



**REPORT OF THE FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MEETING ON GREAT APES AND
THE GREAT APES SURVIVAL PROJECT (GRASP)
AND
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GRASP COUNCIL**

Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of the Congo
5-9 September 2005



United Nations
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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER - First Intergovernmental Meeting	6
Morning Session	6
Afternoon session	8
TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER - First Intergovernmental Meeting	12
Morning session	12
Afternoon session	16
WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER - First GRASP Council Meeting	18
Morning session	18
Afternoon session	21
THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER - First GRASP Council Meeting	23
Morning session	23
Afternoon session	25
FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - First Intergovernmental Meeting	26
Appendices	
APPENDIX 1 – Agenda of the Intergovernmental Meeting	33
APPENDIX 2 – Agenda of the First GRASP Council Meeting	34
APPENDIX 3 – Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes	35
APPENDIX 4 – Global Strategy for the survival of great apes and their habitat	43
APPENDIX 5 – Rules for the organization and management of GRASP Partnership ..	58
APPENDIX 6 – GRASP Partnership outline work plan 2003-2007	73
APPENDIX 7 – A Distinctive Approach; Current priorities	79
APPENDIX 8 – Decision of the GRASP Council, GRASP Programme of action	83
APPENDIX 9 – List of participants	84

INDEX OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Substantive/Procedural Issue	Paragraphs
Decision on Workplan and Distinctive Approach	112-115
Election of the Executive Committee	116
Global Strategy	49-53; 83-89; 149
GRASP Rules	56; 59-65; 90-102
GRASP Workplan and Distinctive Approach	54-55; 66-68; 104-111
Kinshasa Declaration	119; 150; 156
Report of the GRASP Secretariat	79-82
Report of the Interim Executive Committee	70-71
Report of the Interim Scientific Commission	72-77
Report on activities of the Technical Support Teams	78

OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), as well as the First GRASP Council Meeting, took place at the Grand Hotel in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 5-9 September 2005, under the patronage of President Joseph Kabila. Over 200 international delegates attended the Meeting, as well as approximately 300 delegates from the DRC. 19 of the 23 great ape range States were represented. NGO GRASP Partners attended, as well as three GRASP Patrons, two supporting Partners, and seven non-range State countries.

2. The structure of the Meeting was as follows: on Monday and Tuesday 5-6 September, delegates met as the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP). On Wednesday and Thursday 7-8 September, the First Meeting of the GRASP Council convened, with only GRASP Partners having decision-making authority, while other delegates participated as observers. The Intergovernmental Meeting reconvened on Friday 9 September for a High-Level Segment.

3. Professor Dieudonné Musibono (DRC) was chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting sessions. Moses Mapesa Wafula (Uganda) was chair of the GRASP Council Meeting. Samy Mankoto (UNESCO) served as Secretary-General of both Meetings, and Melanie Virtue (UNEP) served as Deputy Secretary-General of both Meetings. Richard Leakey, GRASP Patron, delivered the keynote address to the opening session. Professors Richard Wrangham and Toshisada Nishida, also GRASP Patrons, addressed the Meeting as well. The Vice-President of DRC, Vice-President Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi, gave the opening and closing addresses.

4. The IGM was the first opportunity for major players in great ape conservation, particularly governments, NGOs, the scientific

community and the UN, to meet and spend five days discussing the way forward for the great apes. This was done in an atmosphere of collaboration, respect and optimism.

5. During the GRASP Council Meeting, the reports of the Secretariat, the Interim Executive Committee, the Interim Scientific Commission and the Technical Support Teams were presented to delegates.

6. At the high-level segment of the Intergovernmental Meeting, Ministers, heads of delegations and all GRASP Partners and others present adopted the **Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes** under which representatives of the great ape range states, donor and other states, the academic and scientific community, non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector, inter alia:

- pledge to do everything in their power to ensure the long-term future for all great ape species and;
- affirm their commitment to the Global Strategy and to support, and for the range states, implement, effective measures to counter the threats facing the great apes;
- emphasize the need to stimulate and enhance range state cooperation to ensure the effective enforcement of great ape legislation and coordinated efforts to halt activities that have a detrimental effect on great ape populations;
- emphasize the role of national and international measures and participation in regional initiatives, and encourage ratification and compliance with international treaties such as the biodiversity and conservation-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- urge development and implementation of National Great Ape Survival Plans (NGASPs);
- urge GRASP Partners and others to support range states in the implementation of their NGASPs;
- encourage the provision of long-term ecologically sustainable economic benefits to local communities;
- invite international institutions and agencies to prioritize policies promoting ecologically

sustainable livelihoods for local and indigenous communities which prevent activities detrimental to the survival of the great apes;

- reaffirm their commitment to ensure GRASP has the capacity to realize its full potential;
- resolve to set the target of securing a constant and significant reduction in the current loss of great ape populations by 2010 and to secure the future of all species and subspecies of great apes in the wild by 2015; and
- invite the international community to provide effective and coherent support, including funding, to assist efforts made by the great ape range states.

At the time of the IGM in Kinshasa, 76 representatives signed the Kinshasa Declaration including 16 range states, 6 donor countries, 25 NGO GRASP partners, 2 MEAs and 2 intergovernmental organizations.

7. The First GRASP Council Meeting adopted a **Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat**. The Global Strategy outlines the overall goal of lifting the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes; to conserve in their natural habitats, wherever they exist, wild populations of all species and subspecies of great apes; and to make sure that their interactions with people are mutually positive and sustainable. The Global Strategy aims, inter alia: to work to extend the future membership of the GRASP Partnership; to implement the 2003-2007 GRASP Work Plan and future work plans; and to leverage new resources for great ape conservation projects and programmes.

8. The First GRASP Council Meeting also adopted a set of **Rules for the Organization and Management** of the GRASP Partnership which established, inter alia, that:

- the overall goal and objectives of GRASP reflect those that are detailed in the Global Strategy for the Conservation of Great Apes and their Habitat;
- GRASP Partners will be organized by great ape range states (Category A), non-great ape range states that support or participate significantly in conservation of great apes and

their habitat (Category B), UNEP and UNESCO (Category C), biodiversity and conservation-related conventions and other relevant international organizations and institutions (Category D), non-governmental organizations (Category E), other non-range states (Category F), individuals (Category G), and the private sector (Category H);

- all great ape range states are full partners;
- the GRASP Executive Committee should consist of 11 members drawn from the various partner categories;
- the GRASP Partnership will benefit from the advice of a Scientific Commission and may use Technical Support Teams and other ad-hoc groups.

9. Finally, the first meeting of the GRASP Council adopted the **2003-2007 Work Plan** and the **“GRASP Partnership: A Distinctive Approach”**, documents which, respectively, describe the work plan for 2003-2007 and the strategic priorities guiding the work plan for 2005-2007. Finally, it adopted a decision whereby the GRASP Council: entrusts the Executive Committee and Scientific Commission with the preparation of a detailed programme of action for 2006-2007, ensuring the consultation of all GRASP Partners.

10. An eleven member GRASP Executive Committee, comprised of Indonesia, Uganda, Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Kingdom, France, UNEP, UNESCO, the CITES secretariat and two international non-governmental organizations, Orangutan Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society, was elected at the meeting. The committee, with the assistance of the GRASP Scientific Commission, will guide the work of the GRASP Partnership until the next GRASP Council in two years time.



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MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

First Intergovernmental Meeting

Morning Session

11. The Opening Session of the First Intergovernmental Meeting of Great Apes and Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) opened promptly at 10:00 on Monday morning, 5 September 2005. The morning and afternoon were dedicated to statements.

12. Following the entry into the Salon Congo of DRC Vice President Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi (Vice President in charge of Reconstruction and Development), the State Protocol Officer led delegates in singing the national anthem. The State Protocol Officer, on behalf of the Vice-President,



DRC Vice President Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi

welcomed the delegates to the Intergovernmental Meeting in Kinshasa. He introduced a number of dignitaries attending the Opening Session, including Ministers, Deputy Ministers, GRASP Patrons, and Ambassadors. The State Protocol Officer made a brief statement outlining the itinerary for the Opening Session.

13. **Samy Mankoto, Secretary-General of the IGM (UNESCO – GRASP Secretariat)**, thanked President Joseph Kabila and the government of the DRC for hosting the meeting, and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome received since delegates started arriving. He introduced Melanie Virtue (UNEP – GRASP Secretariat), Deputy Secretary-General of the IGM, stating that she is a “powerful force” within the GRASP initiative. He reminded delegates of the support shown by the international community for this Meeting in Kinshasa, and warned that great

apes might disappear within this generation if threats are not addressed. Mr. Mankoto said that the Meeting provides an opportunity for the 23 range States to discuss issues related to great apes and their conservation so as to: take appropriate action; mobilise the minds of the international community regarding great apes and their situation; develop synergies and joint approaches; develop sustainable projects that can earn revenues to put toward great ape conservation; and enhance achievements by creating national and regional action plans aimed at protection of great apes and their habitat. He emphasised the importance of the Declaration in securing commitments by all stakeholders and committing all of humanity to the survival of great apes. He expressed his wish that the meeting should be “non-bureaucratic” and focused on global and concerted action for the protection of great apes. He outlined the expected objectives of the meeting: adoption of a GRASP strategy, the GRASP workplan, the rules for the organisation and management of GRASP, the Kinshasa Declaration, as well as commitment of resources from the international community.

14. **Dr. Richard Leakey, GRASP Patron**, then took the floor, and launched his Keynote Address by reminding everyone that humans are in fact “the sixth great ape” and that the Meeting is discussing the future of “a member of our own family, and not a strange creature who lives in the jungle.” He paid tribute to the work of his fellow GRASP Patron Professor Toshisada Nishida, who has spent most of his life studying chimpanzees. Dr. Leakey then identified his home country Kenya as a former range State of great apes, pointing out that it is the only country in Africa that has evidence that chimpanzees became extinct about 500,000 years ago. He suggested that events that led to the extinction of great apes in Kenya could be those that lead to extinction now if no action is taken. Dr. Leakey then discussed climate change as a major threat to great apes, referencing the ferocity of Hurricane Katrina in

the southern US as a reminder that climate change can affect all of us. He said the greatest pressure from climate change is habitat loss, both in terms of ecological change and forced relocation of environmental refugees. He said national governments, regional authorities and international agencies must think about conservation in an entirely new way, and that it is no longer possible for NGOs to provide first aid for conservation crises. He emphasised that it is unrealistic for poor countries to devote resources for conservation while millions are suffering from the effects of poverty, and suggested that great apes can be turned into an economic asset that others will share in the cost of maintaining. He asserted that the problem of great apes is not a shortage of money, but a shortage of strategy. Emphasising the importance of the Intergovernmental Meeting, he implored delegates to “cut out the tentativeness of the discussion” and to “devote our minds – the one thing we have more of than other apes” to secure their future.



Veerle Vandeweerd, UNEP, and Richard Leakey, GRASP Patron

15. On behalf of UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, **Veerle Vandeweerd (UNEP – GRASP Secretariat)** conveyed best wishes for a successful meeting. She made reference to the launch of the *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation*, which was launched the previous week in London, expressing hope that the *Atlas* and the Intergovernmental Meeting will focus attention on the need to save the great apes from extinction. After giving a short background to the partnership, she said that GRASP advocates a comprehensive, inclusive and holistic approach to great ape conservation.

She expressed hope that this meeting would give great impetus to conservation work, that those present at the meeting will contribute, and that the meeting will convince other big players to contribute.

16. **Natarajan Ishwaran (UNESCO – GRASP Secretariat)** provided more background to the GRASP Secretariat starting from the IGM’s Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom), held in November 2003 in Paris. He discussed UNESCO’s contribution to conservation through biosphere reserves and world heritage sites, many of which are home to great ape populations. He expressed hope that UNESCO can work with the Partnership to encourage a sound scientific footing. He mentioned UNESCO’s decision to set aside \$100,000 for awarding research grants to young scientists in 16 of the 23 range States under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) scheme, as well as the UNESCO Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. He also mentioned the GRASP exhibition on great apes just concluded at the Aichi Expo in Japan.

17. **Anselme Enerunga, Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Forestry (DRC)** welcomed everyone to the Meeting in Kinshasa, thanking those who made the Meeting possible. He informed delegates that the DRC hosts three of the four species of great apes, and six of the subspecies. He said the IGM presents an excellent opportunity to put together – with the support of UNESCO and UNEP – strategies that should be able to provide for the survival of these species. He reminded everyone that the world would be focused on the Meeting in Kinshasa, and said any declaration will only be effective if common action is based on accepted and respected text.



Natarajan Ishwaran, UNESCO, Samy Mankoto, UNESCO, Moses Mapesa Wafula, Uganda, and Melanie Virtue, UNEP (© IISD)

18. His Excellency **Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi, Vice-President in Charge of Reconstruction and Development** (DRC) welcomed everyone, stating that the Meeting will go far to bolster democratic and transparent elections in the country, and will be a sign of trust and confidence of the international community in the transition to the rule of law. He said the DRC is on the list of the 10 most mega-diverse countries in the world, noting that in addition to the great ape species, it also hosts other threatened species. He said that protected areas count for 9% of DRC's territory, and will be increased to 15% in order to include natural ecosystems. He said the majority of great apes are found in the protected areas, although there are some populations that are outside, which is why the strategic plan for the survival of great apes provides for a series of measures to identify new areas. He committed the DRC to: maintaining a climate of confidence that will lead to partnership; ensuring significant investment in human, material and financial resources; strengthening education and awareness programmes aimed at the public; and ensuring security for protected areas against timber and mining activities. He said the existence of great apes will be a priority materialised in the Kinshasa Declaration, and wished everyone full success at the meeting. He then declared the First GRASP Intergovernmental Meeting open.

19. The Government of the DRC then hosted a short cocktail in honour of the First GRASP Intergovernmental Meeting and First GRASP Council Meeting.

Afternoon session

20. On the afternoon of Monday 5 September, Chair Dieudonné Musibono (DRC) introduced the Agenda of the meeting, which was adopted. Delegates then heard statements from various participants to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

21. The Ambassador of **Belgium** extended congratulations on behalf of his Minister of Cooperation and Development. He stated that great apes are symbolic for biodiversity in their

importance, and discussed Belgian support for various environmental projects such as: cooperative initiatives in five World Heritage Sites in the DRC; funding for the Congo Exhibition held in Paris in 2004; and initiatives of the Royal Museum for Central Africa. He also discussed activities addressing forest ecosystems in the DRC, such as creation of a trust fund to strengthen governance in the forestry sector.

22. **Uganda** outlined recent programmes on sustainable conservation of great apes, including the recent development of a national action plan, which is currently undergoing approval and formal adoption by the government. He stressed that Uganda will ensure sustainable conservation of great apes, their habitats, and associated rural economies. He called on range States to stand together and ensure that great apes do not only survive and flourish, but also continue to play a central role in helping to understand natural environments and as a resource contributing to national and regional economies.

23. **Ghana** informed delegates that one of its most endangered subspecies is the western chimpanzee.



Delegates from Ghana (© IISD)

He said that despite this, it receives very little attention, but that the government is working together with an international NGO and looking for support to carry out a proposal to conduct status surveys and conservation of the chimpanzees. He underlined the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2010 Biodiversity Target, outlining challenges to protect endangered species such as: deforestation, encroachment, hunting, bushmeat trade, and international smuggling for the pet trade or research. He emphasised that these challenges cannot be addressed through the solo efforts of range States, and called for collaborative action.

24. **Indonesia** discussed the two great apes species existing in his country: the Sumatran orangutan and the Borneo orangutan. He said they were considered flagship species used to raise awareness, and they play a key role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of tropical forests. He also cited scientific interest in the orangutans, as they are a branch of great ape evolution distinct from African great apes. He also suggested there is potential for the orangutans to be a tourism icon for the region. However, he noted that the rapid decrease of lowland forest habitat has resulted in the species being placed on The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List – with the Sumatran orangutan listed as critically endangered and the Borneo orangutan listed as endangered. He described Indonesia's current strategy for orangutans, which is: aimed at long-term survival; in line with implementation of CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) -7 decision on protected areas; based on improved conservation of biodiversity in logging sections and other utilised forests; and committed to implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Conservation of and trade in great apes). He said Indonesia is organising two orangutan protection workshops, with a view to producing a comprehensive and achievable strategy to offset or eliminate threats. He also stressed the need for more effective law enforcement, awareness of judiciaries, and training of park rangers.

25. **Angola** informed delegates that gorillas and chimpanzees exist in the Cabinda province



Graciano Domingos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Urbanization and Environment, Angola (© IISD)

of Angola, in an area of dense forest. He described some national activities undertaken on great ape conservation, including educational initiatives, establishment of protected forest areas, anti-poaching activities, and

establishment of other income-generating activities for local populations, such as a livestock provision programme. He cited participation in international level activities, such as the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) deliberations as well as the African Timber Organisation (ATO). He also mentioned that efforts were underway with neighbouring countries such as the DRC and the Republic of Congo to establish a cross-border conservation area, Transboundary Biosphere Reserves in the Mayumbe tropical forest region.

26. The **US** emphasised that the cooperation of range States is crucial for the long-term survival of great apes. He stressed the dedication of the US to regional conservation efforts, describing the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and stating that US contributions aim to ensure sustainable management of forests in 11 priority forest landscapes. He said that since 2002, the US government has earmarked \$54 million for actions in the Congo Basin, with results such as strengthening of park networks, increased cross-border collaboration, new partnerships with the private sector, and increased infrastructure in remote areas. He also discussed the US Great Apes Conservation Fund, which has made possible dozens of projects for great apes and their habitats.

27. **Côte d'Ivoire** noted that despite socio-political crises in his country, measures had been taken to protect valuable habitat and natural resources. He said that in 2002 – prior to the war – a law had been passed strengthening the status of protected areas, parks and natural areas, which took into account great apes. He added that over the next 12 years, the programme would be developed so that all of these protected areas would have legal status and an autonomous management body. He emphasised the importance of collaboration with the international community, and called for the expansion of protected areas through cross-border corridors.

28. The **UK** said it was unfortunate that many donor countries were not participating in the meeting, and stressed that strategic financial

support for great ape conservation can be in line with poverty reduction and local economic development. He asserted that GRASP Partners and the project itself can deliver on its aims, especially if the wider context is taken into account.

29. **Japan** emphasised that not only range States, but other states, NGOs and international organisations should be concerned with great ape conservation. He outlined conservation and study activities conducted by Japanese researchers, such as on orangutans in Borneo and chimpanzees in Tanzania. He said private sector aid from Japan also supports great ape conservation, and indicated his plan to build up collaborative relationships with range States.

30. A representative of the **COMIFAC** noted that his organisation was the manifestation of the Presidents of 10 Central African countries to guarantee sustainable development and protection of forest ecosystems in the region, particularly the Congo Basin. He noted that great apes play an important role in maintaining forest ecosystems, and that these complex interactions are not fully known due to lack of full scientific information. He suggested that GRASP will contribute to bolstering efforts taken by COMIFAC and member states on forest ecosystem conservation, noting the Partnership is in line with the Convergence Plan adopted in Brazzaville in February 2005. He called for harmonising interventions in the field, and said the GRASP meeting will be an historical milestone for the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

31. A representative of the **European Commission (EC)** fully associated themselves with the objectives of GRASP, and stressed the importance of working with CITES. He said sustainable policy for conservation of great apes requires assisting



Michel Van den Bossche, European Commission (© IISD)

local populations, and announced the finalisation of an agreement with GRASP for Euros 2.4 million.

