



GREAT APES SURVIVAL
PARTNERSHIP



The Functions and Rules of the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Throughout their ranges, the great apes of equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia, specifically the gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo and orangutan, are under increasing threat. Hunting for bushmeat, trade in 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, and at the time of the 2nd GRASP Council meeting in 2012 was over 80 partners.
- 1.5 The official title of GRASP was changed to “Great Apes Survival Partnership” in 2007.

1.6 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:

- (i) Becoming a GRASP partner is voluntary, on the basis of supporting the GRASP mission 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 interventions in support of great ape conservation;
- (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 objectives, 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 habitats.

2.3 In particular, GRASP will use its 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

GRASP has, as an immediate challenge, to ensure the survival of wild populations of great apes in their natural habitats. 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 ensure that where apes and people interact, their interactions are mutually positive and sustainable.

4. Objectives

To achieve its goal, GRASP will have the objectives set out below, based on the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat, 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, and updated at the 2nd GRASP Council meeting, held in Paris from 6 to 8 November 2012.

4.1 GRASP Objectives

¹ The overall goal of GRASP is similar but not identical to the overall goal of the *Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat*.

The objectives of GRASP shall be:

- (i) To promote the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat;
- (ii) To determine and monitor the distribution and abundance of great apes;
- (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 and regional great ape conservation action plans for the survival of great ape populations and their habitat;
- (v) To prioritize the use of resources for optimum effectiveness and identify funding areas that are currently neglected and underfunded;
- (vi) To promote and support a legal framework for the survival of great apes and their habitats 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;
- (viii) 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 communities;
- (ix) To educate and raise awareness among local, national and international populations;
- (x) To help generate new and additional funds for the survival of great apes and their habitats and to ensure that the international community in the widest sense (non-range 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.
- (xi) To carry out scientific research to generate information necessary for the survival of great apes and their habitats and to disseminate such information in an easy and accessible manner;
- (xii) To work with relevant wildlife enforcement networks aimed at eliminating illegal local, regional and international traffic in both live great apes and great ape parts;
- (xii) 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;
- (xiii) 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.

5. GRASP Partners

5.1 Categories of partners

The GRASP Partnership will comprise partners collaborating for the conservation of great apes and their habitats.

5.1.1 Partners will fall into the following categories:

- (i) Category A: Great ape range States;

- (ii) Category B: Non-great ape range States that support or participate 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 other inter-governmental organizations and institutions;
- (v) Category E: Non-governmental organizations and research and monitoring organizations engaged in the conservation of great apes and their habitats;

- (vi) Category F: Other entities that have an interest or stake in the conservation of great apes and their habitats.

5.2 Admission of partners

5.2.1 All great ape range States are partners (Category A).

5.2.2 Non-range States (Category B) will become partners as soon as they declare to the GRASP Executive Committee via the GRASP Secretariat their support of the GRASP goal and objectives.

5.2.3 Inter-governmental organizations and multilateral environmental agreements (Category D) will become partners as soon as they declare to the GRASP Executive Committee via the GRASP Secretariat their support of the GRASP goals and objectives

5.2.4 Other organizations and entities (E & F) will be accepted by the GRASP Executive Committee following an application process, which requires those partners to identify their relevant contributions to the objectives of GRASP. The GRASP admission criteria for these categories 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 operates in detriment of the GRASP objectives.

5.4 Withdrawal

Any full or supporting partner may withdraw from GRASP at any time by giving notice in writing to the GRASP Secretariat to that effect. Such notice will be effective upon the date of receipt of the notice by the GRASP Secretariat.

5.5 Readmission

Applications for readmission to GRASP 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 partners in categories A-E will have one vote in the GRASP Council. Category F partners will participate in the work of the GRASP Council in a non-voting capacity.

6. GRASP Council

6.1 Composition

GRASP will have a Council (the GRASP Council), which will review and guide the work of the Partnership. Each partner in categories A-E will have one seat and one vote on the GRASP Council. Each partner in category F may participate in the work of the GRASP Council as an observer.

6.2 Decision making

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.

6.3 Functions

6.3.1 The functions of the GRASP Council will be:

- (i) To elect the Chair for each GRASP Council meeting;
- (ii) To elect the members of the GRASP Executive Committee at each GRASP Council;
- (iii) To determine the general policy and strategy of GRASP;
- (iv) To identify funding and fundraising priorities and receive reports of income and expenditures;

6.3.2 The GRASP Council will meet every four years. Subject to the availability of financial resources, an inter-sessional 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.

6.3.3 The GRASP Council draft agenda and meeting documentation 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. GRASP Executive Committee

7.1 Composition

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

- (i) Four members from among category A (range State) partners, to be elected on a sub-regional basis (three from Africa and one from South-East Asia);²
- (ii) Two members from among category B (non-range States) partners;
- (iii) Two members from category C partners;
- (iv) Two members from among category D (MEAs / IGOs) partners;
- (v) Two members from among category E (non-governmental organizations and research institutions) partners;
- (vi) One member from the GRASP Scientific Commission, in a non-voting capacity.

