

Priorities for Great Ape Conservation

Richard Wrangham

Patron, GRASP

President, International Primatological Society

Chair, Great Ape World Heritage Species Project, Inc.



Genes

Minds

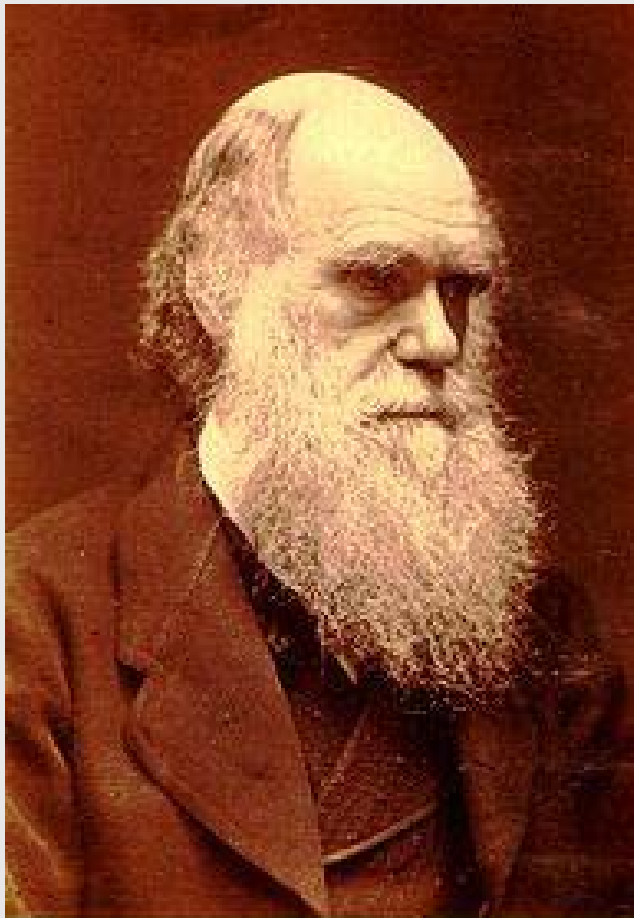
Society

Culture

Great apes:

**“species of outstanding universal value for all
humankind”**





*Ch. Darwin
Maid. 7th. 1874.*

“The anthropomorphous apes... will no doubt be exterminated.”

Charles Darwin (1867)
Anthropological Review
April, p. 236

**Low densities
Large ranges
Slow breeding**



The forest is falling fast...

