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Secretariat Report

1. Introduction

The first Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Council was convened from 5 - 9 September 2005 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This was an historic opportunity for all great ape range State representatives to meet and discuss issues related to the conservation of great apes and their habitats with colleagues and the international community. The Kinshasa meeting culminated in the signing of the Kinshasa Declaration, affirming political will at the highest level for the first time in the history of conservation of great apes. Comparatively, in Kinshasa, the GRASP partnership was in its 'organic' growth phase as opposed to the post-Kinshasa phase where it evolved into a considerably different entity, based on expectations and demands from partners. Thus, a brainstorming session was held in 2007 to help provide guidance and focus for the GRASP Secretariat through the identification of thematic priorities, also known as "Big Ideas." The ideas listed below highlighted GRASP's added-value in great ape conservation efforts.

"GRASP fortifies the green frontline of conservation" was designed to provide support to conservation managers and protected area authorities. Many regions of Africa and some in South-east Asia experienced political instability and struggled with limited capacity. These interventions were meant to assist with capacity-building, expertise and resources in priority areas.

"Great apes and climate change" aimed to find areas where climate change adaptation, mitigation and finance efforts intersected with great ape conservation goals and offered opportunities for collaboration. GRASP compared scenarios for economic incentives in different regions, with different threat scenarios, and explored how bundled Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes -- including programmes such as REDD (Reduced Emissions through Deforestation and Degradation) -- compared to various forms of unsustainable land use.

"UN global fund for great ape conservation" attempted to create a global fund to provide extra resources during emergency and crisis situations.

“Guardians of great apes” sought to mobilize the international community and private sector donors through communication and awareness activities to protect great apes.

In order to reflect on the evolution of GRASP over the past decade, this report begins with a summary of the European Commission project GRASP implemented in support of forest livelihoods and great ape conservation from 2005-2009. Thereafter, the main achievements under each of the main four “Big Ideas” is presented, followed by a discussion of the results of the GRASP Strategic Review, which forms the strategic basis for the upcoming 2nd GRASP Council.

This report will not highlight all individual projects the GRASP Secretariat has undertaken since 2005, but instead summarizes the main results and refers to the GRASP Strategic Review for further details.

2. European Commission (EC) Project “Preservation of forest resources and improved livelihoods of forest peoples through conservation of great apes as flagship species”

GRASP implemented this European Commission (EC) project between August 2005 and December 2009. The USD 3 million project was funded by the EC (80 percent) and the GRASP Secretariat and its implementing partners (20 percent).

The project included three major components:

1. Support to GRASP Secretariat work and the 1st GRASP Intergovernmental Meeting and GRASP Council
2. Focus on global policy and support to great ape range States
3. Field projects in Indonesia, DR Congo, Cameroon and Cote d’Ivoire

2.1. Support to GRASP Secretariat work and 1st GRASP Intergovernmental Meeting

The first IGM on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) was convened from 5-9 September 2005 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo).

The meeting included over 200 international delegates, as well as more than 300 participants from DR Congo. Nineteen of the 23 great ape range States from Africa and Asia were represented, with nine of these by ministerial-level delegations. Twenty-nine GRASP nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners attended the meeting, as well as seven donor countries, the European Commission, the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC), three GRASP patrons, three of the biodiversity-related conventions, and representatives of the scientific community, indigenous groups and the private sector.

At the IGM, ministers, heads of delegations, representatives of the biodiversity-related conventions, the European Commission, COMIFAC, UNEP, UNESCO, NGOs and other civil society and private sector representatives signed the Kinshasa Declaration, affirming political will at the highest level in support of great apes. Participants also adopted the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat, a set of rules to govern the organization of GRASP and a revised workplan. Following the IGM, a final report was produced and the “Programme of Action 2006 – 2007” was developed by the GRASP Secretariat and approved by the GRASP Executive Committee. To date, more than 80 partners have signed the Kinshasa Declaration.

The second year of the grant focused on the implementation of the Programme of Action 2006 – 2007. An internal UNEP brainstorming retreat was held on January 22-23 in Nairobi. A number of core areas for GRASP's future direction were identified. These ideas were further developed during an extended session with experts from the GRASP on April 30 and then presented to the Executive Committee on May 1, 2007. The Executive Committee approved the four thematic areas presented in the introduction of this document.

A donor meeting was held in Paris in October 2007, and resulted in funding of USD 100,000 from the French government for activities during the "Year of the Gorilla." Activities kick-started under this EC grant also helped to raise funds from the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, totaling USD 2.8 million.

2.2. Global policy and support to great ape range states

The global component was aimed at promoting and assisting in the implementation of national plans for great apes conservation (NGASPs) and other GRASP activities and mechanisms. This was done through the GRASP Technical Support Team (TST), based in the UK and administered by the Born Free Foundation, and consisted of permanent staff employed through Born Free and temporary TST representatives hired on a case-by-case basis or volunteers from GRASP partners.

