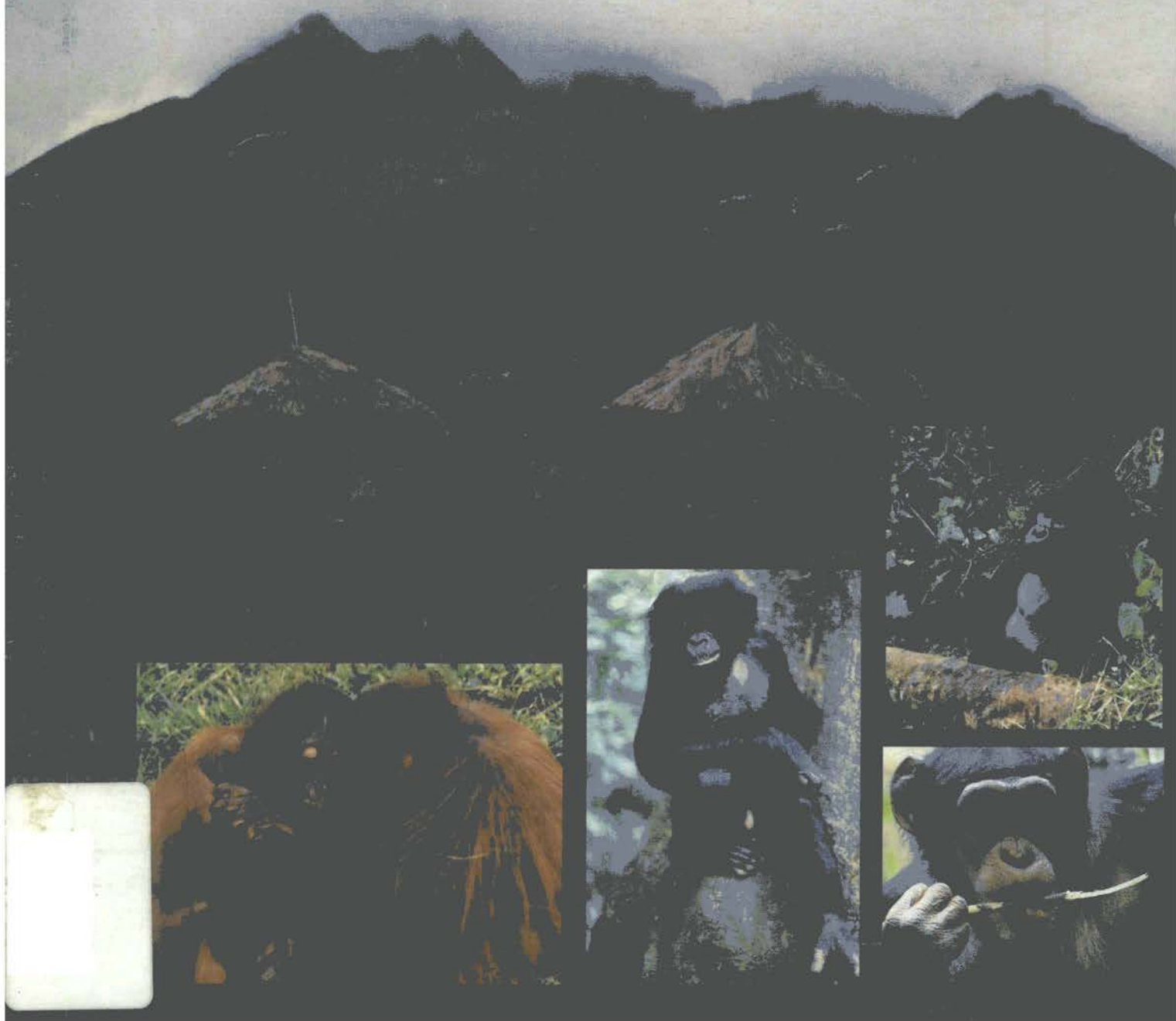




THE GREAT APES SURVIVAL PROJECT PARTNERSHIP (GRASP)



STRATEGY



GRASP Partners

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

African Wildlife Foundation

Ape Alliance

Born Free Foundation

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bushmeat Crisis Task Force

Conservation International

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Convention on Migratory Species

Dorling Kindersley

Fauna and Flora International

The International Fund for Animal Welfare

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme

Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation

The Jane Goodall Institutes

The Orangutan Foundation

Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance

Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

World Wide Fund for Nature

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The GRASP Strategy

1. GRASP – The Mission

The Great Apes Survival Project Partnership (GRASP) has an immediate challenge— to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees) and gorillas, and serious threats to chimpanzees and orangutans. Beyond that our mission is to conserve viable, wild populations of every kind of great ape, and to make sure that their inter-actions with humans are mutually positive and sustainable. We also seek to exemplify and relieve the threats faced by other kinds of animals, birds and plants sharing the forests where apes survive, and to illustrate what can be achieved through a genuine partnership between all the stakeholders in these fragile ecosystems.

