



© Arend de Haas, African Conservation Foundation

**BE OUR  
CHAMPION!**

## **Saving the last 300 Cross River Gorillas**

### **Understanding the Challenge**

With only 300 individuals left, the Cross River Gorilla is Africa's least known and the world's rarest great ape. The species has been under severe pressure from poaching; loss and fragmentation of habitat due to human encroachment; and reduced connectivity between sites which have resulted in the isolation of the species, thus reducing gene flow and thus posing a serious threat of extinction. These gentle giants are very elusive - because they have been hunted extensively in the past, gorillas avoid human contact and their sightings are very sporadic making them exceedingly difficult to study. The few survivors are restricted to the forested hills of the border area of Nigeria and Cameroon, which is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance with the Cross River Gorilla playing a role as a 'flagship' species. Gorillas are spread across nine sites, separated by farmland and settlements.

### **Moving from Decision to Action**

All gorilla species, including the Cross River Gorilla, are listed in Appendix I of CMS and any taking is prohibited. In order to address the precarious situation of many gorilla populations an Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats was established in 2008 under the auspices of CMS. A Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Cross River Gorilla was developed by a team of conservation experts and government officials.

### **Championing the Solution!**

With the ultimate goal of restoring Cross River Gorilla populations and the connectivity and extension of their current range, key actions of the Plan include improvement of law enforcement, legislation and transboundary cooperation and the development of ecotourism and education activities. Furthermore monitoring and understanding the status of the changing threats across the Cross River Gorilla's habitat are essential for guiding collective conservation activities. All efforts depend largely on engaging local conservation groups and people that live in and around communities bordering the forested areas where these apes are found. Therefore, focusing on building local community support such as developing alternative livelihoods is critical for the protection of Cross River Gorillas at all sites. Sustainable funding is essential for the implementation of this Regional Plan as a key strategy for securing the long-term survival of the most endangered great ape on Earth as well as the region's immense biological wealth

More information can be found at: [www.cms.int/gorilla/](http://www.cms.int/gorilla/)



# MIGRATORY SPECIES CHAMPION PROGRAMME

## WE FLY, WE RUN, WE SWIM. HELP US KEEP MOVING

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and its associated agreements, altogether known as CMS Family, are concerned with the protection of migratory wildlife on a global or regional scale. Such work is largely subject to the voluntary financial income that the Secretariats can generate, which is by its nature neither regular nor predictable.

The *Migratory Species Champion Programme* aims to promote initiatives developed under the CMS Family and encourage their sustainable support. The Programme has been designed to raise commitments to provide medium- and long-term resources for conservation actions so as to guarantee their timely planning and implementation.

### Who can be a Champion?

*Champions* can be Governments, companies, organizations and individuals willing to make a financial commitment of at least three years for one or more specific CMS Family initiatives. Contributions could be made annually or as one-off payments. In-kind donations also qualify provided that they comply with requirements of this programme.

Becoming a *Champion* is more than being a donor. It is rather being an advocate for migratory species delivering support for their conservation beyond funding. *Champions* become part of the solution to big problems that concern them.

### What can a Champion support?

The programme offers a portfolio of initiatives. Each initiative comprises a set of activities contributing to the implementation of a large programme targeting a species, a group of species or a cross-cutting issue.

### Why becoming a Champion?

The Programme and its results are promoted on the dedicated page: [www.migratoryspecies.org/champion](http://www.migratoryspecies.org/champion)

Furthermore, *Champions* are acknowledged with certificates that testify their support to one or more initiatives.

Different categories of *Champions* are defined to recognize different levels of contributions. The scheme of categories is as follows:

*Champion* for annual contributions from €20,000 up to €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

*Champion Plus* for annual contributions of more than €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

*Champion Extraordinaire* for continuous support.

Engaging and awarding *Champions* are rolling processes undertaken by each Secretariat.

Ad hoc donors' events are organized in the margins of the CMS Family decision-making bodies to acknowledge existing *Champions*. The certificate and the associated publicity provide *Champions* with the opportunity to promote both nationally and internationally their commitment and support for the conservation of migratory species.