Over the life of the project, the TST helped organize international-level meetings and assisted with GRASP's overall visibility. GRASP provided advice to range states and partners in the areas of high conservation value forests (HCVF), the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), ecotourism, the Gorilla Agreement under the Convention on Migratory Species, and sustainable forest management. Support for purchases of IT equipment to improve local capacity for conservation was provided and 14 range states received computers, scanners, digital cameras and other office or IT equipment in order to facilitate their work.

2.3. Field projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, DR Congo and Indonesia

2.3.1. Indonesia

The aim of the sub-project in Indonesia, which was implemented by the Orangutan Foundation, was to support communities in areas of critical orangutan habitat whose lives were affected by unsustainable practices through provision of information and economic opportunities, while also assisting with the prevention of illegal activities.

This was achieved through the implementation of community-oriented activities at three sites of crucial importance for the conservation of the Bornean orangutan in the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan: Belantikan Hulu, Sebangau and Tanjung Puting.

In Belantikan, the project established a Conservation Liaison Centre in one of the villages as well as a demonstration agro-forestry plot, both of which became a focal point for the community liaison team that carried out education and awareness activities in three surrounding villages. The success of these efforts can be judged by the fact that following a proposal from the Indonesian partner

organization, Yayorin, the local parliament approved a 10,000 ha forest block to be incorporated into the revised district spatial plan.

The recently declared Sebangau National Park, covering some 568,700 ha, contains the largest population of orangutans inside a protected area although the park was recently subject to illegal logging. The community liaison team successfully formed, trained and motivated local fire-fighting teams, which were able to respond rapidly as soon as outbreaks of fires were detected.

The overall impact of the support for guard post infrastructure and equipment -- together with the support for increased frequency of patrolling -- was the safe-guarding of Tanjung Puting National Park from illegal activities. There were no incidents of illegal logging in any of the areas of the park supported by the project during this period.

2.3.2. DR Congo

The sub-project in DR Congo, implemented by the Gorilla Organization, was aimed at contributing to the development of local communities through gorilla conservation. The population of 20 gorillas on Mount Tshiaberimu remained well protected, and the project's monitoring agents collected substantial data on their ecology. New data was progressively harmonized with data from ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) elsewhere in the national park, while the monitoring agents built a comprehensive map of the region using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software. Furthermore, a survey of the area's large mammals was carried out.

Due to the conservation activities of the Gorilla Organization, illegal activities within the park were kept to a minimum. Additionally, a pig breeding and distribution scheme was launched as provision for an alternative source of protein in 2005 to prevent poaching within the forest.

2.3. Cameroon

The strategy of the action was to focus on understanding and engaging with people living around the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) in order to develop sustainable solutions to the illegal commercial bushmeat trade, especially in relation to great apes. This project was implemented by Bristol Zoo. Following pre-project work carried out in 2003, four main objectives were set:

1. Give the local people an opportunity to communicate their understanding of the bushmeat trade and factors affecting them
2. Communicate potential alternative sustainable livelihoods to the people around the DBR
3. Address the issue of conflict between local people and the game guards
4. Use the zoo and ape sanctuary to communicate the 'voice of the people' in relation to great apes and the illegal commercial bushmeat trade

A process of intensive engagement in 22 villages, covering the issues that most concern local people – livelihoods, access roads, repression by eco-guards, education and health – was undertaken and findings were documented and analyzed.

Village Development Plans were produced in each of the 22 villages. Following a review of the current eco-guard training curriculum and a training needs assessment, a module focusing on improving guards' communications techniques was developed. Communication materials, based on the perspectives of those living around the Dja, were produced to provoke conversation, raise awareness and contribute to conservation debates locally, nationally, regionally and

internationally. Additionally, a school exchange programme evolved and a cultural exhibition about people living around the Dja was developed for Mvog Betsi Zoo and Mefou National Park.

Building the capacity of Dja periphery communities to link more effectively to the outside world and to sources of support and opportunity was a key tenet of the project. The project saw the emergence of a coalition of civil society organizations to promote the cause of Dja periphery communities.

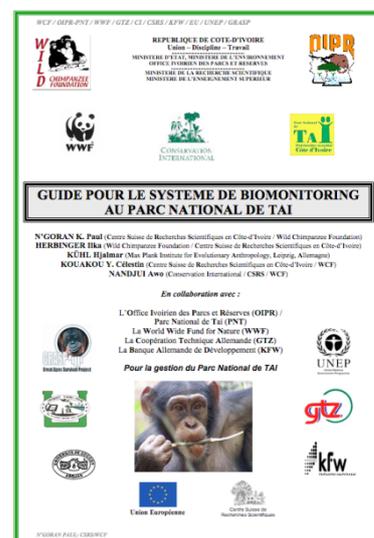
The training of 60 game guards in communication and consultation skills improved the quality of their interaction with local communities. A stakeholder forum was established around the Dja, thus involving the communities more effectively in conservation–development discussions. The lessons from the project were disseminated widely within Cameroon and internationally, with the international conservation community being the main target.

