



## Secretariat Update

Item 2a(En)

GRASP Executive Committee Meeting  
10 - 11 September 2009

**PoA Objective 1: To prevent habitat loss and population decline in 50% of priority populations and habitats of each taxon of great apes, and to reduce the rate of loss or decline in 95% of the other populations**

### ***Support to Protected Area Management in Congo Basin region and Indonesia:***

- The Spanish Contribution to the LifeWeb is a global initiative for creating and improving the management of protected areas. This initiative was officially launched in May 2008 during the the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of Parties (COP 9). It creates a global partnership for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs requested UNEP to manage the Spanish contribution of USD 5 Mio over the next 2 years. The portfolio of projects will include 3 clusters:
  1. General support to CBD
  2. Support to marine protected area (MPAs)
  3. Support to protected areas with great apes

The idea behind the implementation arrangement is that UNEP as a central management unit can ensure coherence across the different clusters. It is planned to test similar approaches on payment for ecosystem services in marine and terrestrial parks, to compare the results, and to feed the lessons learned into the CBD guidelines on protected areas.

The third cluster will partly follow a concept note GRASP submitted to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008, and will look into economic incentives to conserve great ape habitats. This component will complement the climate change project in Indonesia (see Great Apes and Climate Change on page 3) and replicate this component in the Congo Basin.

- With funding from the Spanish Ministry for Environment, GRASP is continuing to support African Parks Network (APN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) & Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in strengthening monitoring and surveillance activities. GRASP is further assisting them to develop and implement a conflict resolution strategy in Eastern and Northern DR Congo. Due to insecurity in Garamba and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks, some activities could not be implemented on time and the Spanish government has approved a no-cost extension till April 2010. Despite the difficult situation in DR Congo, Spain is committed to support the protected area authorities and approved the 2009 contribution of 220,000 Euros. We will

continue activities which started in 2008, but will be obliged to focus on areas which are outside the combat zone.

***MEA Interlinkages:***

- An African Elephants Range States Meeting was organized by CITES secretariat and took place in February, 2009. GRASP was invited to inform the group about the challenges of running a Type II Partnership and how it could be applied to a Global Partnership for Elephants.
- The GRASP secretariat has been working closely with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the implementation of the Gorilla Agreement since the Paris meeting in October 2007. The first meeting of the Parties took place from 29 April to 3 May 2009 in Rome. Participants representing five parties, four non-party range states, 17 non-range states, ten non-governmental organizations, UNEP, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and UNEP-Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) discussed, among other things, a draft action plan and the establishment of a Technical Committee.

**PoA Objective 2: To increase great ape habitat in protected areas by 20% and eliminate habitat loss and population decline within protected areas**

***Environmental Cooperation***

- As part of the multi-divisional UNEP DR Congo programme, GRASP has been supporting transboundary collaboration in the Virungas since end of 2007 with the organization of a DR Congo Virungas stakeholder meeting in 2008 and through missions and participation in meetings. At the request of the Transboundary Core Secretariat and the International Gorilla Conservation Programme, GRASP organized a session on energy at the last regional meeting in Gashora, Rwanda, in August 2009. Experts from SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), ProAct and Carbon Africa presented innovative solutions to tackle the firewood and charcoal issues including carbon finances for energy solutions. The discussions provided input to the UNEP Post –conflict and Disaster management Branch’s large scale grant proposal on energy. The Transboundary Core Secretariat and partners are looking into other transboundary resources such as fisheries and timber; this is an area which is underfunded in the current budget and where the UNEP DR Congo programme might consider supporting.
- GRASP and Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) together with partners in Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire are beginning a transboundary initiative for the Tai-Grebo-Sapo area. The objectives are to establish a corridor between the remaining forest blocs and a transboundary platform. A preparatory mission to Liberia (Monrovia) and Côte d’Ivoire (Abidjan and Tai), was undertaken in June 2009. The first stakeholder meeting will be held in Abidjan from 5-6 October 2009. Funding for this initiative comes from the current EC grant and a grant from the Steward Foundation to Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (see item 4b for further background information).