Habitat loss

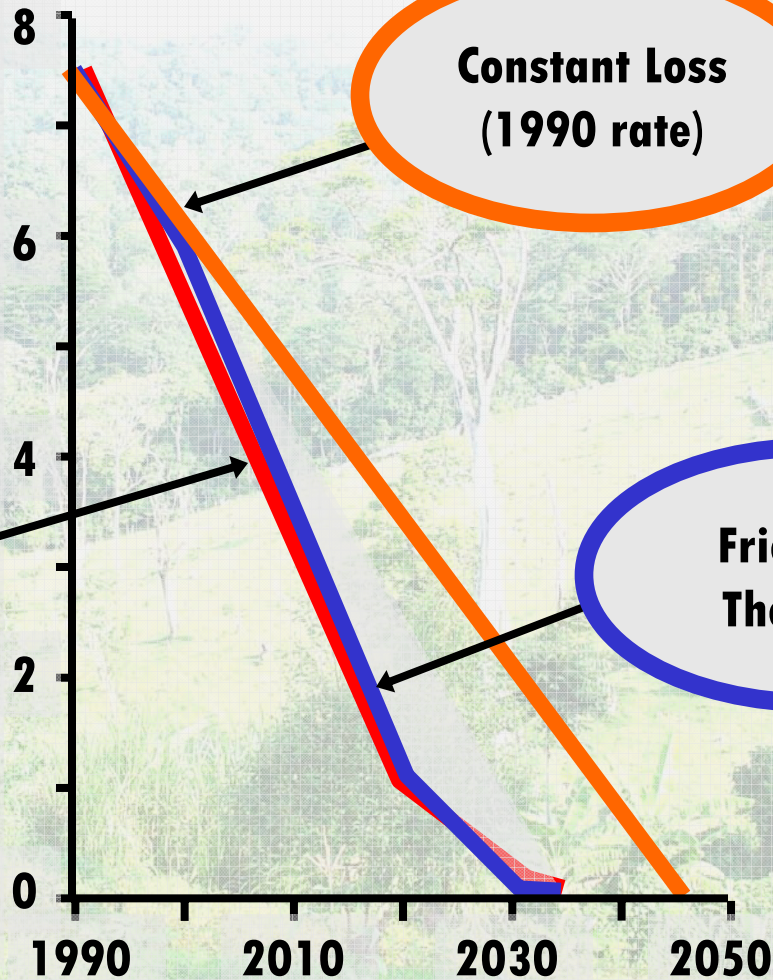
**World
Area of
Tropical
Forest**

**World Resources
Institute**

**Constant Loss
(1990 rate)**

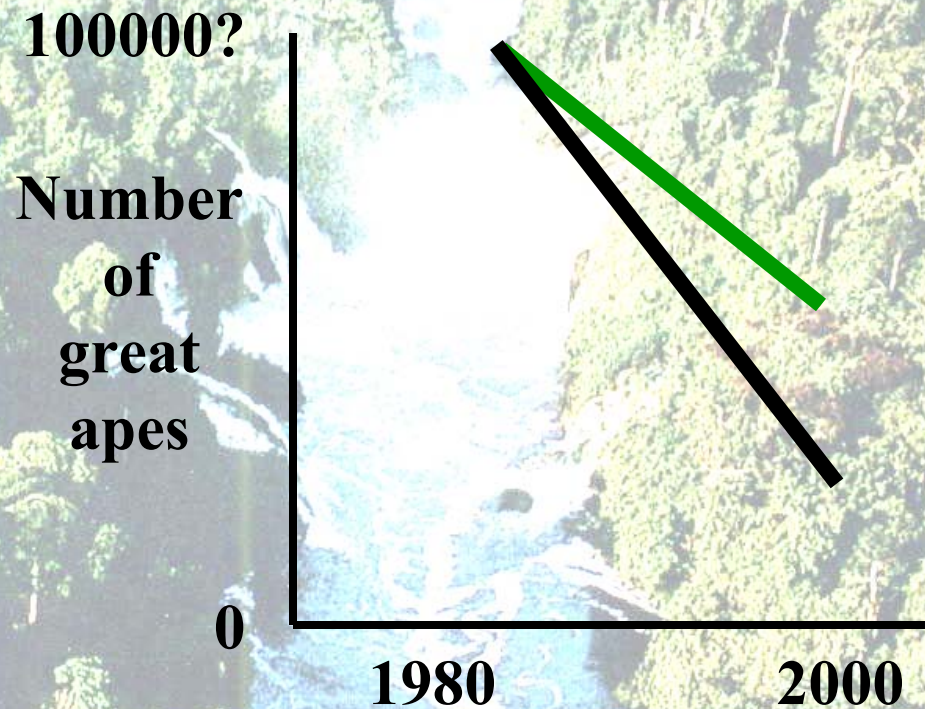
**Friends of
The Earth**

(million
square km)



Apes have crashed in intact forest...

Disease
Hunting



Congo and Gabon
Walsh et al (2003)