“Will you join us and help participate in this effort to ensure that our closest living relatives continue to share this planet with us?”

(Dr Russ Mittermeier,
UN Special Ape Envoy).



“The clock is standing at one minute to midnight for the great apes”

(Dr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP).

2. Why GRASP ?

Great apes are highly intelligent, social primates who share many highly valued qualities with humans; they can reason and communicate emotions such as joy and grief; those in captivity have mastered some form of language, either by manual signing or using computer based programmes; and apes make and use tools in the wild. Great apes and humans are the only species to be able to recognize themselves in a mirror, a sign of a highly developed self awareness. Great apes also have the capacity for complex social interactions.

There are three taxa of great apes; chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans. Chimpanzees comprise two species, the common chimpanzee found across 21 countries in West, Central and East Africa, and the bonobo or pygmy chimpanzee, found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Gorillas are divided into western and eastern species, in a similar if more restricted range than chimpanzees. Orangutans live in South East Asia, on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra in Indonesia and Malaysia (see maps at centre).

Great apes share more than 96 percent of their DNA with humans. For chimpanzees the figure is as high as 98.4%. The African apes are in fact more closely related to humans than they are to orangutans. So close is our relationship that a taxonomist from another planet would probably classify humans as another African ape species.

As such, great apes form a unique bridge linking humans to our ancestors. Understanding great apes thus provides a continuing opportunity for humans to appreciate how we



M. Virtue/UNEP

evolved, and our own precarious position as one of the 10-15 million or more species of the planet. If we were to lose any great ape species many people would feel that we were destroying part of the bridge to our own origins, and with it a part of our own humanity.

Great apes act as key indicator species for endangered ecosystems. Every one of the great ape species is at high risk of extinction, either in the immediate future or at best within 50 years. Most of the threats to apes result from human activities; increasing human population, civil wars, poaching for meat or the live animal trade and above all from the destruction of forests. The forests the great apes inhabit are a vital resource for humans since a reduction in ape numbers is a sure sign that the forests are being used unsustainably. Any efforts to conserve the apes will also benefit the local human communities who depend on forest resources.

Over decades individuals and organizations have worked to protect great apes by finding ways for them to co-exist more successfully with their human cousins in their shared forest homelands in West and Central Africa and South East Asia. In some countries, enlightened policies have protected forests for local communities as well as apes. Income generated by tourists visiting parks and watching apes helps pay for their protection as well as providing jobs for local people. Nevertheless, almost all ape population levels have continued to fall, often at alarming rates. There is a need for greater resources, understanding and unity in efforts to reverse these trends in order to prevent actual extinction.

The UN body UNESCO assists countries in strengthening their conservation activities, through Education, Science and Culture. UNESCO is working in partnership with UNEP for the benefit of ape conservation. The two UN bodies, working together, are well placed to create a successful partnership of range states, international conventions, non-government bodies, scientists, zoos, charitable donors and commercial interests in a sustained campaign to protect not only great apes, but also the ecosystems of which they are a part. Ape habitats are vital to humans and many other species as a source of food, water, medicine and timber and as a regulator of our changing climate. Apes play a key part in maintaining the health and diversity of tropical forests, by dispersing seeds and creating gaps in the forest canopy which allow seedlings to grow and replenish the ecosystem.

The vital importance of forest ecosystems has been acknowledged by African Environment Ministers who recently requested that; *“the New Partnership for Africa’s Development...address forest ecosystems as one of the major areas of intervention”*¹. Similarly the Environment Ministers of South East Asia agreed to sustainably manage and use wisely their diverse biological resources².

¹ Ministerial Declaration of the ninth session African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Kampala, Uganda 1-5 July 2002.

² Kota Kinabalu Resolution on the Environment, Eighth Meeting of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers, held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, October, 2000



Orangutan Foundation

“The situation for all species of great apes is truly terrible – I am absolutely delighted that UNEP is developing such a strong programme to raise awareness of their plight both in the range states and overseas”

(Dr Jane Goodall, UN Special Ape Envoy).

“I believe GRASP will be the most important step to halt the rapid decline of great ape populations, in particular because of the ape meat trade and illegal logging”

(Professor Toshisada Nishida, UN Special Ape Envoy).



M. Virtue/UNEP

Abe, both experienced wildlife experts, are leading the first round of missions to range states. UNEP is also proud that the celebrated Kenyan authority on human evolution and wildlife conservation, Dr Richard Leakey, is acting as the project's special adviser.

