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AND ENVIRONMENT

REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
Unity- labour - progress

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF  
ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT GRASP CONGO

GRASP

**Great Apes Survival Project**

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**FOR THE SURVIVAL OF GREAT APES**

**CONGO BRAZZAVILLE**

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## INTRODUCTION

The situation of great apes - gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodites troglodites*), bonobo or pygmy chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*) and orangutan (*Pongo pymaeus*) - is very shocking. The ape populations are falling at an alarming rate and the decline is continuing throughout their range. The three main factors leading to the rapid decline of ape populations are: degradation of their habitats, illegal hunting and the emergence of diseases such as the hemorrhagic fever of the Ebola virus.

An added threat is the weak collaboration between the administrative body responsible for ape conservation and other government institutions (justice, customs, police force, etc...). On a global level, only 23 countries still shelter populations of great apes living in their natural environment.

Over the last decade, well known scientists such as Dr. Jane Goodall, Lisa Ucota and Dr. D. Wilkie, have published reports on the disappearance of great apes in the past 20 years.

For these reasons, the efforts of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) are directed towards the safeguarding of these species, through coordination of national plans of action throughout their range and funding relevant research

## I- GRASP OUTLINE

### 1 History

Due to the multiple threats to great apes and the lack of coordinated effort at the international level, in 2001 UNEP launched the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP). GRASP is a unique partnership between UNEP, UNESCO, the biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), national and international nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

### 1.2. Missions

The missions of GRASP are:

- To lift the threat of imminent extinction facing the majority of great ape populations;
- To preserve great ape populations in their natural habitats and to make sure that their interactions with humans are mutually beneficial and sustainable;
- To lift the threats faced by other fauna and flora species sharing the same ecosystems with great apes;
- To establish a true partnership between the parties involved in the management of the fragile ecosystems sheltering great apes.

### 1.3 Aim of the GRASP Partnership

The goal of GRASP is to create the conditions necessary for the conservation of populations of all species and subspecies of great apes in their natural habitat.

## **1.4. General and specific objectives**

### **1.4.1 General objectives**

The general objectives of the GRASP are:

- To promote a global strategy for conservation in order to preserve the populations of wild great apes and their habitat.
- Develop partnerships with inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, range state governments and non-range states, foundations, enterprises and industries as well as local, scientific and academic communities.

### **1.4.2. Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of GRASP are:

- To encourage the range states to develop and implement national plans for the survival of great apes;
- To harmonize the legal framework in the countries involved in the conservation of great apes and their habitats;
- Develop the network of protected areas by including the great apes habitats in the range states;
- To encourage countries to ratify relevant conventions and agreements relating to the conservation of great apes and the eradication of their illegal trade;
- To stimulate and carry out scientific research aimed towards producing useful information on great apes and their habitats, and to distribute them in the most accessible form;
- To promote the development and the transfer of advanced technologies, and optimal practice training schemes in the range states and between the interested partners and the other parties;
- To promote programs of integrated development emphasizing the participation of local and indigenous communities living in and around the habitats of great apes and protected areas;
- To recognize the importance of the human dimension in the conservation of great apes and to support initiatives that guarantee incomes;
- To generate new and additional funds for the conservation of great apes and their habitats;
- To cooperate and share experiences with other relevant organizations, including partner organizations to the United Nations, and partnerships under the title of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

## **II - COUNTRY PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Located on the equator, Congo covers a surface area of 342,000km<sup>2</sup> .

To the north it borders Cameroon and the Central African Republic, to the south Angola (the enclave of Cabinda), to the east the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the west Gabon and the Atlantic Ocean.

## 2.1. Climate

The general climate patterns are:

- "Guinean forest climate" - rainfall patterns are similar to the southern hemisphere (dry season between May and September). A rainy season, from October to May, characterized by a prolonged days of downpours combined with sunny and hot days (34°C). The highest rainfall is observed in April with a maximum of 2000mm (anonymous 2003);
- Subequatorial- wet tropical climate in the southern zone (1200-1700 mm of rain per annum with a dry season of 4 -5 months);
- Subequatorial- in central Congo(1600 – 1800/2000 mm with a dry season of 1 – 3 months) and;
- Equatorial- in the north (1600 to 1800 mm of rain/year with an absence of dry month lower than 50 mm of rain).