2.3.4. Côte d’Ivoire

The sub-project in Côte d’Ivoire aimed to develop national capacity for wildlife monitoring by helping the wildlife department develop bio-monitoring methodologies and set up a bio-monitoring unit that could contribute to better conservation planning and decision-making.

The Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques (CSRS), the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and the Protected Area Authority (OIPR) developed and implemented a bio-monitoring system in four of the seven national parks in Côte d’Ivoire (Taï, Marahoué, Banco, Azagny). Activities included design of the methodology, training of park staff and local community in data collection, and training in data analysis. Data collection included information on the key animal species and illegal activities.

Overall, the project was successful, with bio-monitoring having become an integral management activity of Côte d’Ivoire’s National Parks, much to the benefit of the biodiversity found nationwide. The local populations around protected areas drew direct benefit from the project through employment as data collectors and porters. In total, more than 44 local employment opportunities were created, and capacity building for survey techniques allowed for additional employment in, for example, surveillance activities of the respective protected areas. Moreover, auxiliaries became ‘ambassadors’ for biodiversity conservation in their own regions and contributed actively in promoting increased protection of forests and fauna.



3. Green frontline of conservation

This “Big Idea” encompassed activities ranging from direct support to protected area authorities in law enforcement, monitoring, conflict resolution, to land-use planning and transboundary collaboration.

3.1. Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas in support of LifeWeb

The Spanish government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) collaborated in 2009 on the Partnership for Protected Areas in Support of LifeWeb. Under this partnership, GRASP managed a portfolio of five projects:

1. Monitoring and surveillance in Garamba National Park, DR Congo (implemented by Africa Parks Network);
2. Monitoring / health monitoring, surveillance and conflict resolution in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DR Congo (implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS);
3. Monitoring / health monitoring, law enforcement, and community conservation in Nouabalé-Ndoki and Lossi, Republic of Congo (implemented by WCS);
4. Feasibility study on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Takamanda, Cameroon (implemented by WCS) – for details see the section on climate change.
5. Monitoring, law enforcement and rehabilitation in Gunung Leuser National Park, Indonesia (implemented by UNESCO).

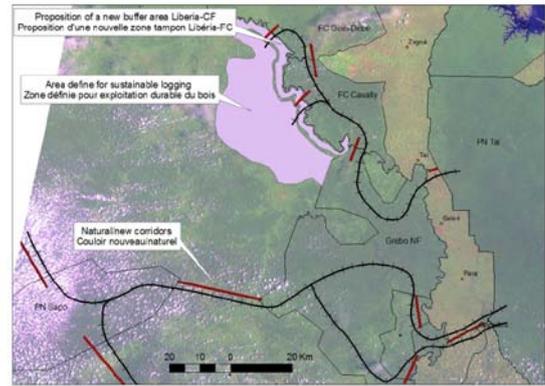
While competition for natural resources can be a source of conflict, a number of studies and initiatives have shown that sustainable forest ecosystem management can also be a suitable tool for peace-building, regional integration and income generation, in particular in sensitive transboundary areas where other issues such as oil exploitation are contentious. The example of the Mountain gorillas in the Albertine Rift of East Africa indicates that by focusing on collaboration around flagship species with a high potential to attract tourism revenue and international attention it is possible to bring together conflicting parties to agree to sustainable ecosystem management, while also building bridges to political stability and income generation. In Kahuzi-Biega, the development and implementation of a conflict-resolution strategy led to a 40 percent decrease in illegal activities in the Nindja corridor and kick-started a corridor rehabilitation programme.

Spain-UNEP LifeWeb funding for Nouabalé-Ndoki ensured the protection of great apes and elephants inside the national park; elephant populations outside the park, meanwhile, suffered serious declines due to ivory poaching. Spain-UNEP LifeWeb contributed to the ecological continuum between Nouabalé-Ndoki, Odzala and Lossi as a first step in the development of a sustainably managed landscape, anchored by protected areas and connected by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified logging concessions. The Lossi Interzone is the first example in the wider region for successful community participation in the management of interzones and protected areas; this will hopefully be replicated throughout the entire landscape.

In Garamba, a hospital for local communities and the park rangers was completed and inaugurated in 2012. Large mammal surveys (including chimpanzees) are ongoing. Nevertheless, Garamba suffers from instability and insecurity, and in 2009 the park headquarters were destroyed by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA). Conflict prevention and conflict management is an important instrument in managing the Garamba National Park.

