

Minutes of the 6th GRASP Interim Executive Committee Meeting

7-8 July, 2005
UNESCO, Paris

Attendance:

Members:

Samy Mankoto	Acting Chair and Secretariat (UNESCO)
Melanie Virtue	Secretariat (UNEP)
Willem Wijnstekers	Secretary General (CITES)
Matthew Hatchwell	NGO representative (WCS)
Mark Attwater	NGO representative (OFI)
Leonard Muamba	Range State representative (DRC)
Aggrey Rwetsiba	Range State representative (Uganda)
Rob Bowman	Donor country representative (UK)

Observers:

Sarah Jones	UK Defra
Rob Hepworth	Executive Secretary, CMS
Ian Redmond	GRASP Chief Consultant/ Technical Support Team
Mark Leighton	Co-chair, Interim Scientific Commission
Jane Robertson	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Naoto Shibui	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Gifty Dlouhy	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Stanley Johnson	Advisor on the IGM

Apologies:

Justus Tindigarukayo	Chair and Range State representative (Uganda)
Widodo Ramona	Range State representative (Indonesia)
Christophe Boesch	Acting Co-chair, Interim Scientific Commission
Natajaran Ishwaran	Secretariat (UNESCO)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with a slight change of order.

2. Update from the Secretariat, ISC and TST

2.1 UNEP

- Awarded grant from the EC for 2.4m EUR, being 80 per cent of a €3m budget for a range of field projects, TST activities and the IGM
- Strong possibility of funds from the Irish government – *since confirmed*.
USD 222,150 for work with MEAs, GRASP governance (cost of servicing IEC, ISC etc) and one field project in DRC (through the Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology).
NB: UNEP was required at short notice to identify a field project which suited the Irish criteria. UK pointed out that a broad portfolio of project ideas, reviewed by the ISC, is necessary for GRASP.

- USD 65,000 made available from UNEP Environment Fund for ISC work on the indicative list of key ape populations. The point was raised that this MOU includes travel funds, while NGO representatives travel to IEC meeting at their own expense. This is an issue which requires further discussion in the IEC.
- UNEP – WCMC publication “World Atlas on great apes and their conservation” will be launched just before the IGM, at an event in London, and the occasion will be used to alert the media to the IGM in Kinshasa the next week.
Update: Launch date set for 10.45 Thursday 1 September, at Huxley Lecture Theatre Zoological Society of London. UNEP ED will officiate. Any GRASP partners welcome to attend.
- Further funding update since the meeting:
 - 30,000 EUR from the German ministry of environment for IGM related costs
 - 28,892 USD from UNEP for final costs, launch and purchase of copies of *World Atlas on Great Apes and their Conservation*.

2.2 UNESCO

- Announced the creation of a new transboundary biosphere reserve (TBR) between Senegal and Mauritania, the TBR of the “*Delta du Fleuve Sénégal*” . However, while Senegal is a great ape range state, there are no apes in this reserve.
- UNESCO has been organising a GRASP exhibition and events at UN Pavilion of the World EXPO 2005 Aichi, “Nature’s Wisdom” in Japan, from 14 August to 3 September. The GRASP Japan committee is assisting with these exhibition panels, and various events, i.e. puppet play, Kamishibai, Japanese traditional picture-story show, ant-fishing game, guide tour of UN-Pavilion volunteers for visitors to GRASP exhibition, etc
 - Her Imperial Highness Takamadonomiya, UNEP-Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Tokiko Kato, Japanese private and public sectors are being invited for GRASP-Japan fundraising.
 - UNESCO DG gave his audiovisual message to this exhibition.
 - UNEP in cooperation with UNESCO produced Japanese version of GRASP leaflets, which are now available for four languages: English, French, Spanish and Japanese.
 - UNEP provided BBC/TVE World documentary film for Great Apes Conservation
 - TBS (one of the most popular Japanese media) is providing short versions of great apes conservation documentary films in Japanese
- UNESCO organised a workshop with the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) on Great Apes Conservation with support of GRASP-Japan on 27 May 2005. The summary of this meeting is available at <http://www.unesco.org/mab/grasp.htm>, however, at the end of the workshop, UNESCO and ITTO agreed to collaborate as follows:
 - UNESCO experts may be invited to attend or otherwise contribute to many ITTO technical discussions. This will allow UNESCO to integrate concerns such as great ape conservation into ITTO’s technical analyses and studies that eventually are converted into guidelines and recommendations for adoption by its governing bodies and implementation by ITTO member States;
 - As industry and civil society sectors are well represented in ITTO meetings and events, ITTO suggested that it would be worthwhile trying to convene a meeting of these organizations and groups with UNESCO and ITTO in order to explore how a “tri-sectoral” (public, private and civil society) alliance could be built to support GRASP and great apes conservation. UNESCO and ITTO will explore suitable times and venues for organizing such an event;