The annual average temperatures range between 23°C and 27°C. Close to the Central African Republic border, the rainfall of the northern hemisphere predominates, with a dry season between December and February.

## 2.2 Soils

There are various types of soils, but mainly hydromorphic ground under flooded forests in the Congolese watershed and ferralitic soils in the remainder of the territory.

## 2.3. Vegetation

Congolese vegetation comprises mostly of forests and savannah grasslands .

Forest zones cover nearly 20 million hectares, that is two thirds of the national territory, and also represents 10% of the whole African dense humid forests.

They are distributed along three main ranges: The Mayombe (2million ha), the Chaillu (3 million ha) and north Congo (15 million ha) which has dense virgin forests and heavy rainfall which sometimes causes floods.

The savannah grasslands cover nearly 1/3 of the national territory, approximately 12 million hectares, intersected by gallery forest in the valleys and along rivers.

## 2.4. Hydrography

The hydrographic network of Republic of Congo is made up of two principal river watersheds: the Congo watershed made up of the Congo river and its tributaries (mainly, the Oubangui, the Sangha, the Likouala-aux-herbes, the Likouala – Mossaka, the Alima, the Ndéko, the Nkéni, the Léfini and the Djoué), and the Kouilou – Niari watershed made up of

the Kouilou – Niari – Ndouo and its tributaries (the Bouenza, the Nyanga, the Loutété, the Loudima and the Louessé).

The watersheds constitute both significant axes of riparian circulation and a very rich reserve in halieutic resources.

## **2.5 Demography**

The Congolese population is approximately 2,573,800 ( IPCP 2000 ) which is made up of 52 ethnic groups. The average density of the population is 8.2 inhabitants per square kilometres with an average demographic growth rate of 2.8 %. The aggregate fertility rate is 6.3 children and the infant mortality rate is 12.8% while the life expectancy is approximately 52.8 years, according to the 1999 estimates. The Congolese literacy rate is 80.2%.

Approximately 50% of the population lives in the principal cities Brazzaville, Pointe-noire, Dolisie, Nkayi, Mossendjo and Ouse. However, due to increased urbanization, the density in rural area has decreased to 1.7 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> square kilometre (IPCP).

### **III: CURRENT STATUS OF GREAT APES IN CONGO**

#### **3.1 Ecology**

Congo shelters two species of great apes namely the Western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and the central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*).

Their ecological range is quite broad, going from the wet dense forest to the dense forest up to the riparian gallery forests.

##### **3.1.1. Ecology of the Gorilla**

Gorilla populations are present in and throughout the forest habitats.

##### **3.1.2 Ecology of the Chimpanzee**

Unlike the Gorilla, the Chimpanzee is sometimes found in the forest galleries or isolated biotopes.

Generally the two species of great apes are found in both the dry land zones and the marsh zones.

#### **3.2. Status**

At the national and international level, the two species are protected (cf decree no.3863/MAEF/SGEF/DCPP of 18 May 1983 classifying the animals partially or completely protected in Republic of Congo and Appendix I of CITES). The gorilla and chimpanzee are also classified under the IUCN red list; and under the CMS they are listed as endangered species.

However, on the ground, their protected status remains theoretical in spite of the existence of a legal framework.

Ultimately, the gorilla and the chimpanzee still occupy an acceptable ecological range but their current status on the ground is uncertain considering the insufficiency of knowledge on their populations. It is noted that the African action plan on the conservation of primates (1986 – 1990) did not bring significant improvement to their status.

### **3.3. Threats**

Poverty, growing unemployment and the lack of involvement of local populations in biodiversity conservation initiatives constitutes the principal threats to the survival of great apes in their natural habitat. Among other threats are:

1. The destruction and the fragmentation of their habitats for land development, bush fires, nomadic agriculture practices involving burn-beating;
2. Poaching;
3. Small scale mineral exploitation (for example gold);
4. Political instability within certain countries of the sub region;
5. The capture and the sale of live animals;
6. The emergence of certain diseases like the Ebola virus hemorrhagic fever.

