



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# UNESCO contribution to conservation of great apes and their habitat



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UNESCO

# Some general facts.....

**Apes are humanity's closest living relatives**

**The habitats of great apes are very limited.**

**All apes are very social**

**All seven species of great apes are threatened to disappear in the next 30 years in natural environment under pressure from the loss of their Habitat, tropical forests, and poaching.**

# Some figures...



## Loss of habitat

There is 7 million ha  
of annual net tropical forest loss

In all tropical zones, forests transform:  
40% Large scale commercial agriculture  
33% subsistence agriculture  
27% Infrastructure / Mining, etc.



source: FAO



## Illegal trade

22,000 apes lost to illegal trade  
(2005 - 2011)

For 1 ape captured  
5 to 10 are killed



source: Jane Goodall Foundation



## Human to apes diseases

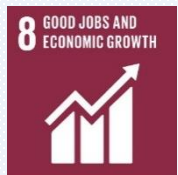
90% of western lowland  
gorillas

have died of the ebola virus  
since the 1990s



# Sustainable Development Goals and Great Apes

The following SDGs are directly related to great apes issues and the conservation of their habitats:



- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



# UNESCO and Biodiversity conservation

**UNESCO is a key partner not only for biodiversity Science, but also for its work on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).**

**UNESCO acknowledges the importance of the links between Biological and Cultural Diversity**

**UNESCO recognizes the important contributions biological and cultural diversity make to our health and well-being, as well as to building resilient and sustainable societies.**

**UNESCO recognises the necessity to involve all stakeholders in conservation : conservation and development are the face of the same medal**

# UNESCO and Biodiversity conservation

**UNESCO is contributing to biodiversity governance:**

- **member of the Biodiversity Liaison Group comprising of 8 Conventions related to Biodiversity**
- **member of IPBES Secretariat**
- **UNESCO member of GRASP since 2002.**

# A UN partnership for the Apes: UN-GRASP



## Members



23 Range States

Non Range States

Secretariat (UNESCO-UNEP)

Other Intergovernmental organisations

Conservation organisations

Private Sector



## Mandate

GRASP is a United Nations initiative committed to ensuring the long-term survival of chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, and orangutans and their habitats in Africa and Asia.



## Priorities

Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Law Enforcement & Judiciary

Conflict sensitive conservation

Green economy



## Improving knowledge

GRASP publishes periodic reports on the status of great apes and their habitat

and maintain databases, notably on stolen a.p.e.s



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“ Protected areas are becoming a last stronghold for remaining populations of a growing number of ape taxa, both in Asia and, increasingly, in Africa.”