- The Director General has authorized the use of USD 100,000 from the UNESCO special Account “Increase Aid to Least Developed Countries” for providing research grants to Young Scientists from 16 least developed countries that are Great Apes Range States (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania). Applications for the awards received, and screened and awards will be made in accordance with rules, procedures and practices of the MAB Young Scientists Research Grants Scheme that has been operational in UNESCO/MAB since 1989. Average size of individual grants can be up to a maximum of US \$ 5,000 for studies in their own countries relating to Great Apes conservation.
- UNESCO has set aside EUR 7,000 for 27 DVDs of the Great Apes exhibition held at Cité de sciences et de l'industrie from 7th December 2004 to 6th March 2005, in Paris, in order to distribute them to all of 23 Great Apes Range States at the IGM in Kinshasa.

Action:

- UNESCO to inform Conservation International about the Young Scientists scheme, as CI is planning a Conservation Fund and the possibility of a joint statement/press release exists.
- UNESCO (N. Shibui) to encourage UNEP-Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Tokiko Kato to organize a charity concert early next year.
- UNESCO (N. Shibui) to assist GRASP patron, Prof Nishida to get HIH Takamadonomiya involved for GRASP-Japan as honorary president, which will attract Japanese public for individual donation.
- UNESCO to distribute the DVDs of the Cité de sciences et de l'industrie to all Great Apes Range States.
- UNESCO (N. Shibui) to develop ideas for the 2nd GRASP-ITTO meeting early next year and get ATO involved with ITTO's support for GRASP-IGM and further GRASP activities.
- UNESCO (N. Shibui) to discuss with Dr Ze Meka and his colleagues at ITTO all other outcomes above during GRASP exhibition and events at the World EXPO 2005 Aichi, Japan.

2.3 Update from the TST

Ian Redmond gave a verbal summary of TST activities since the last meeting. At present the sole TST (more are anticipated as needs arise) comprises IR and David Jay of the Born Free Foundation, and continues to be co-funded by Born Free and UNEP. UK based activities have focussed on helping those RSs with near complete National Great Ape Survival Plans to finalise and validate them, whilst encouraging and assisting all GRASP partners to prepare for the IGM. IR's mission reports are available on request.

- May – IUCN Central African Great Apes Workshop, Brazzaville – useful discussions with FPs and/or scientists and officials from Angola (Cabinda), Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria. Crossed to DRC with M.Muamba to arrange finalisation process of DRC NGASP under Dr Trinto Mugangu.
- June – independent travel to Rwanda provided opportunity of meeting with FP, prospective GRASP partners REDO and PoPoF, and an informal dinner with President Kagame (who expressed an interest in attending the IGM) and several Ministers.

The TST has worked closely with Madelaine Westwood, Director of Nutshell Productions and co-President of Filmmakers for Conservation, to establish the Great Apes Film Initiative, which has successfully negotiated contracts with the BBC and Granada Wild for the broadcast in certain range states of 14 documentaries on ape ecology/conservation. With support from Nutshell, FFC and funds from BFF, tapes were delivered to Cameroon and Congo

(Brazzaville) in time to be broadcast during the COMIFAC Summit; with new funds from DEFRA and WSPA, the scheme is now extending to several other countries. National Geographic has now expressed an interest in joining, and as further funds become available, libraries of relevant documentaries, with broadcast rights and rights for use in NGO education centres, will (it is hoped) be provided to most, if not all, Range States. Several filmmakers currently working on new documentaries are now planning to donate them for GAFI use.