### **3.4. Geographical distribution**

In Congo, the presence of wild apes is observed in most areas, in particular in the Cuvette, the Cuvette Ouest, the Sangha, the Likouala, the Niari, the Lékoumou and the Kouilou.

### **3.5. Estimate of the populations**

The data on great apes in Congo are scant because the country has never carried out extensive inventories on great apes. The current data base produced from various research projects (Goualogo Triangle, for example) emphasize only on the population densities. These densities are encouraging for the conservation of these species.

Table 1: Compiled data of estimated densities of great apes

Sites of study	Estimated Densities/ km <sup>2</sup> )	Habitats or Standard of Forests	Methods	Sources
GORILLE Goualogo	2,310,000	firm land	transect	Morgan and Al. 2004
Ngongo-Loupevi	3,900,000	firm land	transect	Maisels & Cruickshank 1996
Ngongo-Loupevi	3,900,000	firm land	transect	Maisels & Cruickshank 1996
Sub-littoral Conkouati	1,620,000	littoral	transect	Maisels & Cruickshank 1996
Odzala-kokoua	5,400,000	firm land	transect	Bermejo, 1999
Lake Tele	3,400,000	marsh	transect	Poulsen & Clark, 2004
North Congo	40,000	marsh	transect	Fay & Agnagna, 1992
CHIMPANZEES Goualogo	1,250,000	firm land	transect	Morgan et al, 2004
Goualogo	2,340,000 (3,090,000 )	firm land	direct Obs.	Morgan & Sanz, 2002
Ngongo-loupevi	1,090,000	firm land	transect	Maisels & Cruickshank, 1996
Sub-littoral Conkouati	2,270,000	littoral	transect	Maisels & Cruickshank, 1996
Odzala-kokoua	2,29	firm land	transect	Bermejo, 1999
Lake Télé	8,000	marsh	transect	Poulsen & Clark, 2004

Table 1: emphasizes a follow-up work carried out in 10 years. From the information provided it shows that both the firm land and marsh habitats are occupied by varying densities of gorillas and chimpanzees.

Protection of great apes is also done in *ex situ* facilities such as those listed in Table 2. The animals held in these sites have been seized from poachers.

Table 2: number of great apes followed in certain sites and sanctuaries

Site	Number of Gorillas	Number of Chimpanzees	Number of Births
Tchimpounga		111	
Project protection of gorillas	22		2
Nkubu (HELP Congo)		48	More than 10
Zoological park		1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>160</b>	

### 3.6. Value of great apes

Based on their aesthetic, cultural, scientific and economic values Great apes are, able to inspire and attract significant material and financial resources. Thus, they can be significant tourist attractions, that generate income for the country that can be directed toward their protection.

In Rwanda, the mountain gorillas of the Volcanoes National Park have largely contributed to the general rise of tourism.

Also in Uganda, the Bwindi National Park, which also has gorillas, attracts thousands of visitors every year.

In addition to these values, great apes play a vital role in the regeneration of the forests where they contribute to the reproductive cycle of certain plant species.

## **IV STRATEGIES OF CONSERVATION**

### **4.1. The global vision**

It is predicted that by the year 2020, great apes populations will increase and contribute to the socio-economic development of Congo.

### **4.2. General objective**

Congo's general objective is to ensure the protection of great apes and their habitats.

### **4.3. Specific objectives**

1. To compile a data base on great apes;
2. To create a network of projects of conservation at the USLAB;
3. To set up an epidemiologic monitoring system;
4. To develop and promote great ape tourism;
5. To sensitise the general public on the importance of great apes;
6. To reinforce the national institutional framework;
7. To strengthen national and international co-operation.

In order to ensure the conservation of the gorilla and chimpanzee, Congo ratified and adopted into national policy, the conventions and international agreements below.

### **4.4. International conventions and agreements**

- Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of fauna and flora threatened of extinction (CITES, known as the Washington Convention (law no. 034/82 of July 27, 1982);
- Convention on the protection of the world, cultural and natural heritage (law no 19/85 of July 19, 1985);
- Convention on Biological Diversity (law no. 29:96 of June 25, 1996);
- Convention of Bonn on the conservation of migratory species belonging to wild fauna (law no. 14/99 of March 3, 1999).

