



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Our Ref: DEPI/MV/MW

6 February 2007

Dear Dr. Bridgewater,

I am pleased to refer to your letter of 6 February 2007 proposing cooperation between the Ramsar Secretariat and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership. As UNEP provides in part the Secretariat for GRASP, I am happy to agree in principle to UNEP's collaboration with Ramsar to benefit wetland areas of importance to great apes.

We are in full concurrence with the collaborative activities suggested in your letter in support of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan, the *UNEP Programme of Work 2006-2007 and 2007-2008* and the *GRASP Programme of Action 2006-2007*. I take the opportunity to reiterate below the proposed joint actions.

The Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP will seek to develop collaborative opportunities for sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management within the framework of their existing strategic plans. Such items include:

- The Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will cooperate to provide assistance for the elaboration of management plans in Ramsar sites with great apes. Candidate sites include: Iles Tristao and Niger-Mafou Ramsar sites in Guinea; and the Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-Herbes site in the Republic of Congo; as well as Danau Sentarum Ramsar Site in Indonesia.
- The GRASP Secretariat will contribute to, and assist with documentation and processes towards the designation of new Ramsar Sites with great apes habitat, notably in the Congo Basin region (Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon) and in Indonesia.
- When feasible, the Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will identify and contribute to/carry out projects in or around transboundary sites with great apes habitat.
- When feasible, the Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will cooperate towards capacity development of Ramsar and GRASP focal points and site managers, in relevant countries, on great apes and wetland management.

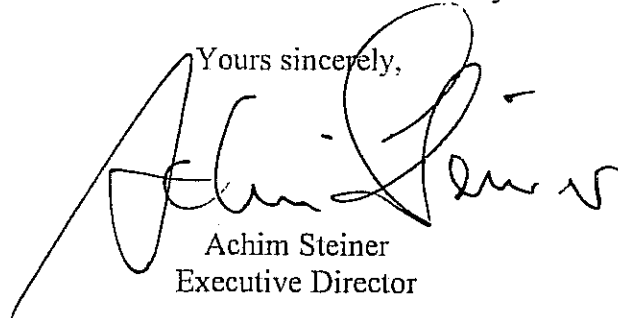
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Dr. Peter Bridgewater  
Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  
Rue Mauverney 28  
CH-1196 GLAND  
Switzerland

- Resources permitting, the GRASP Secretariat will contribute to the development and production of information material on Ramsar Sites important for great apes.
- The Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will inform their respective constituencies of their collaboration, notably through links on their web sites.

I am in agreement that this approach will lead to increased effectiveness of both the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP, in areas of mutual activity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Achim Steiner', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Achim Steiner  
Executive Director