3. GRASP Goals

It is essential to raise the profile and understanding of the problem through education and publicity. In order to achieve this UNEP has appointed three Envoys - Dr Russ Mittermeier, the Director of Conservation International, Dr Jane Goodall the celebrated chimpanzee expert, and Prof. Toshisada Nishida, Japan's globally-renowned primatologist. They are all innovators in their field with track records in raising resources and public recognition of problems affecting biodiversity and ape conservation. In addition, Ian Redmond and Eve

Led by UNEP's Executive Director, we are promoting GRASP's message through press events, publications, the internet, film, radio and television. In early 2002, we commissioned a comprehensive "World Atlas of the Great Apes" co-ordinated by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, UK, which will be ready for publication by UNESCO and UNEP in 2003. This will provide the latest available

information on the populations and habitats of great apes, the threats which they face, and the measures already being taken to alleviate them.

Alongside these efforts, UNEP is organising missions to each range state to study the problems, consult governments and other authorities in order to feed back the urgent and longer term requirements for maintaining viable ape populations and assisting local people at the same time. Promoting the preparation of effective planning tools within each country is a priority for the missions. A first step is the preparation of a National Great Ape Survival Plan by the authorities. These 'NGASPs' can then form a bridge to wider planning mechanisms including those under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other multilateral agreements to protect cross border populations of great apes. In April 2002, our technical experts Ian Redmond and Eve Abe completed a first and successful series of visits to great ape range states in equatorial Africa and South East Asia.

At the same time GRASP is supporting pilot projects, undertaken by NGOs in co-operation with Governments. The emphasis is on projects which deliver tangible benefits, involving local communities and the private sector. The Executive

Director and his Deputy promote GRASP in their regular consultations with representatives of range and donor states.



M. Vireux/UNEP



UNESCO and GRASP

UNESCO has a major interest in the educational, scientific, conservation and cultural aspects of GRASP. UNESCO and UNEP are co-operating on the production of awareness raising and educational publications for GRASP, including a series of public interest advertisements to be launched in mid - 2002, and the Great Apes Atlas. UNESCO oversees two key conservation programmes which can help GRASP attain its objectives.

UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme has set up the World Network of Biosphere Reserves that promotes the ecosystem approach, balancing land use between outright protection and controlled harvesting or other exploitation by local people. The World Heritage Convention (WHC), administered by UNESCO, aims at protecting natural as well as cultural sites of outstanding universal value. Several MAB biosphere reserves, such as Taï in Cote D'Ivoire, Odzala in the Republic of Congo, Gunung Leuser in Indonesia, and World Heritage sites such as Virunga, Kahuzi-Biega and Salonga National parks in DRC, Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda, are critical sites for the survival of great apes.

UNESCO/WHC has a special programme supported by the UN Foundation, to strengthen the conservation of World Heritage Sites in the DRC which are highly vulnerable following the armed conflict in the sub-region. Another programme, the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative is currently in preparation and has the objective to strengthen the management of several unique transboundary clusters of forest in the Congo Basin and to assist the countries in the region in submitting them for World Heritage nomination. The MAB Programme has set up the first Regional Post Graduate School on Integrated Forest Management (ERAIFT) in Kinshasa, to build up a new cadre of African specialists. There is scope for increasing both the number and area of MAB biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, as well as strengthening the ability of national authorities and local communities to give effect to the designations at ground level.

UNESCO has established an 'Open initiative' between UNESCO and all International Space



Ian Redmond



M. Virtue/UNEP

Agencies. Through this initiative UNESCO will assist developing countries in the monitoring of World Heritage Sites through satellite images. As part of this activity, UNESCO has formed a consortium with the European Space Agency and several NGOs working in gorilla habitats. UNEP is a member of this consortium. A pilot project will use satellite images to provide a land cover change assessment during the last ten years. This "Surveillance of Gorilla Habitat" project will focus on four existing or proposed World Heritage Sites in the Albertine Rift covering border areas of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. One of the main outputs of this project will be simple but accurate maps derived from satellite images. These maps will be provided to site managers, rangers and conservation NGOs for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Both UNESCO and UNEP believe that this project, and others under GRASP, provide an opportunity to link biodiversity and peace-building in a troubled region, and give international support to the programmes already run by a number of UNEP and UNESCO partners amongst the NGO movement.

UNEP has mobilized three international wildlife conventions which it administers and has asked three other international wildlife conventions which it administers and has asked them to take a lead role in their area of expertise. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is endeavouring to combat the smuggling of apes for human consumption or sale as live specimens. CITES is taking a close interest in recent incidents involving the export of live animals from Africa, which in one case led to the death of two apes. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is involved in the debate on the effects of the bushmeat trade on biodiversity resources and in considering how best to integrate ape conservation with wider biodiversity management frameworks (particularly through their forest biodiversity programme of work) in the individual range states, all of which are Parties to CBD. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is concentrating on the eastern species of gorilla, which crosses the mountainous border areas between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Strengthened co-operation between the three governments would aid the survival of mountain gorillas, and a formal accord could be considered under Article IV of the Convention.

"UNEP's initiative in creating GRASP offers an excellent opportunity to bring together the major players in the field of conservation, access expertise and funding support, and use already existing networks with Governments, especially in Africa and Asia, to meaningfully react to the very real concern for the future of great apes"

(Mr Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General, CITES).