## 4.5. Regional and sub regional conventions and agreements

At the regional and sub regional levels, Congo signed and/or ratified the following conventions:

- Algiers convention of 1968 aimed to conserve natural resources in Africa;
- Lusaka Agreement on the concerted operations of coercion aiming at the illicit trade of wild fauna and the flora (law no. 32/96 of August 22, 1996);
- Convention on preventing desertification in countries seriously hit by drought particularly in Africa (law no. 008/99 of January 8, 1999);
- Agreement on the cooperation and dialogue between Central Africa States on the conservation of wild fauna, Libreville, April 16, 1983;
- Agreement on the cooperation between the governments of the Central African Republic, the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Congo relating to the installation of the tri national area of the Sangha river;
- Agreement on the inter zone Dja – Odzala – Minkembé.

Congo is member of:

- the Organization for the Conservation of Wild Fauna of Africa ( OCWFA);
- The Conference on Wet Ecosystems of Dense Humid Forests of Central Africa (CEFDHAC);
- World Conservation Union (IUCN);
- The World Organization of Tourism ( WOT);
- Commission of Ministers for the Central Africa Forests ( COMICAF);
- The Central African Protected Areas Network (CAPAN);
- The GRASP Partnership.

## 4.6. National legislation

The national framework for the management of biological resources relies on two essential basis.

### 4.6.1 National legal framework

The management of forest and fauna resources, rests on the legal and lawful following texts:

- Law no.48/83 of 21 April 1983 defining the conditions of exploiting and conservation of wild fauna;
- Law no.49/83 of 21 April 1983 fixing the various taxes envisaged by law 48/83;
- Law no 003/91 of April 23, 1991 on the protection of environment;
- Law no 16/2000 of 0 November 2000 establishes the forest code;
- Decree no.85/879 of 6 July 1985 bearing application of law 48/83 of 21 April 1983 defining the conditions of the conservation and the exploitation of wild fauna;
- Decree no 86/775 of 7 June making impact studies compulsory;
- Decree no 2002/437 of December 31, 2002, creating guidelines for management and use of forests;
- Decree no 3772/MAEF/DERFN of 12 August 1972 determining the open and closed seasons for hunting;

- Decree no 3863/MAEF/SGEF/DCPP of May 18, 1983 listing completely protected or partially protected species as envisaged by law no. 48/83 from 21 April 1983 which defines the conditions of conservation and restrictions on the exploitation of wild fauna;
- Decree no O103 of 30 January 1984 addressing the provisions relating to the exploitation of products from wild fauna and flora ;
- Decree no 835/MIME/DGE of 6 September 1999 fixing the conditions of approval for the development of studies or of assessment of environmental impact in Republic of Congo.

#### **4.6.2. Traditional framework**

The traditional framework in Congo is based on myths, legends and practices of magic, religion or witchcraft. It is strongly followed by the local populations and indigenous communities, and determines daily behaviours. Traditional law is not taken into account by modern law to determine equitable accesses to the resources

In the traditional plan, common law draws its base from lineage. Access to the natural resources follows several formalities as they are clan territories. Once approved, the cultivator has the duty to respect the rights which guarantee his access to these resources (Nguingiri, 1996).

These rights of access to the resources are based on the system of land tenure and the rights of descendents who have inherited land from their ancestors.

The dualistic character of the Congolese society, in regards to land requires that one take into account the traditional tribal rights that are a product of both common laws and colonial legislation.

#### **4.7. Protected areas**

In order to avoid the over-exploitation of natural resources and to protect various ecosystems, protected areas have been created and are currently managed by the Ministry for Forestry Economics and Environment, in partnership with NGOs and international organizations.

Congo currently has three (3) national parks, four (4) faunal reserves, two (2) game reserves, a Community reserve, a biosphere reserve and four (4) nature reserves (sanctuaries of great apes).

##### **4.7.1 National parks**

###### **Odzala- kokoua National Park**

Located between two provinces, Cuvette Ouest and Sangha, the national park of Odzala is among the oldest of central Africa. It was included in the list of biosphere reserves in 1977. In May 2001 the park's size was increased from 190,000 hectares to 1,354,600 hectares. The extension included the old faunal reserve of Lékoli Pandaka and the old game reserve of Mboko.