**PoA Objective 3: To identify and promote, in cooperation with local communities, economic activities compatible with great ape conservation and mitigate development activities detrimental to great ape populations and habitat**

## **Great Apes and Climate Change**

- On 30 October 2008, UNEP's senior management approved a four-year, four-country REDD++ GRASP initiative to be implemented in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and a fourth, yet-to-be-decided country in Central Africa. This followed consultations with the GRASP Scientific Commission and a number of internal and external partners, in particular regarding site selection criteria for great ape priority populations. The total budget for the project is USD 2.9m. To date we have secured funding from the Government of Norway (USD 200,000). Due to contractual issues, funding from the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation (600,000) will not be forthcoming. An additional proposal has been submitted to the US Government to replicate the same approach in Cameroon and GRASP will continue to explore other potential sources of funding including the Spanish LifeWeb. Currently, project activities for the Indonesian component are underway in Tripa and Batang Toru. The main focus is on the assessment of economic incentives for the conservation of great ape habitats in comparison to more unsustainable forms of land-use such as palm oil and timber.
- GRASP and the Great Ape World Heritage Species Project (GAWHSP) are implementing a project assessing High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) to:
  1. Identify the remaining landscape-level forests critical for conserving ecosystem, habitat, species and genetic diversity in Sumatra and Borneo
  2. Facilitate multi-stakeholder support for allocating these HCVF landscapes for uses that do not compromise their conservation function, and other lands for oil palm plantation development
  3. Create partnerships among conservation, industry and government agencies to monitor and manage long-term land use solutions for each of these landscapes, and engage the palm oil industry and local governments in *a priori* designation of HCVF to comply with Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Principles and Criteria.

## **Awareness raising and Communication**

- The GRASP website has been redesigned to improve its look, feel and functionality. Interactive Great Ape Range State Maps are now available online at <http://www.unep.org/grasp>. The new photo galleries of the four great ape species can be viewed online at [http://www.unep.org/grasp/images/photo\\_gallery/Great%20Apes%20Survival%20Partnership%20-%20Photo%20Gallery/album/](http://www.unep.org/grasp/images/photo_gallery/Great%20Apes%20Survival%20Partnership%20-%20Photo%20Gallery/album/)
- The documentary film on oil exploration in Petit Loango National Park in Gabon, commissioned by GRASP and the Ramsar Convention, was nominated for a ROSCAR Award at the 2009 Wild Talk Africa Film Festival in Durban. The film was screened on 22 April 2009 at the festival followed by a discussion with GRASP Chief Consultant and Year of the Gorilla Ambassador, Ian Redmond. Although the film did not bring home the award, the nomination was certainly a great achievement in itself given the number of entries. A preview of the movie is available on the GRASP website at <http://www.unep.org/grasp>. The Gabonese premiere of the film took place on 24 April 2009, in Libreville, at a ceremony to designate three new Ramsar Sites, presided over by Gabon's Vice Prime Minister, with several ministers and high level dignitaries present. GRASP and Ramsar personnel were on hand to answer questions about the film and discuss its implications for Gabon.

## **Year of the Gorilla activities**

- As you will recall the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) joined hands to declare 2009 the Year of the Gorilla (YoG).
- Skating on Thin Ice: To mark the beginning of the 2009 Year of the Gorilla, a troupe of skaters dressed as gorillas took to the rink at the Natural History Museum in London. (Visit <http://www.un.int/wcm/content/lang/en/pid/8308>) for the report and for the video, visit [http://latestnews.virginmedia.com/news/video/2009/01/15/gorillas skate on thin ice](http://latestnews.virginmedia.com/news/video/2009/01/15/gorillas_skate_on_thin_ice)) Gorillas on 'thin' ice marked the first awareness-building and fundraising event of the 12 month-long campaign and launched an appeal to other organizations to get involved. Numerous events have been scheduled throughout the year.
- The 2009 Year of the Gorilla Blog is now online at <http://gorilla.wildlifedirect.org>. The blog is a joint initiative between WildlifeDirect, GRASP, CMS, WAZA, PASA, Born Free Foundation, WCS, the Gorilla Organization, GTZ, and other organizations involved in gorilla conservation. The goal uniting these various organizations is to raise funds for a selection of priority gorilla field-conservation projects.
- Ian Redmond's State of the Gorilla Journey through all 10 gorilla range states began on 12 August 2009. The aim of the journey is to gain a first-hand impression of the state of the gorilla (both species and all sub-species) in the Year of the Gorilla, and share these impressions on the Wildlife Direct YoG Blog. The aim is also give the opportunity to approximately ten residents in each country, from poachers to Presidents, conservationists to loggers, and the proverbial "man or woman in the street", to speak on camera about what gorillas mean to them and what they think the UN YoG might achieve. The target for the journey is 10 countries, 100 interviews in just 5 weeks!
- The GRASP secretariat and GRID Arendal are planning a Gorilla rapid assessment Report. Potential topics include "gorilla-friendly coltan", gorillas and charcoal, the bushmeat crisis, Ebola, gorillas and conflicts, etc. Due to other commitments of our partner GRID Arendal, we will probably have a mini-launch of a limited report during the Year of the Gorilla and then the launch of a more comprehensive report in 2010.
- The International Friendly Bushmeat Awareness Football Match which was earlier scheduled for 2009 has been postponed for 2010 in the lead up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and to fall within the 2010 UN Year of Biodiversity. The project concept was presented to CAF and Supersport at the 2009 Confederations Cup in Johannesburg in a meeting held between CAF President and Chair of the 2010 World Cup Organizing Committee, Issa Hayatou and UNEP-DEPI Division Director Ibrahim Thiaw. President Hayatou was very supportive of and excited by the concept. He promised his full support, and suggested that these messages (TV, radio and in-stadia) could be shown during a mini-tournament he would like to organize for all six African teams (5 qualified teams plus South Africa as organizing country). This tournament could be organized in South Africa, where non-African teams will also be invited. President Hayatou mentioned that CAF can mobilize TV and radio channels for the cause. (See Item 8 for further background information).

