

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

GREAT APES SURVIVAL PARTNERSHIP (GRASP)

Date of initiation: September 2002 (Global Launch)

Date of completion: 2005 (First Phase of GRASP)

Partners Involved:

Governments: 23 great ape range states in Equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia. Donor states – United Kingdom, Norway and Belgium (already contributing), others being approached.

Intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and four global biodiversity-related conventions (CBB, CITES, CMS and WHC) already involved as full partners. Planned co-operation with Global Environment Facility, FAO, World Bank, UNFIP, African Nature and Natural Resources Convention.

Major groups The following NGOs are already involved as GRASP partners : Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary Partnership, African Wildlife Foundation, Born Free Foundation (co-funder of the first series of missions), Bristol Zoo Gardens, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme, the Jane Goodall Institutes, the Orang-Utan Foundation, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Others, e.g. the World Conservation Society and local groups, are being invited to join the partnership.

Other: United Nations Foundation (planning grant sought). Further partners are welcomed, particularly from the private sector.

Leading Partner:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

(1) To lift the threat of imminent or medium term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans) (2) To strengthen the capacity of great ape range states in equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia to conserve viable wild populations of great ape species and the ecosystems of which they form part (3) To provide support and foster alternative livelihoods for local

communities who traditionally depend on ape habitats especially forests for resources including food, timber and medicine (4) to exemplify the added value provided when UNEP facilitates a full operational partnership between UN bodies, the environmental conventions, range states, donor states and civil society, including non-governmental conservation bodies and industry

Relationship with the objectives of Agenda 21 and the United Nation Millennium

Declaration: The partnership is fully compatible with the objectives of Chapter 15 of Agenda 21 which gives specific priority to the conservation of biodiversity and with the objectives of Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 on combating deforestation. The Millennium Declaration refers to sustainable management of living species and natural resources, protection of the common environment through an ethic of conservation and stewardship, implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (and therefore its forest biodiversity programme), the integration of principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; and the reversal of loss of environmental resources.

Expected results: (by 2005) Fully operational GRASP Partnership, employing combination of integrated planning mechanisms in range states, special projects run by NGOs and local bodies, ecotourist initiatives; creation of new protected areas where justified and more effective management of existing ones; agreements with timber and other industrial sectors; increased public awareness obtained through special UNEP ape envoys and missions, Great Ape Atlas and educational programmes in range states; and greater involvement by UNESCO and the environmental conventions.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

By 2005: all 23 range states actively participating in GRASP; 10 national GRASP plans produced; 25 projects on the ground; 300 local staff trained/educated; 8-10 co-operative arrangements with industry and the environmental conventions; total funds of \$25m raised or levered for GRASP .

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

GRASP institutional arrangements have been carefully formulated and tested in the pilot phase (September 2001- August 2002). Such a wide range of partners demands sound procedures for consultation and decisions, which will command respect, whilst not over-burdening GRASP with a complex or bureaucratic structure. At present, we are operating three member groups. First, there is a panel comprising three UNEP Ape Envoys (Russ Mittermeier, Jane Goodall and Professor Toshisada Nishida), Richard Leakey and a Technical Support Team to advise UNEP on project selection. Second, UNEP convenes a group comprising all the formal partners in the alliance (including UNESCO, the NGOs and the Conventions) by teleconference; this group meets every 3 months. Third, UNEP has established a facility on the project 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.

Arrangements for funding

GRASP is raising new resources for ape conservation and also 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 buy into the programme for conserving great apes. UNEP is making substantial cash resources available and also resources in kind through the work undertaken by our in-house GRASP team. Between 2002 and 2005 this is valued at about US\$ 750,000. Some of these resources will support fund-raising efforts to reach our initial target of generating \$ 25 million 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 are stable or growing. 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. We will also encourage governmental, charitable and private donors to channel project funds directly to our NGO and other partners. We 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 4 African projects in the GRASP portfolio. The remainder will be allocated for GRASP work in 2002, including education and awareness 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 Project Co-ordinator and a GRASP fundraising post. In May 2002, the Government of Belgium provided funds to UNEP from which a substantial sum is being allocated towards the 2002-3 GRASP budget.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

Many of the GRASP projects involve capacity building through training of parks and other staff in range states improvements to the monitoring and infrastructure mechanisms for wildlife protection; encouragement of ecotourism and other projects related to the non-lethal sustainable use of the great ape resources. There will also be a series of targeted workshops and seminars in range states. There are also opportunities for technology transfer, particularly through the UNESCO/ESA -led project on satellite monitoring of ape habitats.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

The wide range of inter-governmental and NGO partner in GRASP ensures links to key sustainable development programmes, including those carried out by UNEP and under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Monitoring Arrangements

A 4 year strategic document for GRASP has been prepared covering the period 2002-5 and will be launched at WSSD. In addition to ongoing monitoring by all the partners under the consultative arrangements described above, there will be a project review at the end of 2003 carried out by independent evaluators; this will be a major input to the successor strategy for 2005 onwards.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available): www.unep.org/grasp

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