"The Secretariat of the Convention in Migratory Species offer its full support for GRASP. As a partner CMS is particularly responsible for the Mountain Gorillas"

(Mr Ulf Mueller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary, Conservation of Migratory Species).

"UNESCO is committed to protecting the Great Apes through its work to help member States conserve the ecosystems and habitats on which the survival of these species depends"
(Kiochiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO).

GRASP will raise new resources for ape conservation and for the indigenous people and other marginalised groups who depend on the same forests as the apes. Working with the envoys, we will give particular attention to obtaining funds from foundations and the private sector, whilst seeking both general and project donations from UNEP's member governments. We will be looking to sources in both donor and range states, as it is important for local stakeholders to commit to programmes conserving great apes. UNEP's GRASP team will work in consultation with the Envoys and our NGO partners to allocate the new resources to projects undertaken by range states and NGOs, keeping collection and administrative costs to the minimum through streamlined procedures. In early 2002 UNEP allocated a grant of \$ 140,000 from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to GRASP for four NGO-led projects in Africa without charging the usual administrative support costs to the projects.

4. GRASP – The Alliance

We are building an alliance of stakeholders under UNEP's leadership. First and foremost, we have to gain support from each of the 21 states in Africa, and two in Asia, where wild populations of great apes remain. UNEP has asked each state to join GRASP and to name a focal point in government for project tasks and activities within that country. Nine have already done so.

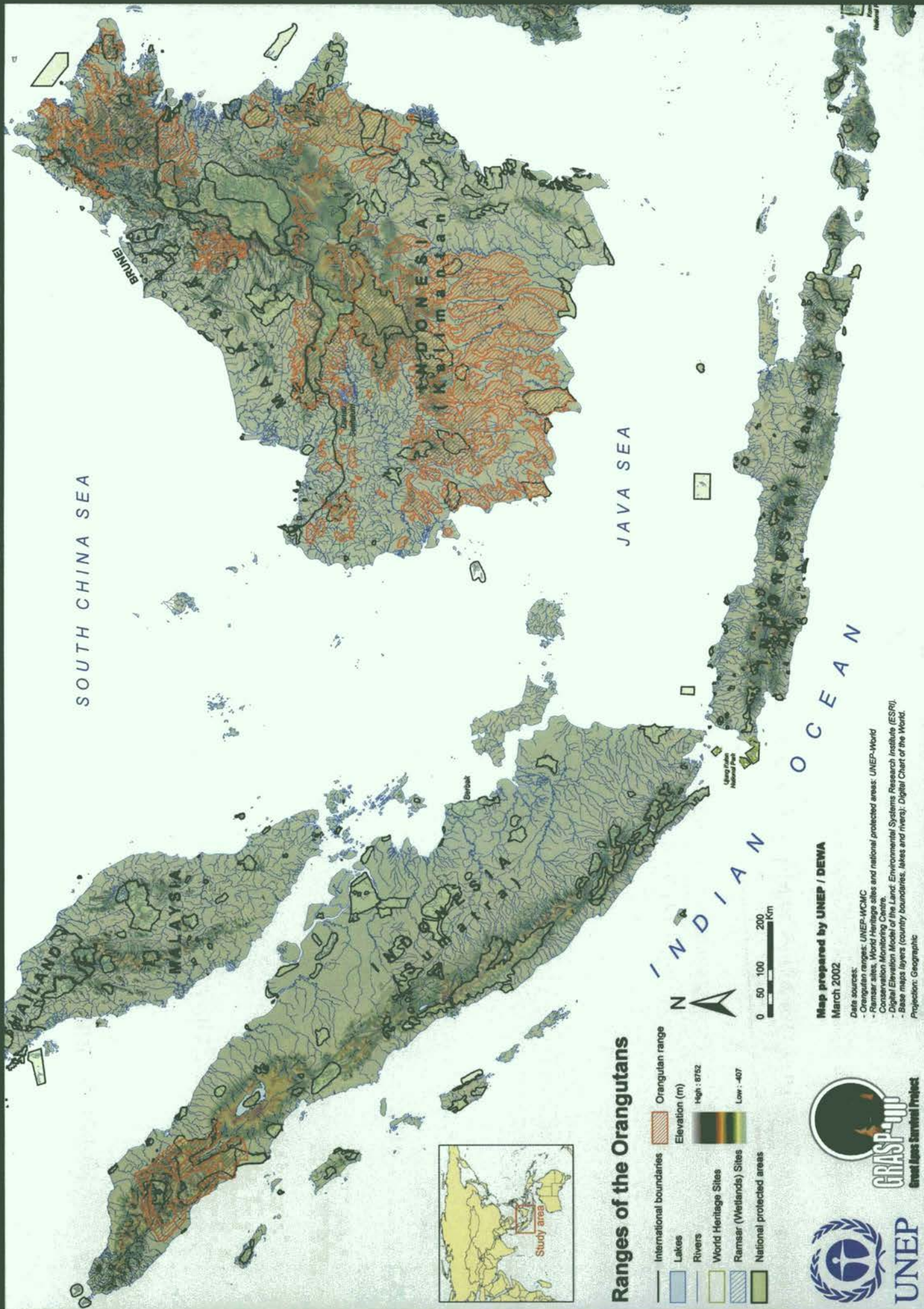
The UNEP Envoys or "Ape Ambassadors" bring a range of fundraising, scientific, practical and diplomatic experience to the project. We are also able to draw on the knowledge of the former Director of the Kenyan Wildlife Service, Dr Richard Leakey, acting in an advisory capacity.

