GRASP **GREAT APES SURVIVAL** **PARTNERSHIP**

UNEP

UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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.

The overall goal of the strategy is, as an immediate challenge, to stop any further decline of great ape populations and their habitat, namely gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans, and, beyond that, to conserve in their natural habitats wherever they exist, most 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.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the strategy are the following:

2.1. To promote the global strategy for the survival of great apes, and to develop methods for international adoption and implementation of its objectives and actions;

2.2. To increase, for each subspecies, the numbers of populations, total population size and habitat areas under long-term conservation management;

2.3. To encourage range States to prepare, implement and evaluate great ape conservation action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat in consultation with relevant experts;

2.4. To determine and monitor the distribution and abundance of great apes;

2.5. To collate and analyse existing projects and initiatives on great apes at different levels to identify gaps and set priorities in action, and to encourage coordination and cooperation;

2.6. To promote and encourage a legal framework for the survival of great apes and their habitat in the countries concerned;/ to promote and enforce range State and international law enforcement frameworks for the survival of great apes and their habitats;

2.7. To identify and support income-generating initiatives related to great ape conservation to the benefit of indigenous and local communities living in and around great ape habitat and protected areas, with due consideration of indigenous and local communities, and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous and local communities in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid;

2.8. To promote payment for ecosystem services plans such as Reduced Emissions from Degradation and Deforestation (REDD) that protect great ape habitat while providing economic incentives to indigenous and local communities;

2.9.To educate and raise awareness of the plight of great apes at the local, regional, and international levels, recognizing that different methods and messages may be required for maximum effectiveness.;

2.10. 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;

2.11. To support and 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;

2.12. To encourage countries to enter into and/or enforce relevant conventions and agreements for the conservation of great apes and their habitat and elimination of their illegal trade;

2.13. To engage and support activities of relevant international expert networks of trade monitoring and trade intelligence gathering on great apes aimed at eliminating illegal local, regional and international trade in live great apes and great ape parts;

2.14. 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;

2.15. 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.

2.1.6 To support the objectives contained in the Kinshasa Declaration (2005).

3. Action

3.1 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 great ape conservation action plan, in consultation with relevant experts. 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:

3.1.1 Determining the current status and recent trends of each ape population and of all remaining ape habitat. Great apes conservation action plans 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 keep under review the national system of protected areas, including Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs), sacred sites and traditional use areas, with respect to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Bushmeat Action Plans as under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and related national land and water-use plans and policies;

(ii) On the basis of the findings of such reviews, 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, 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 ICCAs, other community conservation areas, sacred sites and traditional use areas;

- Fostering trans-boundary 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 or small populations are in danger of extirpation, supporting viable wild reintroduction programmes in accordance with International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines;

3.1.2 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, exploration for and extraction of oil, building of roads and buildings and agricultural and agro-forestry 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;

3.1.3 Identifying possible gaps in law enforcement, including through the use of tools such as the Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit, and other state-of-the-art programmes and recommend measures needed to protect great apes and their habitat, for example:

(i) Law enforcement should be mainstreamed into other governmental sectors, and respective law enforcement agencies (police, customs officials, wildlife officers and rangers, etc.) should be given increased manpower, training, equipment and resources, and should be encouraged to enhance collaboration, both domestically and across boundaries;

(ii) Where indigenous and local communities live in or adjacent to great ape habitat, measures should be taken to encourage active participation in ape conservation, including law enforcement measures;

3.1.4 Assessing the impact on great apes and their habitats of extractive industries such as logging, mining, oil exploration, agriculture, agroforestry etc., and, in conjunction with the appropriate ministries, chief executive officers of the companies concerned and development agencies such as the World Bank, other development banks and financial institutions, 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;

(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 and mitigate the commercial bushmeat trade;

3.1.5 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 indigenous and local communities have longstanding traditions that 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;

3.1.6 Where the illegal trade in great 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);

3.1.7 Where the legal trade under CITES in great apes continues, ensure that keeping and holding institutes and zoos provide a measurable value addition to the conservation of great apes, that zoological gardens adhere to the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) standards for appropriate zoological garden management and the World Zoo Conservation Strategy, and that countries ensure that respective appropriate

enforceable legislation is in place for the operation of zoological gardens, safari parks and similar holding institutions of great apes;