32. Reminding delegates of the CITES resolution on conservation of and trade in great apes, the **CITES** representative emphasised the importance of partnership in achieving success in today's world of limited resources and competing priorities. He noted that CITES does not have resources or money to offer GRASP, but can offer expertise and experience, especially on: addressing trade as a threat to great apes, including establishing relationships with customs organisations; creating wildlife enforcement law networks; establishing the Great Ape Enforcement Task Force; cooperating on technical missions; and sharing wildlife legislation expertise. He stressed the importance of converting words and meetings into action.

33. A representative of the **Lusaka Agreement Working Group** – the objective of which is to reduce and eliminate trafficking in flora and fauna – described the accord, which has six member states, half of whom are great ape range States. He said the Task Force supports GRASP's mandate through field activities, capacity building, and training of enforcement agents. In addition to the usual threats to great apes – disease, poaching, encroachment, armed conflict, trafficking, etc. – he cited corruption as an aggravating factor. He said the Task Force works with national bureaux of member states and with other institutions, such as Interpol, the World Customs Union, UNEP, COMIFAC and others. He launched an appeal to African countries, calling on the pooling of efforts in law enforcement.

34. A representative of 17 international **NGO Partners** made a collective statement in the form of a declaration. The representative made reference to: CBD commitments and the 2010 Biodiversity Target; the decline of great ape populations; and the dependence of local communities on natural resources. The NGOs called on the GRASP Partnership to, *inter alia*: design and implement conservation actions at a high governmental and intergovernmental level;

capitalise on the international and multisectoral nature of the Partnership to mobilise new sources of funding; establish permanent staff and mechanisms necessary to manage GRASP effectively in the long-term; develop a goal-oriented strategic plan that serves as the basis of future workplans; establish a scientific commission; ensure conservation policies are coordinated between range States; encourage



Peter J. Stephenson, WWF International (© IISD)

range States to assume greater responsibility for achieving GRASP objectives; and encourage donor and range States to ensure their policies and legislation contribute as actively as possible to great ape conservation.

35. GRASP Supporting Partner **Volcanoes Safaris** pointed out that the missing link in great ape conservation is that of the private sector. Noting that great apes are one of the most unique resources in the world, he described work by his company to set up safari structures in Uganda and Rwanda, which depend on protection of great apes and their habitat. He said very little has been done to garner benefits of great apes for local communities, and more should be done to create income for these groups. He said community participation should be sensitive, and eco-tourism should be based on pro-poor livelihood projects that impact minimally on the great apes. He stressed that conservation and development cannot be seen as being in conflict, and warned that if community needs are not taken into consideration, protected areas will be destroyed.



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TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

First Intergovernmental Meeting

Morning session

36. On the morning of Tuesday 6 September, delegates continued to hear statements by various representatives. Agenda items on the documents to be agreed were introduced and briefly discussed in the afternoon, with deliberations on these documents continuing in the afternoon. Two statements were given in the afternoon, but are included here with the other statements in the morning.

37. The Ambassador of **Italy to the DRC** emphasised that great apes are a form of wealth, and can guarantee range States revenue through eco-tourism. He noted that Italy has been managing parks in DRC as a source of income for people living around the parks. He called on range States not to allow great apes to become extinct, as it is “killing the goose that lays the golden eggs”. He recalled that they made \$300,000 available through UNESCO to protect the national heritage of DRC’s Garamba National Park.

38. **Burundi** discussed a national programme for the conservation of chimpanzees, which comprises elements on forest ecosystem protection and creation of sanctuaries for orphan populations. He said chimpanzees had not been spared ever since the outbreak of the socio-political crisis in 1993, and therefore the programme’s initial focus was taking an inventory of the chimpanzees and assessing their degree of vulnerability and the anthropological activity in the areas where they live. Once this census is taken, he said action plans would then be defined for conservation of the species. He also called on the Jane Goodall Institute to honour their 1994 commitments regarding the repatriation of chimpanzees from Kenya to Burundi once peace has been restored.

39. **Cameroon** outlined its natural resource heritage and described threats to this heritage.

He outlined measures the government has taken to save gorillas and chimpanzees from extinction, including: legal instruments to protect gorillas, which has resulted in seizures and confiscations, as well as prosecutions of offenders; creation of protected areas, which comprise 15.8% of Cameroon’s total surface area; signing, ratification and implementation of various multilateral environmental agreements; involvement of local communities in sustainable management of biodiversity; public awareness and education; great ape inventories in some areas; and elaboration of a national action plan. He said more can be achieved for great ape conservation through intensified wildlife law enforcement, public awareness, and improvement of local community livelihoods.

40. Noting that it has the largest number of chimpanzees, **Guinea** said it used traditional conservation skills as well as government efforts to manage resources. She informed delegates that issuing of hunting permits was suspended in 1986, and that in 1987 a law was issued to protect wild fauna. She said the influx of refugees fleeing wars in other countries has contributed to the destruction of natural habitat, threatening the lives of chimpanzees. She said although the government is making efforts to recover orphaned chimpanzees and prevent capture for the pet trade, protection is only possible if strategies are in concert with sub-regional initiatives. She described the national plan that has been developed, pointing out that it will: facilitate interactions between public and private sectors; strengthen partnership among institutions that address chimpanzee conservation; increase knowledge of chimpanzees and their habitats; and invite communities to participate in conservation.

41. The **Central African Republic** noted it is a range States for gorillas and chimpanzees, and called for urgent action to conserve great apes given the difficult and hostile environment in which they live. He supported the establishment of GRASP as a dynamic body

for dialogue and activities to save great apes, and voiced his support for this initiative.

42. A representative of the **Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)** noted that – like GRASP – it is a World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type II partnership, with involvement of both civil society and the private sector. He gave an historical outline of what has been happening with the CBFP since its inception, informing delegates that France took over facilitation of the Partnership in February 2005, from the US. He said a website was launched (www.cbfp.org), and urged GRASP to take into consideration the use of forests by the private sector when considering great ape conservation, stressing the value of ensuring private sector use is as least disturbing as possible for great apes.

43. The **DRC** gave some information about its natural heritage, informing delegates that: protected areas comprise 9% of the country; three of the four great ape species exist in the DRC; and there are five World Heritage Sites in DRC. Describing threats to great ape species, the representative said the government solemnly commits to: implement laws on nature conservation; establish new protected areas within great ape habitat in order to reach the goal of having 15% of the territory as conservation areas; establish mechanisms to reduce the poverty of populations living near great apes; improve the health of great apes; promote scientific research to improve levels of reproduction; and promote partnership among those involved in conservation. He called on the international community to provide technical and financial assistance for these activities.

44. A representative from the **Rural Environment and Development Organisation** (Rwanda) referred to the conflict in Rwanda that was, in his words, disastrous for humans as well as wildlife inheritance. He said that for the past five years, protection of great apes has been a priority for his country, given that gorilla tourism is the second biggest source of foreign earnings. He noted challenges in Rwanda due to overpopulation – about 500



Damascène Gashumba, REDO, Rwanda (© IISD)

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valuable forest
ecosystems to
less than 5% of their original size, and launched
an appeal to GRASP to assist with preservation
of their disappearing species and habitats.

45. The **Born Free Foundation** stressed that conservation of great apes and their habitat cannot be achieved by any one country or organisation, but must be based on partnership and unity of purpose. He emphasised that “when circumstances demand, we must sacrifice our individual agendas and work together for a common goal.” He said the philosophy of GRASP as an inclusive and freestanding structure for Partner participation must be a reality, and called on delegates to “ask not what GRASP can do for you, but what you can do for GRASP”. He said that Partners who stand back from GRASP must hold themselves responsible if it fails. He outlined the contributions – financial and otherwise – of the Born Free Foundation to GRASP, nothing they have pledged an extra \$20,000 for great ape activities, and more for great ape task force missions. He said the greatest threats to great ape conservation are cynicism, apathy and pessimism, and said the lack of faith must be challenged.

46. **Jean-Eudes Teya, Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing of the Central African Republic** said that in his country, great apes live in regions where there is pressure from economic activity such as industrial logging and diamond production. He also cited food needs of indigenous populations as major risks and threats to the survival of great apes. He asserted that lifting the threats to great apes is predicated upon economic

recovery that involves local populations, who must be provided with alternative income-generating activities and alternative resources for survival. He suggested that eco-tourism would be an alternative and provide a means of sustainable management of their heritage.

47. **Henri Djombo, Minister of the Forest Economy and of the Environment of the Republic of Congo** arrived in the afternoon, and gave his statement at that time. He informed delegates that the Republic of Congo has protected areas that cover 11.2% of their national territory, and said that great apes in his country are subject to three main threats: illegal hunting; habitat degradation; and outbreaks of the Ebola virus. He described conservation efforts, such as: creation of natural reserves; establishment of chimpanzee nurseries for reintroduction; repatriation of bonobos to the DRC; adherence to multilateral environmental agreements; and proposals to add western gorillas to Annex II of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). He outlined objectives within the Republic's strategic plan on great apes: creation of a great ape database; establishment of a network of conservation projects and a special anti-poaching unit; monitoring of epidemiological situations; promotion of great apes in tourism; raising public awareness; strengthening national institutional frameworks; and strengthening international cooperation.

48. A representative of **local NGOs in the DRC** also gave a statement, emphasising: close cooperation with GRASP; intensification of information and awareness campaigns; dissemination of legal text on great apes; promotion of traditional conservation methods such as taboos, legends, and food restrictions; creation of a database on areas of intervention; involvement of local populations in great ape conservation projects that are outside of protected areas; initiation of micro- and macro-development projects to address poverty of populations living next to great apes; and strengthening the capacity of local NGOs to provide for better follow-up in field activities.

49. Chair Musibono then introduced **Agenda Item 5(b), Discussion on and**

recommendation to the Council regarding the “Draft global strategy for the survival of great apes”

(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/Prep.Com.1/2/Rev.2). Stanley Johnson, GRASP Consultant, provided a history of the *Draft global strategy for the survival of great apes*, stating that the strategy was devised in 2003 with the idea of creating an overall strategic framework for the work of all actors who are involved in great ape conservation. He highlighted the overall goal of the strategy, its objectives, national and international dimensions of the strategy. Delegates then submitted comments on the strategy.



Melanie Virtue with GRASP Patrons: Prof. Richard Wrangham and Prof. Toshisada Nishida; and Naoto Shibui, UNESCO

50. Uganda made comments regarding: indigenous communities who live in conservation areas, in particular resettlement of these communities under UN guidelines and funding for these activities; financial support for Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) membership fees; range States having permanent membership of GRASP, as well as collective veto powers; and sharing of success stories in great ape conservation.

51. The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGF-I) called for deletion for text on population crashes of eastern lowland gorillas. The Central African Republic suggested a data/intelligence network on great apes, with international support. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) called for reference to the Great Apes Enforcement Task Force in the section on longer-term objectives. The Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance suggested reference to reintroduction to the wild of species as a part

of the long-term strategy. Bristol Zoo Gardens proposed adding specific text under “immediate objectives” on income-generating activities that are pro-poor and locally directed.

52. DFGF-I proposed deleting reference to conservation of “viable” world populations of great apes. Mr. Johnson informed delegates that he spoke with GRASP Patron Richard Leakey about the issue of “viable” populations, and it was felt that deleting this word would not be problematic in terms of the overall goal of GRASP. The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation added that the Scientific Commission could also input on this matter.

53. The representative from DFGF-I also enquired about whether any partner knew of any private sector companies that have “shown themselves to be sensitive to the potential disruption to forest habitat caused by mineral extraction”.



Patrick Mehlman, DFGF-I (© IISD)

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe (DFGF-E) suggested that HC Stark – a German company that mines coltan – have been involved in and fund the Durban Process to find solutions to coltan extraction issues.

54. After these comments were submitted, delegates went onto **Agenda Item 5(c) the “Draft Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership outline workplan, 2003-2007”**

(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/1). IGM Deputy Secretary-General Melanie Virtue gave an overview of the history and structure of GRASP, and of the workplan. Regarding the history of GRASP, she noted that UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, Ian Redmond and the Born Free Foundation played a key role in the establishment of GRASP in 2001, and that in 2002 GRASP was

registered as a WSSD Type II partnership. She added that in November 2003 there was a meeting in Paris where the draft rules of the Partnership were discussed, and in 2004 the Interim Executive Committee established the Interim Scientific Commission (ISC) to provide independent scientific advice to GRASP. She added that Technical Support Teams were one of the longer-standing parts of GRASP, and were tasked with visiting range States, establishing national focal points, and developing national great apes survival plans. She noted that the role of these teams has been changing, and if the rules are agreed, the Scientific Commission will define the work of any teams to be created.

55. In terms of comments on the 2003-2007 workplan, Cameroon suggested – and IFAW and the US supported – adding text on awareness raising for judiciaries and legal systems. He also proposed text on support for anti-poaching operations, both internal and cross-border, as well as establishment of an early warning system for Ebola and anthrax based on ape die-offs.

56. Stanley Johnson then introduced **Agenda Item 5(a) “Draft rules for the organisation and management of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership”**

(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/2), reminding delegates of the overall goal of GRASP to conserve viable populations of all species and subspecies of great apes in their natural habitats wherever they exist. He outlined the immediate objectives of the Partnership, described the five envisaged categories of Partners and three envisaged categories of Supporting Partners, and the organisation of GRASP.

57. Before adjourning the morning session on Tuesday, a short video message from **Dame Jane Goodall, GRASP Patron** and UN Ambassador of Peace was shown to delegates. In the message, Dr. Goodall congratulated the GRASP Secretariat for inspiring, motivating and interesting so many diverse people in attending the meeting, emphasising that the plight of great apes around the world is grim,

with habitats and populations shrinking at an alarming rate. She stressed that conservation approaches based on policing and law enforcement are important but not enough to conserve great apes in the long run, and that partnership with those living around great apes and their habitats is necessary. She described community conservation projects undertaken by the Jane Goodall Institute, such as helping villages start small sustainable development projects and improve their standard of living. She said commitments must be for the long term, but that “the most important commitment of all is that within our hearts”.

58. Ian Redmond announced the First GRASP Leica Award for Services to Great Ape Conservation, the prize of which is a pair of powerful binoculars donated by Leica. He said the award would be given annually to scientists from great ape range States who are making a difference to great apes. On Friday afternoon at the IGM, it was announced that awarding of this prize would be postponed and further information would be sent out via email.



Delegates enjoying lunch break (© IISD)

Afternoon session

59. Discussions on the draft rules were continued in the afternoon session. Uganda suggested comments regarding: automatic designation of full Partners for all range States; the GRASP Council Chair being the Chair of the Executive Committee, and that this position is held by a range State; quorum requirements for the Executive Committee and Scientific Commission; limitations on observer attendance at Executive Committee meetings; the frequency of face-to-face Executive

Committee meetings; and clarification of the subregions. In response to the comment on the Chairs, Mr. Johnson pointed out there could be inconsistencies with election procedures should the Council Chair be the same as the Executive Committee Chair and if a range State holds this position.

60. Cameroon suggested, with support from UNEP, that the sponsoring agency Partner category be expanded to allow for any others who may wish to sponsor GRASP, such as UNDP. He also proposed that the official work of GRASP always be provided in both English and French. The Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Project suggested that documents also be translated into Malaysian and Indonesian languages, to ensure officials in those countries can understand them.

61. The Republic of Congo asked for clarification regarding the status of great apes held in captivity, requested more detail on the role of GRASP at the national level, and suggested establishing an epidemiological sub-commission. In response to these comments, Chair Musibono pointed out the difficulties of including great apes held in captivity, especially in regards to designation of range States. Côte d'Ivoire reminded delegates that the strategy states that GRASP is not prescriptive, and therefore national level activities should not be mandatory.

62. Regarding functions of the Secretariat, UNEP clarified that because the GRASP Secretariat is housed within UN agencies, Secretariat staff must abide by UN regulations. Cameroon enquired whether Secretariat appointments could be in consultation with the Executive Committee. UNEP clarified that UN recruitment procedures are set by the General Assembly, and are very difficult to modify, but that consultation with partners is always possible.

63. IFAW suggested that under GRASP Secretariat functions should be text on establishing a website, and called for text stating that academic institutions and research bodies “should not be involved in animal experimentation of any kind whatsoever.” The

UK proposed that: more detail regarding how intersessional GRASP Council meetings are called, suggesting that they be convened if requested by a certain amount of partners from categories A, B, or C.

64. Côte d'Ivoire also suggested annual reporting periods, as opposed to biennial, and that there might be membership fees so as to ensure a sustainable financial base for activities. Indonesia suggested that if range States membership on the Executive Committee was based on species, there are six positions instead of four.

65. Japan asked for clarification regarding text on "relevant conventions and agreements", and whether the promotion of legal frameworks for great apes protection included non-range States. Senegal proposed adding the text "and their habitats" to any reference to conservation of great apes, since this is an important part of the partnership. He supported Uganda's suggestion about range States being automatically designated as full Partners, and suggested that the Secretariat could inform them of this.

66. In resuming discussions of **Agenda Item 5(c), the "UNEP Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership outline workplan 2003-2007"**, IGM Deputy Secretary-General Melanie Virtue reminded delegates that this original workplan was agreed at the Preparatory Committee Meeting held in Paris in November 2003, that the timeframe was already more than half over, and that a large proportion of the targets had already been reached. She noted that with the evolution of the GRASP Partnership, a new approach was developed, introducing document UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM/1.6, **"The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership – A Distinctive Approach: Current Priorities"**.

67. She emphasised that the approach is based on what is perceived to be GRASP's added value, and enumerated the priorities: (1) High-level national and intergovernmental dialogue to generate political will and influence policy for great ape conservation globally; (2)

Planning and monitoring at the national, regional and international level to bring the decline of great ape populations to a halt; (3) Development and promotion of best practices, cooperation and technical support between and among all stakeholders; (4) Media, information and public awareness to mitigate the threats facing the great apes; and (5) New and additional funding for great ape conservation. She clarified that this document provided a general statement of priorities, and that detailed targets and activities would be developed in specific workplans.

68. Delegates then made preliminary comments on the "Distinctive Approach". IFAW said he felt the priorities were well articulated, and in the right order. The Born Free Foundation said the document provides a good way forward, and that the Executive Committee and Scientific Commission should work on more detailed workplans. Concerns were raised about the ordering of the priorities, and Ms. Virtue clarified that they were listed from general to specific, and would be addressed concurrently, and not in sequential order. The Central African Republic said the Secretariat had done a good job with the document, and asked for examples of what targets had been achieved. Ms. Virtue briefly described some of the targets and how they were reached, including through various activities such as, *inter alia*: cooperative initiatives with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements; collaboration with the Primate Specialist Group of IUCN; projects implemented with a number of NGOs; technical support missions to numerous range States; organisation of an international conference; launch of the *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation*; training of anti-poaching teams; new and additional funds raised from various donors; and publication of new GRASP leaflets.



Eric Blencowe chairs the working group on the draft declaration

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER First GRASP Council Meeting

Morning session

69. Opening the First GRASP Council Meeting on Wednesday, IGM Secretary-General Samy Mankoto reviewed the proceedings of the previous two days of the Intergovernmental Meeting, noting that there had been technical discussions on the document and that a drafting group had been formed to work on the declaration. He introduced Moses Mapesa Wafula (Executive Director, Uganda Wildlife Authority), who was elected by acclamation as Chair of the Council Meeting.

70. Chair Mapesa introduced the Agenda, which was adopted without objection. He introduced **Agenda Item 4, Report of the Chair of the GRASP Interim Executive Committee (IEC)**, noting that Uganda has been Chair of the IEC since 2003. He stated that the composition of the IEC included: representatives from three great ape range States – Uganda, DRC and Indonesia; a representative from the donor countries – UK; two NGOs – Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Orangutan Foundation; a representative from the multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs) – CITES; and representatives from the GRASP Secretariat – UNEP and UNESCO.