3.2. Transboundary collaboration in Tai-Sapo (Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia).

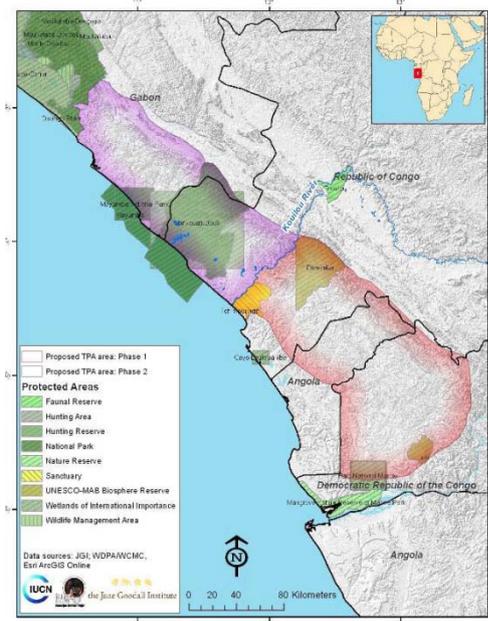
GRASP, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and partners in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire kick-started the transboundary initiative for the Tai-Grebo-Sapo area. The objectives are to create a corridor between the remaining forest blocs and to establish a transboundary platform. With funding from the GRASP EC grant and USAID-STEWARD (Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development), the first transboundary stakeholder meeting was held in Abidjan from 5-6 October 2009. Consensus was reached on the structure and mechanisms of transboundary collaboration. Workgroups on legislation, economic incentives to conserve corridor areas, land-use planning and conflict resolution identified priorities and next steps. New funding from Norway was delayed during the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in late 2010 and early 2011. Once the WCF and the Protected Area Authority resumed operations on the ground, a grant from Norway for emergency activities including monitoring and law enforcement in the corridors was implemented by WCF. GRASP launched a website for this initiative under www.tai-sapo.org, which can be accessed for background documents.



3.3. Transboundary Collaboration in Mayombe

GRASP began managing the Mayombe Transboundary Initiative in July 2010. In order to help maintain and restore the integrity of the Mayombe ecosystem so as to conserve biodiversity, promote regional stability and improve human livelihood, UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with financial support from Norway, worked with the three countries (Angola, Congo, DR Congo) to establish a transboundary protected area in the Mayombe landscape. An initial intervention from July 2009 to June 2010 helped reinstate dialogue and arrive at a political consensus among the three states.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 Proposed Preliminary Boundaries of the Mayombe forest TPA



The main results from the initial phase included:

- A tripartite agreement signed by the ministers in charge of forests in DR Congo, Congo and Angola;
- Endorsement of the project by the three countries;
- The signature of the Cabinda Declaration by the Ministers of the three countries.

In 2011, feasibility studies on potential corridors and options were undertaken to create a Mayombe transboundary protected area, land-use and land tenure, and the legal framework. The results led to a draft transboundary strategic plan. The next steps will include the launch of the plan and the facilitation of donor support for the full implementation of the transboundary plan.

4. Great apes and climate change

4.1. “Orangutans and the Economics of Sustainable Forest Management in Sumatra”

In 2011, GRASP launched the report, “Orangutans and the Economics of Sustainable Forest Management in Sumatra,” following 18 months of field research, stakeholder engagements, writing, editing and revision sessions with over 60 contributors and reviewers.



The study was undertaken in collaboration with PanEco, YEL, ICRAF and GRID-Arendal and funded by the governments of Norway and Monaco. The report was launched at a ceremony in Indonesia by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, with representatives of the governments of Indonesia and Norway in attendance. The study explored opportunities for more sustainable pathways to development and looked for reconciliation between forest and biodiversity conservation and economic progress. It focused on two pilot sites -- Tripa swamp and the mountain forests of Batang Toru -- both of which host significant orangutan populations.

The assessment quantified the economic trade-offs between unsustainable and sustainable forms of land use, and considered the role of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and broader Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes in achieving balanced conservation and development activities. For forests on peatland, the net-present values for carbon credits from avoided deforestation were sufficient to offset the opportunity costs for the conversion of primary forest to oil palm plantation. Including the value of other ecosystem services in the comparison could make forest conservation even more competitive than all other alternative land uses. The carbon value of forests on non-peatlands was higher than that for all other land uses assessed (agroforestry, sustainable logging, coffee, among others) except for palm oil, which had a similar value.

The report also indicated that local communities could see economic benefits rise by as much as 71 percent through programs that promoted biodiversity and sustainable development.

A website was created featuring the e-book, comprehensive media information, references, downloads and a short film. For more information please visit:

<http://orangutanreport.un-grasp.org>.

