



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

**United Nations Educational,
Scientific
and Cultural Organization**

Distr.: General

UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/2
UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/2
9 June 2005

Original: English

**Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and
the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)**
Kinshasa, 5–6 and 9 September 2005
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Council of the Great Apes Survival Project
First Meeting**
Kinshasa, 6–7 September 2005
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda⁺

**Draft rules for the organization and management of the Great
Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership**

I. Introduction

1. Throughout their ranges, the great apes of equatorial Africa and South-East Asia, specifically the gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo (pygmy chimpanzee) and orangutan, are under increasing threat. Hunting for bush meat, trade in infant primates, war and conflicts, diseases such as Ebola and the destruction of forest ecosystems as a result, among other things, of unsustainable agriculture, logging and mining practices are causing a dramatic decline in ape populations and the loss and fragmentation of ape habitats, leaving scattered and increasingly vulnerable pockets harbouring small populations of apes.
2. Great ape habitats are rich in biodiversity and are vital for providing ecological security and life support systems, including food, fuel and medicine, to local people and indigenous communities. If managed in a sustainable way, these mainly forest ecosystems can provide huge benefits for dependent human communities, great apes and other wildlife.
3. Although great ape conservation activities are taking place throughout great ape range States, conservation efforts would have a greater impact if they formed part of a systematic and prioritized approach. Furthermore, in order to ensure their sustainability, conservation efforts need to be complemented at the national and regional levels by policy actions and commitment by range State Governments, with the support of the international community.
4. The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) was launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in September 2001, in response to the critical threats facing the great apes and the mainly forest ecosystems on which they depend for survival. When the project was launched, GRASP had a dozen partners, including three biodiversity-related

* UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/1.

⁺ UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/1.

conventions and nine non-governmental organizations. By the time of its launch as a partnership for sustainable development in September 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, this number had grown to a total of 21 partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and virtually all the non-governmental organizations with major programmes in Africa or Asia dealing with ape conservation. The number of its partners continues to grow.

5. GRASP works in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, international and regional financial institutions, regional bodies, foundations, donors, the academic community, the private sector and other interested parties so that, through regular communication and coordinated activities, the serious threats to great apes and their habitats can be eliminated.

II. Key principles

6. The key principles underlying GRASP are as follows:

(a) Becoming a GRASP partner is voluntary, on the basis of supporting the GRASP mission, goal and objectives;

(b) GRASP seeks to include all the main actors involved, either directly or indirectly, in the field of great ape conservation;

(c) GRASP does not seek to be prescriptive; GRASP actions should be supportive of and complementary to existing initiatives;

(d) At the level of the range States, key GRASP partners will be Governments, working closely wherever possible with non-governmental organizations, the academic community and the private sector;

(e) GRASP should monitor progress towards its goals, at both the international and national levels.

7. It is recognized that a wide range of skills and experience relevant to the conservation of great apes exists in both the government and non-government sectors. GRASP will seek to mobilize all available expertise for the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

8. In particular, GRASP will use its direct political links with the Governments of range and non-range States and with international bodies, in order:

(a) To support the development of national, regional and international planning and monitoring processes;

(b) To explore ways of obtaining new and additional funding through its partners for the implementation of such processes;

(c) To engage in high-level political dialogue on issues relating to great ape conservation.

III. Mission

9. The GRASP Partnership has, as an immediate challenge, to lift the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes. Its mission is to work as a coherent partnership to conserve in their natural habitats wherever they exist viable, wild populations of every kind of great ape and to make sure that where apes and people interact, their interactions are mutually positive and sustainable. GRASP also seeks 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 stakeholders in fragile ecosystems.

IV. Goal

10. The GRASP Partnership will have as its goal to conserve viable populations of all species and subspecies of great apes in their natural habitats wherever they exist.