71. Aggrey Rwetsiba (Uganda) reported that the IEC had four teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings during the interim period between November 2003 and the IGM/Council Meeting, as well as a meeting of some members to discuss how the Technical Support Teams could work with the Interim Scientific Commission (ISC). He reminded delegates of the terms of reference of the IEC: monitoring the implementation of the GRASP Partnership; identifying and overseeing attainment of Partnership objectives and deciding on funding of Partnership projects; commissioning and overseeing implementation of the Partnership role in the Global Strategy

for the Survival of Great Apes; deciding on the admission, suspension, expulsion or limitation of the rights of Partners; seeking advice of the ISC; approving the annual workplans of the secretariat, Technical Support Teams and ISC; overseeing the activities of Patrons and approving Secretariat recommendations regarding appointments; assuming other functions as deemed necessary.

72. Chair Mapesa then introduced **Agenda Item 5, Report of the Chair of the Interim Scientific Commission (ISC)**. This was presented by co-Chair Dr. Mark Leighton. He said the ISC had been elected by the Section on Great Apes of the IUCN Primate Specialist Group and the President of the International Primatological Society, and that the ISC had 11 members representing regional and taxonomic expertise. He reported that the work of the ISC started in December 2004 and has steadily grown in intensity leading up to the IGM. He said most of the work has been done by email, and that he hopes to increase the



Mark Leighton, co-chair of the ISC

frequency of work done together in coming months. He reported that the ISC tasks have been to: advise the IEC on policies and activities; review GRASP documents for scientific issues; review project proposals for possible funding or action; and with the Secretariat, review the work of the Technical Support Teams.

73. Dr. Leighton said the ISC had been developing an indicative list of priority populations and sites, and that the plan for the list is for it to be integrated into an updatable

database for long-term improvement of scientific data and for monitoring populations and sites. He proposed it should be the basis for guiding GRASP strategies on fundraising, scientific monitoring, and legal/political work.

74. In terms of the report, he gave definitions of various terms, and explained that success was measured by how well populations and habitats are being maintained. He said taxon specific experts – including ISC members and others – compiled the report. He discussed the results of and maps for the 14 taxa, explaining that the maps show where populations are, the nature of habitats, biogeographical outlier populations, and where populations fall into protected areas or parks.

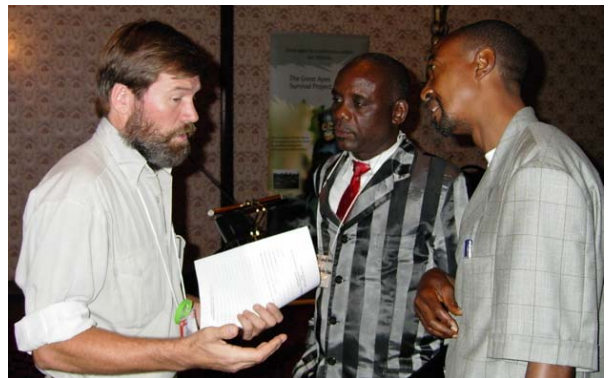
75. Dr. Leighton reported that there were a total of 112 priority populations and 94 sites, and that all range States are represented by at least one priority population or site: the DRC has 30 priority populations and Indonesia and Cameroon have more than 20 each. He briefly discussed theoretical and scientific challenges associated with criteria, but noted that the lists were compiled with “consensus and camaraderie”.

76. In terms of specific and notable findings, he reported that the cross-river gorilla is the most endangered great ape, with four populations – totalling about 300 individuals – living in a fragmented environment.

77. Indicating future plans to incorporate the preliminary list into a geo-reference database, he said the Scientific Commission would like to receive inputs from range States on how the Commission can be useful to them. He informed delegates that the maps and other information are available online at the Wood’s Hole Research Centre GRASP website (<http://www.whrc.org/africa/prioritypops/>), but that the site would be moved later.

78. After this presentation, Chair Mapesa introduced **Agenda Item 6, Report of the Activities of the Technical Support Teams**, presented by Ian Redmond, GRASP Consultant. Mr. Redmond specified the roles of the Technical Support Teams, including:

partnership building, including through missions to range States; offering support to focal points, such as through national workshops; assisting with development of national policy documents or action plans; and raising awareness at all levels, such as through public lectures, presentations to scientific gatherings, and the Great Apes Film Initiative. He then explained to delegates the basic challenges faced by focal points, such as internet access, funds for phone calls, transportation, and adequate office facilities.



Ian Redmond with Ilumbe Ya Mponde and Biya Munena Jacques from the Institute of Zoological and Botanic Gardens of Congo

79. Chair Mapesa then introduced **Agenda Item 7, Report by the GRASP Secretariat**, which was presented by Melanie Virtue and Natarajan Ishwaran. Mr. Ishwaran explained UNESCO’s role in GRASP, explaining that the main people dedicated to GRASP are at UNEP, and that UNESCO could not hire someone specifically for GRASP unless special funds were made available. He enumerated contributions of UNESCO to GRASP, such as the convening of two IEC meetings in Paris, the Central African World Heritage Forests Initiative, development of a documentary and a DVD, and contributions to an exhibition held at Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie, a museum in Paris. He added that UNESCO was trying to work with donor states for activities through the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. Mr. Ishwaran said he looked forward to seeing what specific actions of the Partnership can be taken up by range States, and to mobilising certain actions for great apes conservation through their World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.

80. Ms. Virtue then presented financial information from the GRASP Secretariat, from

the period 2003-2005. She reported that total income was \$1,909,075 (not including the EC grant, as it had not been received yet) – which was donated by UNEP, the UN Foundation Planning Grant, the governments of the UK,



Melanie Virtue, UNEP

Ireland, Denmark and Germany, as well as the private sector. In terms of expenditures, she reported that a total of \$2,081,000 had been spent on: activities such as development of national great apes survival plans, technical assistance, and field projects; partnership strengthening, i.e.

support for IEC, ISC, and other meetings; the Intergovernmental Meeting; information and awareness raising; fundraising; and operations. She noted that although these figures indicated that GRASP Partnership was running over budget, in fact the EC grant had allotted funds for the Intergovernmental Meeting, and UNEP was lending the Secretariat the money until the funds were received. At that time, the finances would be balanced.

81. In the ensuing discussions, Côte d'Ivoire suggested that funds might be mobilised from NGOs in addition to donors and sponsoring agencies. Ms. Virtue explained the funding process, and that projects have to be presented to donors before funds could be raised. A number of NGOs specified great ape projects and activities they had undertaken with their own funds, explaining that their contributions tend to be in-kind and not financial. Concerns were raised by various delegates about great apes living in non-protected areas, and it was suggested that these be taken into account. Dr. Leighton welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with field rangers, wildlife departments, forestry officers and others to develop projects on these populations. Lukuru Wildlife Research Project enquired about the finances of GRASP-Japan and GRASP-Australia. On GRASP-Japan, it was clarified

that there are no financial inputs to them, although there are activities taking place in Japan, such as the Expo in Aichi. Regarding GRASP-Australia, Ian Redmond explained that they are a concerned group of primatologists and conservationists who are self-organised and self-financed, and who had run a speaking tour to raise awareness, which culminated in a discussion with government officials. He expressed hope that Australia would become a donor to GRASP.

82. On audio-visual materials, one delegate suggested development of an inventory of audio-visual materials, and Ian Redmond mentioned a film made with an Indonesian celebrity to raise awareness in that country. He also suggested discussing great ape issues with education ministries with the help of UNESCO, and working with the World Health Organisation and the World Tourism Organisation. The Central African Republic stressed the importance of education for younger generations to be aware of matters related to great apes. Burundi raised the issue of anti-personnel mines and the threat they pose to great apes in previous conflict areas.

83. Chair Mapesa then introduced **Agenda Item 8, Discussion and adoption of the “Draft global strategy for the survival of great apes”**. Stanley Johnson, GRASP Consultant expressed hope that delegates to the GRASP Council could agree to the amendments made, so that the document could be forwarded in a complete form to the Intergovernmental Meeting on Friday.

84. Delegates easily agreed to the following amendments: addition of “and their habitat” to the title of the document; deleting text on population crashes of eastern lowland gorilla; creation of an international network of intelligence; text on “bearing in mind the costs of such participation” vis-à-vis the cost of joining multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs); and text on the promotion of education and awareness of local populations.

85. On text specifying private industry and business and conservation of biodiversity, there were mixed views on whether specific

companies should be included. Some delegates felt that circumstances change, and that the document should be written so as to be timeless. DFGF-E clarified that it had suggested adding reference to HC Stark - a coltan processing company – because it had found alternative sources of coltan when the DRC crisis started, and because it funds great ape conservation projects. Others supported listing these companies into an annex, as both “a carrot and a stick” toward good behaviour. WCS pointed out that if all companies that supported conservation were listed, the list would be too long. It was agreed that there would be no specific examples.

86. Delegates were divided regarding deletion of the reference to “viable” populations, with some feeling GRASP should focus its efforts on populations that are going to survive, and others feeling that particular actions for different populations could be specified in other documents, such as the workplans. It was decided to delete the word “viable”.

87. The Jane Goodall Institute enquired about measures of success such as indicators, and Mr. Johnson said that the document was a general global strategy, and that detailed timeframes and programmes would be developed in workplans.



Delphine Mulley and Keith Brown, Jane Goodall Institute

88. Mr. Johnson addressed the concerns of the Japanese delegation that were raised during the Intergovernmental Meeting, stating that promotion of legal frameworks does not apply to Japan, and that other relevant conventions may include CMS, Ramsar, the World Heritage Convention, etc.

89. These changes were agreed and the GRASP Council adopted the Global Strategy (appendix 4).

Afternoon session

90. Discussed next was **Agenda Item 9(a), Discussion and adoption of the “Draft rules for the organisation and management of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership”**.

91. In terms of general comments, Côte d’Ivoire supported adding text on establishing the basis of engagement of each country, and the Republic of Congo questioned whether this was necessary. Côte d’Ivoire called for text under objectives on determining the potential of each site and to monitor populations of great apes, but it was decided that this idea may already be reflected in the Global Strategy. He said the objectives in the Global Strategy and those in the draft rules would be consistent.

92. Delegates did not agree to membership fees for GRASP, as many partnerships have collapsed due to this requirement. IFAW withdrew their proposal on prohibiting institutions that engage in animal experimentation. Delegates also agreed that documents and other materials would be in French or English, and if other languages were desired, other Partners may provide translation.

93. Under the section on ‘Objectives,’ Uganda suggested – and delegates agreed – to add text on “underfunded” funding areas.

94. In the section on ‘Partners,’ text was accepted on including “other WSSD Type II Partnerships” to Category D partners, and text on “withdrawal” of partners was deleted. Two suggestions were made and accepted regarding full Partners – that all great ape range States are full partners, and that donor states will become full partners as soon as they declare in writing their support of GRASP’s goals, mission and objectives. A suggestion to replace “suspension” stipulations with “sanctions” was accepted as well.

95. In the section on the ‘GRASP Council’, Uganda’s suggestion that the Chair of the Council also serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee was opposed by numerous delegations, though they did agree that the Chair of one of the bodies should be a range State. The UK suggested a three-year period for Council meetings, but this was not approved as the terms of office for other GRASP bodies and the reporting periods are every two years. The UK also suggested that intersessional meetings only be convened if three Category A, one Category B and one Category C partners requested it, so as to ensure that one donor country would be willing to participate or fund it, and that UNEP or UNESCO could perform the Secretariat function. Delegates also agreed to text stating that the GRASP Council approves and/or amends the multi-annual workplan.

96. Regarding the section on the ‘Executive Committee’, delegates agreed on text regarding: partners from Categories A to D being encouraged to host meetings; the number of range State representatives remaining at four; the number of non-range State representatives being increased to two; there being one face-to-face Executive Committee meeting each year; the number of observers would not be limited; the Chair of the Executive Committee would be elected from among the Category A (range State) representatives on the Committee; and quorum for the Executive Committee being five members with Categories A – C represented.

97. The UK submitted a proposal that “crucial decisions [made by the Executive Committee] will need to be reconsidered at the subsequent GRASP Council Meeting”, and after some discussion of the matter, with delegates urging the Council to trust the Executive Committee to elect good representatives and make good decisions, the suggestion was withdrawn. A proposal to add a reporting requirement of the Executive Committee to the GRASP Council was included.

98. Under the section on ‘Secretariat’, Côte d’Ivoire proposed text on a two-year project

funding cycle within which each range State could submit a project, and UNEP clarified that this would be dependent upon available resources. The Orangutan Foundation stressed that the Executive Committee would consult with range State when developing annual workplans so as to ensure their plans are taken into account. IFAW suggested, and delegates supported, text on the Secretariat having responsibility for the GRASP website.

99. Regarding the section on the ‘Scientific Commission’, Uganda suggested quorum, but this was deemed to be unworkable given that the Commission operates over email. Delegates agreed that the Scientific Commission would take measures necessary to ensure adequate input is received from its members on any issues. Mr. Johnson clarified what the subregions were in terms of representation on the Scientific Commission: Southeast Asia, West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa.

100. Regarding the section on Technical Support Teams, delegates agreed to reference Technical Support Teams “or other ad hoc groups”, and regarding funding for these teams or groups, that it would be the responsibility of “Partners who are requesting the study or by other appropriate sources.”

101. On the section on ‘GRASP at the national level’, the Republic of Congo had suggested text on specific details on national level engagement. Ms. Virtue noted that there is tremendous variation in terms of how range States tend to operate, and that imposing a set structure may make operation difficult for some. IFAW urged as little bureaucracy as possible, and to allow range States to organise themselves. Uganda suggested that the Executive Committee – instead of sponsoring agencies – would have the right to refuse donations from entities deemed unsuitable, which was agreed.

102. The Rules for the organisation and management of the GRASP Partnership were then adopted (appendix 5).

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER First GRASP Council Meeting

Morning session

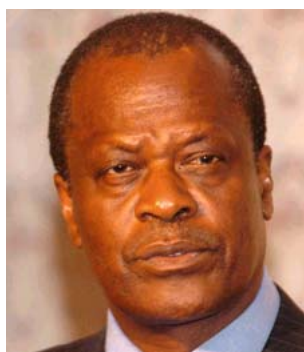
103. On Thursday 8 September, delegates first heard a statement from **a representative of Indigenous Populations, Ms. Adolphine Muley**, who said that from time immemorial the Pygmy people in DRC had lived in symbiosis with the forest, especially in terms of protection and knowledge of the ecosystem. She said the expulsion of indigenous peoples from their land for the sake of protected areas and parks is as paradoxical as regrettable, and warned that if specific measures are not taken on their behalf, they too would become threatened species. She asked that the indigenous peoples of all range States should be recognised as partners to GRASP, and that their traditional knowledge should be used for its true value and to avoid the threats that great apes face.

104. Chair Mapesa introduced **Agenda Item 9(b), Discussion and adoption of the “Draft Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership outline workplan 2003-2007”**. IGM Deputy Secretary-General Melanie Virtue noted that many elements of the workplan had been covered in earlier sessions, and reminding delegates that the timeframe was half over, the document could easily be discussed and adopted. She said that feedback would be incorporated into a full workplan. Cameroon had submitted written comments regarding: support for internal and transboundary anti-poaching operations; support for awareness raising of national judiciaries and legal systems; and support for setting up early warning systems for Ebola and anthrax based on ape die-offs.

105. Delegates discussed the nature and effectiveness of the suggested anti-poaching operations, whether this included training and equipping of patrols, and how these activities might be funded, as they are very expensive. DRC mentioned their intention to get their armed forces involved in anti-poaching

operations, and referenced a cooperative ranger training project undertaken with Angola. Mr. Ishwaran noted that there are examples of successful intervention of armed forces in anti-poaching operations, such as with rhino conservation in Nepal. The representative from CITES suggested that in many places in the document, “wildlife law enforcement” may replace “anti-poaching”, and warned that in many places it is the gendarmerie who control and organise wildlife trade. Centre de Recherche en Ecologie et Foresterie (CREF) said that training judiciaries would accomplish nothing if corruption and poverty continue. The Central African Republic suggested that the GRASP Secretariat set up a special prize for performance to encourage good behaviour. It was agreed to add bullet points on supporting training and law enforcement operations, and on supporting awareness-raising of judicial systems and supporting prosecutions and imprisonments.

106. The Republic of Congo stressed epidemiological surveys and monitoring, and Mr. Ishwaran suggested discussing the matter with the World Health Organisation, who is active on health and biodiversity issues.



Henri Djombo, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Congo (© IISD)

Paneco Foundation said that problems in Southeast Asia revolved more around support for investigations of legal operations, such as with removal of palm oil plantations and the illegal use of land. Text on the Convention on

Migratory Species was modified to reflect a proposal – predicted to be accepted at the November CMS COP – to list western gorillas. In the new text, there is reference to gorillas in general.

107. Cameroon suggested adding text on the role of local NGOs vis-à-vis their national focal point. Ian Redmond pointed out that the Technical Support Team has a draft document on guidelines for national focal points, but it is informal and not translated. Lukuru Wildlife Research Project informed delegates that the DRC national committee has plans to develop a database for NGOs, which will include areas of expertise. The Born Free Foundation felt a database would be very useful for the international NGO community in building relationships with local NGOs, and Ian Redmond reported that the IUCN Primate Specialist Group is creating a database. The IUCN Primate Specialist Group said it expected that the database – which is still in progress – would be available for everyone. A number of delegations felt it is better if national groups set their own procedures for liaising and working with their local NGOs, although many delegations were supportive of NGO work, stating that: they work out of conviction, and not necessity; they are more trustworthy; and that they provide governments with a lot of vital information and provide feedback on the efficiency of conservation strategies. It was decided that there would be text in the workplan on working with the IUCN and range States to establish a database and network of NGOs that are relevant to the GRASP effort.

108. With this, the Workplan was adopted (appendix 6).

109. The Chair introduced *The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership – A Distinctive Approach*. Delegates expressed support for the document, emphasising that its elements must be translated into clear and measurable annual workplans, and stressing the importance of funding to ensure there is implementation.

110. Cameroon suggested that text be added regarding training activities, wildlife law enforcement operations and awareness raising under the priority on ‘development and promotion of best practices, cooperation and technical support between and among all stakeholders’, which was agreed.

111. The ‘Distinctive Approach’ document was adopted (appendix 7).

112. The representative of WCS circulated a draft decision, the purpose of which was to take the Workplan and the ‘Distinctive Approach’ documents as a basis for moving ahead toward a multi-year workplan. The decision recognises the need for a clearly defined set of activities that the GRASP Partnership can commit to implementing that is in line with the Workplan and the Distinctive Approach. It tasks the Executive Committee with the preparation with a detailed workplan for 2006-2007, identifying actions, duration for completion, etc. The decision requests the Executive Committee to ensure the workplan is circulated to all Partners before 31 December 2005 and recommends that the Executive Committee monitors progress, and submits progress reports to the next Council session.

113. Côte d’Ivoire suggested adding text on “indicators” of progress, and the Orangutan Foundation suggested that workplans should be developed in collaboration with the Scientific Commission. UNEP



Ahipeaud Guillaume-Christ,
Ambassador of Côte d’Ivoire (©
IISD)

proposed adding a reference to national plans to be integrated into the workplan.

