



2010 GRASP Council meeting

Item 5(En)

GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
10 - 11 September 2009

The first Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the first GRASP Council meeting was convened in September 2005 in Kinshasa, DR Congo. At the Intergovernmental meeting, Ministers, representatives of the biodiversity-related conventions, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and private sector representatives signed the Kinshasa declaration. Participants also adopted a global strategy for the survival of great apes, a set of rules to govern the GRASP partnership, and a workplan. At the council meeting, the members of the Executive committee were also elected.

It has now been four years since Kinshasa and there are a number of reasons to convene a GRASP Council meeting in 2010:

1. The GRASP council selects the members of the GRASP ExCom. Since the Council meeting in 2005, the mandate of the ExCom members has not been renewed.
2. At the Kinshasa meeting in 2005 the GRASP 2010 targets were adopted. GRASP should review its 2010 targets. The Council would be an excellent platform to discuss the review and decide on a way forward.
3. A discussion on a GRASP reporting and monitoring tool and its inclusion into the GRASP rules is needed. A physical meeting of all GRASP partners would help to reach agreement on the adoption of the reporting and monitoring tool and would strengthen the partnership. With a formal adoption of the tool, all GRASP partners would agree to provide data to the monitoring teams and to fully participate in the monitoring efforts.
4. Conduct an Evaluation of the entire GRASP partnership and discuss results at the council.
5. A Council meeting is one of the few opportunities where the larger partnership (donors and range states) can meet, and can build momentum and donor support.
6. 2010 is the year of biodiversity; it would be a good opportunity to use the council meeting as a platform to launch an appeal or campaign for the conservation of great apes.

The organization of a GRASP council meeting requires significant financial resources. The Kinshasa meeting was attended by 200 international participants, 18 of the great ape range states were present, 9 of these were ministerial level delegations. The meeting cost USD 320,000. A breakdown of the budget follows:

Budget line	Expenses in USD
Salaries consultants	18,865
International Travel	11,722.40
Per diems	154,000

Conference services salaries	64,708
Conference services rental	10,320
Equipment	4200
Reporting and publication	20880.7
Unknown item, covered by UNESCO	30,000
Total	280,000

To provide comparative figures, UNEP convened an intergovernmental meeting on Payment for Ecosystem Services in Malaysia earlier this year, 300 senior participants including 6 ministers and delegations from 78 countries participated. Translation was provided into 6 UN languages and the meetings costs a total of USD 800,000, of which USD 154,000 was covered by Malaysia.

To be on the safe side, we should calculate a minimum of USD 350,000 USD for the GRASP council meeting, of which a certain portion could be covered by the host country. We also should consider a budget for preparations, and this would include a review of the GRASP 2010 targets, the further development of the GRASP reporting & monitoring tool and the evaluation of the partnership.