4.2. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) feasibility study in Takamanda, Cameroon

GRASP supported the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in conducting a landscape-level Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) feasibility study in Takamanda, Cameroon through the Spain-UNEP LifeWeb partnership. This zone consists of different land-use zones, including the newly created Takamanda National Park, the Mone River Forest Reserve, the remote Mbulu montane forest, active production forest, and a zone of increasingly rapid agricultural expansion. Current deforestation rates are low, but improved road access will almost certainly cause them to increase rapidly in the near future. The feasibility study came at an important time as the Cameroonian government is considering logging licences in the Mone Reserve. GRASP further supported WCS to conduct a number of sensitization events with the Cameroonian government, donors such as the German Development Bank (KfW), and other stakeholders to

promote the recommendations of this feasibility study and to highlight options for a sustainable management of the Takamanda landscape. The study could be expanded into Nigeria to assist UN REDD activities.

5. Guardians of great apes

This “Big Idea” sought to mobilize the international community and private sector actors through communication and awareness activities to protect great apes. Target groups included the general public, schools, universities, private sector organizations and foundations.

5.1 UN-GRASP.org: A new GRASP website (<http://www.un-grasp.org>) was officially launched in September 2011. The previous website located at (<http://www.unep.org/grasp>) was revised and restructured to make the user experience lighter and easier to navigate while focusing more on the work of GRASP and its partners in the field. Copy was rewritten and edited to make the website more instructive and up-to-date with a number of esthetic, functional and structural changes. GRASP now benefits from a web 2.0 content management system (CMS) in addition to greater control over content generation and the overall look and feel of the site.

Other features and functionality include:

- New sections such as News from the Field/Partners, Partners, Live Search, Priority Projects, Videos, Support;
- Front page press releases showcasing the latest news from the GRASP Secretariat;
- News from GRASP partners now appears directly on the front page, drawing directly from GRASP partner RSS feeds to communicate news from the field instantly when posted by members of the GRASP partnership;
- Enhanced website structure for ease of use and navigability;
- Enhanced graphics, photo gallery and slideshows;
- The Google translate tool was incorporated to allow real-time translation of all site content.;
- Social network tools have been integrated (Facebook, Twitter, News Alerts & RSS, Vimeo) reaching a dedicated audience of over 10,000 and growing.

The website was launched in September 2011 and the web statistics reveal:

Monthly Visits: 45

Monthly Page Views: 156

Average Time on Site: 4:57

Countries reached: 29 (1. Canada, 2. US, 3. Kenya, 4. UK, 5. Finland were tops)

Ten months later, the data is:

Monthly Visits: 1,418

Monthly Page Views: 2,701

Average Time on Site: 2:02

Countries reached: 94 (1. US, 2. Kenya, 3. UK, 4. Indonesia, 5. Australia were tops)

In addition, GRASP's web traffic rose to 49.8 percent from 20 percent as a result of referring sites, indicating that GRASP is much more widely used and referenced. Also, the single greatest source of

GRASP website traffic now comes as a result of Facebook, which drives 21.72% of our visitors. Google (18.62%) and the GRASP Updates (17.98%) are next.

5.2 GRASP Mailing List & Social Media

Launched in April 2010 the GRASP Facebook & Twitter pages have grown significantly. The Facebook page now stands at nearly 5,000 fans and the Twitter account boasts nearly 1,000 followers. The GRASP mailing list now has 1,800 subscribers from over 100 countries via MailChimp's e-mail service.

5.3 GRASP Social Feeds

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/graspunep>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/graspunep>

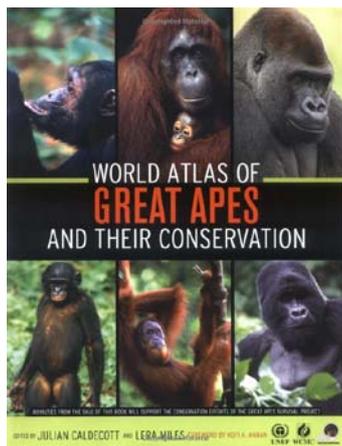
Vimeo: <http://www.vimeo.com/graspunep>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/uneppgrasp>

FlickrR: <http://www.flickr.com/graspunep>

RSS: http://www.un-grasp.org/index.php?option=com_rd_rss&id=1

5.4. Atlas on Great Apes

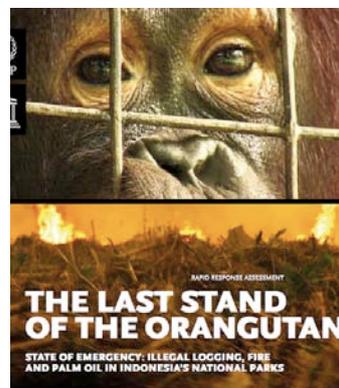


UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), with support from the GRASP secretariat and many GRASP partners, published the “World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation” in 2005. Funding for this project came from DEFRA. UNESCO, with support from the Natural History Museum in Paris and the Fonds Francais pour le l’ Environnement Mondial (FFEM) published the French version in 2009.

5.5. The Last Stand of the Orangutan

The report was produced with funding from DEFRA and in collaboration with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and GRID Arendal. Last Stand of the Orangutan impacted the UK policy on biofuels and was extensively quoted in: House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee 2008. Are biofuels sustainable? First Report of Session 2007–08. Volume 1. HC 76-1.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmenvaud/76/76.pdf>.



