



Concept note for Review of GRASP

Item 6(En)

GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
10 - 11 September 2009

Background

Regarding the conservation crisis of many great ape populations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched GRASP in May 2001 in order to respond to the crisis and to lift the threat of imminent extinction of great ape population.

GRASP was joined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in September 2002 when GRASP became a fully operational World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type II Partnership. Following an initial growth phase of partnership consolidation, advisory support to national planning for great ape conservation by individual range states, and funding of “quick win” field projects, an intergovernmental preparatory meeting was held in November 2003 in Paris, attracting considerable global attention. Subsequently the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosted the first Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes in Kinshasa in September 2005, which resulted in new political commitment to great ape conservation and GRASP objectives. In early 2006, a Programme of Action (PoA) was drawn up as a framework for GRASP and its partners to achieve the objectives laid out in the Kinshasa Declaration. The purpose of this Activity Plan is to define what the core GRASP institutions (Scientific Commission, Executive Committee, Technical Support Team and Secretariat) will do to contribute towards the fulfilment of these objectives over the next five years and identify funding targets for implementation.

Now, with a few years of consolidation, an increase in funding level and a move from “quick – win” projects to clusters of activities around big ideas, GRASP is reaching year 5 after the Kinshasa declaration and will soon review its 2010 targets.

Purpose

This is a good opportunity to analyse what went well over the past five years, what were the challenges, and what might be the best institutional arrangement to achieve GRASP objectives. The mid-term Review is intended to be the basis for a new GRASP strategy and the recommendations will be presented to the GRASP Council.

Scope of 2010 Mid-term Review

The review will look at three elements:

1. What is the **impact** of GRASP?
2. Are the activities **relevant** for the implementation of the GRASP PoA?
3. Are the activities **effective** and **efficient**?

For this review exercise, projects, products, and activities undertaken since the adoption of the Kinshasa declaration and the institutional arrangements will be analysed.

Approach

A “Task Force” consisting of UNEP, members of the Executive Committee, and resource people in the partnership, will steer the process. It is obvious that we cannot evaluate all GRASP activities, nor the situation in all range states, therefore it will be important to identify the right mix of projects (case studies), type activities (law enforcement, PES, monitoring, policy development, etc.), level (national, regional, global), great ape species and region. The review will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase will focus on a desk study and phone interviews:

- Review and assess progress of GRASP activities, examine allocation of resources and analyse challenges and opportunities faced by the GRASP organs and implementing partners
 1. Examine the portfolio of GRASP activities
 2. Use existing reviews and project documents to assess how GRASP activities contributed to implement the PoA.
 3. Examine how activities with other partners including UN agencies have contributed to implement the PoA.
 4. Interview key resource people in the GRASP partnership including the GRASP organs

The second phase will consist of country visits. The review team will visit selected projects and interview key persons in selected countries to assess the impact of GRASP activities (including, if relevant, partnership activities) in achieving GRASP objectives.

These three principles (**process-orientation**, **selectivity**, and in **phases**) will guide the review exercise,.

Time Frame

The next steps are the following:

1. Discuss and reach consensus on whether to conduct a review of GRASP (Sep 10-11 2009)
2. Inputs from the ExCom on this concept note (October 15 2009)
3. Establishment of a Task Force (October 31 2009)
4. Finalise ToRs and budget
5. Assemble Review Team (December 31 2009)
6. Phase I: Desk study and Interviews (February 29 2009)
7. Phase II: Country visits (April 30 2009)
8. Draft Report (May 31 2009)
9. Review of the draft report (June 30 2009)
10. Final report (July 31 2009)
11. Presentation of the report at the Council meeting in late 2010