93% lost in 20th century

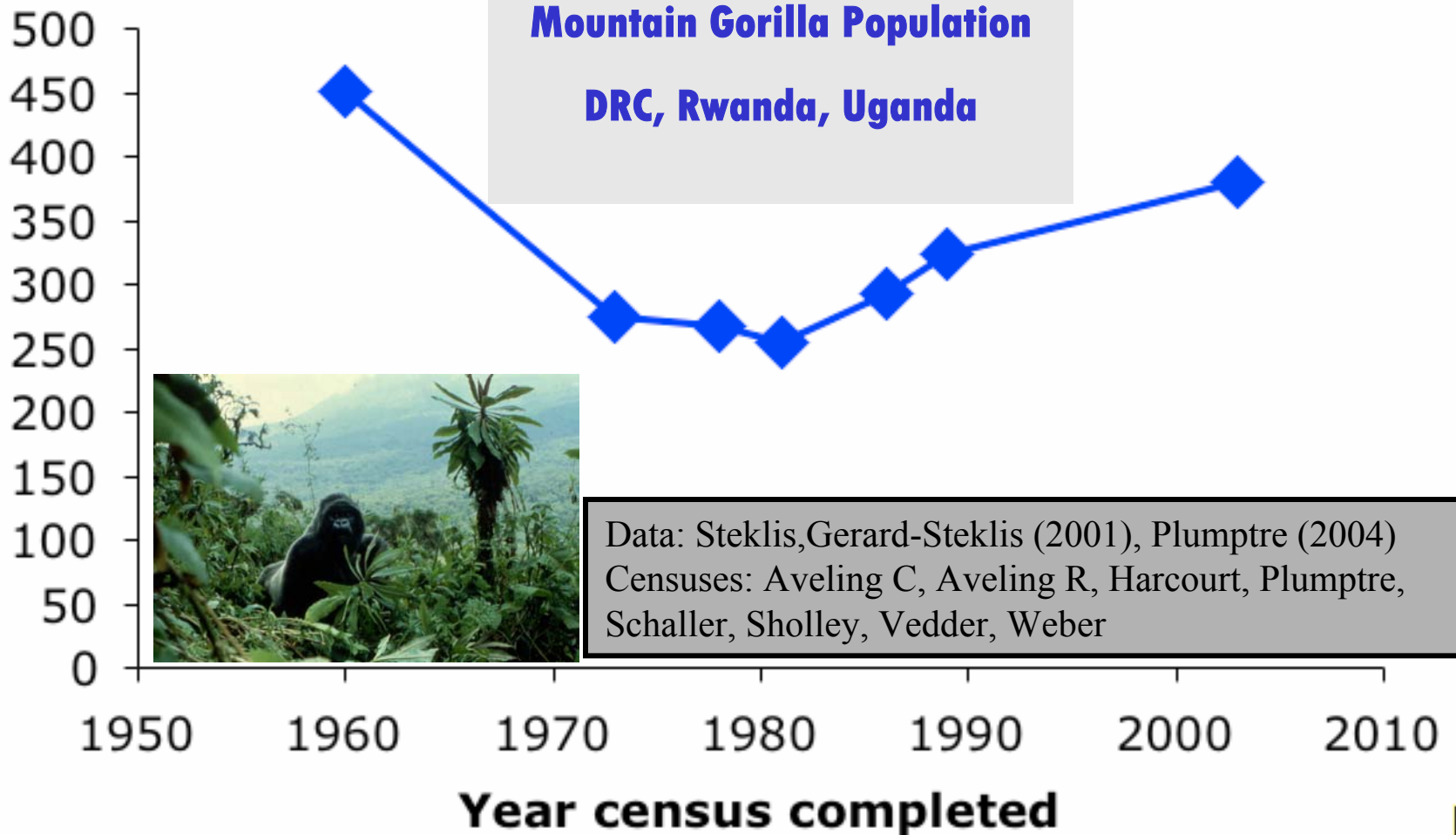


**“threatened species
of outstanding universal value”**

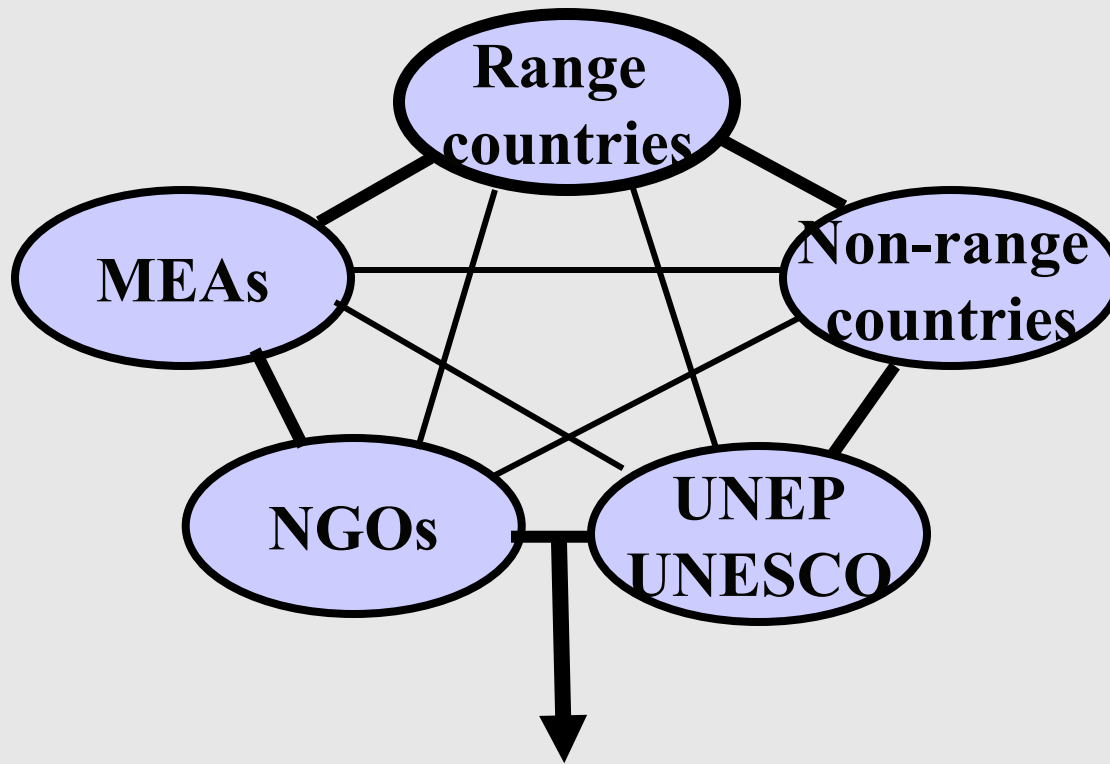




**Mountain gorillas:
conservation
through
cooperation**



The GRASP Partnership.



Improved Conservation

Priorities: GRASP Strategy

For each subspecies

Identify “priority populations”



Strategies for maintaining “viability”



Monitor outcome



Modify actions as needed

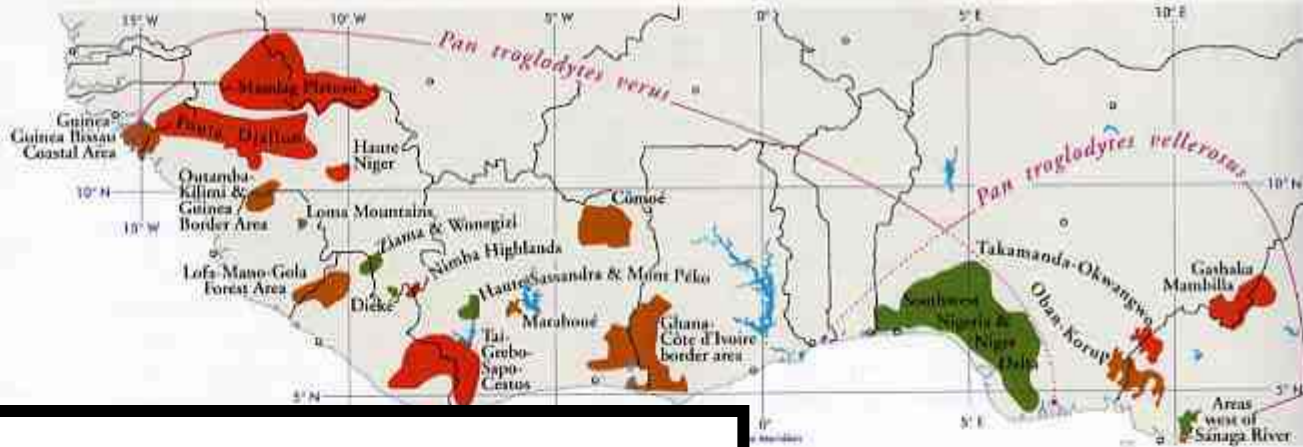


Chimpanzee Priority Areas

- Chimpanzee Priority Areas**
- Extremely Important Areas (Red)
- Very Important Areas (Orange)
- Areas Needing Surveys (Green)

Chimpanzee Ranges
chimpanzee species range

Smith, Budynek, T.M. "Africa's great apes" pp. 2-34. Great apes and humans: the effects of coexistence. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. 2001



Physical & Political Geog

date: 01/09/08
3D arc based global digital elevation model (SOS - EROS Data Center: <http://edc.soc.usgs.gov/gtopo30/gtopo30.html> download: 2002



DRAFT
[Scientific Commission
GRASP]

Indicative list of
priority populations
and sites for all great
apes

Human Popu

date: Gridded Population of the World (GPW), version 2 - Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); and World Resources Institute (WRI) available <http://data.ciesin.org/pov/gpw/> download: 2001

- general legend**
- national boundaries
 - major cities
 - rivers
 - major lakes



**Regional Action Plan for the
Conservation of Chimpanzees
in West Africa**



NEXT

A Partnership for All Humanity?



A proposal.

‘Key great ape populations’



‘WORLD HERITAGE SPECIES SITES’



- Since 1972 the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO has shown the feasibility of **the concept of “outstanding universal value”**.
- Under this Convention, safeguarding for future generations is the responsibility **not only of the party in whose sovereign territory such places are located, but also of the whole of humankind.**



To qualify as a World Heritage Site

“Nominated properties shall... include those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value ...”

