

Minutes of the 3rd GRASP Executive Committee Meeting 2-3 May 2007 UNEP Nairobi, Kenya

Attendance:

Members:

Moses Mapesa	Chair and Range State representative (Uganda)
Mamadou Dia	Range State representative (Guinea)
Léon Kanu-Mbizi	Range State representative (DR Congo)
Tonny Soehartono	Range State representative (Indonesia)
Eric Blencowe	Donor country representative (UK)
Aurélie Journo	Donor country representative (France)
Melanie Virtue	Secretariat (UNEP)
Samy Mankoto	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Matthew Hatchwell	NGO representative (WCS)
Ashley Leiman	NGO representative (OFI)

Observers:

Achim Steiner	Executive Director UNEP
Ibrahim Thiaw	Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP
Tim Kasten	Secretariat (UNEP)
Johannes Refisch	Secretariat (UNEP)
Matthew Woods	Secretariat (UNEP)
Florence Kahiro	Secretariat (UNEP)
Jacqueline Nyanjui	Secretariat (UNEP)
Yulia Stange	Secretariat (UNEP)
Mark Leighton	Co-chair, Interim Scientific Commission
Ian Redmond	GRASP Chief-consultant and member of Technical Support Team
Stanley Johnson	Advisor to GRASP
Liz Williamson	Co-ordinator, IUCN Section on Great Apes
Leonie Gordon	PhD student

Apologies:

John Sellar	MEA representative (CITES)
Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa	Secretariat (UNESCO)

1. Welcoming Remarks from UNEP

- Ibrahim Thiaw, Director DEPI, noted that GRASP is an important programme within UNEP, with a focus not only on great ape conservation, but also ecosystem management, habitat protection, and community involvement in natural resource management.
- Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, challenged the committee to be clear about a number of issues:
 - the advantages of working through a partnership, with its transaction costs
 - the comparative advantage of the UN
 - which partners are carrying most of the weight of the partnership
 - sources of funding - these days NGOs often have access to more funds than UN
 - economies of scale regarding scientific advice to GRASP

- He encouraged the Committee to ambitiously set goals for the Partnership, and to focus on 2-3 main areas where GRASP is able to show a competitive advantage, linking these areas with global policy processes and define clear deliverables.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Adopted with amendments – decision to include item of discussion on a “donor meeting”

3. Report of the Secretariat

UNEP and UNESCO presented a joint report which included, among other activities, work on the following initiatives:

- Organisation and participation in the International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems in Sri Lanka, December 2006
- Administration of the MAB GRASP Young Scientist Award programme
- French translation of the *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation*
- Completion of a joint GRASP-CITES technical mission to Thailand and Cambodia to investigate the illegal trade in great apes
- Organisation of the CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force Meeting held in Nairobi in November 2006.
- Launch of the report *Last Stand of the Orangutan, State of Emergency: Illegal Logging, Fire and Palm Oil in Indonesia's National Parks* in February 2007
- Exchange of Letters between UNEP and the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands confirming a commitment to greater collaboration on great ape wetland sites
- Ongoing management of European Commission grant to UNEP for GRASP

The full report can be found in Annex I

4. Report of the Technical Support Team

Ian Redmond updated the Committee on the work of the TST, which is funded through the UNEP European Commission grant and administered through the Born Free Foundation. Activities since the last committee meeting include:

- Discussions with Cameroon High Commission, Bristol Zoo, Volcanoes Safaris and DEFRA to organize eco-tourism workshop/conference for transfer of skills and experience from countries with successful ape-based eco-tourism (e.g. Rwanda and Uganda) to those where such efforts have not yet been successful (e.g. Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, etc.).
- Discussions with Sustainable Forest Management (a private investment company and new supporting member of Ape Alliance) on undertaking feasibility studies on voluntary carbon financing options for some of the 94 priority great ape sites, at no cost to GRASP.
- Met with Barry Gardiner MP, UK Minister for Biodiversity, on future support for GRASP and how to reach the objectives in the Kinshasa Declaration; can UK support for GRASP be integrated into FLEGT process?
- Belgian conference on deforestation in DR Congo: was disappointed to note no reference to GRASP or the DRC National Great Ape Survival Plan (NGASP) in the World Bank report, developed with consultation between major players in the country (several of whom are GRASP partners).

- CoCoCongo meeting in Kinshasa – ICCN is seeking a new statute with responsibility for all wildlife, not just in protected areas.
- Bonobo Round-table, Kinshasa – how best to build consensus and use the funds available for workshops to achieve solid conservation progress on the ground?
- Meeting with MONUC to discuss improved collaboration between peace-keeping forces and conservation workers (ICCN and NGOs) in DRC (and apply principles in other range states with UN troops).