Apart from the policy angle, the report also led to increased law enforcement in Indonesia to combat illegal logging. A joint CITES GRASP mission was undertaken to Thailand and Cambodia in April to 2007 to investigate the illegal trade in great apes.

5.6. 2009 Year of the Gorilla

The UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and GRASP joined hands to declare 2009 the Year of the Gorilla (YoG). The 2009 Year of the Gorilla Blog was launched online at <http://gorilla.wildlifedirect.org>. The blog was a joint initiative between WildlifeDirect, GRASP, CMS, WAZA, PASA, Born Free Foundation, WCS, the Gorilla Organization, GTZ, and other organizations involved in gorilla conservation. The goal uniting these various organizations was to raise funds for a selection of priority gorilla field-conservation projects. GRASP assisted with the web page for the Year of the Gorilla campaign and blogs.

Ian Redmond's State of the Gorilla Journey: Ian Redmond travelled through all 10 gorilla range states over a five-week period in August 2009. The aim of the journey was to gain a first-hand impression of the state of gorillas in the Year of the Gorilla (YOG), and share these impressions on the Wildlife Direct YoG Blog. The aim was also to give the opportunity to approximately 10 residents in each country, from poachers to presidents, conservationists to loggers, and the proverbial “man or woman in the street”, to speak on camera about what gorillas mean to them and what they think the YoG might achieve. The target for the journey was 10 countries and 100 interviews in just 5 weeks!

The Last Stand of the Gorilla Report: GRASP's major activity under the French 2010 grant –and the Year of the Gorilla - was the production of the *Last Stand of the Gorilla* rapid response assessment report. The report, entitled; *The Last Stand of the Gorilla – Environmental Crime and Conflict in thd Congo Basin*, focused on threats to gorilla populations and outlines key recommendations for their conservation.



The report was produced in collaboration with GRID-Arendal and INTERPOL, and was launched at the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Doha in March, 2010. Several online, print and TV agencies have picked up on the reports' findings, with over 300 news articles appearing in its first week, including articles in Time magazine and National Geographic. The French edition of the report was launched in June 2010 during World Environment Day celebrations in Kigali, Rwanda and the authors of the report received an expression of interest for the production of a documentary film entitled “Poacher Wars.” For more information please visit: <http://www.un-grasp.org/multimedia/publications>

The report calls for collaboration among INTERPOL, CITES, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Customs Organization. As one result, the CITES CoP in Doha adopted a resolution asking for joint law enforcement missions of CITES and GRASP. Implementing this resolution, and building on experience from previous missions to Thailand and Cambodia, a missions was undertaken to Uganda in 2012 – Cameroon and Gabon are following at the end of 2012.

5.7. Education kits on great apes

UNESCO, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, the French Cooperation, and the Association “Project pour la Conservation des Grands Singes” produced an education kit explaining forests, ecosystems and great apes. The kit targets schools and has reached hundreds of schools in Central and East Africa (Uganda, Gabon and DR Congo). The kits are presented by national teachers. The kits will travel to more African countries.

5.8. PUMA Play for Life

Originating from concept work done in 2009, the Play for Life campaign has evolved into a partnership between UNEP and PUMA to raise awareness for biodiversity conservation and to support two GRASP field projects. Following an online voting competition for three funding opportunities, GRASP was able to secure the first and second slots for (1) Transboundary collaboration in the Tai-Sapo forest and (2) Cross River gorilla community conservation efforts. In addition to the online consumer voting, a press conference was held with Cammeronian football star Samuel Eto'o to announce the partnership and an African Unity Experience, which was held in Paris to celebrate African art, culture, music and dance as part of pre-World Cup training activities with four African World Cup teams. The Play for Life campaign was also seen globally in print, outdoors, in shops and online and ran through to the end of 2010. Revenue from the sale of PUMA's African Unity Kit showcased at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa was awarded to each biodiversity conservation project at a press conference held at UNEP in November of 2010.

5.9. GRASP Communications Strategy

The GRASP Communications Strategy (2012-13) was created to outline the core objectives, messaging, audience, branding, key events, tools (online and offline) and evaluation methods to guide GRASP's internal and external communications activities over the next biennium. The living document is meant to undergo frequent revisions based on partner feedback and new ideas aimed at improving GRASP's communications objectives.

GRASP Donor Kits: In an effort to spur renewed interest in partnerships and fundraising opportunities for GRASP, a donor kit was created. The kits outline the benefits of partnering with GRASP, priority activities of the partnership and previous successful GRASP-donor relationships.

The kits are available at all GRASP events. In addition, they are mailed to previous donors and those who have expressed interest in the past. They are also available on the GRASP website.