Within UNEP itself we have set up a team which is in regular touch with the Envoys. The team comprises skilled professionals from the divisions dealing with monitoring, policy, communications, fundraising, the regions and environmental conventions. The team of about a dozen officers meets every month in Nairobi to review progress and agree on the next steps in the project. We have established close links with UNESCO and the four wildlife related conventions (WHC, CITES, CBD, and CMS)

"Votre initiative est dès lors la bienvenue et pourra nous permettre d'envisager avec beaucoup plus d'optimisme, le développement de plans de gestion pour ces espèces présentes tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur des aires protégées"
(Sylvestre Naamondor, Le Ministre de l'Environnement, Cameroon).



NGA GORILLA
NATIONAL
PARK



Ranges of the Orangutans

- International boundaries
- Lakes
- Rivers
- World Heritage Sites
- Ramsar (Wetlands) Sites
- National protected areas
- Orangutan range
- Elevation (m)
 - High: 6752
 - Low: -407



Map prepared by UNEP / DEWA
March 2002

Data sources:
 - Orangutan ranges: UNEP-MC/MC
 - Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites and national protected areas: UNEP-World
 - Conservation Monitoring Centre
 - Digital Elevation Model: Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
 - Base maps layers (country boundaries, lakes and rivers): Digital Chart of the World
 Projection: Geographic

“The Ivorian Government acknowledges the importance of the GRASP initiative and will seek to contribute towards a good outcome in ensuring that concrete efforts are put in place towards helping in the preservation of the great apes of Africa and Asia”

(M. Gilbert Bleu Laine, Minister of the Environment, Republic of the Ivory Coast).

whose specialist areas are set out in the previous section. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and UNEP’s Division of Early Warning and Assessment are co-ordinating the scientific and technical input to GRASP, drawing on their wide global networks.

Crucial to the alliance are the NGO partners whose inspiration helped create GRASP and whose staff carry out GRASP-supported conservation projects on the ground. Out current NGO partners are the African Wildlife Foundation, the Ape Alliance, Born Free Foundation (co-funder of the first series of missions), Bristol Zoo Gardens, Bushmeat Crisis Task Force, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme, the Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation, the Jane Goodall Institutes, the Orangutan Foundation, the Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature. UNEP and UNESCO are keen to extend this list, and to broaden it to cover local bodies including those working with people living in and around ape habitats.


“One of the exciting elements of GRASP is the way we are forging new and extensive partnerships between UNEP and Wildlife groups, conventions, governments, private industry, other UN organizations, the voluntary sector and the zoo community”
(Robert Hepworth, Deputy Director UNEP/DEC and Head of UNEP’s GRASP Project.)

Vital too are contributions and support from sympathetic governments in range and non-range states, from the charitable sector and private commercial bodies, including travel and tourist enterprises, which can generate sustainable income from great apes and their habitats.

Such a wide range of partners demands sound procedures for consultation and decision-making which will command respect, whilst not over-burdening GRASP with a complex or structure. At present, we have three member groups. First, there is a panel comprising the Ape Envoys, Dr. Richard Leakey and the Technical Support Team to advise UNEP on project selection. Second, UNEP convenes a group comprising all

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ONAL PARK

C. Lambert/UNEP



the formal partners in the alliance (including UNESCO, the NGOs and the Conventions) by teleconference; this group convenes approximately every three months. Third, UNEP has established the GRASP website (www.unep.org/grasp) which allows interaction with anyone interested in GRASP. This framework allows UNEP to consult widely, and then to take decisions in a swift and informed fashion.

“The Federation of Zoological gardens of Great Britain and Ireland welcomes the GRASP initiative as a significant step forward in the conservation of great apes. The massive threat to the great apes posed by hunting and deforestation will only be countered by targeted and co-ordinated efforts by the whole conservation community, and UNEP is rightly taking a leading role in those efforts” (Mary G. Talbot-Rosevear, Director of the Federation)

5. GRASP and People

“Rescuing the great apes is not just about saving these important and special creatures. In conserving and guaranteeing apes a future, we will also be tackling the poverty and environmental degradation which is blighting the lives of people in Africa and South East Asia where these species live”

(Dr Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director)

The endangered great apes share their living space with many millions of poor people in West and Central Africa and South East Asia. Of the 21 African range states, 15 are Least Developed Countries whose collective GNP amounts to just 0.16% of the world total and where incomes average less than three dollars a day.