V. Objectives

11. To achieve its mission and goal, the GRASP Partnership will have the following objectives, based on the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes¹, which was adopted at the preparatory experts meeting for an intergovernmental meeting on great apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), held in Paris from 26 to 28 November 2003:

A. Immediate objectives

- (a) To promote the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes;
- (b) To monitor populations of great apes and establish a database of great ape population information;
- (c) To collate and analyse existing projects and initiatives at different levels, in order to identify gaps and set priorities in action and to encourage coordination and cooperation;
- (d) To encourage range States to prepare and implement national action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat and ensure that they have the necessary resources to do so;
- (e) To prioritize the use of resources for optimum effectiveness and identify funding areas that are currently neglected;
- (f) To promote a legal framework for the survival of great apes and their habitat in the countries concerned;
- (g) To support income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitat and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities;
- (h) To help generate new and additional funds for the survival of great apes and their habitat and to ensure that the international community in the widest sense (donor States, international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and representatives of private business and industry) provides effective and coherent support to the efforts being made by the great ape range States;

B. Longer-term objectives

- (a) To carry out scientific research to generate information necessary for the survival of great apes and their habitat and to disseminate such information in an easy and accessible manner;
- (b) To urge countries to enter into or enforce relevant conventions and agreements for the conservation of great apes and elimination of their illegal trade;
- (c) To promote the development and transfer among range States, partners and other interested parties of appropriate technologies, training programmes and best practices for planning, finance, monitoring and delivery of outcomes;
- (d) To promote the inclusion of information highlighting the importance of great apes and their habitats in national education curricula and the dissemination of such information through the media.

VI. Partners

A. Categories of partners

12. The GRASP Partnership will comprise full partners and supporting partners.

¹ UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/Prep.Com.1/2/Rev.2.

13. Full partners will fall into the following categories:
- (a) Category A: Great ape range States;
 - (b) Category B: Non-great ape range States that directly or indirectly support or participate significantly in programmes for the conservation of great apes and their habitat;
 - (c) Category C: UNEP and UNESCO, which together are the sponsoring agencies;
 - (d) Category D: Relevant biodiversity and conservation-related multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and institutions;
 - (e) Category E: Non-governmental organizations with a significant involvement in great ape conservation.

14. For the purposes of category D, “relevant multilateral environmental agreements” will be those biodiversity and conservation-related global and regional conventions and protocols which are established under the auspices of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies; relevant international organizations and institutions will be those organizations (including international financial institutions) which have a substantial record of activities directly or indirectly related to the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

15. For the purposes of category E, “non-governmental organizations with a significant involvement in great ape conservation” will be institutions and associations admitted to the GRASP Partnership in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) The institutions and associations must have as members or supporters properly constituted organizations or individuals and must have appropriate rules of governance;
- (b) The institutions and associations must have a substantial record of activities in the field of conservation of great apes and their habitat, which can include policy development, research, protected area management, community conservation and education activities.

16. Supporting partners will fall into the following categories:

- (f) Category F: Non-range States, other than those who are eligible to be full partners under category B above;
- (g) Category G: Individuals, including GRASP patrons;
- (h) Category H: Appropriate private businesses, representatives of industry and scientific, academic and other organizations with an interest in supporting or participating in great ape conservation programmes through GRASP.

17. The GRASP Executive Committee (see chapter IX below) may confer supporting partner status on any individual who has rendered or is rendering outstanding service in the field of conservation of great apes and their habitat.

B. Admission and withdrawal of partners

18. Great ape range States will become full partners as soon as they declare in writing to the Executive Committee their support of the GRASP mission, goal and objectives.

19. Donor States will become full partners on the same basis.

20. Non-governmental organizations which are currently GRASP partners will continue as full partners when these rules are adopted and when they have reconfirmed their support of the GRASP mission, goal and objectives.

21. Admission of other full partners or supporting partners will be decided by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will only admit those candidates that it determines will make a clear contribution to GRASP and be a positive asset to the GRASP Partnership.

22. A document containing the GRASP Partnership admission criteria is attached as an annex to the present rules.

C. Suspension

23. The GRASP Executive Committee may rescind or suspend the partner status or may otherwise limit the rights of any partner that seriously or persistently violates the present rules.

D. Withdrawal

24. Any full or supporting partner may withdraw from the GRASP Partnership at any time by giving notice in writing to the Executive Committee to that effect. Such notice will be effective upon the date of receipt of the notice by the Executive Committee.