2.4 Update from the Interim Scientific Commission

- The Acting co-chair, Mark Leighton, gave a summary of progress on the Indicative list of key populations – which will be presented at the IGM.
- The need for the ISC to review the GRASP project portfolio was raised, Mark informed that the current proposals are difficult to evaluate, and that maybe as GRASP evolves over the coming months, different priorities will be established. The secretariat pointed out, that for UN funding at least, the portfolio must contain a wide variety of projects, covering different aspects of conservation.

3. Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) - GRASP cooperation

CITES

Willem Wijnstekers informed the meeting on the outcomes of the recent CITES Standing committee, which considered the CITES COP resolution on great apes and GRASP. The Standing Committee:

- agreed on the idea of technical missions to look into enforcement issues in great ape range states, and gave the green light for a mission to south east Asia.
- requested the secretariat to consider the establishment of a great ape task force.

CITES secretariat will prepare an information document indicating the possible contributions it can make to issues on great apes and GRASP. This should be available at the IGM.

CMS

Rob Hepworth informed the meeting of two issues that CMS is working on with regard to great apes:

- Proposal to the next CoP in November 2005 to list all gorillas on appendix 1 and 2 of the convention, where 1 lists species which are endangered and 2 lists species which may benefit from having an agreement.
- Proposal to develop an Article 4 agreement on mountain gorillas: this is a 2-3 year project being undertaken between CMS, GRASP (UNEP and UNESCO), IGCP and the three range states. Total cost estimated to be around USD 140,000.

When asked why all great apes can't be listed, Rob gave the definition of migratory species defined by the convention, which is: species which "cyclically and predictably cross national boundaries".

There was a brief discussion on the IUCN categories of endangerment, which are based on rate of population change – leading to the unfortunate situation where mountain gorillas with their small but stable population are in danger of being down-listed.

4. Admission of new partners

- World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Accepted as category E (NGOs), with the note that they should commit to remain active in great ape issues, and not just run a 1-2 year campaign. *They have subsequently agreed to this.*
- Humane Society International – Australia
Secretariat to request further information about the international chapter, and whether it is possible to include just H.S.I. as the member, rather than a single country chapter. Agreed in principle to admit the organisation once this issue is clarified.
- Wildlifeline
Accepted as category H (supporting partner).
- Pole Pole Foundation (POPOF)
Accepted as category E (NGO partner)
- Rural Environment Development Organisation (REDO)
Accepted as Category E (NGO partner)

There was some discussion about how to deal with range state based NGOs who's primary objectives are not great ape conservation. There are thousands of small NGOs working in the fields of environment and development. Some committee members felt that GRASP needs to carefully consider how to handle requests for membership from such groups.

Action:

UNEP to inform all applicants of the IEC's decision. (*Done*).

5. Preparations for the Intergovernmental Meeting and GRASP Council

Melanie Virtue, Samy Mankoto and Leonard Muamba all gave detailed updates on the progress of preparations for the IGM. However as several more weeks have passed, presented below is a current update of progress as at 2 August, 2005.

5.1 Invitations

- President Kabila has invited heads of state to the IGM. The secretariat is still trying to establish from which countries.
- Minister Enerunga has invited ministers of all the range states to the meeting.
- UNEP and UNESCO have sent invitations to all governments through their permanent delegations, and have copied to GRASP focal points.
- UNEP has invited all other GRASP partners and interested parties as per the invitation list circulated prior to this IEC meeting.
- Replies are being received steadily, despite many people being on vacation at this time.
- Notably, two GRASP Patrons and the UK Biodiversity Minister had accepted.

5.2 Logistics

- The Vice President for Development is in charge of supervising the IGM from the government side.

- The secretariat has prepared a Host Country Agreement for signature by the government of DRC, UNEP and UNESCO. (*Status: being signed*)
- UNESCO has appointed M. Rene Ngongo as consultant to assist UNEP and UNESCO with preparations for the IGM.
- The government has secured the use of 20 VIP vehicles and 20 buses to transport delegates to/from the airport and hotels.
- UNEP Executive Director requested a mission from UNON Conference Services to check on logistics arrangements. Mr Steve Odera is in Kinshasa for this purpose from 3-6 August. (*completed – a useful and productive mission. Arrangements on track*).