114. Concerns were raised about the mechanism of getting the GRASP Council to approve the multi-year workplan – upon which the annual workplan would be based – as stipulated by the GRASP Rules agreed the previous day. The WCS representative noted that this would just be an issue for the first cycle, and that it could be circumvented if the Council gives the Executive Committee authorisation to produce this first plan. UNEP urged delegates to be flexible during this first stage, as suits a partnership, and suggested that the Executive Committee could develop the plan, which could be circulated to everyone, with a 10-day comment period.

115. Delegates agreed to this and adopted the decision (appendix 8).

Afternoon session

116. In the afternoon, delegates addressed **Agenda Item 11, Election of the Executive Committee**, starting with Category A (range State) partners. Noting that it was the only Southeast Asian range State present, Indonesia “nominated themselves” as representative. Uganda was nominated as the East African representative. The DRC was nominated as the Central African representative. Guinea was nominated for the West African representative. The UK and France were selected as the two Category B (donor state) representatives. Making a short statement on their nomination, France mentioned its activities in the Congo Basin region, such as through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. He also noted France’s intention to take more action for great ape conservation and to participate more actively in GRASP activities. Category C (sponsoring agency) partners required no nominations – UNESCO and UNEP are the representatives. CITES was nominated as the Category D (multilateral environmental agreement) representative. The NGOs felt WCS and the Orangutan Foundation did a good job on the Interim Executive Committee, and were therefore nominated to be the Category E representatives for the Executive Committee.



Veerle Vandeweerd, UNEP, and Stanley Johnson, advisor on the IGM

117. Chair Mapesa congratulated all that had been elected, and informed delegates that the Executive Committee would meet at a later date and elect a chair. He then called on delegates to elect a chair for the GRASP

Council for the next two years. After a brief suspension in proceedings, the Republic of Congo nominated Cameroon for Council Chair, which was supported by many delegates. Cameroon thanked the Council for giving them the opportunity, and said they would do everything to meet the challenges faced by great apes and by GRASP.

118. Cameroon reported that a discussion group on great apes and diseases had met over lunch that day, and that recommendations emerging from the group were being circulated. The group recommended: setting up of national early alert systems for infectious diseases based on ape die-off; setting up national response systems for zoonoses alerts; building up capacity of national laboratories; training of veterinarians and health care personnel for appropriate detection and response protocols; and raising public awareness about zoonoses that are transmittable from apes to humans.

119. The UK then informed delegates that work on the draft declaration had concluded, and read out the revised version. (*see Appendix 3 for text of Declaration*)

120. The First GRASP Council Meeting was then adjourned.

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

First Intergovernmental Meeting

121. The First Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and on GRASP reconvened on Friday 9 September for the High-Level Segment.

122. IGM Chair Dieudonné Musibono welcomed delegates and gave an overview of the day's programme, then IGM Secretary-General Samy Mankoto gave a summary report of the first two days of the IGM on Monday and Tuesday, as well as the GRASP Council Meeting held on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Mankoto noted that the meetings had been successful with over 200 international participants and 300 from the DRC participating at the IGM. He noted deliberations had enjoyed good coverage from international and national media. He announced that the GRASP Council had adopted the documents they had before them: the Rules for organisation and management of GRASP; the Workplan and Distinctive Approach; and the Global Strategy. He also noted the GRASP Council had elected the Council Chair, as well as the Executive Committee, who were charged with developing a detailed workplan for 2006-2007.

123. Delegates then heard statements from the ministers and heads of delegations to the IGM. These were interspersed with NGO statements regarding work in the field.



Ministers listening to the High-Level Segment

124. **Jim Knight, Minister for Biodiversity of the UK**, stressed that if we want to convince people to care about biodiversity, then great apes would make the best ambassadors. He said they are our closest animal relatives, with definite social hierarchies and political systems. He mentioned a visit to Kahuzi-Biega National Park made earlier in the week, saying it showed how a lot of work can be done with very little resources. He said people who are struggling to survive and find food cannot be blamed for trying to make a living, and this is why every conservation effort must include local people in purpose and operation. He called on donor states to do more, and welcomed the EC contribution to GRASP. In terms of the bigger picture, he referenced the ambitious package for Africa agreed at the G8 meeting in Gleneagles, UK, stating that when people benefit, so does the environment. He concluded by stating that everyone must leave the meeting with a renewed sense of purpose and knowledge that we can save great apes.

125. **Henri Djombo, Minister of the Forest Economy and of the Environment of the Republic of Congo** said the meeting provided an opportunity to tackle great apes issues in a shared but responsible manner, stressing that all must leave convinced that they have participated in a true dialogue and have found solutions to the survival of great apes. He said range States require resources to manage current protected areas before expanding them. He noted that Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) farmers spend \$300 billion a year on farm subsidies, so should be able to assist with the costs of managing projects such as forest ecosystem management in the Congo Basin. He stated that poverty leads to poaching, and stressed ensuring that local populations are not marginalised and do not consider nature conservation as yet another way of limiting access to resources.

126. **Egbé Hillman Achuo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon**, thanked the GRASP Council for being elected as Council Chair, then gave an overview of the natural resources wealth in his country, highlighting the plight of primates. He described the range of actions taken by his government to conserve great apes and other wildlife species and habitats, as well as the network of protected areas and national parks. He said there are new areas to be classified for great apes protection, including new sanctuaries and a new national park. He discussed the Cameroon national action plan, initiated in 2003 together with support from GRASP. However, he noted nothing can be done without funding, and lauded the initiative of the UK in this regard.

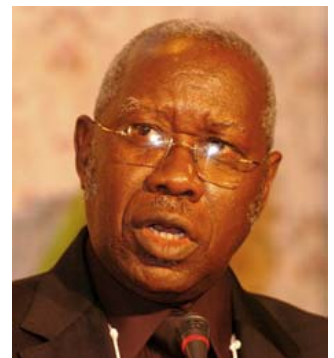
127. **David Zeller (International Ranger Federation)** reminded delegates that not only are rangers responsible for protecting wildlife, but are also closely involved in community lives and livelihoods. He stressed the need for effective law enforcement, explaining that rangers operate under difficult and trying conditions: dealing with military collusion; poor or non-existent equipment; and dangerous situations. He said rangers must be trained and skilled to protect great apes, provided with proper and appropriate equipment, and fully supported at an institutional and national level. He suggested including young professionals in deliberations and decision-making bodies, and urged the GRASP Partnership to consider a rapid response facility to react to natural and manmade disasters in great apes regions.

128. Noting that the country had just come out of a period of political instability and conflict, **Jean-Eudes Teya, Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing of the Central African Republic** said that two or three years ago, it would not have been able to participate in the meeting. He stressed that no great ape conservation project is feasible unless there is economic prosperity and political stability, and that proliferation of weapons and conflict are the main sources of danger that influence the survival of great apes, since they undermine the environment and expose them to poaching and other threats. He called for the

sustainable use of forests – the habitats of great apes – which are also essential to the economic development of countries. He said indigenous populations also have to be closely involved with development and implementation of conservation projects, stating that their participation guarantees project success.

129. **Andrews Adjei-Yeboah, Deputy Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines of Ghana** shared experiences from his country on conservation efforts, noting that in the early 1980s, the prescription from development partners for economic recovery was “to enter the forest to take out the trees that were of value.” He said that in cutting down these trees, the habitat of wildlife was threatened – all in the name of development. The Deputy Minister said his government will give the Declaration its fullest support, and will “religiously adhere to every single demand the conference will visit on his country”.

130. **Arcado Dennis Ntagazwa, Minister of State of Tanzania** noted the challenge of simultaneously addressing the multiple threats to great apes, observing that there were additional difficulties due to slow population growth rates and the fact that they are only found in developing countries. He asserted that habitat degradation is principally a development problem, and its solution should be based on addressing poverty. He discussed his visit to the Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary earlier in the week, remarking that humans could learn a lot from bonobo behaviour, such as: solving problems and disputes through sex; strictly abiding by the “thou shall not kill” commandment; avoiding incestuous relationships; management of families and communities by females; and five-year child spacing. He called for community involvement in habitat protection, pointing out that forests also have other environmental advantages such as removing carbon dioxide from the



Arcado Dennis Ntagazwa, Minister of State of Tanzania (© IISD)

atmosphere. He called on the meeting to avoid being “long on commitments and short on action”.

131. The **Institut Congolais par la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)** said it is a technical, scientific and public body mandated by government to fulfil three missions: protect the flora and fauna in national reserves; promote *in situ* scientific research and tourism respecting nature conservation; and manage the stations that are established within or outside of reserves. He asked for support so that Maiko National Park could become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He specified threats faced by great apes in the DRC: the freeflow of arms and ammunitions; high population growth of people in great ape habitats; and destruction of land for agriculture, timber and mining.

132. A coalition of **local NGOs** stated that they are the living shield against threats faced by great apes and riparian communities in the DRC, and said they wanted to make sure their voice is heard. They promoted the transfer of knowledge, and stressed the importance of strengthening the scientific capacity of young citizens in the DRC in order to make sure research on great apes continues. They also supported the dissemination of indigenous knowledge, which has in many places been the only way of providing for great ape conservation.

133. **Jovino Ayumu, Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities of Uganda** noted that the biggest threat to the great apes living in his country – chimpanzees and mountain gorillas – is pressure on their habitat from human development needs. He specified actions taken in Uganda to counter threats to great apes: legal and institutional frameworks; development programmes; and commitment to regional and international agreements. As members of the Partnership, he said his country is keen to ensure fulfilment of sustainable linkages that are specific to GRASP, and pledged Uganda’s commitment and support to GRASP.

134. **João José Martins Lopes de Carvalho, Minister of Agriculture and Rural**

Development of Guinea-Bissau maintained that the main reasons there are still chimpanzees in his country are traditional nature conservation techniques of his people and government efforts deployed for natural resource management. He said that since 1980 there has been a governmental decree providing for full protection of the chimpanzees. However, he said the civil war in 1998-1999 interrupted the dynamic conservation process that was underway, and destroyed chimpanzee habitat. He said conservation solutions must take on board the specific conditions in a range State, but also the situations of neighbouring countries that share populations. He reported that his country has two national parks at present, one of which is community-managed, and that other initiatives are underway.

135. **Anselme Enerunga, Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests of the DRC** emphasised the role that great apes play in the survival of forest ecosystems, and noting that the DRC has 59% of the Congo Basin forests, said his government plans to: set up a national GRASP committee; accelerate the review and implementation of nature conservation laws; make great apes habitats safer; promote tourism in great apes sites; strengthen the institutions in charge of managing and promoting great apes; create new sites and areas where there are viable great ape populations; implement mechanisms aimed at reducing the poverty of local populations; and promote scientific research to improve the reproduction of great apes.

136. The **Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme** discussed some of the problems in Southeast Asia with orangutan conservation, such as: forest fires caused by El Nino conditions; hunting and poaching for the pet trade; conversion of natural habitat to palm oil plantations; and the creation of roads, which fragments populations and creates more opportunities for logging concessions. He noted that Borneo was more adaptable to habitat disturbance than Sumatra, and that low levels of damage in Sumatra result in big drops in population densities. He also reported that

there are over 900 confiscated orangutans in Southeast Asian sanctuaries, which is three times more than those in the world's zoos. He said that many logging concessions granted in Aceh have not been developed due to the civil war, and that they are now regenerating. He observed that the end of the civil war provides a window of opportunity to negotiate relinquishment of the land.

137. **Graciano Domingos, Deputy Minister of Urbanisation and Environment of Angola** outlined threats to great apes in Cabinda province, including poaching for bushmeat, destruction of habitat for logging, and the poverty of local communities. He said these threats were aggravated by the climate of political and military instability that has existed since independence in 1975. He said that since peace was restored more than two years ago, the government has made efforts toward the creation of a healthy environment for protection of forests and natural resources, including rehabilitation of infrastructure destroyed in national parks, setting up new conservation areas, implementation of poverty alleviation programmes, and creation of cross-border conservation areas. He expressed hope that the GRASP Partnership will take into account the technical and scientific capability of range States.

138. The Executive Secretary of **COMIFAC** said it was the first time that COMIFAC was participating in an international meeting of this magnitude. He informed delegates that the establishment of COMIFAC was intended to end the "proliferation of subregional units with disparate results" and to coordinate decision-making regarding forest ecosystem management. He said the goals and activities of GRASP coincide with elements of the subregional Convergence Plan, and that COMIFAC fully subscribes to the Declaration.

139. A representative of the DRC environmental **media coalition**, Anne-Marie Kalanga, reported that the coalition was moved by the desire to support GRASP and promote its message through the mass media. She said the media play a crucial role in conservation, for example through widely distributing the

resolutions coming out of the IGM. She said the coalition undertakes to work with GRASP and to use their expertise with governments to disseminate necessary information. The coalition recommended information exchange with other media around the world, a roundtable of environmental press, and cooperation between GRASP and the media regarding environment and tourism.

140. In the afternoon, **GRASP Patron Professor Toshisada Nishida** made a presentation on the activities of GRASP-Japan, which is comprised of great ape research and conservation activities by Japanese primatologists. He said the mission of GRASP-Japan is to: strengthen ongoing research and conservation activities; provide public relations regarding the importance of great ape conservation; provide the GRASP Secretariat with key local information; promote establishment of the World Heritage Species concept; lobby the Japanese government on projects to do with great ape conservation; organise fund-raising activities; and support the GRASP Secretariat technically and financially. He described some of the findings of the research, such as common behaviour patterns between apes and humans and maintenance of tropical rainforest ecosystems through seed dispersal. He gave an overview of research sites and the seven major projects, including those in Indonesia, Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire and DRC.

141. **Denys Gauer, Ambassador of the Environment for France**, said that hosting great apes is something the range States can be proud of, but that it comes with heavy responsibility. He called for establishing a link and a



Denys Gauer, Ambassador of the Environment for France (© IISD)

dialogue between GRASP and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. He outlined activities France is undertaking regarding protection of the region's forests, such as contributions to the

Global Environment Facility and conservation projects in Gabon, the Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. He thanked everyone for accepting France as a representative on the Executive Committee, and said it would look into how they might provide support in terms of funds and human resources.

142. **Roger Meece, Ambassador of the US to the DRC** said the US was at the forefront of regional cooperation efforts, and that there is strong support for government contributions to great ape conservation. He reported that the Congo Basin Forest Partnership has leveraged funds – in addition to the \$54 million contribution of the US – from other donors, and called for a multi-faceted approach to great ape conservation. He discussed US initiatives to combat wildlife trafficking, such as creation of a global coalition against trafficking to focus political and public attention on the issue.

143. **Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment** stated that Japan fully supports the GRASP Global Strategy and Declaration, and that as a Category B Partner, would contribute to the survival of great apes. He said they would maintain close cooperation with range States, and using their knowledge, human resources and techniques, would contribute to implementation of the Global Strategy and Declaration.

144. **Michel van den Bossche, representative of the European Commission** stressed that there is little time to act on great ape conservation given the speed at which habitats are deteriorating. He said the threats are well-known and require joint efforts by all GRASP Partners, maintaining that solutions should and can be found and tested at the local level. He reported that the EC has been supporting range States to help them develop concrete strategies for management of great apes and their habitats. He proposed that great ape issues be mainstreamed in long-term sustainable development initiatives and national development strategies, emphasising the role they play in poverty alleviation. He said the EC

support for GRASP – to be finalised shortly – would facilitate this.

145. **Bernard de Schrevel, Attaché de Coopération for Belgium** stated that he was satisfied with the results of the meeting, and fully endorsed the Declaration. He said success in managing great apes depends on political will, turning this will into action in the field, and the availability of human and financial resources. He observed that political will is exhibited by signing the Declaration, that turning will into action is exhibited through adopting a variety of national measures, and that in terms of financial resources, the Belgian Ministry of Cooperation and Development is exploring the idea of supporting certain GRASP activities.

146. **Rob Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**, mused over the evolution of GRASP while he was a UNEP staff member, and that the convening of the IGM in Kinshasa fulfilled one of his dreams. He said that as the chief officer of CMS, he has worked to strengthen the engagement of CMS with GRASP, and described some great apes projects and initiatives undertaken by CMS, such as regional Article IV agreements. He reiterated the direct benefits great apes bring to economies, giving the example that great apes tourism in Uganda supported about 1700 person-years of jobs between 1994-1999. He said both GRASP and CMS send a strong message to the African continent that it is possible to prevent biodiversity loss and improve livelihoods.

147. The **NGO Partners of GRASP** made a collective statement, recognising the unique value the Partnership holds for great ape prospects. They urged all Partners and concerned people to engage in the important process set in motion during the meetings, and urged range States and donor states to increase the priority accorded to biodiversity conservation in general and great apes in particular.

148. **Local NGOs in DRC** also made a statement, referencing a conservation programme established in 1998 with funds

from the DFGF-I, which was designed to reduce poverty levels and conserve great apes. They discussed the creation of the Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology, which is finalising eight projects where GRASP is supporting various activities. The local NGOs also reported on field activities for forest systems using community conservation methods, including the creation of a community reserve. Another local NGO added that they have been finding new approaches to improve socio-economic conditions of people in order to lure them away from poaching activities and to encourage forest conservation, such as: trades and handicrafts training; pottery activities for Pygmy women; international sale of books; and educational activities for future generations who will replace park rangers.

149. Also in the afternoon, the Global Strategy – adopted by the GRASP Council – was introduced. There was a brief discussion on inclusion of text on the illicit trade of live species of great apes, and it was agreed that there would be a minor textual change referring to working with international networks of intelligence.

150. The **Kinshasa Declaration** was then introduced, and there was a brief discussion of text referring to commitment to resource mobilisation and to illicit trade of bushmeat. It was agreed that these comments would be reflected in the report of the meeting, and that any specific activities could be reflected in the detailed workplan to be developed by the Executive Committee. With this, the Kinshasa Declaration was adopted.

151. After a brief intermission, the Official Closing Ceremony commenced, with the State Protocol Officer giving an overview of the programme.

152. **GRASP Patron Dr. Richard Wrangham** gave a presentation on behalf of himself and GRASP Patron Professor Toshisada Nishida, noting that great apes are a bridge between humans and other species, with outstanding universal value for all of humankind. Recalling that Charles Darwin had

predicted extinction of the great apes, he said it is estimated that 93% of the great apes populations have been lost. He presented a proposal to make key great ape populations into “World Heritage Species”, along the lines of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites, with a set of criteria and conditions. He suggested that setting great apes as the first World Heritage Species would pave the way for other species to have the same designation.

153. **Walter Erdelen, representing the UNESCO Director General**, informed delegates that the discovery of the chimpanzee genome had been deciphered only during the previous week, and it differs from human genomes in only 1.2% of the base pairs, which poses new questions. He suggested that differences among humans and great apes are not found in the genes but in the way genes are expressed through physiology and behaviour. He emphasised that solutions to great apes conservation can only come from an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach that requires political commitment, a sound scientific basis, and commitment of financial resources. He said the presence of high-level dignitaries at the meeting provides all GRASP Partners with encouragement and sends a strong signal of political commitment. He outlined some of UNESCO’s activities on conservation of great apes and their habitats, as well as future activities such as reinforcing training activities and the potential of creating World Heritage Forest sites.

154. A statement from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was read out by **UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer**, observing that humans have not treated great apes with the respect they deserve, and that the total number of great apes is now probably no more than 400,000, whereas 50 years ago



Dr. Klaus Toepfer addresses the meeting

it was at least two million. He called on protecting remaining forest habitats to ensure great ape survival, noting that local communities are showing that they can be enthusiastic conservationists when given the means and motivation. He warned that great apes still have a chance to survive, but their fate lies in our hands.