E. Readmission

25. Applications for readmission to the GRASP Partnership may be submitted at any time and will be treated in the same way as first-time applications for admission.

F. Voting rights

26. All full partners will have one vote in the GRASP Council. Supporting partners will participate in the work of the Council in a non-voting capacity.

VII. GRASP Council

A. Composition

27. The GRASP Partnership will have a Council (the GRASP Council), which will guide the work of the Partnership. The Council will assist the Executive Committee and the secretariat (see chapter X below) with matters such as fundraising strategy and great ape conservation priorities. Each full partner will have one seat on the GRASP Council. Each supporting partner may participate in the work of the Council as an observer.

28. GRASP Council decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions may be reached by simple majority vote, provided that such a majority includes a majority of category A partners present and voting and a majority of category B partners present and voting.

B. Functions

29. The functions of the GRASP Council will be:

- (a) To elect the Chairperson of the Council, who will hold office for two years with the possibility of re-election for two further periods of two years each;
- (b) To elect the members of the Executive Committee;
- (c) To determine the general policy and strategy of the GRASP Partnership;
- (d) To identify priorities and receive reports of income and expenditures;
- (e) If resources permit, to provide appropriate financial guidance for the preparation of the budget by the secretariat.

30. The GRASP Council will meet every two years. An inter-sessional meeting may be convened if requested by more than one third of the GRASP partners.

31. The Council will decide the time and location of its meetings. The draft agenda for each meeting will be circulated at least one month in advance of the meeting. Meeting locations will, as far as practical, be rotated among the geographic regions. Partners will be encouraged to host meetings.

VIII. Executive Committee

A. Composition

32. GRASP will have an Executive Committee which will consist of:
- (a) Four members from among category A partners, to be elected on a subregional basis (three from Africa and one from South-East Asia);
 - (b) One member from among category B partners;
 - (c) From among category C partners, one member nominated by UNESCO and one nominated by UNEP;
 - (d) One member from among category D partners;
 - (e) Two members from among category E partners.
33. The full partners in each category mentioned in the preceding paragraph will elect by simple majority vote the member(s) for that category.
34. The term of Executive Committee membership will be two years.
35. The members of the Executive Committee will elect a Chairperson, who will hold office for two years with the possibility of re-election for two further periods of two years each.
36. The Executive Committee will be responsible to the GRASP Council and will act on its behalf in ensuring the effective implementation of the policies of the GRASP Partnership. It will be assisted by the secretariat in handling the routine activities of the GRASP Partnership.
37. Executive Committee decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions may be reached by simple majority vote.

B. Functions

38. The functions of the Executive Committee shall be:
- (a) To monitor the implementation of GRASP Partnership policies;
 - (b) To identify and oversee attainment of GRASP Partnership objectives and to decide on the funding of GRASP Partnership projects;
 - (c) To commission and oversee implementation of the GRASP Partnership's role in the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes;
 - (d) To decide on the admission, suspension, expulsion, or limitation of the rights of full partners and supporting partners;
 - (e) To seek the advice of the Scientific Commission on any issues included in the Commission's terms of reference;
 - (f) To approve the annual work plans of the secretariat, Scientific Commission and the technical support team;
 - (g) To oversee the activities of GRASP patrons and to approve secretariat recommendations regarding appointments;
 - (h) To assume such other functions as are deemed necessary by the GRASP Council;
39. The Executive Committee will meet at least every three months via teleconference or electronic mail, or more frequently if required to ensure the efficient functioning of the GRASP Partnership.
40. The Executive Committee will act on behalf of the GRASP Council in relation to all crucial decisions and matters relating to the GRASP Partnership and its great ape conservation activities between meetings of the GRASP Council.
41. A summary of the minutes of Executive Committee meetings will be submitted by the secretariat to all GRASP partners as soon as possible after each meeting.

IX. Secretariat

A. Composition

42. GRASP will have a secretariat, for which the sponsoring agencies will provide the staff. The practical arrangements, including the appointment of staff, will be made by common accord between the sponsoring agencies.

43. In certain circumstances and under conditions to be agreed by the sponsoring agencies, the secretariat may employ staff seconded to it by full partners or supporting partners.