Decisions on the IGM and Council meeting

5.3 Sequence of IGM and GRASP Council:

The IEC reconfirmed its decision taken in London: IGM meets first, to adopt the basic protocols, rules and procedures, to allow GRASP Council to meet; then the Council meets to consider substantive issues and make recommendations for the consideration of the IGM, including the Declaration. IGM meets again and adopts necessary recommendations and decides on the final Declaration text and passes it on to the High-Level Segment for final adoption.

- **Press conference** should be arranged for Friday evening. UNEP and UNESCO to discuss
- **Earth Negotiations Bulletin** could provide coverage: (*UNEP had signed agreement with IISD for ENB coverage for the full 5 days*). Coverage will be available at <http://www.iisd.ca/>
- **Interpretation:** it was agreed that only the plenary session would have simultaneous interpretation. Any break-out groups or side meetings would have to rely on informal interpretation by the participants.

5.4 Office holders for the IGM

- Samy Mankoto, UNESCO-GRASP Focal Point and Melanie Virtue, UNEP-GRASP Team Leader were nominated as Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General respectively of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes;
- Mr Stanley Johnson was nominated Special Adviser for matters relating to the IGM.
- **The Bureau**
The Bureau of the IGM will be the IEC and any chairs which are elected during the meeting. The Bureau will meet first on Sunday 4 September at 11am. (Note changed time. Room to be determined, but Grand Hotel reception will be informed).
- **Rapporteur :**
the Secretary General of the meeting will be the rapporteur.
- **Chair of the IGM**
Chair of the IGM will be a DRC government official. (Muamba informed that it would most likely be the Minister of Planning).

5.5 The Council Meeting:

The Council meeting will be chaired initially by the Secretary General, who will then arrange elections of the chair (who could be any member of GRASP, range state, donor state, NGO or private sector).

- The chair of the GRASP Council for the next two years (not necessarily the same person as the chair of this meeting), is a very important position, which will need careful consideration. The IEC should propose people for this position to the Secretary General, who will keep devise a short list from which candidates can be elected.
- Secretariat to prepare an organogram of the GRASP partnership, showing the relationship between the various committees.
- **Reports to the Council** – informal verbal or power point presentations, no longer than 10 minutes.
 - Report of the Secretariat to the Council - UNEP and UNESCO to prepare
 - Report of the IEC to the Council – Uganda to prepare with inputs from the secretariat and Ian Redmond.
 - Report of the ISC to the Council – Mark Leighton to coordinate with ISC colleagues (to complement TST report)
 - Report of the TST to the Council – Ian Redmond to prepare (to complement ISC report)
- **Workplan document:** IEC recommends that the chair will introduce the 5 year workplan as a document prepared two years ago, and now somewhat redundant and the new distinctive approach document and recommend to the Council that it be sent to the new Executive Committee for further development.
- **Election of the Executive Committee:**
The chair of the Council, the Secretary General, will introduce this item at the beginning of the Council meeting. He will inform all members of the election of the various categories of members to be held last thing on Thursday, 9 September.

Action:

- All IEC members to be available for bureau meeting at 10 am Sunday 4 September.
- DRC focal point to inform his government to provide a chair for the IGM (and to attend above bureau meeting)
- Secretary General to compile shortlist of candidates for chair of the GRASP council.
- Uganda (for IEC), secretariat, ISC and TST to prepare reports.

6. A.O.B

The document “GRASP Partnership – A Distinctive Approach”

It was felt that this is a very useful document for the IGM/Council. Some minor amendments were recommended. It should be made clear, when introduced at the IGM that this document should be passed on to the next Executive Committee to develop a more detailed workplan from it.

Partners Meeting in the USA.

After many members had left, the idea of having a meeting of USA based partners in Washington DC was discussed. It was agreed that Mark Leighton would investigate the feasibility.

Follow up: Seminar was held at UNEP regional office in DC on August 4. Mark Leighton to report back to IEC at a later date.