

GRASP PROGRAMME OF ACTION (2006-2007)

12-Apr-06

GRASP Goal:	The GRASP Partnership has, as an immediate challenge, to lift the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes	
GRASP long-term targets:	(a) Secure a constant and significant reduction in the rate of loss of great ape populations and their forest habitat by 2010 (b) Secure the future of all wild species and subspecies by 2015	
- Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes		
GRASP 5-yr objectives:		5-yr Indicators
1	<p>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</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> this is clearly the key objective by which GRASP's overall success should be evaluated. The focus is on the two key quantitative indicators that define how many of the priority populations and habitat areas are stabilized from further decline and sustainably managed and protected. The outputs that would address this objective include the need for improved baseline information on populations, habitats and threats. Management strategies for these key populations must be developed and approved by local stakeholders and national agencies. The key threats of habitat conversion, hunting and other law enforcement issues and disease need mitigation for these targets to be reached.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50% of priority great ape populations are demonstrably secure; - Rate of loss of other populations (95%) significantly reduced
2	<p>To increase great ape habitat in protected areas by 20% and eliminate habitat loss and population decline within protected areas</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> this objective recognizes the essential role that protected areas play in conservation. The quantitative target can be reached by the shifting the boundaries of protected areas to include more habitat of populations that spill over into adjacent land, or by gazettement new protected areas. Site-specific strategies for improved law enforcement and patrolling need support. Some of these might involve models that encourage local community involvement, which are needed to safeguard the boundaries of protected areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected areas in great ape habitat expanded and security improved; - Rate of loss of great apes reduced relative to 2005
3	<p>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</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> most of the habitat supporting the priority great ape populations is outside of protected areas. New models are necessary to allow economic use of forest habitat while safeguarding their conservation functions. These should be defined and evaluated in workshops, pilot projects and cross-site analyses. Good models should</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New models implemented that combine great ape conservation benefits with development benefits - Selected development activities impacting great apes contain mitigation strategies
4	<p>To use a habitat and population monitoring and evaluation system to inform conservation decision-making</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> a geo-referenced database should be established to catalogue and monitor changes great ape populations and habitats. This is clearly essential to measure and evaluate progress towards objectives 1 & 2. The database can also help evaluate the success of different conservation strategies and investments, and provide local and national stakeholders with reliable land use planning information. The scientific objectivity of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and evaluation system established - Outputs of monitoring and evaluation utilized by decision-makers to benefit of great apes
5	<p>To provide the enabling conditions for the GRASP Partnership to achieve its objectives</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> the outcomes defined under this objective indicate that the different bodies of GRASP not only fulfill their responsibilities, but expand the role that GRASP plays in raising public awareness and international policies on behalf of great ape conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP accepted as the authoritative advisor on policies affecting survival of great apes and their habitat; - Funding secured to achieve objectives - GRASP rules observed & internal functions maintained

	GRASP 2-yr outcomes:	Suggested 2-yr Indicators	Assumptions	Responsibility
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%			
1a	All significant great ape habitat defined and a set of priority populations identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of criteria; - Population database in place; - Maps and list of priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient data exists or can be obtained; - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - TSTs; - GRASP Partners
1b	Management strategies for priority great ape populations are developed where necessary and adopted by national authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline mgt strategies developed for at least 50% of populations that currently lack them; - Full mgt strategies developed for at least 20% of populations; - Mgt strategies adopted for at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Technical expertise available; - Political stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - TSTs; - GRASP Partners
1c	Priority great ape population and habitat priorities are integrated in national conservation and development plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All nat'l great ape conservation plans reflect focus on priority populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - TSTs
1d	Impacts of zoonotic diseases on great ape populations better understood and mitigating measures taken where feasible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline data available on health status of wild great ape populations; - Data available on causes of great ape mortality; - Data available on possible transmission mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with medical research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Scientific Commission
1e	National and international legislation relating to great apes reviewed and tightened if necessary, and enforcement of existing legislation improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in legislation relating to great ape conservation; - Strengthened or additional international agreements in place to conserve great apes; - Partner-specific indicators based on law enforcement statistics, incl. number of prosecutions; - Updated surveys from selected sites to monitor progress against baseline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing legislation protecting great apes needs tightening in some cases; - Increased law enforcement effort will result in decrease in illegal activity; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Funding available; - Political stability - Co-operation of legal system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Secretariat

	GRASP 2-yr outcomes:	Suggested 2-yr Indicators	Assumptions	Responsibility
Objective 2:	To increase great ape habitat in protected areas by 20% and eliminate habitat loss and population decline within protected areas			
2a	Gaps in existing protected area networks identified and new protected areas proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparative analysis of priority habitat and population data and existing protected area coverage; - Proportion of great ape population and habitat included in PAs; - Number of gazetted protected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data available; - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners; - TSTs
2b	Law enforcement improved in existing protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site-specific indicators, e.g. anti-poaching effort, number of prosecutions, poaching incidents, encroachments, confiscations, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased law enforcement effort will result in decrease in illegal activity; - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Political stability; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - UNEP / UNESCO
2c	Integrity and extent of protected areas in great ape habitat maintained or increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National legislation; - Remote-sensing data; - Ground-truthing and field reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Political stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners; - UNESCO
2d	Capacity of protected area personnel to safeguard great ape populations and habitat increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training activities conducted; - Site-specific indicators, e.g. equipment/supplies available, patrols, staff numbers... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Political stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Secretariat
2e	Increased involvement, where appropriate, of indigenous and local peoples in protected area management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community representation on mgt committees; - Agreements btw communities and PAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Appropriate legal / management framework in place; - Political stability; - Involvement will lead to reduced pressures on great apes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Secretariat