The national park consists of a mosaic of forest-savannas of very rich and diversified fauna. Africa megafauna are well represented by animals such as the elephant, gorilla, the chimpanzee, buffalo, bongo, sitatunga, the bush pig, mottled hyena, etc. Avifauna and herpetofauna are also well represented here.

Since 1990, a partnership with the European Union has been developed within the framework of the program on the use and the rational management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa (ECOFAC). The implementation of this program has made it possible to improve the level of knowledge of the natural resources of this park. Tourist activities have been introduced to the park, and there is some basic infrastructure available to accommodate limited tourists.

### **Nouabale-ndoki National park**

Nouabale-ndoki National park (PNNN) is located in northern Congo between the provinces of Sangha and Likouala.

Its name originates from the two rivers that border it: the Nouabalé and the Ndoki. The PNNN forms a vast area of wet dense forest, until now almost untouched and which is of immense interest for the conservation of fauna and flora as well from the point of view of the diversity of the ecosystems.

It is one of the largest national parks in Congo that covers an area of dense central African forest to the West of the Congo River. It is part of tri-national zone which include Congo, Central African Republic and Cameroon which covers significant protected areas of forests and plains.

The philosophy of the creation of this park rests on the conservation of the forest in its natural state. This park shelters significant populations of species of large mammals under increasing threats, especially the elephants.

The park has a wide range of fauna and the flora. There are several large mammals such as elephants, Western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and leopards, more than 300 species of birds, approximately 1000 species of plants and several types of forests.

### **The Goualougo Triangle**

It is located in the southern part of the park and receives much attention due to the high density of chimpanzees. This zone is recognized as being almost undisturbed by human influence (Blake 1994c; Blake et al. 1995; Fay 1994; Morgan 1999), which led to its annexation with the national park of Nouabalé-Ndoki in 2003.

### **Conkouati-Douli national park**

This park covers a surface area of 504,950 ha. This surface extends from the ocean to the Mayombe hills in the province of Kouilou and shelters a great diversity of habitats.

There is a 170 kilometre coastline, a mosaic of savannas and anthropic forests, lagoons, lakes and rivers, mangroves, marshy forests, raphiales and the dense forest which finally end in the Yombé forest. This is the zone with persistent fogs that cling to the sides of mountains. The highest tops culminate at 800 m. This zone belongs to a regional centre of floristic endemism

and is unique for the two species of endemic coffee-trees in the Mayombe forest, as well as many unique taxa in the Congolese flora.

It shelters a diverse range of fauna including manatees, tortoises, chimpanzees, elephants etc.

#### **4.7.2 Fauna reserves**

##### **Lake Tele Community Reserve**

The Lake Tele Community reserve on the Likouala-aux-herbes located in the province of Likouala.

It is the first protected area registered on the Ramsar list as a wetland of international importance. It is the only site of this kind in Congo. It has been the subject of many American scientific expeditions and currently receives the support of the WCS.

This reserve is significant not only for its biodiversity but also for its status as a Community reserve.

Initial creation of the reserve aimed to conserve the marshy forests, however the reserve also sustains various types of ecosystems and various animals including: Western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees (the densities of which are among the highest recorded), forest elephants, leopards, situngas and buffaloes. It also has a diversity of birds (more than 250 species) and several species of migratory birds nesting there each year. Rivers and lakes are rich in various fish species, including several endemic species.

#### **4.7.3. Sanctuaries**

Sanctuaries were created in certain departments, namely:

##### **- Lesio Louna sanctuary**

This sanctuary was created to reintroduce of baby gorillas seized by the forest administration from poachers and traffickers. A cooperative agreement signed in 1987 between the Congolese government and the Howletts and Port Lympne Foundation made it possible to set up a project called “Project for the Protection of Gorillas”. Presently, baby gorillas have been cared for in the sanctuary which is located in the south western part of the Léfini reserve. Some of these animals have adapted perfectly to their natural environment and live in complete freedom.

##### **- Lossi gorilla sanctuary**

It is located in the Mbomo district. The creation of the Lesio Louna Sanctuary result from the research started in 1992 by the Bermejo couple on conservation and research program on gorillas and chimpanzees financed by the European Union and from the will of the local people.

