



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



GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
26-27 November 2008

Item 2: Updates from the 2007 Brainstorm

A. Great Apes & Climate Change:

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and sustainable bioenergy

- On 30 October 2008, UNEP's senior management approved a four-year, four-country REDD++ GRASP initiative to be implemented in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and a fourth, yet-to-be-decided country in Central Africa. This followed consultations with the GRASP Scientific Commission and a number of internal and external partners, in particular regarding site selection criteria for great ape priority populations.
- The total budget for the project is USD 2.9m, of which approximately USD 800,000 has been secured to date from the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation (USD 600,000) and the Government of Norway (USD 200,000). Further fundraising is required to build on year-one activities, which will occur in Cameroon and Indonesia only.
- Implementing partners are the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Woods Hole Research Centre (WHRC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), PanEco Foundation's Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and national institutions and government departments, such as the Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (IRAD) in Cameroon.
- A major focus of the initiative is on achieving "multiple benefits" from climate change mitigation through avoiding emissions from deforestation. There is potential for REDD interventions to contribute to biodiversity conservation, water resource protection and community livelihoods, among others, but the extent to which this is feasible needs to be tested and up-scaled in key countries, with lessons for the global dialogue on forests and climate change.
- In addition, this project will also target some countries that do not have a traditionally high rate of deforestation, to assist in particular the Congo Basin countries find approaches to also benefit from potential international payments for forest carbon stock stabilization, either through market or non-market mechanisms.
- This initiative is providing GRASP with a good opportunity to influence UN agencies, the World Bank and governments to prioritize biodiversity (including ape) benefits from

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REDD. Two of the range states to receive support from this project are also pilot countries under a new, wider UN REDD Programme (UNDP, FAO, UNEP) that will bring additional resources to mitigating tropical-forest related greenhouse gas emissions, and we anticipate that some of this will also benefit great ape sites.

- UNEP has received much interest in this early, pre-Copenhagen (2009 UNFCCC conference) work and we see the potential for increased funding for forests and biodiversity conservation in Africa and Southeast Asia. Future prospects include sustained readiness and demonstration funding from the current donors as well as others and already many private sector investors and buyers have expressed an interest in engaging with the initiative.
- UNEP/GRASP's added value on the global scale is in prioritizing multiple benefit approaches in areas key for biodiversity, and in ensuring that climate change negotiators are aware of the early environmentally and socially positive results of national/site level actions. At the country level, UNEP's involvement should help to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged and aware of the possible benefits and risks of REDD and help to facilitate the process of connecting site-level activities to nascent national and potentially regional REDD frameworks.

Additional activities in the Great Apes & Climate Change thematic area have also been undertaken and are ongoing:

- In late May and early June 2007 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, a GRASP workshop was held bringing together the Sabah Forest Department, UNESCO, UNEP and the private sector to review carbon financing options for reforestation and avoided deforestation in orangutan areas of Sabah, Borneo.
- UNEP since 2006 has been and continues to finance in part a High Conservation Value ecosystem assessment and mapping process in Indonesia that looks to provide tools for sustainable land-use planning, especially regarding large scale agriculture plantation and infrastructure development. Early results from this initiative have been adopted by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) as best practice for their members and it is likely that the process will be replicated in other tropical forest areas, such as the Amazon.
- GRASP has provided a number of inputs as needed on sustainable bioenergy issues, such as to the draft sustainability criteria of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and briefed participants on the potential negative environmental effects of biofuel production at the June 2007 East, Southern and Central Africa workshop on biofuels held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.
- On clear success story in this area is the influence of the 2007 Last Stand report on providing information to the 2007 UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report on biofuels, which informed government policy to include increased environmental considerations in transport fuel planning.