Poverty and lack of knowledge drive their victims to use wildlife and other natural resources unsustainably. Demand for bushmeat is growing: gorillas, bonobos and chimpanzees, whose populations cannot sustain any harvest, are

M. Virnie/UNEP



amongst the species most sought after, particularly as a culinary delicacy for growing urban populations in Central and West Africa. Hunters can often make more from selling bushmeat than other economic activities. Recent studies in Cameroon show that illegal hunting, including that of endangered species, is often more profitable than legal and sustainable harvesting of species subject to management and quotas.

“Wild meat harvest is recognized as a global issue affecting not only wildlife and human populations in Central Africa, but also those in East Africa, South East Asia and South America”

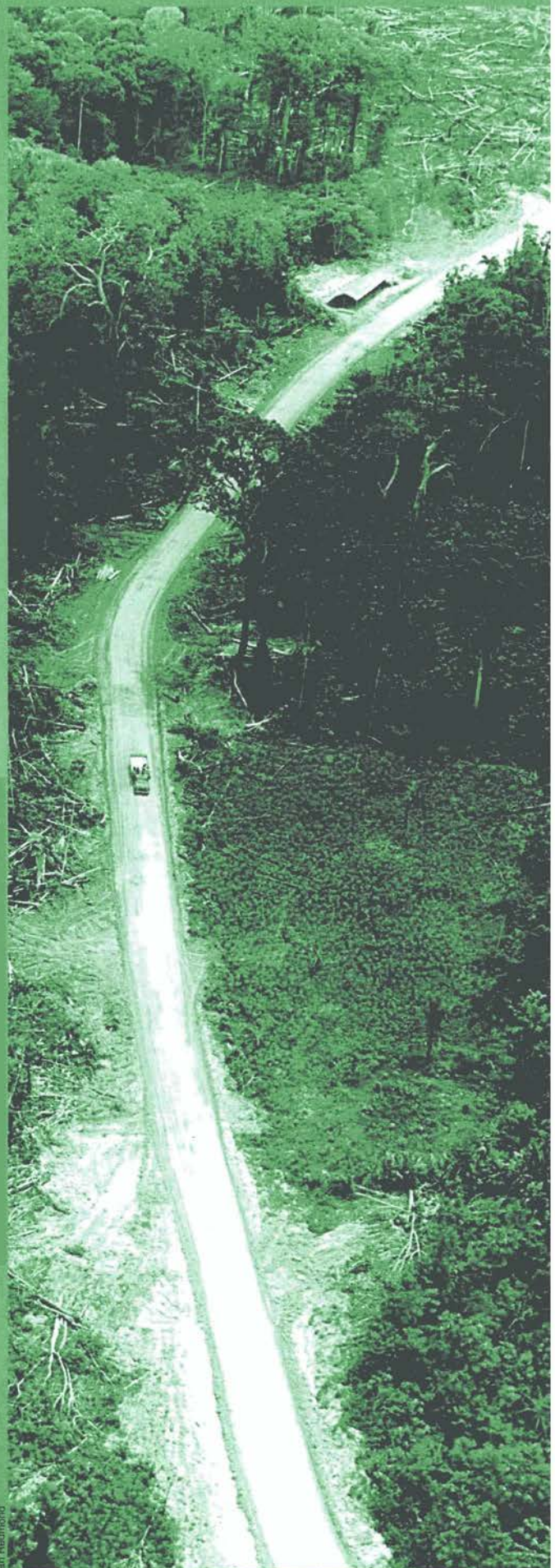
(Extract from the Communiqué of an IUCN/FAO/TRAFFIC Workshop on links between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and food security, Yaounde, Cameroon, October 2001).

GRASP will support projects which address these issues by helping people as well as wildlife. 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 communities have longstanding traditions which give special protection to primates, including great apes. GRASP will build on these wherever possible.

Common themes in the GRASP project portfolio are

- educating local people and encouraging self-help community activities
- providing income opportunities as an alternative to poaching or logging, e.g. ecotourism
- building up the human and infrastructural capacity of protected areas and creating new ones
- improving facilities such as water treatment and health care
- strengthening implementation of local laws and traditions protecting wildlife and encouraging sustainable use of natural resources

Our ultimate target is to generate \$25m for great ape conservation by 2005. A sum of this order is essential to make a lasting impact, and allow us to reduce the risk of extinction and establish areas where ape populations can stabilize or actually increase.



Ian Redmond

UNEP is prepared to allocate seed funds for the project as follows:

Year	Actual or anticipated income (US\$)
2001	150,000
2002 – 2003	up to 300,000
2004 – 2005	up to 300,000
Total	750,000

A sum of this order represents a substantial commitment at a time when UNEP's resources are heavily stretched by many environmental problems at a global and regional level. These resources will help to finance practical projects, education campaigns and the catalytic role of our in-house GRASP team. Some resources will also support fund-raising efforts to reach our target of \$ 25 million.

