

A UN-level Approach to Great Ape Conservation in Africa

UNEP-UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership

Towards an EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa

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The Great Apes Survival Partnership

Only species-specific conservation programme within United Nations (U.N.)























Unique alliance of 98 member nations, U.N. agencies, conservation NGOs, and private supporters

Mandate: Conserve great apes and habitat in Africa and Asia

Priorities: Habitat protection, political advocacy, illegal trade, Green Economy, disease monitoring, conflict-sensitive conservation



GREAT APES SURVIVAL PARTNERSHIP

U.N. Secretariat	 
Range States	     
NGOs	    
MEAs	    
Donor Nations	   

GRASP and EU

Implementation of a 4-year project for the preservation of forest resources and improvement of livelihood through conservation of great apes as flagship species (3 million USD from 2005 to 2009)

Field projects in Ivory Coast, Cameroon, DR Congo, and Indonesia.

The project stressed the importance of:

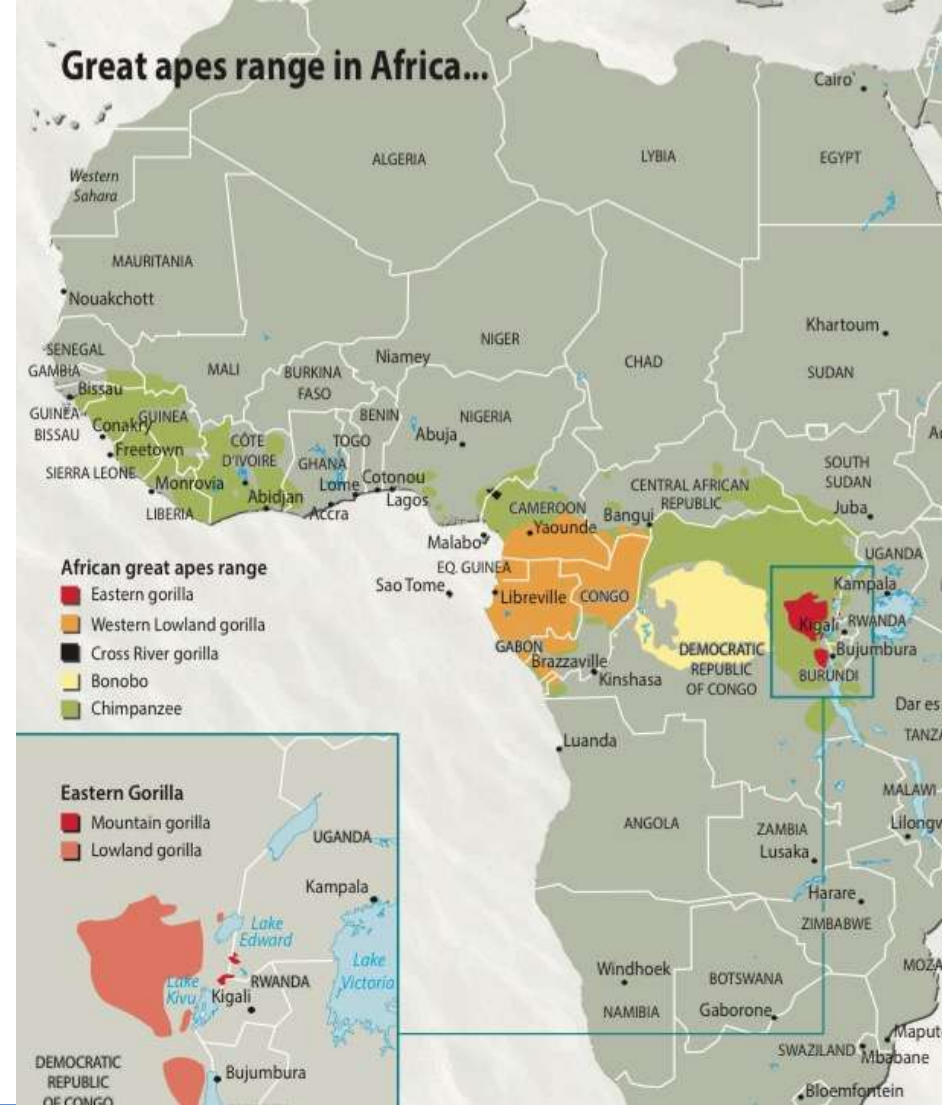
- Monitoring and patrolling key to detect and prevent illegal human activities
- Need to engage communities (including provision of livelihood alternatives) and raise awareness on the critical need to protect habitats and the species that live in them
- Infrastructure development for communities important to secure support and recognition from local communities

In Africa, great apes are found in the Western, Central and Eastern part of Africa

About 30% of the key landscapes targeted in the EU strategy have great apes species, all of them are endangered or critically endangered.