	GRASP 2-yr outcomes:	Suggested 2-yr Indicators	Assumptions	Responsibility
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			
3a	Models developed for mixed conservation and economic use outside protected areas that do not adversely affect great ape habitats and populations (e.g. FSC, NTFP, eco-tourism, payments for ecosystem services, carbon offsets, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasibility studies conducted to identify potential sites for dev't of models - Data collected on potential models and economic models developed - Workshops/reports evaluating models; - Models developed benefit local communities through improved livelihoods; - Models used by Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing economic values of great apes can be substituted by more sustainable model; - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Models exist / can be developed; - Information on models disseminated effectively; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Scientific Commission; - Secretariat
3b	Mitigation measures proposed and implemented for development activities affecting priority great ape populations and habitat outside protected areas (i.e. buffer zones, integrated conservation and development activities, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot project(s) developed or supported; - Mitigation proposals developed for existing dev't activities; - New development activities include mitigation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Engagement from development sector; - Potential impacts identified and disseminated to decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Secretariat
3c	Feasibility assessed of developing innovative funding mechanisms based on economic valuation of great ape habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collected on potential funding mechanisms; - Assessment report on relevance for GRASP Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRASP Partners; - Secretariat / UNEP; - Executive Committee

	GRASP 2-yr outcomes:	Suggested 2-yr Indicators	Assumptions	Responsibility
Objective 4:	To use a habitat and population monitoring and evaluation system to inform conservation decision-making			
4a	Geo-referenced baseline information obtained on great ape populations and habitat as basis for long-term monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field surveys conducted; - Remote sensing data obtained; - Bio-monitoring teams established; - Agreement reached on data-sharing and data-access protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Sufficient data available / gatherable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners; - UNESCO
4b	Information about temporal and spatial changes in great ape populations and habitats continually updated and made accessible to all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field data collected and national capacity enhanced; - Remote sensing imagery analysed; - Trend information produced and disseminated; - Key stakeholders able to access and use information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Political stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners; - UNESCO; - TSTs
4c	Monitoring and evaluation of great ape conservation activities influences conservation decision-makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparable data on great apes and conservation interventions collected and analysed; - Reports and recommendations issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners; - UNESCO
4d	GIS and remote sensing information used to inform land use planning for conservation of priority great ape habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote sensing data available; - GIS analyses conducted with stakeholders and results disseminated; - Land use planning decisions take great ape priority habitats into account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding available; - Engagement from Land Use Planning decision makers; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Commission; - GRASP Partners

	GRASP 2-yr outcomes:	Suggested 2-yr Indicators	Assumptions	Responsibility
Objective 5:	To create the enabling conditions for the GRASP Partnership to achieve its objectives			
5a	Executive Committee, Scientific Commission, Secretariat and Technical Support Teams facilitate achievement of GRASP objectives	- Workplans compiled and executed; - Clear TORs compiled, approved and observed; - Reporting and decision-making hierarchy applied effectively	- GRASP Rules respected; - Funding available	- Executive Committee; - Scientific Commission; - Secretariat; - TSTs
5b	GRASP national Focal Points facilitate achievement of GRASP objectives	- Guidelines developed for FPs; - Focal points operational	- Focal Points supported by range state government budgets; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - FPs supported by TSTs	- GRASP Partners; - Secretariat; - TSTs
5c	GRASP priorities influence implementation of MEAs and other international mechanisms	- MEA decisions, programmes and activities reflect GRASP priorities	- Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated effectively	- Executive Committee; - Secretariat; - GRASP Partners (especially MEAs)
5d	GRASP priorities inform decisions of national and international finance, development and other institutions	- High-level engagement established; - Number of decisions influenced	- Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated; - Engagement of international community	- Patrons; - Executive Committee; - UNEP / UNESCO; - GRASP Partners
5e	New and additional funds raised for implementation of GRASP objectives	- Procedures formulated; - Funding proposals developed, reviewed and submitted; - Funds raised	- Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - International recognition of the the importance of GRASP	- Executive Committee; - Secretariat; - GRASP Partners; - Patrons; - Scientific Commission
5f	Public and political awareness of great ape conservation issues increased	- Education projects; - Level of press/media coverage; - Website hits	- Funding available; - Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - Media interest in GRASP	- Secretariat; - GRASP Partners - Patrons;
5g	GRASP priorities influence programs and activities of GRASP Partners	- Two-yrly Partner reports to GRASP Council	- Full GRASP Partnership buy-in; - GRASP priorities identified and disseminated effectively	- Secretariat; - GRASP Partners

The above format will serve as the framework for GRASP-related activities conducted by Partners, Secretariat, Scientific Commission, TSTs, etc., between January 1, 2006 and the next GRASP Council meeting in ~2 yrs' time. Designating their own activities to achieve the outcomes within their countries or programs will be up to individual Partners. The roles of the Secretariat, Scientific Commission and TSTs in achieving the outcomes and, where appropriate, coordinating the activities of multiple Partners, will be reflected in annual workplans to be approved by the Executive Committee. Annual workplans should specify activities to be conducted to achieve the desired outcomes.