



Great Apes Survival Project
Projet pour la survie des grands singes
GRASP



GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
26-27 November 2008

Item 3b: Report of the Technical Support Team (TST)
April 2007 – November 2008

Overview

The work of the GRASP Technical Support Team (TST) is extremely varied, ranging from building and maintaining the partnership, representing GRASP at international meetings, liaising with the media, supporting specific activities (often with the Scientific Commission) and working to strengthen the role of Focal Points.

The standing Technical Support Team continues to be provided to the GRASP Partnership under a contract between UNEP, Ian Redmond and the Born Free Foundation. Most of the activities since 2005 have been funded by the EC grant, which continues until 2009. The team includes:

Ian Redmond, GRASP Chief Consultant – 2.5 days per week on average

David Jay, TST Coordinator - 1 day per week

Chris Wright, IT Project Coordinator – 1.5 days per week

Reporting requirements:

As requested at the last Executive Committee meeting, this report relates activities to the GRASP Programme of Action, but for the sake of brevity, gives only a concise description of TST activities. The following more detailed reports are available on request:

Weekly or Fortnightly Summaries and Mission Reports are produced by the Chief Consultant;

Annual Reports for the EC grant are produced by the Born Free Foundation team.

GRASP Programme of Action 2006-2008

The five objectives agreed to in 2006 are:

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%
2. To increase great ape habitat in protected areas by 20% and eliminate habitat loss and population decline within protected areas
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
4. To use a habitat and population monitoring and evaluation system to inform conservation decision-making

5. To create the enabling conditions for the GRASP Partnership to achieve its objectives

During the two-year period, the TST was charged in particular with activities pertaining to:

1 a. b. and c., although a. was largely completed by the start of the period

2 a. but additional work was undertaken on 2 b. and d.

None in 3, but in fact much effort was put into 3 a. and c. with particular emphasis on forest carbon in the context of climate change mitigation;

4b. but there were few opportunities for this during the period of this report;

5 a. and b. but also worked on 5 c. d. e. and f.

NGASP – process and outcomes

The process of wide consultation to produce and adopt a detailed, science-based policy document for the survival of great apes has been one of the main activities of the TST since GRASP began. But not all range states have chosen to go through the process of producing a National Great Ape Survival Plan, or NGASP. Those range states that have include: Cameroon, Congo, DR Congo, Guinea and Rwanda. Uganda, Indonesia and the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak have done so, but with little direct input from the TST. CAR, Gabon and Nigeria have begun or stated the intention to begin the process of drafting, but have not yet held workshops.

The implementation of NGASPs is the responsibility of the governments that produced them, with the willing assistance of GRASP partners, but in most cases lack of finance has been a major obstacle. In Rwanda and Uganda, for example, the economic importance of great ape tourism has led the NGASP to play a more significant role. It is strongly suggested that these policy documents be brought to the attention of Finance Ministers in all range states, and incorporated into each country's overall development plans.

The development of the Gorilla Agreement Action Plan has drawn on the NGASPs of gorilla range states, as well as regional plans, and now presents new opportunities to source finance for their implementation.

REDD, Ape Habitat and Carbon Markets – (PoA 3.a. and 3.c.)

The growing political and commercial interest in the role of tropical and sub-tropical forests in global climate regulation has enabled the TST to bring the importance of great apes to the fore. By making presentations, organising side events and writing articles, the role of great apes as keystone species in these critical habitats has been widely discussed. GRASP has been able to position itself centrally in UNEP's strategy on forest carbon, and pilot projects to demonstrate the multiple benefits of forest conservation are about to begin.

Missions, Events and Presentations (PoA 3a, 3c, 5 a-g)

Wherever possible, the TST aims to facilitate action by in-country partners in range states, and so there have been fewer missions to range states than in earlier periods. Missions are usually in response to specific requests or to attend events which bring together relevant range state representatives.

Represented GRASP in the following:

- May 2007 Global Ecotourism Conference, Oslo, Norway
- May 2007 Tropical Forest Forum Bushmeat WG, London, UK
- June 2007 CITES CoP 14, The Hague, Netherlands, including side event to present 'Last Stand of the Orangutan – A UNEP Rapid Response Report into Illegal Logging, Fire and Palm Oil in Indonesia's National Parks'. Other speakers included Mr Yayat Afianto, Forest Researcher/Campaigner, TELEPAK and Tonny Soehartono, Indonesia's GRASP Focal Point (video of event available).
- July 2007 Chatham House, Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation, London
- July 2007 World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Meeting, Paris, France
- July 2007 Tourism Foundation Forum, London, UK
- September 2007 – Nigerian Tourism Week, Lagos and Calabar, Nigeria
- October 2007 – Paris Primates Week, including negotiations for the Gorilla Agreement
- November 2007 – European Development Days, Lisbon, Portugal
- November 2007 - Gorilla Seminar at Zoological Society of London, UK
- December 2007 – UNFCCC Conference, Bali, Indonesia including preparing presentation for Forest Day event, and launch of Orangutan Action Plan by Indonesian President.
- March 2008 – Linnean Society lecture on Great Apes and Climate Change, London, UK
- April 2008 – Natural History Museum lectures on Great Apes and Climate Change, London
- May 2008 – CBD CoP Side Event on DRC, Bonn, Germany
- June 2008 – UNFCCC SBSTA, Side Event on forest carbon, Bonn, Germany
- June 2008 – launch of Congo Basin Forest Fund, London, UK
- August 2008 – International Primatological Society Congress, Edinburgh, UK
- September 2008 – Princes Rainforest Project Africa Task Force, Clarence House, London
- September 2008 - CBD/CMS/GRASP/COMIFAC Workshop, Cameroon
- September 2008 – Year of the Gorilla meetings with German Government
- October 2008 - IUCN Congress, Barcelona, including organising Knowledge Café on Great Apes and Climate Change
- November 2008 - Royal Society seminar on REDD

