species identification; how to do risk profiling; increased awareness of wildlife smuggling techniques; training in intelligence management; how to conduct intelligence-driven investigations; and training in the use of specialized investigation techniques, such as controlled deliveries to combat wildlife crime. Law enforcement officers are encouraged to use available capacity-building tools provided by ICCWC-partners, e.g. the CITES Virtual College's online course *Introduction to CITES for Customs*<sup>12</sup>, the manuals *Controlled Deliveries – A Technique for Investigating Wildlife Crime*, *Questioning Wildlife Smugglers – A Technique for Investigating Wildlife Crime* and *Wildlife Smuggling Concealment – Case Study Handbook*, which are joint publications by ICPO-INTERPOL, the CITES Secretariat and WCO<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, the UNODC has an *Intelligence Awareness Training Programme*<sup>14</sup> and WCO an e-learning module on *Customs Control, risk management, profiling and selectivity* available on the WCO learning platform<sup>15</sup>. WCO has also developed and published the Risk Management Compendium<sup>16</sup>.
49. A lack of inter-agency collaboration and intelligence-sharing were identified as matters of serious concern in several countries. The mission team believes that multi-agency cooperation and intelligence-sharing via established law enforcement channels provided by ICPO-INTERPOL and WCO are essential for effective wildlife law enforcement. The importance of communication of information and coordination is emphasized in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Compliance and enforcement*, under *Regarding communication of information and coordination*, paragraphs a), b) and f).
50. Corruption continues to be a significant challenge to effective wildlife law enforcement. Parties and stakeholders were encouraged to take strong action against corruption in wildlife enforcement. UNODC

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<sup>10</sup> See [http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit\\_e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_e.pdf) (English), [http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit\\_f.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_f.pdf) (French) and [http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit\\_s.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_s.pdf) (Spanish).

<sup>11</sup> See <https://eva.unia.es/cites/mod/resource/view.php?id=58>.

<sup>12</sup> See <https://eva.unia.es/cites/>.

<sup>13</sup> The manuals are available at <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Resources> (restricted access) and on ENVIRONET.

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/tools-and-publications.html>.

<sup>15</sup> See CLiKC - <http://clikc.wcoomd.org/> (restricted access).

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/instruments-and-tools/rmc.aspx>.



has developed several tools<sup>17</sup>, manuals and publications aimed at combating corruption and WCO has included a module on integrity in project GAPIN.

51. Law enforcement authorities in Cameroon and Gabon receive significant support on law enforcement-related issues from non-governmental organizations. Such support includes financial and technical support to conduct operations, legal advice in court, the provision of information on suspected incidents of illegal wildlife trade and training support during capacity-building activities. The mission team understands that such support is aimed at motivating and helping countries with seemingly weak wildlife enforcement capacity to undertake enforcement actions against suspected violations of national wildlife legislation. However, in the long term, governments should build their own internal capacity and funding to handle such issues.
52. The CITES Secretariat is very grateful for the assistance it received from the authorities in Cameroon, Gabon and Uganda, especially the CITES Management Authorities and Wildlife Authorities which handled the logistical arrangements, and the Wildlife Conservation Society in Gabon which arranged a field visit for the mission team. The Secretariat would also like to express its sincere appreciation to GRASP, ICPO-INTERPOL, UNODC and WCO for their support during the joint missions, and to the European Commission for the financial assistance that made these missions possible.

### **Recommendations**

53. National seminars should be arranged in gorilla range States, involving all relevant enforcement agencies, and be delivered in cooperation with ICCWC partners, to promote a multidisciplinary approach that will improve coordination and cooperation in the detection and investigation of offences, and in the prosecution of the offenders, and that will facilitate the delivery of integrity training.
54. Cameroon is encouraged to identify gaps and limitations in the existing border control of bushmeat trade and to take appropriate actions to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed bushmeat species.
55. Gabon is encouraged to identify funding sources to monitor great ape populations and explore options for dealing with confiscated live specimens of great apes.

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<sup>17</sup> See [https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/TRACK/11-83315\\_flyer\\_Final\\_cb.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/TRACK/11-83315_flyer_Final_cb.pdf).