155. Following this, Dr. Toepfer made his statement of behalf of **UNEP**, remarking that great ape conservation is not an easy task, and that one of the major challenges is balancing the survival needs of great ape populations with the economic and social well-being of local and regional populations. He said the meeting was very timely, given that there was only one week remaining until the World Summit (UN General Assembly 60th session) to take place at UN Headquarters in New York, where implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the overall structure of the UN would be explored. He identified poverty as the most toxic element in the world, asserted that we can only overcome poverty if there are intact ecosystem services available, and emphasised the importance of nature's capital. The Executive Director called for a review mechanism so the GRASP Partnership can take stock of what has been accomplished. He said the Partnership would not be possible without the dedication and daily experience of NGOs, the feedback from range State governments, and the full integration of academia.

156. **IGM Deputy Secretary-General Melanie Virtue** then read out the Kinshasa Declaration to the delegates (*see Appendix 3 for text*). Stating that he is looking forward to Kinshasa+10, IGM Secretary-General Samy Mankoto then called on each Minister and head of delegation to sign the Declaration.

1. Minister Anselme Enerunga – DRC
2. Deputy Minister Graciano Domingos – Angola
3. Minister Egbé Hillman Achuo – Cameroon
4. Minister Jean-Eudes Teya – Central African Republic

5. Ambassador to DRC Ahipeaud Guillaume-Christ – Côte d'Ivoire
6. Deputy Minister Andrews Adjei-Yeboah – Ghana
7. Minister João José Martins Lopes de Carvalho – Guinea-Bissau
8. Minister Henri Djombo – Republic of Congo
9. Minister Jovino Ayumu – Uganda
10. Minister Arcadio Dennis Ntagasawa – Tanzania
11. Minister Jim Knight – UK
12. Deputy Head of EC Delegation Bernard Piette
13. Executive Secretary COMIFAC – Jonas Nagahudi Mbongu
14. UNEP Executive Director – Klaus Toepfer
15. UNESCO Assistant Director General – Walter Erdelen



Walter Erdelen signs the Kinshasa Declaration

157. In his closing statement, **DRC Vice-President in Charge of Reconstruction and Development Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi** quoted the slogan of a supermarket chain in France, stating that “something is always happening in the DRC”. He cited anthropomorphism as the obstacle to peace among all beings, and pointed to great apes – particularly the bonobo – as a model for cooperation among humans. He voiced his intention to not close the meeting, but rather to open the meeting so Partners can continue with their efforts and implementation the Declaration and other commitments made.

158. The Intergovernmental Meeting closed at approximately 7:45pm.

APPENDIX 1 – Agenda of the Intergovernmental Meeting

**UNITED
NATIONS**



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

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

Distr.: General

UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/1
11 July 2005

Original: English

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

Agenda

1. Welcome by the host Government.
2. Remarks by the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP).
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. National and international priorities and processes for great ape conservation.
 - (a) Statements by representatives of great ape range States.
 - (b) Statements by donor countries, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and others.
5. Discussion on and recommendation to the Council:
 - (a) Draft rules for the organization and management of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/2)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/2);
 - (b) Draft global strategy for the survival of great apes
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/3)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/3);
 - (c) Draft Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership outline work plan, 2003–2007
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/4)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/4).
6. Discussion and adoption of the draft declaration on great apes
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/5).
7. Any other business.

APPENDIX 2 – Agenda of the First GRASP Council Meeting

**UNITED
NATIONS**



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

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

Distr.: General

UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/
COUNCIL.1/1/Rev. 1
6 September 2005

Original: English

**Council of the Great Apes Survival Project
First meeting**
Kinshasa, 7-8 September 2005

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting by the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP).
 2. Election of the Chair of the GRASP Council Meeting.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Report by the Chair of the GRASP Interim Executive Committee.
 5. Report by the Chair of the GRASP Interim Scientific Commission.
 6. Report on the activities of technical support teams.
 7. Report by the GRASP secretariat.
 8. Discussion of draft global strategy for the survival of great apes and forwarding to IGM for adoption.
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/3)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/3);
 9. Discussion and adoption of:
 1. Draft rules for the organization and management of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/2)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/2);
 2. Draft Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership outline work plan, 2003–2007
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/IGM.1/4)
(UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.1/4);
 10. Adoption of decisions and recommendations.
 11. Election of the Executive Committee.
 12. Any other business
-

APPENDIX 3 – Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes



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



Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes

We, the representatives of the great ape range States, donor and other States, international and intergovernmental organizations, academic and scientific communities, non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector, meeting at Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 9 September 2005,

Aware that there is a high risk of extinction in the wild for all great ape species, due largely to the destruction of forests and other habitat; threats from human activities, including increasing encroachments by human populations on their habitat; civil disturbances and wars; poaching for bushmeat and for the live animal trade; and diseases such as ebola which can decimate ape populations,

Recognizing that great apes are flagship species for tropical forests and woodland areas and play a key role in maintaining the health and diversity of their ecosystems, and that their decline and potential extinction may precipitate the decline of other culturally, economically or ecologically important species,

Also recognizing the intrinsic value of great apes as part of the world's natural heritage, which we have a moral duty to conserve and share with future generations,

Recognizing further that great ape populations and their habitats can provide direct and indirect benefits to local communities and other stakeholders, and contribute to poverty alleviation through the development of carefully regulated ecologically sustainable ecotourism and other non-destructive enterprises and through the environmental services that forests provide,

Recognizing moreover that all species of great apes are afforded the highest level of legal protection under relevant wildlife law in their respective range States,

Recalling the World Charter for Nature, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by its resolution 37/7 of 28 October 1982, which underscores the importance of not compromising the genetic viability on the earth,

Also recalling the Millennium Development Goals which, among other things, aim to ensure environmental sustainability and to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who live in extreme poverty,

Further recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which included the agreement to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010,

Recognizing the sovereignty of the great ape range States and the role of these States and their citizens in the implementation of conservation strategies for these species and their habitats,



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



Also believing that global partnership, collective action and the acceptance of common but differentiated responsibility can help to halt and reverse the decline of great ape populations,

Acknowledging that the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the World Heritage Convention, together with decisions taken by their Parties, are directly relevant to the survival of great apes, particularly in the fields of conserving forest diversity, extending and effectively managing protected areas, eliminating illegal trade, developing national and regional legal frameworks, and protecting key sites and habitats,

Recognizing that range States, donor States, international institutions, non-governmental organizations and industry and the private sector have already allocated substantial funds towards great ape conservation, but that further resources must be raised urgently so as to allow essential conservation work to be undertaken to secure the future of those species and their ecosystems,

Recognizing also that securing further funding from donor States and international institutions is more likely if, where appropriate, great-ape conservation projects are proposed and formulated as part of a wider poverty-reduction strategy, such as a durable rural-development project which recognizes that the sustainable development of rural communities depends in large part on the sustainable use of their environmental resources, including great-ape habitats,

Welcoming the present and future role of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership as a cooperative, global enterprise that harnesses the skills, resources and commitment of range States, donor States, multilateral environmental agreements and other international bodies, non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector, and academic and scientific communities,

Expressing gratitude to the President, Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their generosity and far-sightedness in hosting the present intergovernmental meeting,

Convinced of the urgent need to take appropriate measures,

1. *Affirm* our commitment to the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes;
2. *Affirm also* our commitment, as a matter of urgency, to support and, for the range States, to implement effective measures to counter the threats facing great apes;
3. *Emphasize* the need to stimulate and enhance cooperation among range States and their neighbours to ensure the effective enforcement of legislation protecting great apes and the coordination of efforts to halt activities that have a detrimental effect upon the populations of great apes;
4. *Also emphasize* the important role of appropriate national and international measures, and participation in regional initiatives such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, and encourage ratification and compliance with international treaties such as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity,



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



the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the World Heritage Convention which provide a framework for the conservation of great apes;

5. *Urge* the development and implementation of national great apes survival plans and other appropriate actions by range States, as part of their overall sustainable-development strategies, in order to conserve great apes and their habitats and to halt and reverse the decline of great ape populations, while ensuring the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular local communities;

6. *Further urge* partners to the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and other interested parties to support range States in the implementation of their great apes survival plans and any other appropriate actions;

7. *Encourage* the provision of long-term ecologically sustainable direct and indirect economic benefits to local communities, for example, through the introduction or extension of carefully regulated sustainable ecotourism enterprises in areas of great ape habitat, and the creation of long-term research projects operating in or near these areas;

8. *Invite* all relevant international institutions and aid and development agencies to make it a priority to develop and implement policies which promote ecologically sustainable livelihoods for local and indigenous communities and which prevent actions and activities that are detrimental to the survival of great ape populations;

9. *Reaffirm* our commitment to work together to ensure that the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership has the capacity to realize its full potential as a key component of the international effort to save great apes by:

- (a) Urging all 23 great ape range States to become or remain active partners of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership;
- (b) Also encouraging other States which either already support or participate to a significant extent in programmes for the conservation of great apes and their habitat, or could contribute to such an effort in such a way as to become full partners of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership;
- (c) Encouraging other international organizations, in addition to the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the biodiversity-related conventions, to become or remain active partners of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership;
- (d) Encouraging non-governmental organizations that have historically either played an important role in efforts to conserve the great apes, or could contribute to such an effort in such a way, whether at the national or international level, to redouble their efforts in that regard and to become or remain partners of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership;



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



(e) Encouraging the academic and business communities, industry and the private sector, which either already support or participate to a significant extent in programmes for the conservation of great apes and their habitat, or could contribute to such an effort in such a way as to become full partners of the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership;

(f) Forming strategic active partnerships with private sector ecotourism organizations to create sustainable economic development that enhances livelihoods for local communities in the range States;

10. *Resolve* to set ourselves and all concerned the target, by the year 2010, of securing a constant and significant reduction in the current rate of loss of great ape populations and their habitats; and, by 2015, securing the future of all species and subspecies of great apes in the wild, by:

(a) Ensuring the integrity of those sites supporting the key wild populations that would conserve the genetic, ecological and cultural diversity of all great apes for all time;

(b) Protecting those sites from further degradation and loss of habitat and working with local and indigenous communities to ensure that any human use of habitats is ecologically sustainable and consistent with maintaining healthy, viable great ape populations;

(c) Working to ensure interconnectivity of protected areas, where relevant, in order to avoid isolation of protected great ape populations, for example by establishing corridors where necessary;

(d) Developing ecologically sustainable local poverty-reduction strategies which recognize and integrate the needs of local communities sharing great ape habitats, while securing the lasting health of the environmental resources upon which they depend;

(e) Improving the protection of individual great apes and their habitats everywhere by demonstrably improving where necessary the quality and the enforcement of relevant laws, as well as the capacity of law-enforcement agencies;

11. *Invite* the international community in the widest sense, including donor States, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, industry, the private sector, and academic and scientific communities, to provide effective and coherent support, including funding, to assist efforts made by the great ape range States.

In respect of the above intentions, aspirations and actions set out in this Kinshasa Declaration, we, the signatories, pledge to do everything in our power to ensure the long-term future for all great-ape species and to encourage the citizens of the world, in whatever capacity, to assist and support this initiative.

Adopted at Kinshasa, on 9 September 2005.



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



Signatories to the Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes*

Range States

Angola**
Burundi
Cameroon**
Central African Republic**
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Gabon
Ghana**
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau**
Indonesia
Mali
Nigeria
Republic of the Congo**
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Uganda**
United Republic of Tanzania**

Donor countries

Belgium
France
Italy
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
United States of America

Intergovernmental organizations

European Commission
Commission of Forestry in Central Africa

United Nations Environment Programme

Dr. Klaus Töpfer

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Dr. Walter Erdelen

* Signatories as at 12 June 2006 (for the updates, see http://www.unep.org/grasp/Meetings/IGM-kinshasa/Outcomes/docs/Declaration_E.pdf)

** Signed by a Minister



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Projet pour la survie des grands singes
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GRASP patrons

Dr. Richard Leakey
Prof. Toshisada Nishida
Prof. Richard Wrangham

GRASP Scientific Commission

Dr. Marc Ancrenaz
Dr. Mark Leighton

Multilateral environment agreements

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

GRASP non-governmental organization partners

African Wildlife Foundation
Ape Alliance
Bonobo Conservation Initiative
Born Free Foundation
Bristol Zoo Gardens
Care for the Wild
Conservation International
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International
Fauna and Flora International
GRASP Japan
Great Ape World Heritage Species Project
Hutan
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Gorilla Conservation Programme
Last Great Ape Organization
Orangutan Foundation
PanEco Foundation for Sustainable Development and Intercultural Exchange (Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme)
Pole Pole Foundation
Rural Environment and Development Organization

Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology
Wild Chimpanzee Foundation



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



Wildlife Conservation Society
World Society for the Protection of Animals
World Wide Fund for Nature

GRASP supporting partners

Volcanoes Safaris
International Ranger Federation

Other non-governmental organizations

Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation
Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
Fondation Vie Rurale
Global Canopy Programme
Groupe Nkema
Help Congo
John Aspinall Foundation
Lukuru Wildlife Research Project
Nature Uganda
Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale
World Conservation Union – Cameroon
Zoological Society of Milwaukee

Other organizations and individuals

Action Communautaire pour la Protection des Primates du Kasai
Centre d'Accueil des Enfants Abandonnés
Earth Negotiations Bulletin
Forêt au Service des Communautés Autochtones et Locales
Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
Institut des Jardins Zoologiques et Botaniques du Congo
Journal Officiel / RDC
King Leopold III Fund for Nature Exploration and Conservation
Ligue Nationale des Associations Autochtones Pygmées du Congo
Lola Ya Bonobo
New England Anti-Vivisection Society

Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature
The Fauna Sanctuary

APPENDIX 4 –Global Strategy for the survival of great apes and their habitat



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



Global strategy for the survival of great apes and their habitat

1. Introduction

The text of the global strategy for the survival of great apes and their habitat is set out below, with an indication of the overall goal of the strategy, its subsidiary objectives and the action at the national and international levels required for their attainment. The strategy's background and rationale are set out in the annex which follows.

2. Overall goal¹

The overall goal of the strategy is, as an immediate challenge, to lift the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes, namely gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees) and orangutans, and, beyond that, to conserve in their natural habitats wherever they exist, wild populations of all species and subspecies of great ape, and to make sure that, where they interact with people, those interactions are mutually positive and sustainable.

3. Objectives

3.1 Immediate objectives

The immediate objectives of the strategy are the following:

- 3.1.1 To promote the global strategy for the survival of great apes;
- 3.1.2 To determine the potential of sites, monitor populations of great apes, and set up a database with this information;
- 3.1.3 To collate and analyse existing projects and initiatives at different levels to identify gaps and set priorities in action, and to encourage coordination and cooperation;
- 3.1.4 To encourage range States to prepare and implement national action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat, and ensure that range States have the necessary resources for this;
- 3.1.5 To prioritize the use of resources for optimum effectiveness, and identify funding areas that are currently neglected and underfunded;
- 3.1.6 To promote and enforce a legal framework for the survival of great apes and their habitat in the countries concerned;
- 3.1.7 To identify and support income-generating initiatives to the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitat and protected areas, with due consideration of indigenous communities and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support;

¹ The overall goal of the *Global Strategy* is similar but not identical to the overall goal of the GRASP Partnership as listed in the *Rules for the organization and management of the GRASP Partnership*.



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



- 3.1.8 To educate and raise awareness among local populations;
- 3.1.9 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 nations, international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations, private business and industry) provides effective and coherent support to the efforts being made by the great ape range States.

3.2 Longer-term objectives

The strategy shall have the following longer-term objectives:

- 3.2.1 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;
- 3.2.2 To encourage countries to enter into and/or enforce relevant conventions and agreements for the conservation of great apes and elimination of their illegal trade, bearing in mind the cost of such participation;
- 3.2.3 To work with relevant international networks of intelligence on great apes aimed at eliminating illegal transboundary traffic;
- 3.2.4 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;
- 3.2.5 To promote the inclusion of information highlighting the importance of great apes and their habitats in the national curriculum, and the dissemination of such information through the media.

4. Action

4.1 National-level actions

The Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat aims to encourage the Government of each great ape range State to develop and adopt a national great ape survival plan. This would identify the status of current knowledge with regard to each species' population and distribution, relevant legislation and other pertinent factors. Where there are gaps in information, research should be undertaken to remedy the deficiencies within a designated time frame. Key actions at the national level could include:

- 4.1.1 Determining the current status and recent trends of each ape population and of all remaining ape habitat. Where this information is lacking, immediate surveys should be undertaken to provide this basic data. The national great apes survival project should include maps to show the extent of ape habitat now and in the recent past, with national parks and reserves superimposed. Recommendations should be made:
 - (i) To review the national system of protected areas, including community conservation areas, sacred sites and traditional use areas, with respect to national biodiversity conservation strategies and plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and related national land and water-use plans;
 - (ii) On the basis of the findings of such review, to create or reinforce a national system of protected areas linked by corridors and transition areas, which maximizes the area of habitat available to



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



great apes, in line with the ecosystem approach and the biosphere reserve concept. Building such a national system should take account of:

- Where possible, extending existing protected areas to encompass adjacent areas with great ape habitat;
- Ensuring effective management of existing protected areas;
- Establishing new protected areas in great ape habitats, and recognition of community conservation areas, sacred sites and traditional use areas;
- Fostering transboundary cooperation to conserve shared great ape habitat, including through, as appropriate, the use of international designations of World Heritage sites, Ramsar wetlands of international importance, and biosphere reserves under the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- Identifying and establishing ecological corridors of land between fragmented areas of great ape habitat and promoting their sustainable use in a manner compatible with great apes conservation and welfare;
- In areas where great apes have recently been extirpated, supporting viable wild reintroduction programmes in accordance with IUCN-the World Conservation Union guidelines;

4.1.2 Assessing existing national policy, legislation and conservation programmes to establish whether they adequately protect great apes and their habitat and recommend revisions or new laws where necessary to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) The hunting, trading and private ownership of apes should be illegal, the unsustainable use of ape habitat should be prohibited and the use of such habitat subject to strict regulation;
- (ii) The harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products, mining of minerals, building of roads and buildings and agricultural development should only be permitted in areas of ape habitat where the activities and their consequences are not detrimental to the survival of great apes;

4.1.3 Identifying possible gaps in law enforcement and recommend measures needed to protect great apes and their habitat, for example:

- (i) Law enforcement agencies (police, customs officials, wildlife officers and rangers, etc.) should be given increased manpower, training, equipment and resources;
- (ii) Where communities live in or adjacent to great ape habitat, measures should be taken to encourage active participation in ape conservation, including law enforcement measures;

4.1.4 Assessing the impact on great apes and their habitats of extractive industries such as logging, mining, oil exploration, etc., and, in conjunction with the appropriate ministries, chief executive officers of the companies concerned and development agencies such as the World Bank, take action to mitigate this pressure through, for example, the following measures:

- (i) Logging concessions should be awarded for periods of time equivalent to the generation time of the tree species being harvested, to encourage long-term planning;
- (ii) The awarding of contracts should be contingent upon the activity being ecologically sustainable;



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



- (iii) The workforce of the company should not engage in, nor be nutritionally dependent upon, hunting for bushmeat;
 - (iv) Access roads should be disabled after use, unless they are part of a planned road network with appropriate measures to control the commercial bushmeat trade;
- 4.1.5 With due consideration for the need for coordination and synergy, identifying, planning and implementing sustainable development projects to benefit people living in or near great ape habitat, such as ecotourism based on carefully controlled ape-watching, use of non-timber forest products, etc. Above all, it is essential to support community-based projects that protect the entire forest resource and maintain its capacity to supply people with essentials such as water, food, medicine, building materials, soil and fuel. Some communities have longstanding traditions which give special protection to primates, including great apes. National great ape survival projects should build on these wherever possible. Emphasis should be given to links with rural development projects and projects outside protected areas which may relieve pressures on these areas;
- 4.1.6 Where the illegal trade in young apes continues, providing a government-approved facility to care for, and where possible rehabilitate, confiscated or seized animals. Where no such facility exists, the Government should either establish one or make arrangements (through the Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance in Africa or the network of orangutan rehabilitation centres in Indonesia and Malaysia) with a suitable sanctuary in a nearby country to receive confiscated or orphaned apes with the minimum of bureaucratic delay (to minimize stress and medical complications);
- 4.1.7 Taking the necessary measures to avoid the transmission of disease between great apes and human beings;
- 4.1.8 Encouraging conservation education initiatives – both formal and informal – through schools, sanctuaries and ape-tourism centres, and using press, radio and television;
- 4.1.9 Consulting all stakeholders, including local communities and relevant non-governmental organizations, and agreeing with them on appropriate work plans to ensure that they share ownership of the national great ape survival project process;
- 4.1.10 Establishing national great ape committees involving all stakeholders (Governments, non-governmental organizations, business, academia, local communities, etc.) and appointing national focal points to deal with great ape conservation matters, including the preparation of national great ape survival projects;
- 4.1.11 Inviting or encouraging all actors envisaged in the national great ape survival projects to discharge their assigned role and function so as to secure the full and timely implementation of the national great ape survival projects;
- 4.1.12 Regularly reviewing progress made in implementing the national great ape survival projects and taking appropriate action to correct deficiencies or reorient priorities;
- 4.1.13 Liaising with, and developing cooperative efforts between, range States, in particular where:



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



- (i) Areas of ape habitat are contiguous with similar areas in neighbouring countries, where tranboundary natural resource management conservation agreements can be implemented, for example within the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species;
 - (ii) Illegal trade in bushmeat, live infants or other ape products, is known to exist between countries;
 - (iii) Possibilities exist for developing subregional strategies or agreements for the conservation of great apes;
- 4.1.14 Participating in intergovernmental agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Tropical Timber Agreement, relevant conventions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, etc., which are concerned explicitly or implicitly with great ape conservation, and in particular support such initiatives as:
- (i) The Central Africa Working Group;
 - (ii) The CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force;
 - (iii) The liaison group of the Convention on Biological Diversity on non-timber forest resources;
 - (iv) The Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora task force for fighting wildlife crime;
- 4.1.15 Including the protection of biodiversity, with particular emphasis on great ape conservation, as a key factor in establishing priorities for sector programmes at national level, for example in the context of poverty reduction strategy papers, and in requests for funding made to multilateral aid agencies such as the World Bank, the European Union, Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc., or to bilateral donors;
- 4.1.16 Contributing to the international debate on the current conservation status of great apes.