Publications (PoA 5a, 5f)

- Save the apes to save the world, Animal Welfare Institute and Born Free Website,
- Foreword to 'Science and Conservation in African Forests. The Benefits of Longterm Research'. Richard Wrangham and Elizabeth Ross, includes history of GRASP
- Great Apes and Climate Change, GRASP Newsletter, 2007
- Great Apes and Climate Change, Tusk Magazine, 2008
- Great Apes and Climate Change, Sumatran Orangutan Society newsletter 'Jungle Vine' 2008
- More than trees, Our Planet UNEP Magazine, September 2008

Trans-boundary workshops (PoA 1b, 1e, 1c, 2a, 2c, 2d, 5d, 5f, 5g)

- Conducted expert consultation to identify priority areas for initiating trans-boundary collaboration on great ape conservation.
- Established preliminary contact with NGOs in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire to develop trans-boundary collaboration initiative.

Enforcement workshops (PoA 1e, 5f)

- Support provided July 2007 / July 2008 for initiative to enhance enforcement of wildlife trade legislation in Republic of Congo, achieving both initial and longer term positive results.

Field survey training workshops (PoA 2d, 4b)

- Discussions to develop concept for GRASP-supported field training workshops in key range areas.
- Collaboration with Scientific Commission in developing site-specific proposals for survey workshops.
- Preparations to provide kits of ape survey equipment to teams trained in workshops.
- Funds approved for West Africa Survey Training Workshop funded by GRASP (proposed date: 11.02.2009 – 02.03.2009) Gola Forest, Sierra Leone

Other technical activities (PoA 1e, 1c, 2a, 5a, 5c, 5e, 5f)

- Preparing 2007-8 TST workplan
- Consultation on GRASP business Plan – Plan It For The Apes
- Assisting GRASP partner NGOs in preparing proposals for Congo Basin Forest Fund
- Preparation of documents for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement, November 2008 and the UN Year of the Gorilla 2009

Scientific Commission Financial Support (PoA 3b, 5a, 5f)

- Mark Leighton - meetings Paris / DC May 2007 to promote GRASP
- Serge Wich attendance at Paris Primates Week, October 2007
- Serge Wich attendance at palm oil meetings in Washington DC, May 2008
- Serge Wich attendance at GRASP Executive Committee Meeting, November 2008

Other Financial Support (PoA 1b, 1c, 2a, 2d, 3c, 5e, 5f)

- Expert attendance (Adrian Taas) at meeting to evaluate carbon market opportunities in Sabah (Paris, May 2007)
- Malaysian attendance at Indonesian orangutan conservation planning workshop, May 2007
- Lecture by Richard Leakey, GRASP Special Envoy, in UK to promote GRASP, July 2007
- Translation of Swedish Lottery funding proposal, October 2007
- Forest surveys in Aceh for land use planning policy development, June 2008
- Translation of Indonesian Orangutan Conservation Action Plan into English, September 2008

IT Equipment for GRASP Range State Focal Points (PoA 2d, 5b)

IT and office equipment supplied, with EC-funding, to: DRC, Gabon, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania

- Apr 07: Mme N Sene Thiam, Senegal supplied with laptop, multifunction printer, camera etc facilitated by IUCN Dakar

- Nov 07: P Ngoy-Taki, DRC supplied with laptop, desktop & printer facilitated by Lola Ya Bonobo
- Nov 07: Lota Melamari, of NGO WCST supplied with laptop, binoculars, GPS & camera
- Apr 08: Joseph Toah, Liberia supplied with laptop, photocopier, printer, camera & office furniture facilitated by FFI Liberia
- Jun 08: Mr Conteh and colleague, Sierra Leone supplied with laptops and printers facilitated by Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary
- Further use of funds for equipment has been planned, specifically in providing survey equipment for key sites and to support planned survey training workshops.

Media coverage of GRASP and Year of the Gorilla – (PoA 5.f.)

Numerous interviews for radio, television and the international press, such as:

<http://www.netzeitung.de/wissenschaft/648764.html> May 2007

[http://www.podcast.de/episode/895879/Living Planet: Environment Matters Around the Globe](http://www.podcast.de/episode/895879/Living_Planet:_Environment_Matters_Around_the_Globe)<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1078425/New-documentary-charts-captivating-rise-fall-Titus-gorilla-king.html>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/showbiz/tv/article1854027.ece>