



Update from the 2007 Brainstorming

Item 4a (En)

GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
10 - 11 September 2009

A. Great Apes & Climate Change:

Economic incentives for the conservation of great ape habitats

- **The overall aim of this project is to compare scenarios for economic incentives in different regions, with different threat scenarios, and to explore how a bundled Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme including REDD (Reduced Emissions through deforestation and degradation) could outcompete various forms of unsustainable land use.**
- 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.
- In the meantime, project activities for the Indonesian component are underway in Tripa and Batang Toru. In cooperation with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the PanEco Foundation's Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) will look at carbon stock and flow, local livelihoods and ecosystem scenarios and predictions. In addition, PanEco will develop and launch an atlas entitled "The Sumatran Orangutan – gardener of carbon-rich ecosystems", that will map out the positive relationship between orangutan habitat and forest carbon storage and on other ecosystem services (e.g. watershed, humidity for agriculture) and describe the associated threats and trends.
- A major focus of the initiative is to achieve "multiple benefits" from climate change mitigation through avoided emissions from deforestation. There is potential for REDD interventions to contribute to biodiversity conservation, water resource protection and community livelihoods, among others, but the extent to which this is feasible needs to be tested and up-scaled in key countries, with lessons for the global dialogue on forests and climate change.
- This initiative is providing GRASP with a good opportunity to influence UN agencies, the World Bank and governments to prioritize biodiversity (including ape) benefits from REDD.

Indonesia, which receives support from this project, is also a pilot country under a new, wider UN REDD Programme (UNDP, FAO, UNEP) that will bring additional resources to mitigating tropical-forest related greenhouse gas emissions, and we anticipate that some of this will also benefit great ape sites.

UNEP/GRASP's added value on the global scale is in prioritizing multiple benefit approaches in areas key for biodiversity, and in ensuring that climate change negotiators are aware of the early environmentally and socially positive results of national/site level actions. At the country level, UNEP's involvement provides decision makers with sound data on different land-use scenarios and alternatives to unsustainable forms of land-use.

Additional activities in the Great Apes & Climate Change thematic area have also been undertaken and are ongoing:

In May 2009 GRASP participated in a joint UN- REDD-World Bank mission to DR Congo. The objective of the mission was to launch the UN – REDD programme in DR Congo and to agree together with stakeholders and the national REDD office on the next steps in implementing the REDD programme. DR Congo is one of three African UN REDD pilot countries, which is also participating in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) programme. UN REDD and FCPF are developing a mechanism which allows forest-rich countries to benefit from REDD. GRASP's motivation for participating in UN REDD is fuelled by the unique chance to channel carbon funds towards the conservation of great ape habitat and to include multiple benefits into the UN REDD process.