44. Staff of UNEP or UNESCO who are discharging secretariat functions on behalf of the GRASP Partnership as a whole should clearly differentiate between the actions they carry out in that capacity and other actions which they may take in their capacity as staff of category C partners. The same principle should apply in the case of staff seconded to the GRASP secretariat in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

B. Functions

45. The functions of the GRASP secretariat will be:

- (a) To promote the work of the GRASP Partnership;
- (b) To monitor the performance of GRASP Partnership-funded activities;
- (c) To solicit and if necessary help prepare projects for funding;
- (d) To request advice from the Scientific Commission on project priorities and other issues included in the Commission's terms of reference;
- (e) To provide information on GRASP to interested parties;
- (f) To determine the composition and activities of the technical support teams (see chapter XII below) including the development of their terms of reference, taking into consideration the advice of the Scientific Commission, and oversee the work of those teams;
- (g) To appoint GRASP patrons, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- (h) To raise funds for GRASP activities;
- (i) To facilitate communication between GRASP partners and the Executive Committee;
- (j) To liaise with existing donors and keep them regularly updated;
- (k) To be responsible for the finances and accounting of GRASP and to report to the GRASP Council on such matters;
- (l) To be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the GRASP Partnership.

46. At the end of each calendar year, the secretariat will submit for approval by the GRASP Executive Committee an annual work plan and budget for the following year, which will include the activities of the secretariat, the Scientific Commission and any technical support teams.

47. In the performance of their duties, staff members of the GRASP secretariat will not seek or receive instructions from any authority external to the GRASP Partnership and the sponsoring agencies.

48. The secretariat will submit to the GRASP Executive Committee each year a report on the activities of GRASP during the previous calendar year, together with an account of receipts and expenditures and a balance sheet as at the end of the calendar year. When approved by the Executive Committee, this report will be sent to GRASP partners.

X. Scientific Commission

A. Composition

49. A Scientific Commission will be established under the auspices of the GRASP Council with the following eleven members:

- (a) Six members selected by the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
- (b) The current president of the International Primatological Society (IPS) or his/her representative;
- (c) Four members, one from each subregion, chosen by the Executive Committee in consultation with the IPS president from two nominees submitted by each of the four subregions. All members must have relevant qualifications or substantial experience in the science or conservation of great apes.

B. Functions

50. The functions of the GRASP Scientific Commission will be:

- (a) To provide independent and scientifically sound advice to the GRASP Partnership, including to the technical support teams;
- (b) To advise the secretariat on the composition and activities of the technical support teams;
- (c) To provide advice relating to the development of the GRASP Partnership's strategic goals and objectives and activities to achieve them;
- (d) To monitor the status of great ape populations and evaluate the status and trajectory of populations relative to the GRASP Partnership goal and overall objectives;
- (e) To conduct studies of alternative conservation strategies and investments, make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of conservation funding and efforts and provide advice on measures significant to regional and international great ape conservation;
- (f) To provide advice on great ape conservation issues within range States, liaise with other experts within those States and advise on national plans for great ape conservation;
- (g) Where there are donor funds available, to review and provide advice on the funding of project proposals submitted to the GRASP Partnership and referred by the secretariat. A conflict of interest may arise if a Commission member seeks funding from the GRASP Partnership. In such a case, the Commission member will not participate in the Commission's discussions about the funding request;
- (h) To provide advice and comment on official GRASP Partnership literature, reports and other documents;
- (i) To provide advice on the design and programming of GRASP Partnership thematic workshops focusing on industry and the conservation of great apes (e.g., timber, eco-tourism, mineral extraction, etc).

51. The Scientific Commission will be independent of all organs of the GRASP Partnership. The secretariat will participate in the deliberations of the Commission as an observer.

52. The Scientific Commission will conduct its work mainly by electronic mail, with teleconferences when necessary. However, the Commission may appoint special working groups or panels, comprising additional experts when necessary, to conduct scientific investigations, field visits and other information-gathering activities in order to achieve its mandate. The Commission will meet on an occasional basis when a majority of its members calls for such a meeting and when finances permit.