3.1.8 Taking the necessary measures to avoid the transmission of disease between great apes and human beings;

3.1.9 Encouraging conservation education initiatives – both formal and informal – through schools, sanctuaries and ape tourism centres, and using press, radio and television;

3.1.10 Consulting all stakeholders, including indigenous and 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;

3.1.11 Establishing national great ape committees involving all stakeholders (Governments, non-governmental organizations, business, academia, indigenous and local communities/ indigenous peoples and local communities, etc.) and appointing national focal points to deal with great ape conservation matters, including the preparation of national great ape conservation action plans;

3.1.12 Inviting or encouraging all actors envisaged in great ape conservation action plans to execute their assigned roles and functions so as to secure the full and timely implementation of the national great ape conservation action plans;

3.1.13 Regularly reviewing progress made in implementing great ape conservation projects and taking appropriate action to correct deficiencies or reorient priorities;

3.1.14 Liaising with, and developing cooperative efforts between, range States, in particular where:

   (i)   Areas of ape habitat are contiguous with similar areas in neighboring countries, where trans-boundary 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 great apes or other ape products, is known to exist between countries;
   (iii)   (iii) Possibilities exist for developing sub-regional strategies or agreements for the conservation of great apes;

3.1.15 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 (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTF), relevant conventions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, among others, which are

concerned explicitly or implicitly with great ape conservation, and in particular support such initiatives and organizations as:

(i) The CMS Gorilla Agreement
(ii) The Lusaka Agreement Task Force
(iii) The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)
(iv) The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)
(v) The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

3.1.16 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), among others, or to bilateral donors;

3.1.17 Contributing to the international debate on the current conservation status of great apes.

3. 2 International-level actions

3.2.1 Role of the international community in the survival of the great apes
The responsibility for ensuring great ape survival lies with all humankind in support of great ape range States. The footprint of industrialized countries poses continuing threats to great ape habitat in particular. Consumer nations must take all possible steps to mitigate these impacts.

(i) Non-range State and international agencies
Non-range States 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 the international dimensions of their national biodiversity strategy and action plans, and into their priorities for implementing and enforcing CITES, and to take action against any illegal trade in great apes that is taking place on their territory, in cases where subjects holding the nationality of that country, and in cases where private sector companies, and zoological gardens, safari parks and scientific institutions are implicated in illegal trade in great apes. These priorities should inform the diplomatic and substantive agenda of non-range States and respective conventions and agreements as they debate the priorities and work programmes of agencies or groupings 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,

the Asian Development Bank and other relevant development banks and financial institutions.

(ii) Non-governmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations that play an important role in efforts to conserve the great apes, both at the national and international level, are encouraged to expand 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, in addition to the broader scientific community engaged in disciplines relevant to better understanding the threats to great apes and their habitats.

(iv) Private sector
The private sector is of special importance to great ape conservation. Industry and commercial agriculture are recognized as the main drivers for great apes and great apes habitat decline. Many of the opportunities, such as sensitively managed tourism – as well as threats – facing great apes depend on activities undertaken by the private sector, including national and multinational companies,.

3.2.2 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 in catalyzing efforts at all levels to conserve great apes, and in the implementation of this global strategy.

(i) Partners of GRASP
The launching of GRASP in 2001 laid the foundations of a 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 carried out GRASP- supported conservation projects on the ground.

The crucial priority now is to build on early foundations of GRASP by ensuring the full and active participation of all 23 great ape range States.

States or regional groupings that are not great ape range States and that are supportive of GRASP are invited to confirm their wish to become partners of GRASP in accordance with provisions of the GRASP rules.

Additional relevant international organizations are also encouraged to become active GRASP partners.

Going beyond the multilateral environmental agreements, GRASP should hope to find partners in other key agencies of the United Nations and other bodies with an interest in the conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity.

GRASP should make a concerted effort to engage with the zoo community, notably WAZA, the private sector on behalf of great ape conservation – in collaboration and consultation with organizations such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), among others -- not only as a source of funding or support, but as a means of mitigating the impact of some private sector companies through extractive industries such as logging, agriculture, agroforestry, non-timber forest plant products (NTFPP) extraction, mining, hunting, and commercial development.

Further information on GRASP can be found at www.un-grasp.org.