We believe that increasing world concern about ape conservation will open up opportunities to obtain new funds from a wider range of donors than UNEP has previously been able to attract. We have set up streamlined banking arrangements allowing non-governmental donations to be made via the Born Free Foundation (BFF). We will encourage governmental, charitable and private donors to channel project funds directly to our NGO and other partners. Early examples are three grants to Conservation International totaling almost \$ 1 million for strengthening the protection of orangutans in Kalimantan and Sumatra, and towards gorilla research and ecotourism in the Congo. BFF themselves have already made a significant contribution from their own resources to help finance GRASP missions to range states.

We are approaching donor states, and are grateful to the United Kingdom which in September 2001 became the first state to pledge substantial financial support for GRASP. In February 2002 the UK delivered this undertaking by providing \$250,000 to UNEP of which almost 60% was earmarked for four African projects in the GRASP portfolio. The remainder is allocated for GRASP work in 2002, including education and awareness-raising campaigns, the Great Apes Atlas, and following up the results of the initial round of missions to range states. The UK has also indicated that they intend to provide further substantial support to GRASP over the next 3 years. The Government of Norway agreed in December 2001 to allocate funds of \$35,000 for GRASP, which is being used to provide initial consultancies for a technical officer and a GRASP fundraising post.

We also thank our first commercial sponsor, the publishing house of Dorling Kindersley, for donating £1 to GRASP for every copy of their new photographic encyclopaedia *Animal*. Many of our NGO partners already have close links with private or charitable donors. GRASP is keen not just to encourage further donations to NGOs for ape-related projects, but also to provide recognition to those donors who seek acknowledgement for their efforts. From 2003 onwards, UNEP's most prestigious environmental awards – the–“Global 500”– will contain a special “GRASP” category in which we will

“I am delighted that the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office can contribute to this important initiative. Our Embassies and High Commissions work closely with UNEP and helped to raise GRASP's profile in Africa and Asia. It is important that we do our best to stop Great Apes becoming merely a memory”

(Denis Macshane, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK)



“Let us hope that we shall collaborate in sensitizing the public on the dangers of not only illegal mining in the wildlife controlled areas but elsewhere in the country”

(Mr Watuwa Bwobi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda).

recognize exceptional efforts towards great ape conservation by individuals or organizations, including private companies.

7. GRASP and the Private Sector

Many of the opportunities – as well as threats – facing great apes depend on activities undertaken by the private sector, including national and multinational companies.

“I know first hand just how important great apes are for my country. Wildlife tourism is one of the mainstays of Uganda’s economy and mountain gorillas are certainly the biggest draw, closely followed by chimpanzees”

(Dr Eve Abe, member of the GRASP technical mission, formerly with the Uganda Wildlife Authority).

“As a GRASP partner, Born Free is enormously grateful to world-famous publishers Dorling Kindersley for being the first corporate sponsor of this project. Internet sales of their new wildlife reference book, *Animal*, will generate £1 a copy towards GRASP. I urge people to log on, buy the book and save the apes”
(Will Travers, Chief Executive Officer, Born Free Foundation).

“It would be a tragedy if great apes were to vanish from the world – we therefore wish UNEP every success in its efforts to prevent this happening”
(The Right Hon Michael Meacher, Minister of the Environment, UK).

“We have lived up to our promise today and there is more to come. If other countries follow our example I see no reason why UNEP’s ambitious [fundraising] target should not be achieved. Indeed it must be.”
(Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, UK)

Ecotourism generates income for local communities, jobs in wildlife reserves, and profits for travel, hotel and tour companies. 2002 is the ‘International Year of Ecotourism’. This opportunity is being used to publicize successful examples of great ape ecotourism, e.g. in Rwanda and Uganda. GRASP is anxious to encourage further investment, particularly in areas with unrealized potential for tourism, so giving local people a permanent stake in the conservation of ape habitats. Sensitively managed ecotourism – taking account of the need to avoid any transmission of diseases between apes and humans - also provides unrivalled opportunities to raise public consciousness of great apes and the valuable forest ecosystems they inhabit: an “ape tourist” should be a lifelong ambassador for these remarkable species.

Projects to develop ecotourism ventures are being included in the GRASP portfolio, and we will seek donors and partners from this sector at every available opportunity. We are already indebted to Britannia Airways for becoming the first travel company to support GRASP through a \$75,000 donation in 2002. GRASP is also hoping to be able to offer its own special “ape tours”, in partnership with selected operators.

The over-exploitation of forests, mainly for timber, bushmeat, or minerals is the greatest threat to many great ape populations. Private companies undertake much of this activity. GRASP will make a concerted effort to engage them in efforts to mitigate damaging impacts, and plough back resources into conservation and local communities. There are already examples – sadly too few – of companies or individuals who have taken a strong ethical stand to promote ape conservation. One is the agreement announced in July 2001 between a private timber company, Congolaise Industrielle des Bois, the Republic of Congo and the World Conservation Society to protect the Goualogo Triangle in DRC as a national park. This mahogany and hardwood rainforest is a near-pristine “hotspot” for biodiversity, containing gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants and many other species.