Since the Ebola virus was discovered in the area in November 2002, the groups of habituated gorillas have not been found by eco-guards and trackers in charge of their follow-up.

- **Nkoubou chimpanzee sanctuary**

This sanctuary is located in the Conkouati-Douli National Park. Since 1991, the organization Habitat, Ecology and Liberty for Primates ( HELP ), conducts, with the support of the Congolese government, a program for the reintroduction of captured chimpanzees into their natural environment, and also created an important scientific follow up of released individuals. This program was partially financed by the World Bank through the PROGECAP-GEF Congo from 1994 to 1999.

- **Tchimpounga chimpanzee sanctuary**

Created in 1995, this sanctuary contains the oldest chimpanzee in captivity (60 years old) and 111 others distributed in three groups occupying three zones equally. From 2000 to 2003, 76 chimpanzees were collected (GRASP/Congo workshop report April 2003).

The Tchimpounga natural reserve contains populations of wild chimpanzees that reside in the surrounding littoral forests of the reserve in the western part, and another population in the northern part of the reserve. This population is currently estimated at between 50 and 60 individuals (according to the last study undertaken in 2001).

### V. GRASP/Congo National plan

Objectives	Activities	results	Indicators	Duration	Persons in charge	Partners	Potential sources of financing	Costs
1-To constitute a data base on great apes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To index and explore the existing documents;</li> <li>- To identify the sites and potential areas of research;</li> <li>- To organize the census data from previous projects;</li> <li>- To utilise the results of other studies available from relevant networks;</li> <li>- To establish a GIS chart of all the habitats of great apes.</li> </ul>	- A data base on great apes is established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports;</li> <li>- Lists of existing projects</li> </ul>	5 years	The coordination of GRASP, NGOs, Local populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEFE, -- conservation projects,</li> <li>- Forest development companies.</li> </ul>	GRASP	<b>200,000,000</b>
2- To establish a network of conservation projects and USLAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To engage in dialogue with various existing projects;</li> <li>- To appoint</li> </ul>	- A network of conservation projects is set up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports;</li> <li>- lists of existing projects</li> </ul>	1 year	MEFE ( DGE, DGEF), - national Coordination of GRASP;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-National; NGOs ;</li> <li>-forest-concessions;</li> <li>-Private sector</li> </ul>	GRASP	14.000.000

	correspondents for these projects; - To lay down the procedure.				-Directors of the projects.			
3 – To set up an epidemiological monitoring system	- To work out a program of monitoring; - To establish an epidemiological chart; - To collaborate with established research programmes , national and international laboratories, WHO, the ministry for health, scientific research	- An epidemiological monitoring system is set up	idem	4 years	-MEFE, -Ministry for health, -GRASP, -scientific research	-WHO, - international Office of Epizooties, -CIRME, -PACE, - national and international NGOs; -the Farcha laboratory and the CRVZ	GRASP ; OMS OIE	250.000.000
4- To develop the economic potential of great apes	- To catalogue the zones likely to be developed; - To evaluate the ecotourism initiatives in Odzala-kokoua, Nouabalé-	- The exploitation of great apes is effective; - The regulation is set in place	-Reports - Partnership agreement; - Regulation text.	5 years	The DFAP; - Tourism; - Conservation projects; - National and international NGOs; tour operators local and	-GRASP, - national and international NGOs	GRASP	275.000.000

	<p>Ndoki, PPG, Tchimpounga, etc;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote studies on the habituation of great apes to human presence in selected sites;</li> <li>-To emphasize traditional knowledge;</li> <li>- To contact national and international tour operators;</li> <li>- To set up and adhere to standards of tourist exploitation;</li> <li>-To reinforce the capacities of the various actors in the promotion of ecotourism;</li> <li>- To develop responsible partnerships between public</li> </ul>				<p>indigenous populations; economic operators.</p>			
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	administrations, projects and observatories; - To organize marketing; -To develop sub contracts							
<b>5</b> To sensitise and educate the general public on the importance of great apes	- To identify the partners concerned; - To work out a national program of sensitisation; - To implement this program.	- The general public is sensitised and educated about how to sustainably manage great apes and their habitats	- Reports	5 years	GRASP, and national NGOs -Ministry of agriculture ; Ministry of tourism ; MEFE.	-Ministry of communication Ministry of national education and NGOs	GRASP	<b>150.000.000</b>
<b>6-</b> To reinforce the national institutional framework	- To recruit the team that coordinates the project; - To ensure remuneration, premiums and allowances for staff; - To ensure that equipment is functional; - To seek a room; - To buy the	- The organization created to recover great apes from poachers is supported.	- Personnel installed	5 years	-DFAP -Lusaka agreement ; - coordination; -GRASP; - Research programmes; -The police force and customs	- Sanctuaries and zoological gardens	GRASP	<b>1.076.500.000</b>  <b>-135.000.000</b>

