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GREAT APES SURVIVAL
PARTNERSHIP



**Council meeting of the Great Apes Survival Partnership
Second meeting**

Paris, France, 6–8 November 2012

Report of the 2nd Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) Council

I. Opening of the session

1. The 2nd Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) Council was held at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters, Paris, France, Room XI, from 6 to 8 November 2012.
2. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Doug Cress, GRASP Coordinator. A video presenting the plight of great apes and GRASP's mandate followed his intervention.
3. Mr. Han Qunli, representative of Mrs. Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, warmly welcomed the participants on behalf of UNESCO. He recalled that great apes are genetically the closest relatives to human and that their disappearance "would not only be a major catastrophe for biodiversity and nature at large, but it would also constitute a major moral and ethical tragedy for our – humankind's - collective conscience."
4. Mr. Han recalled the diverse mandate of UNESCO and gave examples of areas of activities that are relevant to the concern of GRASP and long-term conservation of biodiversity, such as natural world heritage sites and biosphere reserves - several of which provide the habitats for the great apes - and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). He said that UNESCO's commitment to GRASP remains at the same level as in 2002 and hoped that the 2nd GRASP Council will give clear direction on how UNESCO could better serve the partnership, based on its mandate and comparative advantages.
5. Mr. Han paid tribute to the tremendous support that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has provided to GRASP over the years and acknowledged the work of the members of GRASP Executive Committee, the GRASP Scientific Commission and the technical support groups. He ended by thanking all participants for their attendance and wished them a very successful Council meeting.
6. Video messages from Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, and GRASP Patron Dr.

Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and a UN Messenger of Peace, were presented. Mr. Steiner began by thanking UNESCO for hosting the Council meeting. After a brief report on great apes conservation trends in nature, which are under a greatest threat than they were the previous decades, he highlighted the unique nature of GRASP as a partnership and stated the hope of UNEP to re-launch GRASP effectively. Dr. Goodall said that a lot had already been accomplished by GRASP but that GRASP needed to develop new strategies urgently so that future generations can enjoy great apes too. She highlighted the wealth of talent in the room and wished the meeting great success to ensure the survival of great apes.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of the Bureau of the Council

7. The Council elected its Bureau as follows:
 - Chair: M. Jean-Patrick Leduc (France)
 - Vice-Chair: M. John Mshelbwala (Nigeria)
8. The chairman thanked the audience. He stressed that the partnership was a good initiative that needed to be developed further. He invited participants to use this meeting as an opportunity to revive it. He added that the results of this meeting will depend on the commitment of the participants.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

9. The representatives adopted the agenda proposed by the Secretariat (UNEP/UNESCO/GRASP/COUNCIL.2/1) with slight changes in the order of some presentations.

Tuesday, 06 November 2012

1. 2nd Grasp Council Opening Ceremony
2. Organizational matters – First day;
 - (a) Election of the Chair of the meeting
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda
 - (c) Organization of work
 - (d) Report of the GRASP Executive Committee
 - (e) Report of the GRASP Scientific Commission
 - (f) Report by the GRASP Secretariat
 - (g) GRASP - Ian Redmond Conservation Award
 - (h) Report of GRASP Strategic Review
3. Great Apes Seminar
 - (a) Great Apes & Illegal Trade
4. Organizational matters
 - (a) Discussion of draft revision Global Strategy on the Protection of Great Apes and their Habitat

Wednesday, 07 November 2012

1. Organizational matters
2. Rules for the organization and management of the GRASP Partnership

- (a) Discussion of draft GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016
 - (b) Draft Patron Presentation
 - (c) Discussion of draft revised Rules for Management of GRASP
2. Great Apes Seminar
- (a) Great Apes & Green Economy (and one intervention on the subject “Great Apes and Technology” made by M. Christophe Boesch)

Thursday, 08 November 2012

- 1. Organizational matters
 - (a) Discussion of draft revised Global Strategy for Great Apes (cont.)
 - (b) Discussion of draft revised Rules for Management of GRASP (cont.)
 - (c) Discussion of draft GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016 (cont.)
 - (d) Election of Executive Committee
 - (e) Discussion
 - (f) Election of Executive Committee
- 2. Great Apes Seminar
 - (a) Great Ape and Technology
- 3. Closing Ceremony
 - (a) Any other business
 - (b) Adoption of the report, recommendations and decisions
 - (c) Closing remarks
 - (d) Adjournment of the GRASP Council

C. Organization of work

- 10. Plenary sessions took place every morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by seminar sessions in the afternoons.
- 11. Three documents were presented for discussion: the Global Strategy for the Protection of Great Apes and their Habitat; the Rules for the Organization and Management of GRASP; and the GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016.