However, there are far more examples of destructive activity. Two particular concerns to GRASP are the effects on gorillas, chimpanzees and other wildlife of uncontrolled mining for coltan – a key component of mobile telephones – in Central Africa, and the impact of illegal logging and mining on orangutan populations in Sumatra and Borneo.

8. GRASP – Key Targets and Milestones 2001— 2005

Target	Activity/milestone	Time frame
GRASP planning and operational framework established and maintained	- Established GRASP team with \$150,000 UNEP "seed" fund	June 2001
	- Envoys and advisor appointed	June 2001
	- NGOs, MEAs (multi-lateral environmental agreements) , and UNESCO brought into GRASP partnership	September 2001
	- Recruit GRASP officer and fundraising consultants	July 2002
	- GRASP strategic plan discussed with parties and published	August 2002
	- Scientific Advisory panel appointed	2003
	23 range states visited by the GRASP missions	- Undertake first 8 technical missions to African range states
- Undertake technical mission to the 2 Asian range states		March - April 2002
- Undertake technical mission to 17 remaining African range states		2002 - early 2003
- Country reports prepared based on missions		Throughout project
- Follow up visits/contacts between envoys, GRASP team and range states		Throughout project
23 range states signed up to GRASP and implementing effective conservation programmes		- All Governments and I/G bodies contacted
	- Promote GRASP at conferences of biodiversity (MEAs, WSSD etc.)	Throughout project
	- Form teams to prepare the NGASPs or equivalent programmes in each range state	2002 onwards
	- Liaise with local and international NGOs active in the range states – develop partnership programmes	Throughout project
Funds raised for GRASP including field projects	- Fund raising launch at UNEP HQ	September 2001
	- Submit joint UNEP-UNESCO GRASP funding bid to UN Foundation and/or GEF	January 2002 (UNF) – later 2002 (GEF)
	- Fund raising target for 2002- \$ 5 million	December 2002
	- Fund raising target for 2002-2003- \$10 million	December 2003

Local communities reached through awareness and education campaigns

- Visits by technical missions, envoys and GRASP team to the range states, with specific remit to promote awareness at grassroots level
 - Implementation of awareness and education activities through specific projects undertaken by partners
- Throughout project
2002 - 2004

Local staff trained/educated

- Capacity building events and projects at national and international level
- 2002 - 2004

Undertake specific conservation projects in range states

- Support 3 "quick win" projects
 - Support at least a range of well-developed conservation projects
- November 2001 - early 2002
2002 - 2004

Public awareness raised on great apes and the threats they face



M. Virtue/UNEP

- Initial GRASP publicity pack including project portfolio created (in English and French)
 - GRASP website created
 - Revised GRASP bilingual publicity pack with expanded project portfolio
 - Prepare TV spot advertisements on GRASP (CNN, BBC etc.)
 - Produce GRASP stickers
 - Produce TVE Earth report on great apes linking conservation and poverty issues
 - Hold major public events to promote GRASP in partnership with governments and NGOs
 - Announce GRASP awards under the UNEP "Global 500" scheme
- September 2001
September 2001
April 2002
August 2002
April 2002
April 2002, first aired on BBC June 2002
Throughout project
2003

Agreements reached with different sectors in range states including bush meat traders, timber companies, zoos, mining interests etc.

- Convene 2 seminars with commercial sector to discuss eco-labelling and responsible harvesting
 - Draft sectoral GRASP agreements
- 2003
2003

Eco-tourism promoted in the 23 range states

- Consult tourist and travel operators about options
 - Launch GRASP ape tours in partnership with commercial operators/sponsors
 - Involve/train local communities involved in eco-tourism activities
- 2002 - 2003
2003 - 2004
2003 - 2004

Private sector in 23 range states engaged with GRASP in reducing their negative impacts on Great apes and their habitats

- Conclude agreements with private sector in harvesting and eco-labelling
 - Convene major GRASP conference with Governments, MEAs, NGOs, and private sector
- 2003
2003

Agreements reached with main MEAs and other international bodies involved in ape conservation

- Negotiate agreements with WHC and CITES 2002
- Negotiate agreements with CBD and CMS 2003
- Convene major international GRASP conference 2004

Strengthened knowledge base about great ape ecosystems and their interactions with neighbouring human populations

- World Atlas of the Great Apes developed by UNEP/WCMC 2003
- Scientific and technical workshop convened in partnership with UNEP/WCMC and scientific bodies of the MEAs (CITES, CMS, CBD, WHC) 2004



“It would be a tragedy if great apes were to vanish from the world – we therefore wish UNEP every success in its efforts to prevent this happening”

(The Right Hon Michael Meacher, Minister of the Environment, UK).

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