ACTIONS

1. **Ian Redmond to circulate an e-mail outlining his thoughts on the NGASP process with problems encountered and successes had so far, so that GRASP may improve on the process.**
2. **Future reports to follow the PoA format**

5. Report of the Interim Scientific Commission

Mark Leighton presented the report of the Interim Scientific Commission. The Committee discussed the reporting format for population status, the involvement of range states in data provision as well as alternative sources of data such as ESRI and Research Centres.

ACTIONS

3. **Once established, the new Scientific Commission to develop its workplan, in the Programme of Action format, drawing on the existing workplan of the Interim Scientific Commission.**
4. **Mark Leighton to provide specific Scientific Commission activities to be included in the business plan.**
5. **Mark Leighton to provide a brief on the priority population issue, including current status and suggested next steps, by 30 June.**

6. Elections of the new Scientific Commission

Samy Mankoto updated the committee on the status of nominations received so far from the four sub-regions. Nominations as of 2 May 2007 included one nomination from Southeast Asia, three from Central Africa, three from West Africa and two from East Africa.

- After discussions on the process undertaken so far to solicit nominations, it was decided to extend the nomination deadline till May 31 order to ensure a high number and quality of applications. Applications are to be forwarded to the sub-region focal point with copies to UNEP and UNESCO
- The Committee directed a small group to draft, for its approval, clear terms of reference for members of the Scientific Commission. This document, which includes term of office, and procedures for modification, was discussed and agreed the second day
The terms of reference can be found in Annex II

ACTIONS

6. **Secretariat to circulate the names of nominees received so far to all Partners, and indicate that full CVs and applications can be viewed on request (*done*)**
7. **Secretariat to finalise the terms and conditions, and circulate to all partners with a request to send in additional nominations by the end of May (*done*)**

8. **Secretariat to provide updated Terms of Reference to IUCN SGA and provide deadline of 30 June for their candidates for the Scientific Commission. (done)**

7. Outcomes of Brainstorming Session

Matthew Woods presented the outcomes of the Brainstorming Meeting, which took place the two days prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee, to take stock of GRASP's direction and to deliberate on several areas of focus for GRASP.

Following a discussion of various initiatives, four were selected for consideration and prioritization by the Executive Committee and further elaboration by the Secretariat:

- 1) *Great Apes and Climate Change*
Incorporate great ape priorities into work on bioenergy and explore options for carbon financing of great ape habitat
- 2) *UN Global Fund for Great Ape Conservation*
Establishment of fund with UN name to attract larger pool of donors, and use at donors' meeting as fundraising tool
- 3) *GRASP Fortifies the Green Frontline of Conservation*
Increase the capacity and improve the effectiveness and level of community engagement of 20 great ape protected area and wildlife authorities
- 4) *Guardians of the Great Apes Initiative*
Increase awareness, and possibly funding for priority ape sites by publicly linking sites with companies, business associations, schools/universities and public institutions that would like to "adopt" ape habitat sites

The full report on the outcomes of the Brainstorming Meeting can be found in Annex III

ACTIONS

9. **Secretariat to develop the ideas, taking into account the comments made, and begin work on the initiatives as Secretariat capacity permits.**
10. **UNEP to establish a Fund under the name "UN Global Trust Fund for Great Ape Conservation" (by 31 July). The 'launch' of this fund would coincide with the first significant donation.**
11. **Secretariat to consider capacity building and training workshops on carbon financing for range state representatives on accessing the voluntary markets.**

The Brainstorming made a number of other recommendations, to further strengthen the partnership, clarify its role, and attract donor interest. These included:

- A costed business plan is required. It should be based on the Programme of Action, including a "GRASP Achievements section" and projects and actions at the national and regional levels, to attract potential donors
- Secretariat should support NGASP implementation through integration into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
- Allow time for new UNEP & UNESCO management/staff changes to take effect and address some of the needs identified for GRASP higher level representation
- Following interest expressed by a donor, UNEP & NGO representatives to develop a proposal to increase secretariat capacity and undertake activities as outlined in the business plan.

ACTIONS

The Committee accepted the above recommendations.

12. **Secretariat to develop a business plan, including GRASP achievements section, in consultation with Matthew Hatchwell, Eric Blencowe, Mark Leighton and Ian Redmond by 30 June 2007.**
13. **UNEP and a small working group to identify ways to improve GRASP effectiveness and Partner engagement through the development of a reporting and monitoring mechanism by 30 June 2007.**
14. **UNEP & NGO representatives to develop a proposal to increase secretariat capacity and undertake activities as outlined in the business plan by 15 June, 2007**
15. **On the issue of increasing Secretariat capacity, Secretariat to request the Partnership to provide staff time/other resources to help develop the above initiatives.**
16. **UNEP to brief GRASP patron Dr. Richard Leakey on the new initiatives, including the fund, as he has long been interested in this idea, and his upcoming talk in London on 31 May 2007 presents an ideal opportunity to promote these new initiatives.**

8. Donors' Meeting

France formally offered to host a Donors' Meeting in Paris, possibly on 25 October 2007 to coincide with the meeting of the French Primatological Society 22-24 October 2007. The Executive Committee welcomed this offer with great enthusiasm and agreed to assist in any way possible. The possibility of range state representation at this meeting was discussed, as well as participation by industry and the private sector.

