



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



February 2007 update from the GRASP Secretariat

News and announcements

Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes – Recent signatories to the Declaration include the Principality of Monaco signed by H.E. Patrick van Klaveren on 15 December 2006, the International Primatological Society signed by Dr. Richard Wrangham on 20 January 2007 and the Jane Goodall Institute signed by Keith Brown on 30 January 2007. For those Partners who have not yet signed the Declaration and wish to do, please visit: http://www.unep.org/grasp/Information_Material/declaration.asp

GRASP Scientific Commission – Elections are now underway. Partners are asked to submit nominations for potential candidates to their regional GRASP focal point. For West Africa, the regional focal point is Guinea csagno@yahoo.fr, for Central Africa it is Mr. Leon Kanu-Mbizi in the DR Congo at (243) 998231555, for East Africa it is Uganda moses.mapesa@uwa.or.ug, and for Southeast Asia it is Indonesia herrysusilo@yahoo.com

GRASP Executive Committee – The next meeting of the GRASP Executive Committee has been set for 2 – 3 May 2007 in Nairobi. Details of the meeting venue and accommodation will be sent out shortly to Committee members.

New Report on the Congo Basin – The Congo Forest Basin Partnership recently released the report "State of Forests in the Congo Basin." The report is available online at www.cfbp.org

Dr. Richard Leakey presentation at Royal Geographical Society – We would like to bring to your attention the following event in partnership with the Orangutan Foundation (UK). The renowned Professor Richard Leakey, a leading conservationist and GRASP Patron, will be giving a talk entitled "Climate change as an impact on the future of Great Apes. Can anything be done?" at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 31 May 2007. For more information, contact Mark Attwater mark@orangutan.org.uk

Funding opportunity – The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Netherlands has put out a call for proposals from NGOs in West Africa and Southeast Asia for their Ecosystem Grants Programme - a small grants fund that subsidizes nature conservation activities of local organizations in the global South. Applications can be sent directly to IUCN Netherlands. More information can be found at: <http://www.iucn.nl/english/funds/egp/english/index.htm>. The deadline for pre-proposals is 1 March 2007.

Missions/ Technical Support Team

- Mark Leighton, co-chair of the GRASP Scientific Commission, attended the 4th Meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in Singapore on 21-22 November 2006. The RSPO General Assembly ratified a code of conduct for its members, and worked on issues surrounding the implementation of the RSPO Principles and Criteria developed at last year's conference.
- Ian Redmond, GRASP chief consultant, traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 14-21 February 2007 to meet with both the newly appointed GRASP DRC Focal Point, M. Leon Kanu-Mbizi and the new Environment Minister to brief them on GRASP issues. He also attended the 3rd Annual CoCoCongo Meeting in Kinshasa, the Abraham Conservation Awards and participated in an informal Bonobo round-table workshop on 20 February. A mission report will be made available soon.



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



Workshops and meetings

- The role of France in the conservation of great apes was discussed in Nantes, France (11-13 October 2006) at the *Assises Nationales du Développement Durable*. Issues under discussion included the mobilization of other European countries, development of fauna conservation sections within forest industry projects, creation of decentralized great ape issue cooperation programmes, and the creation of French national plan for great apes to bring together all parties in France interested in great apes.
- GRASP was introduced to francophone primatologists at the Annual Congress of the *Société Francophone de Primatologie* in Strasbourg from 18-20 October 2006 by Sabrina Krief from the *Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle* (MNHN).
- GRASP co-hosted the CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force Meeting, which convened in Nairobi from 31 October – 2 November 2006. Participants included customs and parks officials from ten trading and range States, as well as representatives from Interpol, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the World Customs Organization and various interested NGO parties.
- The new Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Achim Steiner, has met with two key GRASP personalities over the past months to discuss key issues. Moses Mapesa, Chair of the GRASP Executive Committee in September 2006 and GRASP Patron Dr. Richard Leakey on 12 February 2007. GRASP Patron Dr. Russell Mittermeier also paid an earlier visit to Mr. Steiner in July 2006.
- A GRASP side event was held at the 24th session of the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi on 6 February 2007 where the new report “Last Stand of the Orangutan, State of Emergency: Illegal Logging, Fire and Palm Oil in Indonesia’s National Parks” was launched by UNESCO, UNEP and the Indonesian Minister of Environment. Copies of the report can be found online at: www.unep.org/grasp. After the launch the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNEP-GRASP, signed an exchange of letters confirming a commitment of greater collaboration on the conservation of great ape habitat in wetland sites. As a first project, a joint documentary film will be produced for the Loango Ramsar site in Gabon.

Support to range State authorities

Provision of equipment

- GRASP Focal Points in the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire have now received Information Technology (IT) equipment (such as laptops, scanners, GIS units, digital cameras, flash-drives, and printers) as part of the on-going GRASP European Commission grant “Preservation of Forest Resources and Improved Livelihoods of Forest Peoples through Conservation of Great Apes as Flagship Species.” The IT component is administered through the Born Free Foundation.

Support to eco-tourism development in Central Africa

- GRASP’s Chief Consultant, the High Commissioner of Cameroon to the United Kingdom, officials from the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Volcanoes Safaris have held recent meetings in London and are in the process of developing a project to establish great ape-based tourism in Cameroon and promote ecotourism in the region.

Other new GRASP initiatives in the pipeline include:

- a) development of a project to value great ape habitat in Africa and Southeast Asia and provide an economic argument for conservation.
- b) collaboration with WWF and the Forest Peoples Programme on a participatory mapping project of indigenous peoples’ traditional forest resources in Cameroon.



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



For more information on these initiatives please refer to the latest GRASP newsletter available online at:
www.unep.org/grasp

Publicity and awareness

- The GRASP secretariat was contacted on 15th September by a member of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) concerning chimpanzees held in cages as a visitor attraction in some hotels. In response, the Secretariat initiated an awareness campaign to the members of ONUB and members of public in Burundi.
- An updated GRASP website www.unep.org/grasp was launched in October.
- The 6th edition of the GRASP Newsletter has been produced in English and French and hardcopies have been distributed to all great ape range states. Electronic copies can be downloaded from www.unep.org/grasp and hardcopies are available upon request by contacting grasp at grasp@unep.org

Looking ahead in 2007...

March 14-17	Convention on Migratory Species 14 th Scientific Council Meeting	Bonn, Germany
April 11-18	Tentative dates for CITES-GRASP Mission to Thailand	Thailand
May 2-3	GRASP Executive Committee meeting	Nairobi, Kenya
May 31	Dr. Leakey presentation at the Royal Geographic Society	London, UK
June 3-15	CITES 14 th Conference of the Parties	Hague, Netherlands