4.2 International-level actions

4.2.1 Role of the international community in the survival of the great apes

The responsibility for ensuring great ape survival lies with all humankind – the developed world as well as the great ape range States. The rich industrialized countries with their vast ecological “footprint” and their insatiable demand for resources, products and services, pose continuing threats to biodiversity in general and the survival of endangered species in particular, including great apes. Consumer nations must take all possible steps to mitigate these impacts.

(i) *Donor countries and international agencies*

Donor countries and international agencies, including the international financial institutions, all have a major part to play in helping the great ape range States successfully implement their programmes for the conservation of the great apes. They are encouraged to build the underlying priorities of the global survival strategy for great apes into their own biodiversity strategy and action plans insofar as those plans have (as they should have, given the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and elsewhere) an international dimension. These



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



priorities should inform the diplomatic and substantive agenda of donor nations as they debate the priorities and work programmes of agencies or groupings (such as the World Bank, GEF, the European Union, UNDP, etc.) of which they are a member and whose activities – directly or indirectly – may be vital for effective great ape conservation programmes. These priorities should also increasingly be reflected in the work of regional agencies and groupings such as the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

(ii) *Non-governmental organizations*

Non-governmental organizations that historically have played an important role in efforts to conserve the great apes, both at the national and international level, are encouraged to redouble their efforts. The great apes need strong and effective advocates. They need publicity and high-profile events designed to generate public concern and an outpouring of funds. They need non-governmental organizations with a strong profile in implementation and follow-up, including, for example, environmental impact assessment and advocacy work, such as pressure for sustainable logging, green certification of timber, etc.

(iii) *Academic and scientific community*

The academic and scientific community, which has already played such a crucial role in documenting the extent of the great ape crisis and in providing the scientific underpinning for sound conservation projects and programmes, is called upon to play an even more vital role in the future. Specialist groups of IUCN and the national and international primatological societies are particularly relevant in this context.

(iv) *Private sector*

The private sector is of special importance to great ape conservation. Many of the opportunities – as well as threats – facing great apes depend on activities undertaken by the private sector, including national and multinational companies. Ecotourism, for example, if properly managed, generates income for local communities, jobs in wildlife reserves, and profits for travel, hotel and tour companies. Further investment is encouraged, particularly in areas with unrealized potential for tourism, so giving local people a permanent stake in the conservation of ape habitats. Sensitively managed ecotourism, taking into account the need to avoid any transmission of diseases between apes and humans, also provides unrivalled opportunities to raise public consciousness of great apes and the valuable forest ecosystems they inhabit: Every ape tourist should become a lifelong ambassador for these remarkable species.

4.2.2 Role of GRASP within the global great apes survival strategy

While current efforts at great ape conservation involve many actors at both governmental and non-governmental levels, GRASP has a key role to play as part of global efforts to save the great apes. and in the implementation of this global strategy.

(i) *Future membership of the GRASP Partnership*

The launching of GRASP in May 2001 permitted the foundations to be laid of a truly global alliance in support of the great apes. Crucial to that alliance in those early days were the non-governmental organization partners whose inspiration helped create GRASP and whose staff



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



carried out GRASP-supported conservation projects on the ground. The list of GRASP non-governmental partners has expanded dramatically since the launch of the project and currently numbers over 40 organizations. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNESCO are keen to extend this list and to broaden it to cover national and local bodies, including those working with people living in and around ape habitats.

The crucial priority now is to build on early foundations of GRASP, by ensuring the full participation of all 23 great ape range States. In this context, it is most encouraging to note that the rules for the organization and management of the GRASP Partnership, adopted by the GRASP Council at its first meeting, held in Kinshasa on 7 and 8 September 2005, provide that all great ape range States are accepted as full GRASP partners with immediate effect.

States or regional groupings that are not great ape range States and that have supported GRASP already include Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union. These States, and the European Union, should be invited by the GRASP secretariat to confirm their wish to become full partners of GRASP in accordance with provisions of the GRASP rules. Other States with a substantial interest in great ape conservation and related issues should also have the opportunity to become partners at an early date and should be formally invited by the GRASP secretariat to do so.

In addition to UNESCO and UNEP, the sponsoring agencies, other key international organizations are encouraged to become or to remain active GRASP partners. CITES, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention are clearly already of great importance for GRASP and have joined the GRASP partnership. Going beyond the multilateral environmental agreements, GRASP should hope to find partners in other key agencies of the United Nations such as FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as the International Tropical Timber Organization and the multilateral development finance institutions, notably the World Bank, UNDP, GEF, the European Union, the African Union and NEPAD and regional development banks with an interest in the conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity.

IUCN with its unique network of resources both governmental and non-governmental (including the Primate Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission) is also encouraged to become a partner. IUCN has already agreed to play a full part in the current GRASP structure by providing scientific advice.

(ii) *GRASP and the private sector*

One of the distinctive features of GRASP is that it has been registered as a type two partnership initiative under the World Summit on Sustainable Development framework. As such, it not only unites the range States and the donor nations, non-governmental organizations and the scientific community, but also provides for the participation in GRASP of private business and industry as supporting members.

The private sector is of fundamental importance to GRASP. The over-exploitation of forests, mainly for timber, bushmeat, or minerals, is the greatest threat to many great ape populations. Private companies undertake much of this activity. GRASP should make a concerted effort to engage them in efforts to mitigate damaging impacts, and plough back resources into conservation and local communities.



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



Two particular concerns of GRASP are the effects on gorillas, chimpanzees and other wildlife of uncontrolled mining for coltan – a key component of mobile telephones – in Central Africa, and the impact of illegal logging and mining on orangutan populations in Sumatra and Borneo.

(iii) *Grasp work plan and programme of action*

The GRASP detailed programme of action is currently being developed under the responsibility of the Executive Committee based on the GRASP outline work plan for 2003–2007, presented to and approved by the Council at its first meeting, in Kinshasa in September 2005, taking into account the guidelines and priorities indicated by the Council at that meeting.

(iv) *Role of GRASP in leveraging new resources for great ape conservation projects and programmes*

When they launched the GRASP strategy document at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002, UNEP and UNESCO indicated that their target was to generate \$25 million for great ape conservation by 2005. A sum of this order was, these agencies believed, essential to make a lasting impact in reducing the risk of extinction and establishing areas where ape populations could stabilize or actually increase.

The new permanent GRASP structure, as set out in the rules for the organization and management of GRASP, adopted by the GRASP Council at its first meeting, makes it possible to build more effective alliances not only with the non-governmental community in support of great ape conservation programmes and projects, but also – and crucially – with the major international players which are in the business of financing biodiversity (the World Bank, GEF, etc.), as well as with key bilateral donors and the European Union. Indeed, as discussions about the global great ape survival strategy proceed in the various relevant forums, it may well be appropriate to revisit the \$25 million target on the basis of a better understanding of what is needed and possible in terms of projects, as well as a new readiness on the part of the donor community to increase their level of funding for great ape conservation programmes.

The vital concept here will be the ability of GRASP to help generate or leverage new and additional resources for great ape conservation. GRASP should not be seen as a major new funding mechanism or institution, but as a way of promoting the development and implementation of national great ape survival plans and projects and of assisting in the better coordination and targeting of resources. That said, GRASP should be in a position to fund from resources that it is able to raise critical activities which might not otherwise attract timely or adequate support through traditional channels such as the World Bank, GEF, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations.

*Adopted at the 1st GRASP Council Meeting
Kinshasa, 7 September 2005*



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



Annex

Background

Great apes: the threat of extinction

1. “Ensuring environmental sustainability” is one of eight Millennium Development Goals associated with the Declaration adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. The protection of biodiversity and forest resources is identified as one of the means of achieving that goal and its associated economic and social benefits. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg in September 2002, similarly emphasizes that “biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people.”² The World Summit participants called for immediate actions significantly to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.
2. The loss of biodiversity, as mentioned in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, is presented in possibly the starkest terms when whole species or groups of species are threatened with extinction. This is precisely the situation in which the great apes are to be found today. Indeed, the threat of extinction of the great apes, in the immediate future, is without any doubt the main reason for elaborating and implementing a global great ape survival strategy.
3. There are three genera of great apes: gorillas, chimpanzees, and orangutans. Gorillas are divided into western and eastern species, found in ten countries from Nigeria to Uganda. Chimpanzees comprise two species: the common chimpanzee, found across 21 countries in west, central and east Africa; and the bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, found only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Orangutans live in south-east Asia, on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra in Indonesia and east Malaysia.
4. The Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has categorized both the western gorilla and the eastern gorilla as “endangered overall”, i.e., facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future. Three particular populations are categorized as “critically endangered”. These are the Cross River form in the far west, and both the mountain and Bwindi forms in the far east.
5. As for chimpanzees and bonobos, the Species Survival Commission in 2000 categorized both the chimpanzee and the bonobo as “endangered”. In the former case, each of the four subspecies is also categorized as “endangered”.
6. The Species Survival Commission categorized the Sumatran orangutan as “critically endangered”, and the Bornean orangutan as “endangered overall”. The three recognized subspecies on Borneo are also categorized as “endangered”.

² Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 03. II. A. 1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, para. 44.



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



7. In short, it can be asserted that today – at the dawn of the new millennium – every one of the great ape species is at high risk of extinction, either in the immediate future or at best within 50 years. For example, in a recent survey of 24 protected areas in Africa and south-east Asia, great ape populations were found to be declining in 96 per cent of these sites.
8. Most of the threats to apes result from human activities: increasing human populations encroaching on their habitat, civil wars, poaching for meat or the live animal trade, diseases such as ebola which can decimate ape populations, and the destruction of forests.
9. Results of recent analyses indicate that more than 70 per cent of the habitat of each of the African great ape species has been negatively affected by infrastructural development. For the orangutan, the corresponding figure is 64 per cent. Future scenarios suggest that the annual loss of undisturbed habitat will be greater than 2 per cent per year in the case of the African great apes, and 5 per cent in the case of the orangutan in south-east Asia. By 2030, the scenarios suggest that less than 10 per cent of great ape habitat in Africa will remain free of the impacts of infrastructural development. In the case of the orangutan, the corresponding figure is less than 1 per cent. These figures are supported by estimates of habitat loss and degradation made independently by great ape field researchers.³

Special significance of great apes

10. Great apes have a spectrum of attributes, which gives them special significance. These attributes relate to genes, morphology and physiology, individual capacities and social organisation and behaviour. In terms of genetic inheritance, great apes share much of their heritage with human beings: on average around 96 per cent, with chimpanzees as high as 98.4 per cent.
11. At the level of individuals, great apes deploy a wide range of intelligent behaviour, including tool making and use, food selection and the use of plants for self-medication. They communicate with sounds, facial expressions, gestures and displays, and in captivity have been taught language, either by signing or by using symbols and computer-based programmes. They also manifestly experience a range of emotions, including joy and grief. The social life of great apes has been studied in detail, especially in chimpanzees. It has been found to be enormously rich and complex. Maternal-offspring bonds are intense and long-lasting, and can include demonstrations of tool use. Older siblings care for younger siblings. Males cooperate for hunting and territorial defence, and form political alliances for dominance. The beginnings of morality are evident in the way that excessive harassment of a subordinate by a dominant animal will evoke expressions of unease by other group members. Cultural differences, for instance in tool use, occur between different populations of the same species. Modern cognitive science, using sophisticated imaging systems on working brains, is demonstrating that there are strong similarities in the brain function of humans and great apes.
12. Given this, great apes form a unique bridge linking humans to the natural world. Understanding great ape ecology and behaviour thus provides a continuing opportunity for humans to appreciate how we evolved, and our own precarious position as one of the 10–15 million or more species of the planet. If we were to lose any great ape species, many people would feel that we were destroying part of the bridge to our own origins, and with it a part of our own humanity.

³ The Great Apes – the Road Ahead. A Globio Perspective on the Impacts of Structural Development on the Great Apes (UNEP GRID – Arendal, Norway, September 2002).



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



13. Great apes also act as key indicator species for endangered ecosystems. The forests which the great apes inhabit are a vital resource for humans, and a reduction in ape numbers is a sure sign that the forests are being used unsustainably.
14. Ape habitats are vital to humans and many other species as a source of food, water, medicine and timber and as a regulator of our changing climate. Apes play a key part in maintaining the health and diversity of tropical forests, by dispersing seeds and creating light gaps in the forest canopy which allow seedlings to grow and replenish the ecosystem.
15. The vital importance of forest ecosystems has been acknowledged by African environment ministers who recently requested that “the New Partnership for Africa's Development define forest ecosystems as one of the major areas of intervention.”⁴ Similarly, the Environment Ministers of South-East Asia agreed to manage sustainably and use wisely their diverse biological resources.⁵

Current efforts in great ape conservation

16. Over decades individuals and organizations have worked to protect great apes by finding ways for them to coexist more successfully with their human cousins in their shared forest homelands in West and central Africa and south-east Asia. Partly as a result of the first year's activity of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership, operating under an interim constitution⁶, and the organization of workshops and seminars at a national level, as well as visits conducted by GRASP Partnership technical support teams, some great ape range States are now in the process of developing national great ape conservation plans. In some countries, enlightened policies have protected forests for local communities as well as apes. Income generated by tourists visiting parks and watching apes, for instance in Uganda's Bwindi and Kibale Forest national parks, helps pay for their protection as well as provide jobs for local people and revenues for community development. In such cases, and where properly managed, great apes are seen as an important economic resource that can improve the lives of neighbouring communities.
17. Some great ape range State Governments have worked hand-in-hand with local non-governmental organizations on projects for great ape conservation. International non-governmental organizations – many of them GRASP partners – have worked with Governments alongside their local counterparts. The Governments of developed countries and regional groupings such as the European Union have begun to focus on ways in which they can assist the range States to build into their own programmes and policies for sustainable development a legitimate emphasis on the conservation of biodiversity, including the great apes. The United States of America, for example, has recently passed the Great Ape Conservation Act, which will provide funding for some of the initiatives needed. The United Kingdom has provided substantial support for GRASP, both during its interim phase and subsequently.⁷ Australia is considering ways in which it can increase its support for great ape conservation programmes, particularly in south-east Asia. GRASP has also received substantial support from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, and also from

⁴ Kampala Declaration on the Environment for Development of the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Kampala, Uganda, 1–5 July 2002.

⁵ Kota Kinabalu Resolution on the Environment, Eighth Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers, held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, October 2000.

⁶ Rules for the management of GRASP were adopted at the 1st GRASP Council Meeting in Kinshasa on 8 September 2005.

⁷ In announcing its support for GRASP in Nairobi in September 2001, the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the first formally to back GRASP, said that it was “deeply concerned and has been active in addressing some of the most pressing problems, such as hunting for bushmeat and habitat destruction due to illegal and indiscriminate logging”.



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



the United Nations Foundation. Most recently, the European Union has announced assistance in the amount of 2.4 million euros to GRASP in support both of the intergovernmental meeting and of specific field projects for great ape conservation.

18. Private industry and business have increasingly begun to recognize that the conservation of biodiversity, including the protection of the great apes, offers both challenges and opportunities. Some companies, for example, already adhere to codes of conduct relating to sustainable logging, codes which include some provisions for the conservation of biodiversity and wildlife. Other companies have shown themselves to be sensitive to the potential disruption to forest habitat caused by mineral extraction, such as coltan mining. Still other companies have found it appropriate to support the work of GRASP.
19. The resources provided nationally and internationally through the network of scientists involved in organizations such as IUCN and the International Primatological Society (IPS) have also played an important part in ensuring that local, national and international programmes and projects for great ape conservation have a sound scientific basis.
20. International organizations and institutions have also played their part. For example, the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme has set up the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which promotes the ecosystem approach, balancing land-use between outright protection and controlled harvesting or other utilization by local people. The World Heritage Convention, administered by UNESCO, aims at protecting natural as well as cultural sites of outstanding universal value. Several MAB biosphere reserves, such as Taï in Côte d'Ivoire, Odzala in the Republic of Congo, Gunung Leuser in Indonesia, and World Heritage sites such as Virunga, Kahuzi-Biega and Salonga national parks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda, are critical sites for the survival of great apes. The MAB Programme has set up the first regional postgraduate school on integrated forest management in Kinshasa, to build up a new cadre of African specialists. There is scope for increasing both the number and area of MAB biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, as well as strengthening the ability of national authorities and local communities to give effect to the designations at ground level.
21. UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention have a special programme supported by the United Nations Foundation to strengthen the conservation of World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are highly vulnerable following the armed conflict in the subregion. Another programme, the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative, is currently in preparation and aims to strengthen the management of several unique transboundary clusters of forest in the Congo Basin and to assist the countries in the region in submitting them for World Heritage nomination.
22. UNESCO has established a so-called "open initiative" between itself and all international space agencies. Through this initiative, UNESCO will assist developing countries in the monitoring of World Heritage sites through satellite images. As part of this activity, UNESCO has formed a consortium with the European Space Agency and several non-governmental organizations working in gorilla habitats. UNEP is a member of this consortium. A pilot project will use satellite images to provide a land-cover-change assessment during the last ten years. This surveillance of gorilla habitat projects will focus on four existing or proposed World Heritage sites in the Albertine Rift covering border areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. One of the main outputs of this project will be



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



simple but accurate maps derived from satellite images. These maps will be provided to site managers, rangers and conservation non-governmental organizations for monitoring and reporting purposes.