Benefit in tackling issues around charismatic species such as apes:

- common threats (habitat loss, disease, illegal trade, bushmeat hunting...)
- offer similar opportunities (eco-tourism, Green Economy and revenue generation, conflict resolution)



Community engagement

Community engagement an important piece contributing to the success of interventions for great ape conservation

Activities include:

- Dialogue and conflict resolution
- Small infrastructure development (road, hospital, patrol
- Awareness raising
- Provision of livelihood alternatives
- Support to monitoring and patrolling activities
- Restoration of degraded areas



Community engagement (2)

In Kahuzi-Biega NP, restoration of the Nindja corridor, linking lowland and highlands, helped strengthen dialogue between park authorities and local communities and created alternative livelihood opportunities (Spain-UNEP LifeWeb project implemented by APN)

Results:

- 180 people abandoned illegal activities and run small-scale businesses
- Illegal activities dropped by 40 percent in the corridor
- 23 km² of land regained through voluntary resettlement



Eco-tourism

Eco-tourism initiatives an important tool for effective conservation of great apes in their natural habitat while generating substantial revenues for governments and communities

Currently, all population of great apes are declining, except Mountain gorillas thanks to ambitious and successful eco-tourism programmes

- Each gorilla in Uganda is estimated to be worth **\$1 million USD** in tourism-related income
- Rwanda's gorilla tourism industry earned **\$294 million** in 2013.



Eco-tourism (2)

In the Lossi Interzone in Congo, GRASP supported the establishment of the first community-based gorilla tourism project in Africa. All other gorilla tourism projects are in national parks and managed by national authorities

Unique opportunities to create partnerships with the private sector, while contributing to conservation and generating revenues and employment for local communities



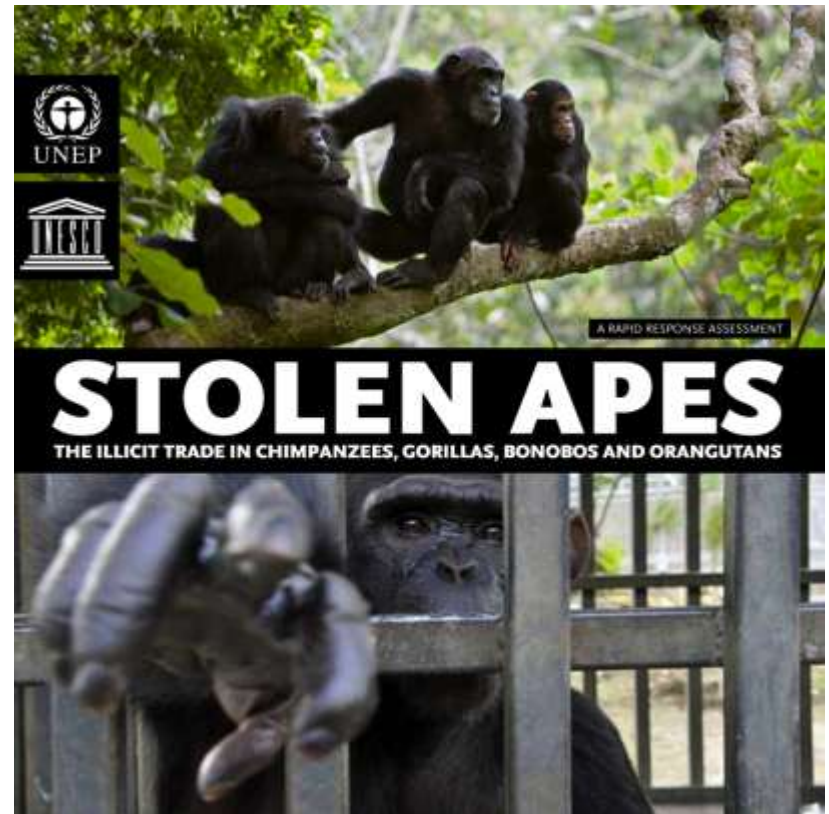
Illegal trade

Great apes have become a commodity, but the nature of the trade in great apes is different from ivory or rhino horn

Stolen Apes published in 2013 by GRASP, Details the nature and specificity of the trade in live great apes

According to *Stolen Apes*, as many as 18,142 great apes were lost from the wild in Africa from 2005 to 2011.

Only 19 arrests occurred during that period. One-fourth were never prosecuted.





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Illegal trade (2)

Illegal trade in great apes part of bigger, organised international criminal networks

Need for actions and interventions suited to the nature of the trade:

- enforcement of CITES and national laws
- investigation of transboundary criminal network and closing of illegal trade markets
- arrest and prosecution of traffickers
- application of deterrent sentences and enforcement of punishments
- campaigns to reduce demand

In 2015, GRASP will launch an illegal trade database to collect data and analyze trends of the trade



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