GRASP Re-Branding: GRASP underwent a re-branding campaign in 2012, including the following materials to assist with the implementation of its communications strategy. The following materials are for use by GRASP partners and interested parties:



A1 Posters: *"Their Fate is Ours", "Orangutan", "ApeAPP", "10 Years of GRASP", "Great Apes"*

Pull-up & Hanging Banners

Brochures & Folders

GRASP Branded Materials: Hats, T-shirts & USB sticks

5.10. Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas in Support of LifeWeb

As a significant implementing partner in the Spain-UNEP LifeWeb, GRASP played a pivotal role since 2010 in crafting the communications strategy and contributing technical expertise in developing the website: www.Spain-UNEPforpas.org and in the various project intro videos, posters, pull-up banner and brochure. For more information please visit: <http://www.un-grasp.org/lifeweb>



5.11. Act Now for Orangutans

The on-line awareness campaign launched in December 2011 that featured Spanish soccer star Carles Puyol was released in seven languages (English, Spanish, Bahasa, Japanese, Russian, Chinese and Italian) and received worldwide media coverage in 17 languages. The actnowfororangutans.org website reached an on-line audience of over 2.9 million, prompted more than 700 tweets and 2,500 shares, and created a database of over 1,000 e-mail addresses in less than 90 days.

5.12. Inclusion of environment into the mandate of the UN-peacekeeping operation in DR Congo

GRASP promoted the protection of the environment into the mandate of MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping operation in DR Congo.

5.13. Side-events and representation at many global meetings

Since 2005, GRASP has been represented at many international meetings, either through the secretariat, UNEP and UNESCO staff members, former GRASP envoy Ian Redmond, or members of the partnership, including the Scientific Commission. These events offered an opportunity to raise the profile of great ape conservation and to form international alliances. GRASP attended events such as the CBD CoP in Curitiba in 2006, in Nagoya in 2010, in Hyderabad in 2012, the CITES CoP in Doha 2010, the CMS CoP in Bergen in 2011, The UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties Meetings in Bali, Poznan and Copenhagen, the meeting of African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) in 2006, meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in Paris in 2008, World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Meeting, meetings of the CMS Gorilla agreement, Rio+20 in 2012, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012, and many others.

6. UN Global fund for great ape conservation

The GRASP Secretariat explored options to set up a trust fund for great ape conservation under UNEP. The motivation was to use the credibility and fundraising power of the U.N. to support emergency conservation activities. Several meetings with the UNEP Treasury indicated that the UNEP system is not designed to execute rapid transfers in an emergency situation. Other U.N. agencies do have this option, and the secretariat will explore options which lie outside UNEP but ideally remaining within the UN system.

7. GRASP Strategic Review

The GRASP Strategic Review was completed with the submission of the final report by The Environment and Development Group (EDG) consulting firm in April 2012. The report was circulated to the members of the GRASP Executive Committee and the GRASP Scientific Commission, in addition to key officials at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The review comprised more than 100 documents, a survey circulated to more than 100 people, and interviews conducted with 28 individuals. Preliminary findings were discussed at the 6th GRASP Executive Committee meeting in Bergen, Norway, and the final report included additional feedback, interviews and edits from 18 reviewers of the first draft, which was submitted in February.

The GRASP Strategic Review found GRASP “certainly worth persevering,” and offered six thematic recommendations for the partnership going forward:

- Focus on forests
- Simplify structures

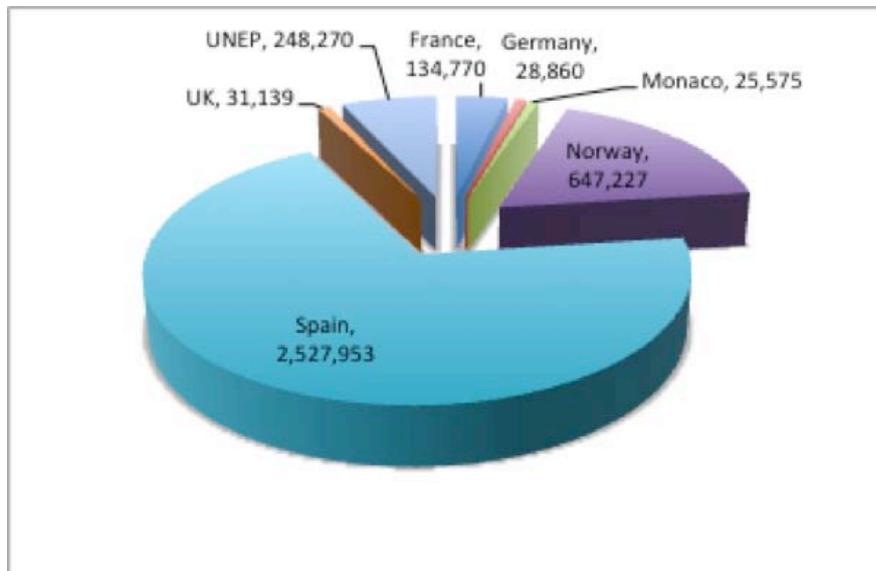
- Communicate convincingly
- Perform on a higher political plane
- Strengthen the science
- Lobby for better legislation and law enforcement

The GRASP Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Commission and Executive Committee developed a priority plan which considers the recommendations of the review. This plan will be presented at the 2nd GRASP Council.

