



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## – MEDIA ADVISORY –

### Gorillas in Focus in Frankfurt

9-11 June 2009

Six Ministers of Environment (from the Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DR Congo, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda) are expected to sign the **Frankfurt Declaration** on gorillas. It will be issued at an international scientific Gorilla Symposium to take place at Frankfurt Zoo 9-10 June to mark the UN-Year of the Gorilla, where international gorilla experts will highlight major threats to gorillas and their habitat. The Declaration emphasises the potential of ecotourism to mitigate them and the key role of gorillas in maintaining long-term forest ecosystems.

The UN-Year of the Gorilla led by the UNEP-Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) is helping to rebuild surveillance and monitoring in Kahuzi Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a project also supported by the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The project is an example of how local communities can benefit from gorilla protection in this war torn region.

#### Press Conference

**Date:** 10 June 2009, 12.30 hrs  
**Venue:** Zoo-Gesellschaftshaus, Bernhard-Grzimek-Allee 1, 60316 Frankfurt am Main

#### Participants:

Jochen Flasbarth	Director General Nature Conservation, Federal German Ministry for the Environment
Manfred Niekisch	Director Zoo Frankfurt
Ian Redmond	Ambassador of the UN-Year of the Gorilla
Rob Hepworth	Executive Secretary (UNEP/CMS)
John Mshelbwala	President CMS Scientific Council

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#### Press Conference

**Ministers report on progress and challenges to transboundary gorilla conservation**

**Date:** 11 June 2009, 13.00 hrs  
**Venue:** Zoo-Gesellschaftshaus, Bernhard-Grzimek-Allee 1, 60316 Frankfurt am Main

#### Participants:

Spokesperson of the Ministers	
Rob Hepworth	Executive Secretary (UNEP/CMS)
John Mshelbwala	President of the CMS Scientific Council
Melanie Virtue	Representative CMS and UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)

*For information and to schedule interviews please contact:*

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**[www.yog2009.org](http://www.yog2009.org)**

**About the CMS Agreement to conserve Gorillas and their Habitats**

3 out of 4 gorilla sub-species are Critically Endangered according to the Red List of the World Conservation Union. The CMS Gorilla Agreement came into effect in June 2008 and has so far been signed by six (Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda) of the ten gorilla range states. The international treaty provides a legal framework that to reinforce transboundary conservation efforts.

**About UNEP/CMS**

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) aims to conserve and manage avian, marine and terrestrial migratory species as well as their habitats throughout their range. CMS considers migratory species to be an irreplaceable and valuable part of the earth's natural system that must be preserved for the future. By doing so, it contributes to the conservation of biodiversity. CMS has to date 110 Parties.