**PoA Objective 4: To use a habitat and population monitoring and evaluation system to inform conservation decision-making**

- A chimpanzee survey training workshop was recently conducted by the Scientific Commission at the Tai National Park in Ivory Coast. The intensive training was taken by participants from Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Ghana Range States. The main focus was on both theoretical and practical methods of sampling, collecting and

analyzing data collected from the field. They also gained knowledge on the use of distance and mapping programs as well as on methods to monitor chimpanzee populations.

For additional information, visit:

[http://en.swoopshare.com/file/df052cdeea3646f045689941eb0cf94e/Survey+Training+Workshop+Cote+d%27Ivoire+Febr\\_Mar+2009.wmv.html](http://en.swoopshare.com/file/df052cdeea3646f045689941eb0cf94e/Survey+Training+Workshop+Cote+d%27Ivoire+Febr_Mar+2009.wmv.html)

**PoA Objective 5: To create the enabling conditions for the GRASP Partnership to achieve its objectives**

***Fundraising and grant management***

Since the last Executive Committee meeting, the GRASP secretariat has secured project funding from different donors as follows:

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount in USD</b>	<b>To be used for...</b>
Norway	1,000,000	Mayombe Forest- DRC, Congo Brazaville and Angola
Spain Ministry for Environment (contribution for 2009)	300,000	Kahuzi-Biega & Garamba National Park - DRC
Spain	1,500,000	Lifeweb Initiatives
Norway	200,000	REDD (as above)
France	134,771	For gorilla related activities, possibly Nigeria- Cameroon soccer match
United Nations Association, Sweden	18,598	General activities
UK Defra	18,416	General activities
UNEP Executive Director	250,000	GRASP partnership activities
UNEP DEPI	50,000	Gorilla Rapid Assessment Report
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,471,785</b>	

- The GRASP secretariat put MIKE (Monitoring of the illegal killing of elephants) and one of its partner organization, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), in contact in order to submitted a joint grant proposal on joint chimpanzee/elephant surveys to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal received approval and the first pilot surveys are underway in the Sapo National Park, Liberia. If these surveys reveal that joint surveys are cheaper than separate surveys, it is expected that a similar approach will be replicated in Central Africa.
- UNEP contracted an external reviewer to do an evaluation of UNEP-GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and UNEP-non-GEF projects including GRASP-EC project. GRASP project management was given the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rating by the consultant.

**Missions**

- In February 2009, Johannes Refisch participated in joint UNEP-UNHCR mission to Goma, DR Congo, to discuss the scope of a UNEP energy problem which will be designed to reduce the dependency on charcoal. As a result of this mission, and at the request of the Virunga Transboundary Core Secretariat, GRASP co-organized and co-facilitated together with the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) a Virunga regional meeting on energy

in August 2009. Recommendations of this meeting informed the proposal on energy for a UNEP grant.

- The Mayombe transboundary initiative between Angola, DR Congo and Congo Brazzaville, which was developed by GRASP and is being implemented by UNEP and IUCN recently held its first stakeholders' meeting, 16 -17 April, 2009 in Kinshasa, DR Congo. GRASP took part in this meeting that saw the development of a draft Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of a transboundary Biosphere Reserve; the formation of a Project Steering Committee; and the review and endorsement of the Mayombe project document. Johannes Refisch participated at this meeting and provided, together with Eugène Rutagarama from the International Gorilla Conservation Programme, an overview of lessons learned in the Virungas
- In April 2009, Johannes Refisch together with the WCS-Congo team undertook a field trip to Nouabalé-Ndoki, in which further discussions on a concept note for the Spanish LifeWeb Initiative were conducted.
- In May 2009, Johannes Refisch participated in a joint mission with the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-REDD team (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) and World Bank – FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) to DR Congo. The UN REDD programme was launched by the DR Congo government and the UN REDD agencies.
- The Scientific Commission met at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, in May 2009. Johannes Refisch from the secretariat attended the meeting. A major agenda item was the GRASP reporting and monitoring tool. The report from the Scientific Commission will provide more detailed information.
- In June 2009, Johannes Refisch and Johann Jenson, from the GRASP secretariat, met with key partners in Liberia (Monrovia) and Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan and Tai) to jumpstart a transboundary process for the Tai-Grebo-Sapo area and to plan the October transboundary meeting in Abidjan. Furthermore, they reviewed the Côte d'Ivoire component of the EC grant on monitoring together with the implementing partner Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and the protected area authorities. The overall impression was positive and ways on how this approach could be replicated in other West African chimpanzee range states were looked into.
- In August 2009 Johannes co-organized and co-facilitated a Virunga regional meeting on energy in Gashora, Rwanda. Results will be fed into a large scale energy proposal.

