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UNEP GREAT APES SURVIVAL PROJECT (GRASP) PARTNERSHIP

OUTLINE WORK PLAN, 2003-2007

Preamble

The following is a discussion document and sets out the Great Ape Survival Project's 2003 to 2007 work plan and illustrates how the Targets, Outputs and Key Activities may be co-ordinated by GRASP, the great ape range states and GRASP Partners.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership has an immediate challenge to lift the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes, namely gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees) and orangutans. Our mission is to work, as a coherent partnership, with range state governments and partners to conserve viable, wild populations of every kind of great ape, and to make sure that, where they interact with people, those interactions are mutually positive and sustainable. We also seek to exemplify and relieve the threats faced by other kinds of animals, birds and plants sharing the forests where apes survive, and to illustrate what can be achieved through a genuine partnership between all the stakeholders in these fragile ecosystems.

GOALS

The Long-term Goal: Viable populations of all species and subspecies of great apes are conserved in their natural habitats² and across their range.

¹ The need was identified for a synchronisation of the workplan and the strategy, and for changes in the Survival Strategy for Great Apes to be reflected in the workplan.

² In situ conservation is the focus of GRASP, however other types of conservation measures should not be excluded if contributing to the *in situ* goal

The Programme Goal (over 5 years): Improve the conservation status of viable populations of each sub-species of great apes (at least 4 populations of each sub-species, where these exist).

Indicators for programme goal may include issues such as:

- ape population levels (e.g.: selected populations in 2007 show no decline, or increase from initial levels measured in 2003-4.);
- area of habitat protected (e.g.: area of ape habitat under formal protection in 2007 greater than in 2003);
- number of local communities involved in ape conservation projects (e.g.: by 2007, at least 10 communities involved in ape conservation projects that had not been in 2003).

TARGETS, OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES³

Note: The following Outputs may be updated and amended periodically by the GRASP Committee with approval from the GRASP Council, when and if it is considered appropriate to do so. It is foreseen that each range state government becomes fully involved in the implementation of the work programme.⁴

Target 1 (Partnerships): Through Partnerships, improve or make a substantial positive contribution to great ape conservation in at least 18⁵ great ape range states by 2007

Output 1.1: At least 18 great ape range states and at least 25 non-governmental organisations working together towards GRASP's mission by 2005

- Conduct missions to establish partnerships with the 21 ape range states in Africa, and the two in Asia
- Reinforce cooperation between the two sponsoring agencies and the four wildlife related conventions (WHC, CITES, CBD, and CMS)
- Establish close relationship with the Great Ape Advisory Panel of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group to help develop and implement a scientific body to co-ordinate the scientific and technical input to GRASP
- Establish working relationships (including MOUs as appropriate) with 25 NGO partners (some of which carry out GRASP-supported conservation projects on the ground)
- Organise inter-governmental conference with participation of a full range of stakeholders including NGOs
- Stimulate support for GRASP among governments in non-range states, from the charitable sector and private commercial bodies
- Establish working relationships with the private sector, such as the tourism and resource extraction industries

Output 1.2: GRASP working to conserve apes through local organisations and communities in at least 15 ape range states by 2006

³ Prioritising between the different outputs and activities will be overseen by the appropriate body, determined by the constitution

⁴ Specific needs and gaps in key areas, including legal, policy and institutional issues, will need to be identified at all levels.

⁵ In setting quantitative targets we have attempted to set optimistic but hopefully realistic targets.

- Expand the number of active partners to include local bodies such as those working with people living in and around ape habitats, and having a significant impact on those habitats or populations, as identified at national level

Target 2 (Awareness): Relevant information on great ape conservation being used for decision-making locally, nationally and internationally, including in at least 15 range states, by 2007

Output 2.1: Improved understanding of the importance and benefits of conserving great apes among range state governments and their people by 2007⁶

- Send diplomatic missions to range states to raise the profile of great ape conservation on the political agenda
- Send technical missions to range states to support and develop the implementation of the NGASP process within each range state
- Implement education and public information campaigns in range states to raise the profile and understanding of the problems facing great apes and the need to conserve them
- Implement information, education, communication projects in and around areas harbouring great apes

Output 2.2: Improved understanding of the importance of conserving great apes among people living outside range states by 2005

- Promote GRASP's message through press events, publications, the internet, film, radio and television
- Develop a communication strategy to optimise awareness-raising efforts

Output 2.3: Information on great apes provided to decision-makers in at least 21 states and 10 intergovernmental organisations by 2007

- Produce and disseminate technical and publicity materials on the populations and habitats of great apes, the threats they face, and the measures already being taken to alleviate them through the publication of the World Atlas of the Great Apes
- Produce international awareness raising and educational publications for GRASP, such as public service advertisements
- Undertake collaborative activities with multi-lateral agencies such as the EU and World Bank to improve support for great apes and their habitats and reduce activities by such agencies that increase the risk to great ape populations

Target 3 (Capacity): Capacity to conserve great apes and their habitats strengthened in at least 18 range states by 2007⁷

Output 3.1: By 2007, at least 18 range states have developed and started implementing National Great Apes Survival Plans

⁶ It was noted in the Paris working group on this document that the attitudes of tour operators and bushmeat consumers are important targeted indicators for this output.