D. Attendance

- 12. The meeting was attended by 134 delegates, representing all categories of GRASP partners.

III. Tuesday, 06 November 2012**A. Morning session: Organizational matters**

- 13. A presentation was made by Mr. Aggrey Rwetsiba, Chair of the GRASP Executive Committee.

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14. It was followed by a presentation Mr. Serge Wich, chair of Scientific Commission
15. Finally, the report of the GRASP Secretariat was proposed by Mr. Johannes Refisch.

16. Following these presentations, the Chair invited comments from participants.

17. Creation of the GRASP- Ian Redmond Conservation Award was announced. The GRASP - Ian Redmond Conservation Award was established to support and inspire young conservationists working towards the protection of great apes and their habitat in Africa and Asia.

18. GRASP Strategic Review

The Secretariat submitted the GRASP Strategic Review, which was welcomed by participants. They recognized the need to improve GRASP's structure, to redefine its action plan, to reinforce the GRASP Focal Points and to benefit from UN influence.

18. Afternoon session: Great Apes Seminar

18. Great Apes & Illegal Trade.

Four presentations about the illegal trade of great apes were made:

- Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora): "Illegal Trade and Wildlife."
- Mr. Ofir Drori, Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA): "Wildlife Law Enforcement – Challenges & Solutions."
- Mr. Roland Melisch, TRAFFIC: "Trade in Great Apes with an emphasis on Southeast Asia – Great Apes and Gibbons in Crisis."
- Mr. Doug Cress, GRASP Secretariat: "GRASP Illegal Trade Survey."

19. These presentations addressed issues such as law enforcement, the need for data, the issue of corruption, the need to raise public awareness, the lack of prosecution and convictions and the role of international organizations in combating illegal trade.

19. Afternoon session: Organizational matters

20. Global Strategy on the Protection of Great Apes and their Habitat

This document was welcomed by representatives. Comments were made and it was decided to incorporate them and present the document again to the plenary before the closure of the meeting.

IV. Wednesday, 07 November 2012

A. Morning session: Organizational matters

21. Mr. Jacques Trouvilliez of the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy was introduced as the new Chair of the meeting.

22. GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016

The GRASP Priority Plan was introduced.

23. GRASP Patron and President of Conservation International (CI), Mr. Russ Mittermeier, made a global presentation of endangered primates around the world. He also announced a contribution of US\$ 5,000 from the CI Primate Action Fund to the GRASP-Ian Redmond Conservation Award.

24. Rules for the Organization and Management of GRASP
The Secretariat presented the document. It was then discussed by participants.

B. Afternoon session: Great Apes Seminar

25. Four presentations about Great Apes & Green Economy were made:

- Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Conservation International (CI): “Green Economy.”
- Ms. Katia Karousakis, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): “Global Green Strategy.”
- Mr. Michel Masozera, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): “Rwanda’s Transition Towards a Green Economy.”
- Mr. Johannes Refisch, GRASP Secretariat: “Economics of Orangutan Conservation in Sumatra.”

26. One presentation dealt with the technology now available to improve conservation of great apes and communication:

- Christophe Boesch, Max Planck Institute: “APES portal and new approaches in camera/acoustic trapping.”

27. The Secretariat announced that at 19:00, a working group on the draft GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016 would meet to revise the document, which will be presented to the Council the following day.

V. Thursday, 08 November 2012

A. Morning session: Organizational matters

28. The Secretariat presented the updated Global Strategy for the Protection of Great Apes and their Habitat document.

29. The Secretariat presented the updated Rules for the Organization and Management of GRASP document.

B. Afternoon session: Organizational matters

30. Election of the members of the Executive Committee to serve for the 2013-2016 period. The following members were announced after a vote for the category E partners:

- a) Category A: - Novianto Bambang (Indonesia)
 - Dieudonné Ankara (Congo)
 - Aggrey Rwetsiba (Uganda)
 - Mamadou Sidibé (Senegal)
- b) Category B: - Marianne Courouble (France)
- c) Category C: - Neville Ash (UNEP)

- Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa (UNESCO)

d) Category D: - Pia Jonsson (CITES)

e) Category E : - Elizabeth Macfie (Wildlife Conservation Society)

- Ashley Leiman (Orangutan Foundation)

31. The Secretariat presented the results of the evening working group which discussed the GRASP Priority Plan 2013-2016.

The rapporteur presented a draft of the meeting report and submitted it to the approval of the Council.

Adoption of the report.

C. Closing Ceremony