53. The Scientific Commission will submit to the Executive Committee a detailed plan of action for discussion.

XI. Technical support teams

A. Composition

54. The GRASP Partnership may use technical support teams formed on an ad hoc basis at the request of the GRASP secretariat, the Executive Committee or the Scientific Commission. The

terms of reference for technical support teams will be developed by the secretariat in consultation with the Scientific Commission.

B. Functions

55. The functions of the GRASP technical support teams will be:

(a) To promote and assist the development and implementation of national action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat, including the organization and coordination of workshops on the issue, as requested;

(b) To provide technical capacity or information to the GRASP Council, Executive Committee and range States on specific range State great ape conservation issues, including assistance with the preparation of project proposals;

(c) To assist, as requested, in the evaluation of great ape conservation activities;

(d) To undertake other tasks as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

56. When a representative of a partner organization is seconded to a technical support team for a specific activity, that individual will be deemed to represent GRASP officially.

57. It is foreseen that in the majority of cases, the work of the technical support teams will be undertaken at the partners' expense. However, in certain circumstances, expenses may be covered by the GRASP budget resources.

58. In certain cases, the secretariat may contract the services of individuals or organizations who are not partners to render specific services to the GRASP Partnership.

59. The technical support team will prepare an annual work plan for submission through the secretariat, for approval by the Executive Committee"

XII. GRASP patrons

60. The secretariat, with the approval of the Executive Committee, will appoint a limited number of GRASP patrons for a fixed period of three years. Patrons will be individuals well recognized for their contribution to great ape conservation or related activities.

61. The role of GRASP patrons will be an honorary one. The Executive Committee may request the patrons:

(a) To promote the GRASP Partnership at the political level;

(b) To promote the GRASP Partnership to the general public at international meetings, conventions and symposiums;

(c) To seek opportunities to raise funds for the GRASP Partnership.

XIII. GRASP at the national level

62. The elaboration and implementation of national action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat lies at the heart of the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes. Full partners and supporting partners may wish to make appropriate arrangements regarding:

(a) The provisions needed for the organization of GRASP at the national level, including the role of GRASP focal points;

(b) A GRASP structure in range States which encourages engagement with other relevant bodies, e.g., community groups and smaller non-governmental organizations, as local partners;

(c) Parallel provisions for GRASP supporting organizations in non-range donor States.

XIV. Finance

63. The income of the GRASP Partnership may be derived from grants, donations and payments in support of Partnership activities from governmental, intergovernmental, foundation and other non-governmental, business and private donors.

64. The secretariat will submit to each ordinary session of the GRASP Council for approval a budget for the succeeding biennium, including estimates of income and expenditure.

65. The secretariat will cause true and accurate accounts to be kept of all monies received and expended by the secretariat on behalf of the GRASP Partnership and will be responsible for the control of all such income and expenditure in accordance with the budget.

66. The accounts of the GRASP Partnership will be examined every two years by auditors appointed jointly by the sponsoring agencies.

67. The secretariat will have the power to accept grants, donations and other payments on behalf of the GRASP Partnership, subject to any instructions and guidelines by the GRASP Council.

68. The sponsoring agencies, on behalf of the GRASP Partnership, will have the right to refuse donations from entities they consider unsuitable and will provide an explanation to the GRASP Council of any such refusal.

XV. Amendments

69. The GRASP Council will have the authority to amend the present rules on the proposal of the Executive Committee or any full or supporting partner.

70. The secretariat shall notify any such proposals to all full and supporting partners.

71. The GRASP Council will consider any such proposal at its next meeting that commences on a date that is not less than six weeks after the date on which the proposal is notified.

72. Proposed amendments considered by the GRASP Council will become effective immediately upon approval by a two thirds majority of the GRASP Council, provided that such a majority includes a majority of category A partners present and voting and a majority of category B partners present and voting.

XVI. Miscellaneous

73. The official work of the GRASP Partnership will be carried out in either English or French, or both. Where possible and appropriate, and depending on budgetary constraints, documents and reports will be made available in both languages.