7.1.2 The term of GRASP Executive Committee membership – with the exception of Category C -- will be four years, renewable once. Each member has the right to nominate and replace its own representative.

7.1.3 The members of the GRASP Executive Committee will elect a Chair, who shall be chosen from among the members of the GRASP Executive Committee belonging to category A and who will hold office for four years with the possibility of re-election for a further period of four years.

7.1.4 The GRASP Executive Committee will be responsible to, and will report to, the GRASP Council and will act on its behalf between sessions of the GRASP Council, in ensuring the effective implementation of the policies of GRASP. It will be assisted by the secretariat in handling the routine activities of GRASP.

² Sub-regions are understood as being West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, Southeast Asia.

- 7.1.5 GRASP 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 GRASP Executive Committee will be necessary for decisions. Six members of the GRASP Executive Committee, including at least two members from Category A and members from at least two other categories.

7.2 Functions

- 7.2.1 The functions of the GRASP Executive Committee shall be:

- (i) To monitor the implementation of GRASP activities;
- (ii) To oversee the work of the GRASP Secretariat;
- (iii) To decide on the admission, suspension, expulsion, or limitation of the rights of GRASP partners;
- (iv) To seek the advice of the GRASP Scientific Commission on any issues included in the Commission's terms of reference;
- (v) To approve the annual budgets and work plans of the GRASP Secretariat and GRASP Scientific Commission;
- (vi) To oversee the activities of GRASP Ambassadors and to consider secretariat recommendations regarding appointments;
- (vii) To communicate and engage with partners in each relevant category;
- (viii) To assume such other functions as necessary for the smooth functioning of the partnership between GRASP Council meetings;

- 7.2.2 The GRASP 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 GRASP. The GRASP Executive Committee will convene at least once a year in a face-to-face meeting.

- 7.2.3 The GRASP Executive Committee will avoid any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest as if a GRASP Executive Committee member seeks funding from GRASP. In such a case, the committee member will not participate in any committee discussions regarding the request.

- 7.2.4 A summary of the minutes of GRASP Executive Committee meetings will be submitted by the GRASP Secretariat to all GRASP partners within two months after each meeting.

8. GRASP Secretariat

8.1 Composition

- 8.1.1 GRASP will have a secretariat, for which the sponsoring agencies will provide the staff, subject to the availability of financial resources. The practical arrangements, including the appointment of staff, will be made by common accord between the sponsoring agencies.
- 8.1.2 Under the relevant conditions of the sponsoring agencies, the secretariat may also receive staff seconded to it by GRASP partners.
- 8.1.3 Staff of UNEP or UNESCO that are discharging secretariat functions on behalf of GRASP 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 facilitate and promote the work of GRASP;
 - (ii) To monitor the performance of GRASP activities;
 - (iii) To receive applications for partners to join GRASP, and compile these for consideration by the GRASP Executive Committee;
 - (iv) To solicit and if necessary help prepare projects for funding;
 - (v) To request advice from the GRASP 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 and other relevant media;
 - (vii) To recommend GRASP Ambassadors for the consideration of the GRASP Executive Committee.
 - (viii) To raise funds for GRASP activities;
 - (ix) To facilitate communication between GRASP partners, and between GRASP partners and the GRASP Executive Committee;
 - (x) To liaise with GRASP donors and keep them regularly updated;
 - (xi) To be responsible for the finances and accounting of GRASP and to report to the GRASP Executive Committee and GRASP Council on such matters;
 - (xii) To be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of GRASP.
- 8.2.2 The GRASP Secretariat will submit for approval by the GRASP Executive Committee an annual work plan and budget, which will include the activities of the secretariat, and the GRASP Scientific Commission.
- 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 GRASP and the sponsoring agencies.
- 8.2.4 The GRASP 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 GRASP Executive Committee, this report will be sent to GRASP partners.

9. GRASP Scientific Commission

9.1 Composition

A GRASP Scientific Commission will be established under the auspices of the GRASP Council with the following 15 members, serving four-year terms, renewable once, and serving in their individual capacity:

- (i) Six members selected by the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN;
- (ii) The current president of the International Primatological Society (IPS) or his/her representative;
- (iii) Four members, one from each sub-region, nominated by partners, proposed by the GRASP Scientific Commission and approved by the GRASP Executive Committee. All members must have relevant scientific qualifications and experience in the science related to the conservation of great apes and their habitats as detailed in the terms of reference.
- (iv) Four members nominated by partners, proposed by the GRASP Scientific Commission and approved by the GRASP Executive Committee in disciplines related to broader issues facing great ape conservation, including climate change, disease, forestry, and agriculture, among others.