⁷ Capacity building efforts should be directed at diverse target groups including judiciaries, police and customs officers, parliamentarians and others.

- Organise missions to each range state to study the problems and to consult governments and other stakeholders in order to highlight the urgent needs and longer term requirements for maintaining viable ape populations and improving the quality of life of people living alongside them
- Develop and promote an effective NGASP workshop structure suitable to the needs of the range states, and incorporating needs assessment, priority setting and identification of partners at the national level
- Encourage, facilitate and provide technical and financial support to range states in development and implementation of National Great Ape Survival Plans
- Provide training for NGASP planning and implementation to range state nationals (staff from government and non-governmental organisations, national park employees, local villagers, etc.)
- Link NGASPs to wider planning mechanisms including those under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other multilateral agreements to protect populations of great apes

Output 3.2: Knowledge and experience of modern law enforcement techniques improved in at least 5 range states by 2006⁸

- Support training of anti-poaching teams
- Support training of customs officials in wildlife related legislation and identification of great ape products

Output 3.3: Technical capacity developed for management of protected areas with apes in at least 5 range states by 2007

- Assist range state governments and local authorities as appropriate in recruitment, training and deployment of protected area staff in great ape range

Output 3.4: Scientific expertise on great apes strengthened in at least 4 range states by 2005

- Support African and Asian postgraduate training on great ape conservation biology, survey techniques, and conservation
- Provide grants to African and Asian biologists for applied research on key great ape populations
- Support veterinarian field programmes in great ape disease issues

Target 4 (Projects): Pilot field projects conserving great ape populations established in at least 18 range states by 2007

Output 4.1: Great apes conserved through at least 15 pilot projects undertaken by partner agencies in co-operation with range state governments

- Develop and implement pilot projects with partners

Projects should exemplify GRASP's core principles and objectives by providing opportunities, for instance, to:

⁸ Capacity building efforts should make appropriate use of existing training organisations in range states and elsewhere.

- establish monitoring systems to ensure projects deliver tangible benefits
- ensure local communities and the private sector are involved in pilot project planning and implementation
- establish projects in collaboration with UNESCO MAB and WHC, and UNEP
- work with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to combat the smuggling of apes for human consumption or sale as live specimens
- link biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and peace-building where appropriate
- support the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the debate on the effects of the bushmeat trade on biodiversity resources and in considering how best to integrate ape conservation with wider biodiversity management frameworks (particularly through their forest biodiversity programme of work) in the individual range states
- integrate with other relevant initiatives such as the Durban process, AFLEG, etc.
- encourage further investment in areas with unrealised potential for ecotourism, so giving local people a permanent stake in the conservation of ape habitats
- recognise great apes as keystone species and as flagships for their habitats and other wildlife that live with them
- work with private companies to stop the over-exploitation of forests (mainly for timber, bushmeat, or minerals) and mitigate damaging impacts, ploughing back resources into conservation and local communities (e.g. convene GRASP conference with extractive industry representatives)
- address NGASP recommendations
- support transboundary conservation efforts
- develop synergies among current initiatives and avoid duplication of existing activities
- involve relevant partners in the implementation of the workplan

Examples of such projects might include those which:

- address the effects on gorillas, chimpanzees and other African wildlife of uncontrolled mining for coltan, gold, diamonds and other minerals
- support projects that address the impact of illegal logging and mining on orangutan populations in Sumatra and Borneo
- work with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to strengthen transboundary co-operation (perhaps under an Article IV accord) between Eastern gorilla range states (Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo)

Output 4.2: Conservation initiatives of mutual benefit to communities⁹ and great apes developed and implemented with local people in at least 10 range states by 2007

- Support community-based projects that protect the forest ecosystem and help people as well as wildlife (e.g. supply people with essentials such as water, food, medicine, building materials, soil and fuel, provide alternative sources of income) or wildlife/human conflict resolution
- Increase the focus on the human dimension of GRASP by, for example, working with eco-tourism operators to ensure that revenues generated benefit local communities

Output 4.3: Lessons from successful projects replicated at more than 5 other sites from 2006

- Disseminate project reports
- Hold lesson sharing workshops and arrange exchange visits
- Support projects that replicate successful pilots

⁹ Special note has been made of the importance of forest dwelling communities in this respect.

Target 5 (Fund-raising): Previously untapped financial resources being used to support great ape conservation from 2004

Output 5.1: From 2004, GRASP fund-raising campaigns provide new funds for ape conservation and for the indigenous people who depend on the same forests

- Develop an appropriate and effective fund-raising strategy that takes advantage of UNEP's and UNESCO's added value, addresses challenges and ethical considerations, and takes account of individual partners' rights/wishes to continue to fund-raise separately
- Secure funds from UNEP and UNESCO's member states
- Secure funds from foundations and the private sector