Annex

Great Apes Survival Project Partnership admission criteria

Introduction

The aim of the present document is to provide workable criteria to guide the admittance of new partners into the GRASP Partnership. It was prepared by the secretariat of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership in response to a request by the GRASP interim Executive Committee during a teleconference on 12 March 2004. The admission criteria contained in the present document were approved by the interim Executive Committee on 3 September 2004.

It is hoped that these criteria will help the Executive Committee in assessing the suitability of each applicant on its own merit and ensuring a clear and transparent admission process.

The categories of partners for which the admission criteria have been prepared are set out below. For a complete list of categories, please see chapter VII, section A, of the draft rules for the organization and management of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership.

Category E: Non-governmental organizations with a significant involvement in great ape conservation
--

Applicants for admittance into category E (non-governmental organizations) shall be required to meet the criteria set out below, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Non-governmental organization partnership criteria

Non-governmental organization partners must:

- Share and support the objectives of GRASP;
- Not pursue activities conflicting with the mission of GRASP;
- Be actively engaged in or support the conservation of great apes and their habitat;
- Aim to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;
- Show dedication to influencing, encouraging and assisting local communities and society at large in formulating and adopting conservation and natural resource policies that are great ape-friendly;
- Demonstrate a substantial record of activity in the support or conservation of great apes and their habitat for at least two years or have within their ranks personnel with substantial experience in the conservation of endangered species;
- Present for review annual reports for the previous two years or equivalent documentation or a website containing such information;
- Submit with their application a letter of recommendation from an existing GRASP partner.

Non-governmental organizations that are based in range States and that do not meet the above requirements shall be encouraged to support GRASP activities through national focal points or by working closely with international non-governmental organization partners. They will be at liberty to apply for admission once they have met the stated requirements.

Roles and responsibilities of non-governmental organization partners

Non-governmental organization partners must:

- Support the formulation of GRASP policy;
- Help develop and implement the GRASP strategy and work plan;
- Form part of the GRASP Council and nominate a representative to the Executive Committee;
- Share their knowledge, experience and expertise with the GRASP Partnership;

- Assist with the preparation of national great ape survival plans and the organization of priority-setting workshops in range States;
- Coordinate their activities to address the national priorities identified in national great ape survival plans;
- Participate in the activities of the GRASP technical support team;
- Help GRASP gain support in range and donor States;
- Establish a GRASP hyperlink on their websites;
- Acknowledge GRASP and use the GRASP logo in all partner activities that are wholly or partly funded by GRASP funds, where appropriate.

Category H: Appropriate private businesses, representatives of industry and scientific, academic and other organizations with an interest in supporting or participating in great ape conservation programmes through GRASP

Applicants for admittance into category H will be required to meet the majority of the following criteria, depending on their applicability as determined by the Executive Committee.

Private sector partner criteria

74. Private sector partners must:

75. Show commitment to furthering GRASP objectives;

76. Ensure conformity to, or willingness to conform to, principles of sustainability as set out in relevant guidelines such as those established by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Forest Stewardship Council, as well as to sustainable business standards and other international guidelines;

77. Adopt targets, where appropriate, for initiating best practices in their operations and monitor progress towards those targets and share lessons learned;

78. Demonstrate commitment to ensuring that any use of natural resources is ecologically sustainable and that all stakeholders, including local communities, benefit appropriately;

79. Participate in or provide substantial funding for programmes for the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

Academic institutions and research bodies partnership criteria

80. Academic institutions and research body partners must:

81. Be engaged in efforts to increase and share scientific knowledge on great apes and related great ape ecosystems that is applicable to the conservation of apes in the wild;

82. Demonstrate an institutional focus on applied field research or conservation-related educational activities;

83. Ensure and promote great ape welfare where applicable in their research.

Other partners

Other partners may include, under special circumstances and for reasons to be made explicit by the Executive Committee, any individual, organization or body not covered above that is committed to the GRASP mission and to the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

Parties interested in joining the GRASP Partnership are asked to send a brief letter, clearly indicating their great ape-related activities and their commitment to GRASP, to:

Melanie Virtue
Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel.: (+254 20) 62 4163
Fax: (+254 20) 62 4300
Email: grasp@unep.org

The final decision on the eligibility and admittance of any applicant shall be made at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Committee will provide a written explanation for its decision in the event of a declined request.