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 GRASP Executive Committee and GRASP Secretariat;
- (ii) To provide advice to the GRASP Executive Committee and the GRASP Secretariat relating to the development of the GRASP Partnership's strategic goals and objectives and activities to achieve them;
- (iii) To monitor the status of great ape populations and evaluate the status and trajectory of populations and habitats relative to the GRASP goals and overall objectives;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) To provide advice on great ape conservation issues on behalf of GRASP within range States, liaise with other experts within those States and advise on national plans for great ape conservation;
- (vi) Where there are donor funds available, to review and provide advice on the funding of project proposals submitted to GRASP, if referred by the GRASP Secretariat. A conflict of interest may arise if a GRASP Scientific Commission member seeks funding from GRASP. In such a case, the commission member will not participate in the commission's discussions regarding the request;
- (vii) To provide scientific advice and review of official GRASP literature, reports and other documents;
- (viii) To provide advice on the design and programming of GRASP convened thematic workshops.

9.2.2 The GRASP Scientific Commission will be independent of all organs of GRASP . The GRASP Secretariat may participate in the deliberations of the commission as an observer.

9.2.3 The GRASP 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 strive to meet every two years or when a majority of its members calls for such a meeting and when finances permit.

9.2.4 The GRASP Scientific Commission will submit to the GRASP Executive Committee a detailed plan of action for discussion.

10. GRASP Ambassadors

10.1 The GRASP Secretariat, with the approval of the GRASP Executive Committee, will appoint a limited number of GRASP Ambassadors. GRASP Ambassadors will be individuals well recognized for their contribution to great ape conservation or related activities or celebrities or well recognized individuals drawn from outside the great ape conservation community willing to make a contribution to GRASP and GRASP-related activities.

10.2 The role of GRASP Ambassadors will be an honorary one. The GRASP Executive Committee may request the ambassadors:

- (i) To promote GRASP at the political level;

- (ii) To promote GRASP to the general public, including through media, international meetings, conventions and symposiums;
- (iii) To seek opportunities to raise funds for GRASP.

11. GRASP at the National Level

11.1 The implementation of national level action for the survival of great ape populations and their habitats, taken in consultation with relevant experts, lies at the heart of the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and Their Habitat. GRASP 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;

12. GRASP Finances

12.1 The income of GRASP may be derived from grants, donations and payments in support of GRASP Partnership activities from governmental, intergovernmental, foundation and other non-governmental, business and private donors.

12.2 The GRASP Secretariat will submit to each session of the GRASP Executive Committee and the GRASP Council a detailed budget for the following year, and an indicative budget for the succeeding biennium, including estimates of income and expenditure.

12.3 The GRASP Secretariat will keep true and accurate accounts of all monies received and expended by the secretariat on behalf of GRASP and will be responsible for the control of all such income and expenditure in accordance with the budget.

12.4 The accounts of GRASP will be examined in line with the auditing procedures of the sponsoring agencies.

12.5 The GRASP Secretariat will have the power to accept grants, donations and other payments on behalf of GRASP, subject to any instructions and guidelines by the GRASP Executive Committee.

12.6 The GRASP Executive Committee, on behalf of GRASP, 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.

13. Amendments

13.1 The GRASP Council will have the authority to amend the present rules on the proposal of the GRASP Executive Committee or any partner submitted to the GRASP Secretariat at least six weeks in advance of a council meeting.

13.2 The secretariat shall notify any such proposals to all partners at least one month advance of the GRASP Council meeting.

13.3 Proposed amendments considered by the GRASP Council will become effective immediately upon approval by the GRASP Council.

15. Miscellaneous

The official work of the GRASP 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*

*Updated at the 2nd GRASP Council Meeting
Paris, 9 November 2012*

*Updated at the 8th GRASP Executive Committee Meeting
Cambridge 8-9 August 2013*

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 GRASP. It was prepared by the secretariat of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) 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 GRASP interim Executive Committee on 3 September 2004.

It is hoped that these criteria will help the GRASP 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 Partnership (GRASP).

Category D- E - F: Organizations with a significant involvement in great ape conservation

Applicants for admittance into category D-E-F shall be required to meet the criteria set out below, at the discretion of the GRASP 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.

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

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 GRASP Executive Committee;
- Share their knowledge, experience and expertise with GRASP;
- Assist with the preparation of national great ape conservation action plans and the organization of priority-setting workshops in range States.
- Coordinate their activities to address the national priorities identified in national great ape conservation action plans;
- Support activities of GRASP technical consultants;
- Help GRASP gain support in range and non-range 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.

Application process

Parties interested in joining GRASP are asked to send a brief letter, clearly indicating their great ape-related activities and their commitment to GRASP to:

Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel.: (+254 20) 762 6712
Email: info@un-grasp.org

Parties interested in joining GRASP may also apply on-line via www.un-grasp.org.

The final decision on the eligibility and admittance of any applicant shall be made at the discretion of the GRASP Executive Committee. The GRASP Executive Committee will provide a written explanation for its decision in the event of a declined request.

Updated 10-10-12

Updated 9-8-13