23. Both UNESCO and UNEP believe that this project and others under GRASP provide an opportunity to link biodiversity and peace-building in a troubled region, and give international support to the programmes already run by a number of UNEP and UNESCO partners among the non-governmental organization movement.
24. UNEP has mobilized three international wildlife conventions which it administers and has asked them to take a lead role in their area of expertise and the governing bodies of those conventions have endorsed this initiative. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is endeavouring to combat the smuggling of apes for human consumption or sale as live specimens. CITES is taking a close interest in recent incidents involving the export of live animals from Africa, which in one case led to the death of two apes. The Convention on Biological Diversity is involved in the debate on the effects of the bushmeat trade on biodiversity resources and in considering how best to integrate ape conservation with wider biodiversity management frameworks (particularly through its forest biodiversity programme of work) in the individual range States, all of which are Parties to the Convention. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species is concentrating on the eastern species of gorilla, which crosses the mountainous border areas between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Strengthened cooperation between the three Governments would aid the survival of mountain gorillas, and a formal accord could be considered under article IV of the Convention.
25. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is increasingly concerned with the maintenance of biodiversity in the world's forests from the point of view of food security for rural populations, the prevention and control of illegal logging, poaching and smuggling, wildlife management and non-wood forest products.⁸
26. The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned by the possible implications for human health and well-being of certain interactions between great apes and human beings and the possibility of the transmission of infectious diseases, such as ebola, between man and animal.
27. It is important also to recognize the extent of the involvement of the main multilateral development agencies, including the international financial institutions. In ten years, for example, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has become the single most important source of grant funding for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (an area of activity which GEF considers to be one of its greatest priorities), steering nearly \$4.2 billion in direct grants and co-financing to this end. A GEF project has created a trust fund to help conserve and sustainably develop the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in Uganda. The project promotes the conservation and sustainable use of important biodiversity along with equitable sharing of benefits accruing from forest resources and has representatives of local communities on a steering committee.

⁸ Anticipating the presentations to be made by FAO on the occasion of the XII World Forestry Congress (Quebec City, 21–28 September 2003) organized by Canada in collaboration with FAO, FAO Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, Mr. M. Hosny El-Lakany, said in a statement issued on 24 July 2003: "Nations must manage their forests in a sustainable way so that present generations can enjoy the benefits of the planet's forest resources while preserving them to meet the needs of future generations."



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



28. The World Bank invested in 226 biodiversity-related projects between 1988 and 1999. The biodiversity portfolio of the World Bank saw a gradual funding increase over the decade, with commitments totalling over \$1.5 billion of its own resources, in conjunction with an additional \$1 billion from co-financiers. The World Bank Group mission and portfolio entail two areas of comparative advantage significant for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. First, the scale and variety of Bank financing instruments is greater than is possible for most other donors. The Bank also provides leadership among the donor community and stimulates co-financing and donor coordination. This provides multiple opportunities to integrate biodiversity concerns into development assistance and to address the root causes of biodiversity loss, including threats to the future of the great apes.⁹ The World Bank has also initiated meetings between chief executive officers of European timber companies and conservationists to promote the adoption of codes of conduct in logging concessions.
29. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) biodiversity support to countries is integrated into its core work, mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into activities such as governance and poverty reduction in more than 120 countries. There are now more than 200 GEF-UNDP biodiversity and international waters projects under way, with the maintenance of forest ecosystems being one of the primary areas of concern.¹⁰
30. The UNEP GEF portfolio complements the regular work programme of UNEP and includes projects that, first, promote regional and multi-country cooperation to achieve global environmental benefits; second, advance knowledge for environmental decision-making through scientific and technical analyses, including environmental assessments and targeted research; third, develop and demonstrate technologies, methodologies and tools for improved environmental management; and, fourth, build capacity for environmental management. The total GEF portfolio of UNEP comprises 320 projects financed at \$760 million, including GEF funding of \$405 million. This includes 48 full-size or medium-sized GEF projects that support biodiversity conservation (total financing \$280 million, GEF grant \$152 million).
31. As far as the conservation of great apes specifically is concerned, it can plausibly be argued that the initiatives already taken in this field by individual range States, non-governmental organizations, industry and business, international agencies and the donor community represent a significant step along the road indicated by the Millennium Summit, by the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Moreover, the launching of GRASP by UNEP and UNESCO in May 2001 and the actions so far undertaken by GRASP partners and range States have certainly helped to focus attention on the issue of great ape conservation and to improve the degree of coordination and commonality in the programmes and projects of the many different actors involved. Technical missions, seminars and workshops designed to help the process of establishing national great ape survival plans have been carried out in a majority of the great ape range States. In addition, there has already been significant funding of several important great ape conservation projects by or through GRASP.

⁹ Supporting the Web of Life – The World Bank and Biodiversity – A Portfolio Update (World Bank, April 2000).

¹⁰ Conserving Biodiversity, Sustaining Livelihoods: Experiences from GEF-UNDP Biological Diversity Projects (GEF, UNDP, undated).



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



Great apes: inadequacy of current efforts

32. While significant efforts have already been made, as noted in section C above, they have not been sufficient to safeguard great apes and to prevent the relentless pressures which have led to the continued dramatic decline in both their numbers and distribution. Though great apes are protected by national law in every country that they inhabit, there is a lack of enforcement capacity in most great ape range States. Even in supposedly protected areas, poaching, illegal logging and mining all have impacts on vulnerable ape populations. International law is also failing to protect great apes. All non-human apes are listed in appendix I of CITES, which bans international trade for primarily commercial purposes, but the high monetary value which some people attach to captive great apes acts as a constant lure to illegal traders and hunters. The illegal commercial bushmeat trade – a portion of which involves great ape meat – continues largely unchecked within and between neighbouring countries in Africa. Disease is also taking its toll, with ebola outbreaks cutting a swathe through ape and human populations, and the new risk of human-induced epidemics in ape communities visited by tourists. Finally, war, civil unrest and a breakdown in law and order have exacerbated existing problems in several African countries and Indonesia.
33. The urgency of the situation clearly demands a higher level of action. It is already too late in many areas where great apes are now extinct. If we cannot generate a radical increase in the effectiveness of efforts to protect great apes and their habitats, it will be too late for many more populations of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans.
34. Every local extinction is a loss to humanity, a loss to the local community and a hole torn in the ecology of the planet. That is why a major new effort on behalf of the great apes and the communities associated with them is both timely and appropriate.

Need for a global strategy for the survival of great apes

35. An important plank in a major new effort to protect and conserve great apes would be the development and implementation of a global survival strategy for all great ape populations within their dynamic, evolving, natural ecosystems. Currently, conservation efforts are being applied in a piecemeal fashion, where opportunities present themselves and resources are available. Such efforts would have a greater impact if they were integrated within a systematic approach to a globally defined problem, while being tailored to local circumstances. Such a global strategy should also be integrated with the development objectives of range States and be sympathetic to the needs of local communities. The global strategy should be regularly reviewed in the light of new knowledge and understanding of the priorities for great ape conservation.

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** Updated : 26-09-05

APPENDIX 5 –Rules for the organization and management of the GRASP Partnership



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



Rules for the organization and management of the GRASP Partnership

1. Introduction

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 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.
- 1.5 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.

2. Key principles

- 2.1 The key principles underlying GRASP are as follows:



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



- (i) Becoming a GRASP partner is voluntary, on the basis of supporting the GRASP mission, goal and objectives;
 - (ii) GRASP seeks to include all the main actors involved, either directly or indirectly, in the field of great ape conservation;
 - (iii) GRASP does not seek to be prescriptive; GRASP actions should be supportive of and complementary to existing initiatives; it should nonetheless define the rules of work which would constitute the basis of the engagement of each country;
 - (iv) 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;
 - (v) GRASP should monitor progress towards its goals, at both the international and national levels.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 In particular, GRASP will use its direct political links with the Governments of range and non-range States and with international bodies, in order:
- (i) To support the development of national, regional and international planning and monitoring processes;
 - (ii) To explore ways of obtaining new and additional funding through its partners for the implementation of such processes;
 - (iii) To engage in high-level political dialogue on issues relating to great ape conservation.

3. Overall goal¹

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 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.

4. Objectives

To achieve its goal, the GRASP Partnership will have the objectives set out below, based on the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes, which was adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project, held in Kinshasa from 5 to 9 September 2005.

4.1 Immediate objectives

The immediate objectives of the GRASP Partnership shall be:

¹ The overall goal of the GRASP Partnership is similar but not identical to the overall goal of the *Global Strategy for the survival of great apes and their habitat*.



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



- (i) To promote the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat;
- (ii) To determine the potential of sites, monitor populations of great apes and establish a database of great ape population information;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) To prioritize the use of resources for optimum effectiveness and identify funding areas that are currently neglected and underfunded;
- (vi) To promote and enforce a legal framework for the survival of great apes and their habitat in the countries concerned;
- (vii) To identify and 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 and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support;
- (viii) To educate and raise awareness among local populations;
- (ix) 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.

4.2 Longer-term objectives

The Partnership's longer-term objectives shall be:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) To encourage countries to enter into or enforce relevant conventions and agreements for the conservation of great apes and elimination of their illegal trade;
- (iii) To work with relevant international networks of intelligence on great apes aimed at eliminating illegal transboundary traffic;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) 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.



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



5. Partners

5.1 Categories of partners

The GRASP Partnership will comprise full partners and supporting partners.

5.1.1 Full partners will fall into the following categories:

- (i) Category A: Great ape range States;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) Category C: UNEP and UNESCO, which together are the sponsoring agencies;
- (iv) Category D: Relevant biodiversity and conservation-related multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and institutions;
- (v) Category E: Non-governmental organizations with a significant involvement in great ape conservation.

5.1.1.1 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. Type two partnership initiatives under the World Summit on Sustainable Development framework may also be considered.

5.1.1.2 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:

- (i) The institutions and associations must have as members or supporters properly constituted organizations or individuals and must have appropriate rules of governance;
- (ii) 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.

5.1.2 Supporting partners will fall into the following categories:

- (i) Category F: Non-range States, other than those who are eligible to be full partners under category B above;
- (ii) Category G: Individuals, including GRASP patrons;
- (iii) 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.



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



- 5.1.2.1 The GRASP Executive Committee 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.

5.2 Admission of partners

- 5.2.1 All great ape range States are full partners.
- 5.2.2 Donor States will become full partners as soon as they declare to the Council or the Executive Committee their support of the GRASP goal and objectives.
- 5.2.3 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 goal and objectives.
- 5.2.4 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.
- 5.2.5 A document containing the GRASP Partnership admission criteria is attached as an annex to the present rules.

5.3 Sanctions

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.

5.4 Withdrawal

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.

5.5 Readmission

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

5.6 Voting rights

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.

6. GRASP Council

6.1 Composition

- 6.1.1 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



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



partner will have one seat on the GRASP Council. Each supporting partner may participate in the work of the Council as an observer.

- 6.1.2 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.

6.2 Functions

6.2.1 The functions of the GRASP Council will be:

- (i) To elect the Chair of the Council, who will hold office for two years with the possibility of re-election for two further periods of two years each;
- (ii) To elect the members of the Executive Committee;
- (iii) To determine the general policy and strategy of the GRASP Partnership;
- (iv) To approve and/or amend the multi-annual work plan;
- (v) To identify priorities and receive reports of income and expenditures;
- (vi) If resources permit, to provide appropriate financial guidance for the preparation of the budget by the secretariat.

6.2.2 The GRASP Council will meet every two years. An intersessional meeting may be convened if requested by more than one third of the GRASP partners, comprising at least one third of the members of category A, one third of the members of category B and one third of the members of category C.

6.2.3 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 from categories A–D will be encouraged to host meetings.

7. Executive Committee

7.1 Composition

7.1.1 GRASP will have an Executive Committee which will consist of:

- (i) Four members from among category A partners, to be elected on a subregional basis (three from Africa and one from South-East Asia);²
- (ii) Two members from among category B partners;
- (iii) From among category C partners, one member nominated by UNESCO and one nominated by UNEP;

² Subregions are understood as being West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South-East Asia.



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



- (iv) One member from among category D partners;
 - (v) Two members from among category E partners.
- 7.1.2 The full partners in each category mentioned in the preceding paragraph will elect by simple majority vote the member or members for that category.
- 7.1.3 The term of Executive Committee membership will be two years.
- 7.1.4 The members of the Executive Committee will elect a Chair, who shall be chosen from among the members of the Executive Committee belonging to category A and who will hold office for two years with the possibility of re-election for two further periods of two years each.
- 7.1.5 The Executive Committee will be responsible to, and will report 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.
- 7.1.6 Executive Committee decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions may be reached by simple majority vote. If voting results in a draw, the Chair shall have a casting vote. A quorum of the Executive Committee will be necessary for decisions. Five members of the Executive Committee, including at least one member from each of the categories A, B and C, shall constitute a quorum.

7.2 Functions

- 7.2.1 The functions of the Executive Committee shall be:
- (i) To monitor the implementation of GRASP Partnership policies;
 - (ii) To oversee attainment of GRASP Partnership objectives and to decide on the funding of GRASP Partnership projects;
 - (iii) To commission and oversee implementation of the GRASP Partnership's role in the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat;
 - (iv) To decide on the admission, suspension, expulsion, or limitation of the rights of full partners and supporting partners;
 - (v) To seek the advice of the Scientific Commission on any issues included in the Commission's terms of reference;
 - (vi) To approve the annual budgets and work plans of the secretariat, Scientific Commission and the technical support teams;
 - (vii) To oversee the activities of GRASP patrons and to approve secretariat recommendations regarding appointments;
 - (viii) To assume such other functions as are deemed necessary by the GRASP Council;
- 7.2.2 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. The Executive Committee will convene at least once a year in a face-to-face meeting.



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



- 7.2.3 The Executive Committee will act on behalf of the GRASP Council in relation to matters concerning the GRASP Partnership and its great ape conservation activities between meetings of the GRASP Council.
- 7.2.4 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.

8. Secretariat

8.1 Composition

- 8.1.1 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.
- 8.1.2 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.
- 8.1.3 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.

8.2 Functions

- 8.2.1 The functions of the GRASP secretariat will be:
- (i) To promote the work of the GRASP Partnership;
 - (ii) To monitor the performance of GRASP Partnership-funded activities;
 - (iii) To define a two-year cycle of project funding, within which each range State would be able to submit a project for funding by GRASP;
 - (iv) To solicit and if necessary help prepare projects for funding;
 - (v) To request advice from the Scientific Commission on project priorities and other issues included in the Commission's terms of reference;
 - (vi) To provide information on GRASP to interested parties, including through the GRASP website;
 - (vii) To determine the composition and activities of the technical support teams, including the development of their terms of reference, taking into consideration the advice of the Scientific Commission, and oversee the work of those teams;
 - (viii) To appoint GRASP patrons, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - (ix) To raise funds for GRASP activities;
 - (x) To facilitate communication between GRASP partners and the Executive Committee;
 - (xi) To liaise with existing donors and keep them regularly updated;



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



- (xii) To be responsible for the finances and accounting of GRASP and to report to the GRASP Council on such matters;
 - (xiii) To be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the GRASP Partnership.
- 8.2.2 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.
- 8.2.3 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.
- 8.2.4 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.

9. Scientific Commission

9.1 Composition

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

- (i) Six members selected by the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
- (ii) The current president of the International Primatological Society (IPS) or his/her representative;
- (iii) 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.

9.2 Functions

9.2.1 The functions of the GRASP Scientific Commission will be:

- (i) To provide independent and scientifically sound advice to the GRASP Partnership, including to the technical support teams;
- (ii) To advise the secretariat on the composition and activities of the technical support teams;
- (iii) To provide advice relating to the development of the GRASP Partnership's strategic goals and objectives and activities to achieve them;
- (iv) 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;



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



- (v) 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;
 - (vi) 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;
 - (vii) 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;
 - (viii) To provide advice and comment on official GRASP Partnership literature, reports and other documents;
 - (ix) 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).
- 9.2.2 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.
- 9.2.3 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.
- 9.2.4 The Scientific Commission will submit to the Executive Committee a detailed plan of action for discussion.

10. Technical support teams or other ad hoc groups

10.1 Composition

The GRASP Partnership may use technical support teams or other ad hoc groups at the request of the GRASP secretariat, the Executive Committee or the Scientific Commission. The terms of reference for technical support teams or other ad hoc groups will be developed by the secretariat, where appropriate in consultation with the Scientific Commission.

10.2 Functions

- 10.2.1 The functions of the GRASP technical support teams or other ad hoc groups will be:
- (i) 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;



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



- (ii) 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;
 - (iii) To assist, as requested, in the evaluation of great ape conservation activities;
 - (iv) To undertake other tasks as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
- 10.2.2 When a representative of a partner organization is seconded to a technical support team or ad hoc group for a specific activity, that individual will be deemed to represent GRASP officially.
- 10.2.3 It is foreseen that in the majority of cases, the work of the technical support teams or ad hoc groups will be undertaken at the relevant partners' expense or other appropriate sources.
- 10.2.4 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.
- 10.2.5 The technical support team will prepare an annual work plan for submission through the secretariat, for approval by the Executive Committee.

11. GRASP patrons

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 The role of GRASP patrons will be an honorary one. The Executive Committee may request the patrons:
- (i) To promote the GRASP Partnership at the political level;
 - (ii) To promote the GRASP Partnership to the general public at international meetings, conventions and symposiums;
 - (iii) To seek opportunities to raise funds for the GRASP Partnership.

12. GRASP at the national level

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:

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



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



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

13. Finance

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 The accounts of the GRASP Partnership will be examined every two years by auditors appointed jointly by the sponsoring agencies.
- 13.5 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.
- 13.6 The Executive Committee, on behalf of the GRASP Partnership, will have the right to refuse donations from entities which it deems unsuitable and will provide an explanation to the GRASP Council of any such refusal.

14. Amendments

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 The secretariat shall notify any such proposals to all full and supporting partners.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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.

15. Miscellaneous

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.

*Adopted at the 1st GRASP Council Meeting
 Kinshasa, 7 September 2005*



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



Annex

GRASP 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.



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



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

Private sector partners must:

- Show commitment to furthering GRASP objectives;
- 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;
- Adopt targets, where appropriate, for initiating best practices in their operations and monitor progress towards those targets and share lessons learned;



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



- Demonstrate commitment to ensuring that any use of natural resources is ecologically sustainable and that all stakeholders, including local communities, benefit appropriately;
- Participate in or provide substantial funding for programmes for the conservation of great apes and their habitat.

Academic institutions and research bodies partnership criteria

Academic institutions and research body partners must:

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

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** Updated : 26-09-05

APPENDIX 6 – GRASP Partnership outline work plan 2003-2007



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



GRASP Partnership outline work plan 2003-2007¹

1. Preamble

The following is a discussion document and sets out the Great Ape Survival Project's 2003 to 2007 work plan and illustrates how the Targets, Outputs and Key Activities may be co-ordinated by GRASP, the great ape range states and GRASP Partners.

2. Goals

2.1 Overall goal

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 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.