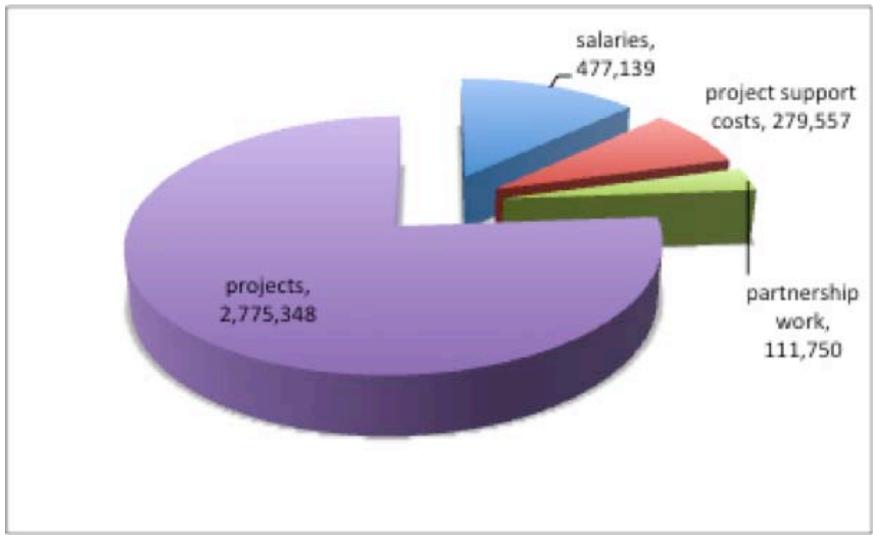
8. GRASP resources

Since 2005, GRASP has implemented projects worth USD 6.5 million. The largest grants were from the EC (USD 3 Mio) and from Spain for the partnership on protected areas (USD 2.2 million). Other donors include Norway, France, UK, Germany, Ireland and Monaco. The numbers cited above do not include the position of the GRASP coordinator, whose position is funded by UNEP.

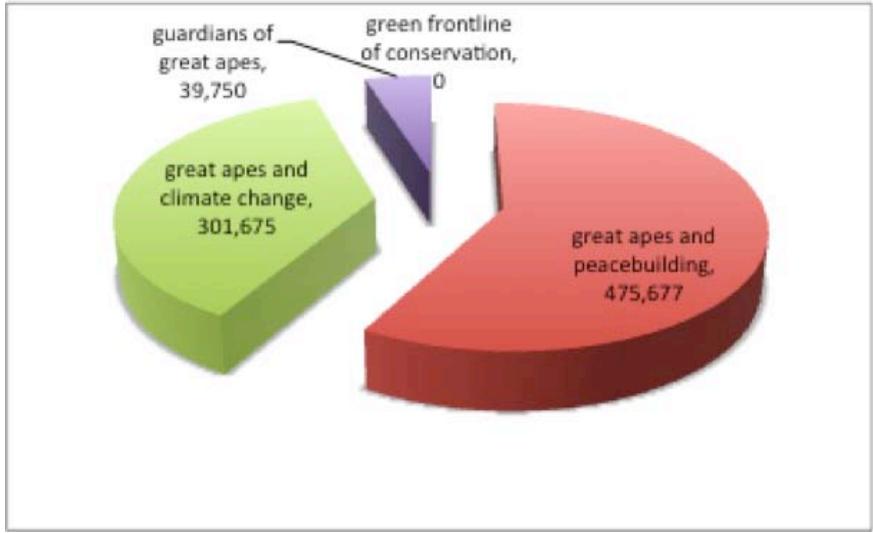
In **2011**, the USD budget breakdown by donor was as below. Please note that often projects were implemented over multiple years, so these figures are higher than what was actually available in 2011.



Out of the funds available, salaries and project support costs (UNEP overhead) represented less than 20% of the budget.



The following demonstrates the breakdown according to “Big Ideas”. Please note that the secretariat separated the peace-building and transboundary work from the Green Frontline of Conservation to provide more detailed information.



A full list of projects funded by GRASP can be extracted from the GRASP review report. Please note that the numbers presented above only reflect funds that have been passed through UNEP accounts; matching funds from partners for joint activities are not displayed.

An increasing number of projects have been developed in collaboration with GRASP partners, and benefit from matching funds raised by partners or third parties. In addition, the GRASP Secretariat tried to capitalize on its position within the UN family and a number of projects received funding from donor grants earmarked for UNEP and/or from other UNEP projects such as UN-REDD or the Post-conflict environmental assessments in DR Congo.