ACTIONS

17. **UNEP, UNESCO, France, Matthew Hatchwell and Stanley Johnson to move forward on the organization of this meeting**
18. **Secretariat to keep Executive Committee chair in the loop, as he will represent range states.**

9. The Next GRASP Council Meeting/IGM

Melanie Virtue provided an overview of the current issues relating to the next meeting of the GRASP Council.

- The Committee had already decided to postpone the meeting to 2008. The Secretariat has sent out an e-mail to the Partnership requesting expressions of interest from potential host countries.
- On location, the GRASP Rules state that Partner categories A-D can host meetings, and it was recommended that the Committee also consider the possibility of holding the next Council to coincide with either a convention meeting or in a donor country, such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in Rome, November 2008.
- Cost considerations will be important in selecting the next venue, and the host country, Executive Committee and secretariat will all be responsible for raising/allocating funds to meet these.
- It was decided that the nature of the meeting would be a 'technical' Council Meeting without an intergovernmental component, that GRASP commits to holding a meeting in 2008, and that decisions regarding the exact date and location be finalized at the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- Indonesia expressed an interest in hosting the meeting.

ACTIONS

19. **Secretariat to continue to solicit and compile applications/expressions of interest from range and other states and explore with MEAs possible synergies of a joint meeting.**
20. **Secretariat to develop clear requirements and guidelines for host countries**
21. **Tonny Soehartono to consult with the government of Indonesia on the possibility of hosting the next GRASP Council meeting**

10. Adoption of Secretariat Workplan

Melanie Virtue presented the Secretariat Workplan, which was adopted after minor discussion.

- All activities except USD 140,000 for the economic valuation study are already funded
- Given that additional activities have been added during the course of the meeting, the Committee authorised the Secretariat remove items as capacity dictates.

11. Adoption of Technical Support Team Workplan

Ian Redmond presented the TST workplan which was adopted after minor discussion.

- It was explained that the current TST is composed of three people allocating half their time: Ian Redmond, David Jay, and Chris Wright, as well as some project work by Mark Leighton and other individuals on a per-need basis.
- Overlap between the activities of the TST and those of the Secretariat in their respective workplans occur when both teams are allocating staff time and resources. This is the case for the projects with the Sabah Forestry Department and with the BACP on High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Indonesia.

ACTIONS

22. **Future updates and workplans of the secretariat, TST and Scientific Commission to be formatted around the Programme of Action outcomes.**
23. **Secretariat to review ways to enhance its outreach and communication.**

12. Admission of new partners

- The Humane Society International – Australia was accepted as a GRASP Supporting Partner, Category H.
- The John Aspinall Foundation was accepted as a GRASP NGO Partner, Category E

ACTIONS

24. **Secretariat to inform new partners**

13. Next meeting of the Executive Committee

- The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting in or around October 2007, possibly to coincide with the donor meeting in Paris.

14. Any Other Business

- Eric Blencowe, in his capacity as Chair of the CMS Standing Committee, briefed the committee on the status of the CMS Article IV agreement on gorillas. In the previous week, CMS

circulated to all gorilla range states, a first draft of the agreement, action plan and status reports. The committee expressed its satisfaction at the progress.

- Moses Mapesa briefed the Committee on the situation of forest “give-aways” in Uganda that has received much attention as of late. Although, currently no great ape sites are being directly impacted, the Committee agreed to draft a letter to the government of Uganda expressing its concern, which was signed by all members. This related generally to the issue of how UNESCO and UNEP can best intervene politically in “emergencies,” a question that remained unresolved at the end of the meeting.
- Samy Mankoto alerted the Committee to the upcoming World Conference on Biosphere Reserves to be held in Madrid in February 2008, and the on-going UNESCO World Heritage in Young Hands Programme.
- Aurélie Journo pointed out that France is current president of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), and suggested that GRASP become a Partner of CBFP. After discussion on the very strong complimentary objectives and general enthusiasm for a closer relationship between GRASP and CBFP, the Committee recommended that GRASP would enhance collaboration with the CBFP through the signing of a simple agreement.

ACTION

25. **France, Secretariat, Matthew Hatchwell, Stanley Johnson and Ian Redmond to move forward on this while France retains chair of CBFP**

- France, also in their capacity as current president of the CBFP, requested the help of the Committee in identifying possible action and approach to the Government of Cameroon on a population of gorillas in the Deng Deng Forest, under threat from deforestation due to construction of a railway.

ACTION

26. **Matthew Hatchwell to follow up, as WCS has on-going activities in the area**