2.2 Programme Goal

The programme goal (over 5 years) is to improve the conservation status of viable populations of each sub-species of great apes (at least 4 populations of each sub-species, where these exist).

Indicators for programme goal may include issues such as:

- ape population levels (e.g.: selected populations in 2007 show no decline, or increase from initial levels measured in 2003-4.);
- area of habitat protected (e.g.: area of ape habitat under formal protection in 2007 greater than in 2003);
- number of local communities involved in ape conservation projects (e.g.: by 2007, at least 10 communities involved in ape conservation projects that had not been in 2003).

3. Targets, outputs and key activities²

Note: The following Outputs may be updated and amended periodically by the GRASP Committee with approval from the GRASP Council, when and if it is considered appropriate to do so. It is foreseen that each range state government becomes fully involved in the implementation of the work programme.³

¹ The need was identified for a synchronisation of the workplan and the strategy, and for changes in the Survival Strategy for Great Apes to be reflected in the workplan.

² Prioritising between the different outputs and activities will be overseen by the appropriate body, determined by the constitution

³ Specific needs and gaps in key areas, including legal, policy and institutional issues, will need to be identified at all levels.



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



Target 1 : Partnerships

Through Partnerships, improve or make a substantial positive contribution to great ape conservation in at least 18⁴ great ape range states by 2007

Output 1.1: At least 18 great ape range states and at least 25 non-governmental organisations working together towards GRASP's mission by 2005.

- Conduct missions to establish partnerships with the 21 ape range
- Reinforce cooperation between the two sponsoring agencies and the four wildlife related conventions (WHC, CITES, CBD, and CMS)
- Establish close relationship with the Great Ape Advisory Panel of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group to help develop and implement a scientific body to co-ordinate the scientific and technical input to GRASP
- Establish working relationships (including MOUs as appropriate) with 25 NGO partners (some of which carry out GRASP-supported conservation projects on the ground)
- Organise inter-governmental conference with participation of a full range of stakeholders including NGOs
- Stimulate support for GRASP among governments in non-range states, from the charitable sector and private commercial bodies
- Establish working relationships with the private sector, such as the tourism and resource extraction industries

Output 1.2: GRASP working to conserve apes through local organisations and communities in at least 15 ape range states by 2006

- Expand the number of active partners to include local bodies such as those working with people living in and around ape habitats, and having a significant impact on those habitats or populations, as identified at national level.

Target 2 : Awareness

Relevant information on great ape conservation being used for decision-making locally, nationally and internationally, including in at least 15 range states, by 2007

Output 2.1: Improved understanding of the importance and benefits of conserving great apes among range state governments and their people by 2007⁵

- Send diplomatic missions to range states to raise the profile of great ape conservation on the political agenda
- Send technical missions to range states to support and develop the implementation of the NGASP process within each range state

⁴ In setting quantitative targets we have attempted to set optimistic but hopefully realistic targets.

⁵ It was noted in the Paris working group on this document that the attitudes of tour operators and bushmeat consumers are important targeted indicators for this output.



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



- Implement education and public information campaigns in range states to raise the profile and understanding of the problems facing great apes and the need to conserve them
- Implement information, education, communication projects in and around areas harbouring great apes

Output 2.2: Improved understanding of the importance of conserving great apes among people living outside range states by 2005

- Promote GRASP's message through press events, publications, the internet, film, radio and television
- Develop a communication strategy to optimise awareness - raising efforts.

Output 2.3: Information on great apes provided to decision-makers in at least 21 states and 10 intergovernmental organisations by 2007

- Produce and disseminate technical and publicity materials on the populations and habitats of great apes, the threats they face, and the measures already being taken to alleviate them through the publication of the World Atlas of the Great Apes
- Produce international awareness raising and educational publications for GRASP, such as public service advertisements
- Undertake collaborative activities with multi-lateral agencies such as the EU and World Bank to improve support for great apes and their habitats and reduce activities by such agencies that increase the risk to great ape populations

Target 3 : Capacity

Capacity to conserve great apes and their habitats strengthened in at least 18 range states by 2007⁶

Output 3.1: By 2007, at least 18 range states have developed and started implementing National Great Apes Survival Plans

- Organise missions to each range state to study the problems and to consult governments and other stakeholders in order to highlight the urgent needs and longer term requirements for maintaining viable ape populations and improving the quality of life of people living alongside them
- Develop and promote an effective NGASP workshop structure suitable to the needs of the range states, and incorporating needs assessment, priority setting and identification of partners at the national level.
- Encourage, facilitate and provide technical and financial support to range states in development and implementation of National Great Ape Survival Plans
- Provide training for NGASP planning and implementation to range state nationals (staff from government and non-governmental organisations, national park employees, local villagers, etc).
- Link NGASPs to wider planning mechanisms including those under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other multilateral agreements to protect populations of great apes

Output 3.2: Knowledge and experience of modern law enforcement techniques improved in at least 5 range states by 2006⁷

⁶ Capacity building efforts should be directed at diverse target groups including judiciaries, police and customs officers, parliamentarians and others.



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



- Support internal and transboundary enforcement operations, including training
- Support training of customs officials in wildlife related legislation and identification of great ape products
- Support awareness raising of national judiciaries and legal systems

Output 3.3: Technical capacity developed for management of protected areas with apes in at least 5 range states by 2007

- Assist range state governments and local authorities as appropriate in recruitment, training and deployment of protected area staff in great ape range.

Output 3.4: Scientific expertise on great apes strengthened in at least 4 range states by 2005

- Support African and Asian postgraduate training on great ape conservation biology, survey techniques, and conservation
- Provide grants to African and Asian biologists for applied research on key great ape populations
- Support veterinarian field programmes in great ape disease issues, including the setting up of early warning systems for Ebola and anthrax, based on ape "die-offs"

Target 4 : Projects

Pilot field projects conserving great ape populations established in at least 18 range states by 2007

Output 4.1: Great apes conserved through at least 15 pilot projects undertaken by partner agencies in co-operation with range state governments

- Develop and implement pilot projects with partners.
Projects should exemplify GRASP's core principles and objectives by providing opportunities, for instance, to:
 - establish monitoring systems to ensure projects deliver tangible benefits
 - ensure local communities and the private sector are involved in pilot project planning and implementation
 - establish projects in collaboration with UNESCO MAB and WHC, and UNEP
 - work with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to combat the smuggling of apes for human consumption or sale as live specimens
 - link biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and peace-building where appropriate
 - support the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the debate on the effects of the bushmeat trade on biodiversity resources and in considering how best to integrate ape conservation with wider biodiversity management frameworks (particularly through their forest biodiversity programme of work) in the individual range states
 - integrate with other relevant initiatives such as the Durban process, AFLEG, etc.

⁷ Capacity building efforts should make appropriate use of existing training organisations in range states and elsewhere.



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



- encourage further investment in areas with unrealised potential for ecotourism, so giving local people a permanent stake in the conservation of ape habitats
- recognise great apes as keystone species and as flagships for their habitats and other wildlife that live with them
- work with private companies to stop the over-exploitation of forests (mainly for timber, bushmeat, or minerals) and mitigate damaging impacts, ploughing back resources into conservation and local communities (e.g. convene GRASP conference with extractive industry representatives)
- address NGASP recommendations
- support transboundary conservation efforts
- develop synergies among current initiatives and avoid duplication of existing activities
- involve relevant partners in the implementation of the workplan

Examples of such projects might include those which:

- address the effects on gorillas, chimpanzees and other African wildlife of uncontrolled mining for coltan, gold, diamonds and other minerals
- support projects that address the impact of illegal logging and mining on orangutan populations in Sumatra and Borneo
- work with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to strengthen transboundary co-operation (under an Article IV accord) between gorilla range states.

Output 4.2: Conservation initiatives of mutual benefit to communities⁸ and great apes developed and implemented with local people in at least 10 range states by 2007

- Support community-based projects that protect the forest ecosystem and help people as well as wildlife (e.g. supply people with essentials such as water, food, medicine, building materials, soil and fuel, provide alternative sources of income) or wildlife/human conflict resolution
- Increase the focus on the human dimension of GRASP by, for example, working with eco-tourism operators to ensure that revenues generated benefit local communities

Output 4.3: Lessons from successful projects replicated at more than 5 other sites from 2006

- Disseminate project reports
- Hold lesson sharing workshops and arrange exchange visits
- Support projects that replicate successful pilots.

Target 5 : Fund-raising

Previously untapped financial resources being used to support great ape conservation from 2004

Output 5.1: From 2004, GRASP fund-raising campaigns provide new funds for ape conservation and for the indigenous people who depend on the same forests

⁸ Special note has been made of the importance of forest dwelling communities in this respect.



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



-
- Develop an appropriate and effective fund-raising strategy that takes advantage of UNEP's and UNESCO's added value, addresses challenges and ethical considerations, and takes account of individual partners' rights/wishes to continue to fund-raise separately
 - Secure funds from UNEP and UNESCO's member states.
 - Secure funds from foundations and the private sector

*Adopted at the 1st GRASP Council Meeting
Kinsasha, 8 September 2005*

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** Updated : 26-09-05

APPENDIX 7 –A Distinctive Approach; Current priorities



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



The GRASP Partnership - A Distinctive Approach Current Priorities

1. Background

The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership was established in 2001 under the auspices of the United Nations to bring a new level of international effort to bear on the conservation of the great apes. The GRASP Partnership draws together most stakeholders involved in great ape conservation under a single broad framework aimed at reducing threats to great apes and their habitat at local, national, regional and international levels. The mandate of the GRASP Partnership encompasses all twenty-three of the great ape range states in equatorial Africa and south-east Asia and provides GRASP with a unique ability to address the problems facing great ape populations at the highest political level.

1.1 Overall goal

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 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.

1.2 Distinctive approach¹

The GRASP Partnership unites all the principal institutional actors in great ape conservation – UN agencies, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, great ape range state and donor governments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, local communities and the private sector – in an internationally concerted approach to a major extinction crisis.

GRASP is a World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type II Partnership, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The GRASP Partnership is governed by a Council consisting of representatives of all the Partners, assisted by an elected Executive Committee and a Scientific Commission comprised of experts in great ape ecology and conservation. The GRASP Secretariat as the administrative and operational arm of the Partnership is provided jointly by UNEP and UNESCO.

¹ This document has been prepared for the information of participants at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) and the first GRASP Council Meeting. It is complementary to the *GRASP Partnership Outline Work Plan, 2003-2007* and the *Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat*. Building on the above, this document highlights concrete and achievable priority areas for action that the GRASP Secretariat will facilitate the Partnership to undertake.



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



Due to its legal status as a Type II Partnership and its position within the United Nations system, GRASP has a unique and vital role in great ape conservation, above and beyond the efforts of individual actors and organizations. This document aims to clarify the “added value” of the GRASP Partnership to great ape conservation and to highlight the priorities that the Secretariat will facilitate the Partnership to focus on in the short to medium future.

2. Added value of the GRASP Partnership

The following are the special attributes of the United Nations-led GRASP Partnership and the added value that this dynamic alliance brings to the global great ape conservation effort.

2.1 High-level national and intergovernmental dialogue to generate political will and influence policy for great ape conservation globally.

As a WSSD Type II Partnership, housed within the UN system, the GRASP initiative has the potential to engage governments and intergovernmental organizations in a systematic way that is beyond the reach of individual conservation organizations. The GRASP Partnership’s focus on great apes enables it to concentrate exclusively on the threats facing the four taxa, rather than addressing a broad range of conservation issues on a global scale. In this way, GRASP can help to raise great ape conservation up the political agenda in the range and donor states.

2.2 Planning and monitoring at the national, regional and international level to bring the decline of great ape populations to a halt.

As a result of the engagement of all the major stakeholders in great ape conservation, both governmental and non-governmental, with the objectives of the Partnership, GRASP provides a unique framework wherein coherent plans for great ape conservation can be developed and implemented at international, regional, national and population levels. The GRASP Council, Executive Committee, Scientific Commission and Secretariat do not seek to coordinate such efforts, but rather to create an enabling framework within which relevant GRASP Partners can work together to ensure the coherence of their activities.

2.3 Development and promotion of best practices, cooperation and technical support between and among all stakeholders.

The broad and inclusive GRASP Partnership contains a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the form of individuals and institutions. In order to ensure maximum efficiency and avoid the duplication of existing activities, the GRASP Secretariat has the potential to facilitate communication and promote synergies among current initiatives and cooperation between Partners. Greater involvement of range states and local communities in governance and priority setting, development and replication of best practices to address common threats such as deforestation, bushmeat and disease, increased capacities to manage natural and wildlife resources and national law enforcement, transboundary conservation and peace-building initiatives and integrated sustainable development and conservation activities are all areas where the collaborative potential of the GRASP Partnership is a strength to be harnessed.

2.4 Media, information and public awareness to mitigate the threats facing the great apes.

Benefiting from the access to the international media that GRASP can call upon, the Partnership is able to increase both the profile and the scope of great ape conservation-related publicity and awareness raising messages. As the GRASP Partnership can speak for the great apes with a unified and well-recognized voice,



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



it has the clout to provide the communication platform necessary to both inform key decision makers and create innovative and appropriate methods of awareness raising at all levels.

2.5 New and additional funding for great ape conservation.

As an international coalition of organizations from both the private and public sectors, seated within the UN system, the GRASP Partnership is uniquely positioned to leverage previously untapped funds for great ape conservation. The non-partisan status of the GRASP Partnership, afforded by its position in within the United Nations system, provides access to governmental and intergovernmental financial resources hitherto not available for great ape conservation. It is anticipated that the bulk of new and additional funding will

flow through traditional channels such as the Global Environmental Facility, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, bilateral (governmental), United Nations and large corporate donors. The GRASP Partnership is not an attempt to create a major new funding mechanism or institution, nor will it compete with traditional GRASP Partner sources of conservation financing.

3. Current GRASP Partnership priorities

The GRASP Secretariat, under the guidance of the GRASP Executive Committee and Scientific Commission, will facilitate the GRASP Partnership to undertake the following priority activities in the 2005-2007 timeframe. It will do so taking into account the *GRASP Partnership Outline Work Plan, 2003-2007*, the *Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat* and the added value attributes detailed above.

3.1 High-level national and intergovernmental dialogue to generate political will and influence policy for great ape conservation globally.

- Priority 1a – to promote international dialogue on great ape conservation at the highest levels among donor and range state governments, institutions and other stakeholders.
- Priority 1b – to strengthen collaboration with the relevant biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including CITES, CMS, WHC, CBD and Ramsar.
- Priority 1c – to engage intergovernmental bodies (NEPAD, AMCEN, European Union, ASEAN, etc), international financial institutions (World Bank, IMF, Export Credit Agencies, etc), other relevant multilateral organizations (ITTO, ATO, etc) and UN agencies to include the protection for biodiversity conservation, with a particular emphasis on great apes, as a key factor in establishing programme priorities at national and international levels.

3.2 Planning and monitoring at the national, regional and international level to bring the decline of great ape populations to a halt.

- Priority 2a – to identify priority populations of great apes for conservation and to formulate and begin the implementation of detailed national, regional and international conservation plans for all high-priority populations.
- Priority 2b – to design and initiate a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of great ape conservation efforts at national, regional and international levels.
- Priority 2c – to work with range state governments to facilitate and assist in the development of national policies to advance the conservation of great apes.



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



3.3 Development and promotion of best practices, cooperation and technical support between and among all stakeholders.

Priority 3a – to promote greater cooperation and communication between all stakeholders (including local communities) in governance and priority setting for great ape conservation, through such activities as the:

- (i) Provision of technical and other support to range state authorities to increase capacity to manage great ape populations and their habitat sustainably
- (ii) Organization of regional and other law enforcement training activities and workshops for relevant officials and experts to address illegal trade and resource extraction issues.

Priority 3b – to develop and replicate best practices to address common threats facing the great apes, with a focus on special projects such as:

- (i) Joint initiatives to address deforestation and habitat loss involving governments and representatives of extractive (timber, oil, mining) and forest conversion (plantations, palm oil) industries, with a particular focus on Central Africa and Southeast Asia in cooperation with national ministries, the private sector and multilateral institutions
- (ii) Those that identify and implement effective and adaptable common approaches to unresolved issues such as the bushmeat crisis and interspecies disease transmission
- (iii) Other pilot projects in key fields where the UN-led GRASP Partnership has a competitive advantage such as those with transboundary collaboration, peace-building and integrated conservation and sustainable development opportunities.

3.4 Media, information and public awareness to mitigate the threats facing the great apes.

Priority 4a – to initiate and facilitate interested GRASP Partners to undertake a locally-adapted great ape public information and awareness raising conservation education campaign in priority regions of the African and south-east Asia great ape range states.

Priority 4b – to increase current efforts to present great ape information to key decision makers and staff in relevant national, intergovernmental and donor institutions, the United Nations system and the corporate sector, including dissemination through the media.

3.5 New and additional funding for great ape conservation.

Priority 5a – to raise new and additional funding to achieve the preceding priority actions for great ape conservation from donor governments, intergovernmental and multilateral bodies and large corporate sponsors.

Adhering to the priorities described above, detailed annual workplans will be developed by the GRASP Secretariat, Scientific Commission and Technical Support Teams, and by any GRASP Partner directly involved in the implementation of these priorities through financial support from the GRASP Secretariat.

*Adopted at the 1st GRASP Council Meeting
Kinshasa, 8 September 2005*

(updated: 03-10-05)

APPENDIX 8 – Decision of the GRASP Council, GRASP Programme of action



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



Decision of the GRASP Council

GRASP Programme of action

September 8, 2005

The Council

Having reviewed and adopted the outline work plan 2003-2007 (document 1.4) and the GRASP Partnership: a Distinctive Approach (document 1.6) describing respectively, the work plan for 2003-2007 prepared by the expert group that met in Paris in November 2003 and the strategic priorities guiding the work plan for the period 2005-2007 as proposed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Interim Executive Committee,

Noting the fact that the Council has unanimously adopted the Rules for organization and management of GRASP and recommended the adoption of the global strategy for the conservation of the great apes by the high-level segment of the Intergovernmental Meeting scheduled to meet in Kinshasa on Friday, 9 September 2005,

Recognizing the need for identifying a set of clearly defined and realistic actions and activities that the GRASP Partnership can commit itself to implementing before the next meeting of the Council that is in line with the 2003-2007 plan and the strategic priorities identified in documents 1.4 and 1.6 respectively,

1. *Decides* to entrust the Executive Committee and Scientific Commission with the preparation of a detailed programme of action for the period 2006-2007 clearly identifying actions, activities, duration for their completion, indicators, and distribution of responsibilities among members of the GRASP Partnership;

2. *Invites* the Executive Committee to consult fully with all current Members of the GRASP Partnership, in order to coordinate the 2006-2007 programme of action with national strategies, and invite their in-kind and financial contributions for the preparation and implementation of the 2006-2007 programme of action;

3. *Requests* the Executive Committee to ensure that the 2006-2007 programme of action is circulated for comment to all Partners before 31 December 2005;

4. *Requests* the Executive Committee, on the basis of any comments received from the Partners, to finalize the 2006-2007 programme of action and circulate it to Partners;

5. *Recommends* that the Executive Committee monitor progress in the preparation and implementation of the programme of action for 2006-2007 and submit a progress report to the Council at its next session.

APPENDIX 9 – List of participants



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



INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON GREAT APES AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GREAT APES SURVIVAL PROJECT

RÉUNION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE SUR LES GRANDS SINGES ET PREMIÈRE RÉUNION DU CONSEIL DU GRASP

GRAND HOTEL, KINSHASA, DRC / RDC
5-9 SEPT 2005

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