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation
of the World Heritage Convention
February 2005

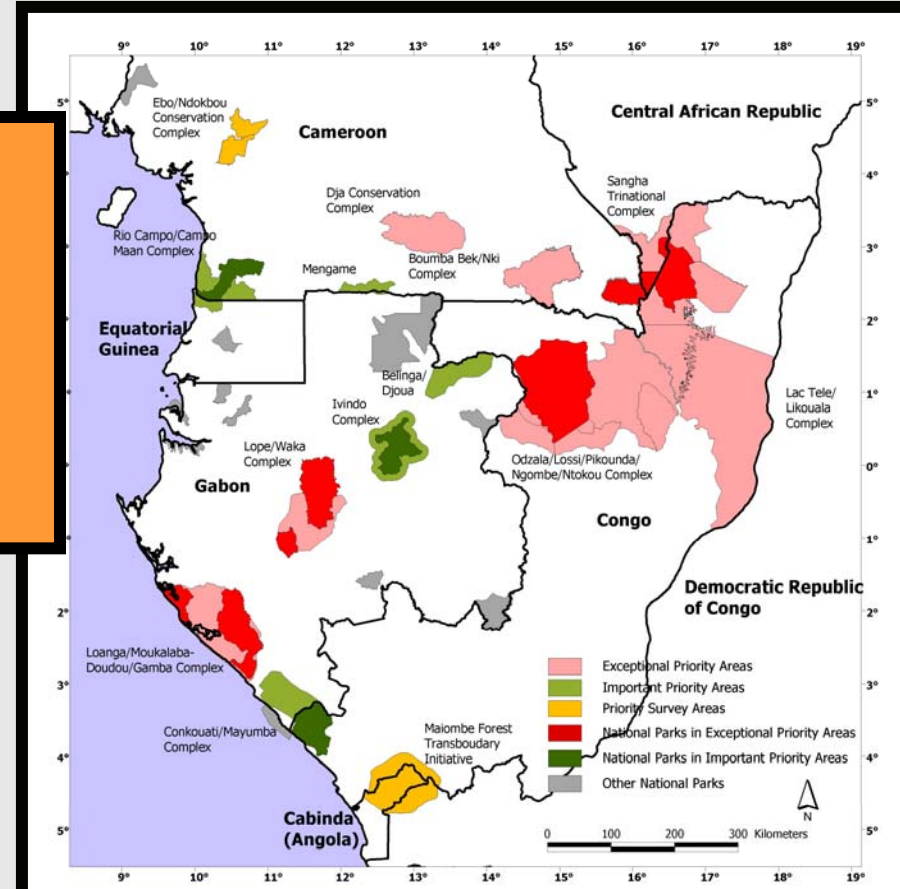


Propose:

- World Heritage concept of “**outstanding universal value**” applies to **great apes**.
- Current set of criteria and conditions may **already** allow for States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to propose the **total habitats of the species of great apes as World Heritage areas**.
- **Benefit: International Support**

- A global initiative such as GRASP shows the **need for targeted species-based conservation approaches.**
- The relationship between the World Heritage Convention and the conservation of “species ranges” needs a **thorough exploration** by UNESCO, IUCN and other interested parties.

All viable ape populations to be World Heritage Species sites?



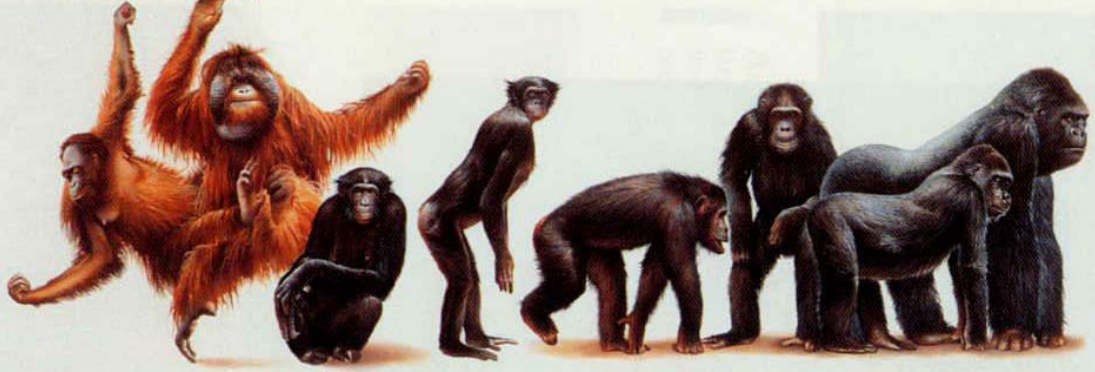
Proposal

Great apes as the first (not the only)

“WORLD HERITAGE SPECIES”



Priority populations to be
“World Heritage Species Sites”?





**GRASP:
Visions of
Hope.**