	<p>equipment;  - To take part and organize local meetings;  - To set up or assist with the mobile device on the level of DFAP and the Lusaka agreement ;  - To reinforce logistics between the sanctuaries and the research programmes, the DFAP and the Lusaka agreement ;  -To support some initiatives of these sanctuaries, to set up a data base relating to it</p>							<b>120.000.000</b>
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7-To reinforce national and international cooperation	- To organise meetings between projects on great apes; - Establish partnerships with RAPAC, BCTF, CITES, UNDP, Lusaka agreement, UNEP, CMS, CBD, TRAFFIC	- National and international co-operation are reinforced	- idem	5 years	GRASP	Department of cooperation	GRASP	<b>225,000,000</b>

**Cost of the plan: 2.445.000.000. CFA or 4,445,458.99\$US**

N.B.: For the implementation of this action plan, the priorities must be related in a hierarchical manner to:

- The establishment of the coordination team;
- Data-gathering;
- Epidemiological monitoring;
- The sensitisation and education of the public on the importance of the great apes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ultimately, in spite of the obvious and real threats they face, the gorilla and the chimpanzee still occupy a significant ecological range in Congo.

Efforts must be made to obtain accurate information on their population size. Also, concrete actions must be implemented to improve the status of these species on the ground.

The analysis of the situation of the survival of great apes shows that it is a real ecological problem.

The National Action Plan (NAP) is structured around two major objectives: the promotion of a global conservation strategy to preserve great apes and their natural habitats, and the creation of a partnership including all the actors, at the national and international level.

The NAP is an orientation of the multiple activities to be undertaken; it does not take into account the financial implications inherent in the execution of its activities.

The critical threat remains the activities that have a direct influence on the populations of great apes, such as poaching, the degradation of the habitat and the emergence of deadly diseases.



**List of acronyms**

AP	Protected Areas
ADB	African Development bank;
CARPE	Central Africa Regional programme of Development
CEFDHAC	Conference of dense and wet Forests of Central Africa
CIB	Congolese of industry of Wood
CITES	Convention on international trade of species of faunas and wild flora threatened of extinction
CMS	Convention on migrating species belonging to wild fauna
COMIFAC	Conference of Ministers for forests of Central Africa
CRMF	Medical Research centre in Franceville
CRVZ	Veterinary and Zoo technical Research centre
DDEF	Departmental Direction of Water and Forests
DFAP	Direction of Fauna and Protected areas
DGE	Directorate-General of Environment
ECOFAC	Central Africa Forest Ecosystem
FEM	World Fund for Environment
HELP	Habitat Ecology Liberty Primates
JGI	Jane Goodall Institutes
KWS	Kenya Wildlife service
MEFE	Ministry for the Forestry economics and the Environment
MAEPF	Ministry for Agriculture and cattle raising in charge of the promotion of Woman
OCFSA	Organization for the Conservation of Wild Fauna in Central Africa
WHO	World Health Organization
ONG	Non Governmental Organization
PASA	PAN African Sanctuaries Alliance
NAP	National Action Plan
PIAF	Inventories and Installation of Fauna Project
PIPC	Post Conflict Interim Program
PPG	Project of Protection of Gorillas
PROGECAP	Project of Management and Conservation of Protected Areas
PROGEPP	Project of Management of the Ecosystems of the Periphery of the Park
RAPAC	Central Africa Protected Areas Network
RD	Ratification
EU	European Union
UFA	Forest Installation Unit
UICN	Union For the conservation of Nature
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USLAB	Unit of Monitoring of Anti poaching Fight
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

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