### **Announcements**

- Matt Woods, a long-time GRASP compatriot, left GRASP in April 2009 and started his own company, CarbonAfrica. He joined Johannes Refisch at the Virunga energy meeting and presented his new venture, carbon finances for energy solutions. We thank Matt for his fantastic support to the conservation of great apes.
- In May 2009, Melanie Virtue, the long-term GRASP coordinator moved on and joined the CMS secretariat in Bonn. Melanie left GRASP very healthy, and we thank her for all the work she accomplished over the years. Melanie's post was advertised in August 2009 and meanwhile, Johannes Refisch has been appointed as GRASP acting coordinator.
- In August 2009, Dr. Harry Santoso was newly appointed by the Republic of Indonesia as GRASP Focal Point. Dr. Santoso is the director of biodiversity and Conservation with the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation in the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia.
- Dr. Inza Koné, a member of GRASP's Scientific Commission, won the 2009 Future for Nature Award. GRASP congratulates Dr. Koné for this well deserved prestigious award. The chair of the Future for Nature Foundation and guest of honor Sir David Attenborough handed over

the prize during an awards ceremony on 20 March 2009 in Amsterdam. The prize rewards individuals for their internationally outstanding species protection efforts and comes with a grant of €50,000. Dr. Koné holds a PhD. in Animal Ecology from the University of Cocody in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. For additional information on this awards, Visit [http://www.futurefornature.net/award\\_winners](http://www.futurefornature.net/award_winners).

**Action Points arising from the 4th GRASP Executive Committee Meeting (26-27 November 2008, Rome)**

**10 – 11 September 2009**

<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Primary Responsibility</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Status</b> (as at September 09)
1. Secretariat to send hard copies of <i>Plan it for the Apes: GRASP Activity and Finance Plan</i> to all members	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done
2. Secretariat to make REDD and HCVF reports available to Ex Com members	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done
3. Secretariat to keep Ex Com updated on progress of soccer match, including monitoring plan.	Secretariat	ongoing	Done
4. Secretariat to send 2 <sup>nd</sup> EC project progress report to all project partner NGOs, and make available to the wider partnership online.	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done
5. Future TST reports to follow the PoA format.	TST	As required	Done
6. Sci Com chair and Secretariat to find suitable date and location then organise meeting of the scientific commission by mid 2009.	Sci Com	31 Jan 09	Done
7. Secretariat to follow-up with UNEP finance staff on EC payments, as a matter of urgency.	Secretariat	31 Dec 08	Done
8. TST and West Africa FP, with assistance from Secretariat, to work together to prepare a draft budget for a modest FP meeting in Guinea, and provided funding is available, organise such a meeting within 2009. This meeting should be linked to an ongoing activity such as the monitoring meeting organized by the Scientific Commission.	TST	First steps by 1 March 09	Done
9. Secretariat to enhance communication with the Ex Com and wider partnership throughout the year.	Secretariat	ongoing	Done
10. TST to provide UK with briefing on the proposed ecotourism initiative.	TST	31 Jan 09	Done
11. Secretariat to inform new and prospective partners accordingly	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done
12. Secretariat to improve Partnership application forms on website, to ensure all prospective partners are aware of and comply with the partnership criteria which forms the annex to the Rules of the Partnership.	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done
13. Secretariat to identify planned meetings with which the next Council meeting could be co-hosted.	Secretariat	31 March 09	In progress
14. Secretariat to make cost estimate of Council meeting and fundraising plan.	Secretariat	Before next Ex Com	In progress

15. Secretariat to organise next Ex Com meeting as directed	Secretariat	May- June 09	Done
16. Secretariat to inform UNEP management of committee's concerns regarding secretariat time	Secretariat	31 Dec 08	Done
17. Secretariat to add question to partners' application form	Secretariat	31 Jan 09	Done