State of the Apes,  
2018



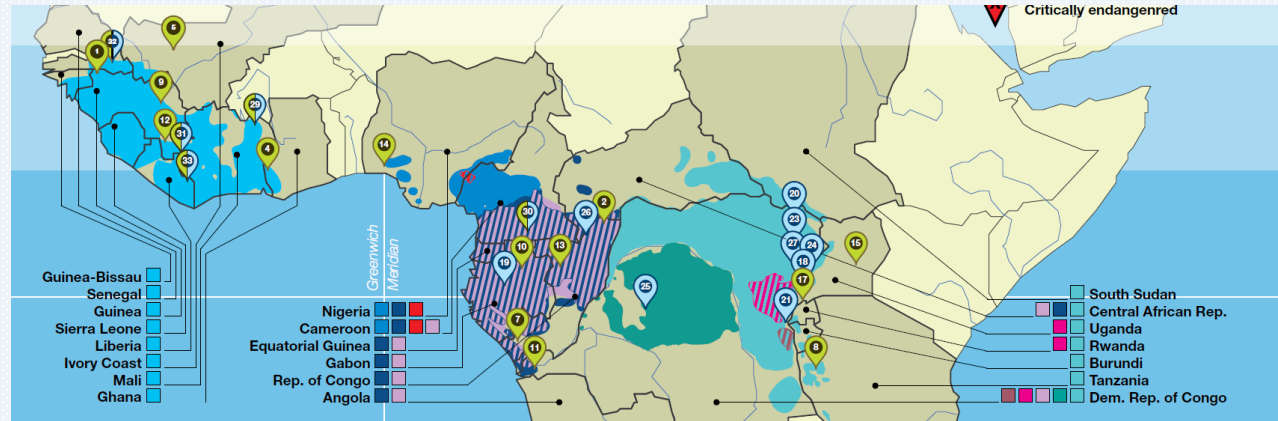
# UNESCO's IDAs home to Great Apes Apes

## UNESCO's internationally designated areas : Biosphere reserves World Heritage sites

17 Biosphere Reserves

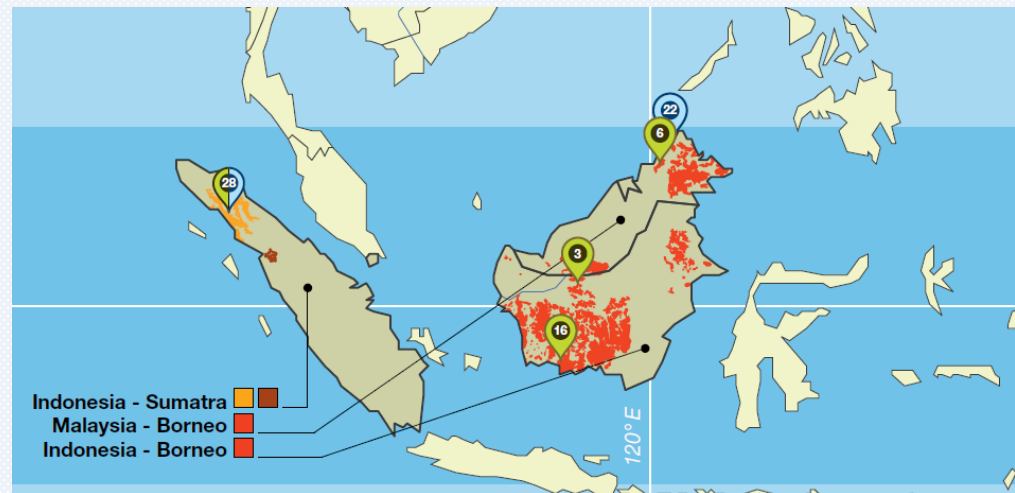
10 World Heritage sites  
incl. 2 transboundary

6 mixed sites



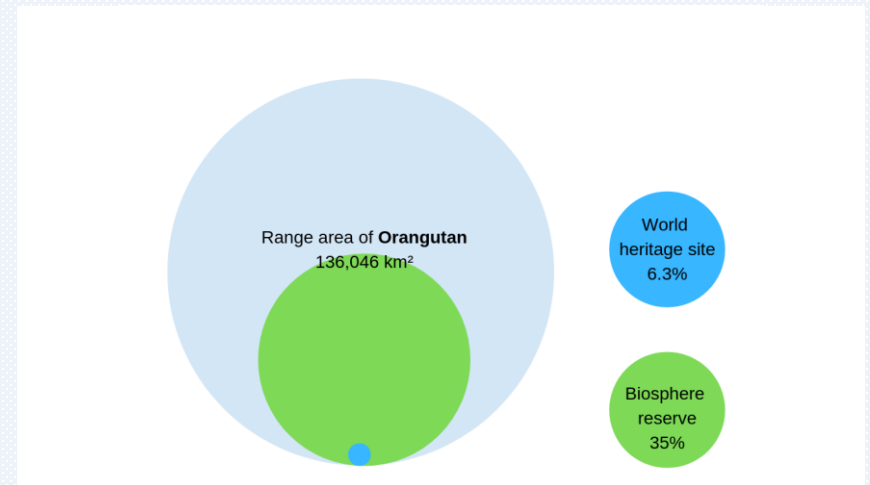
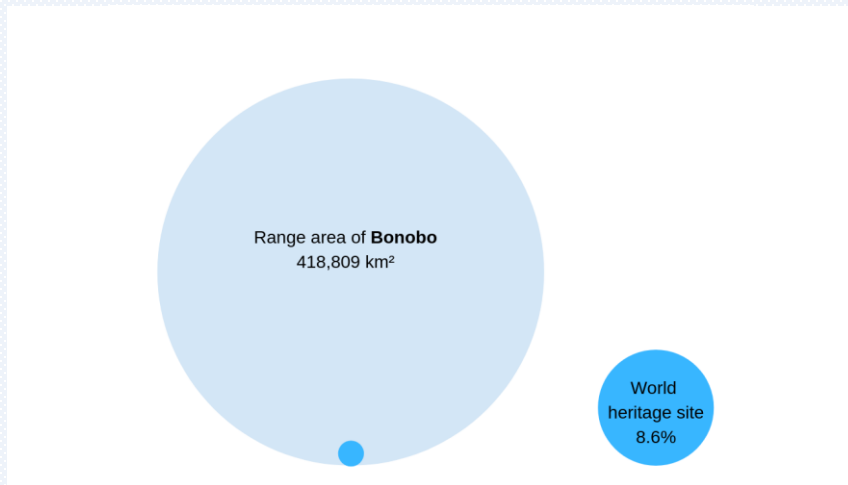
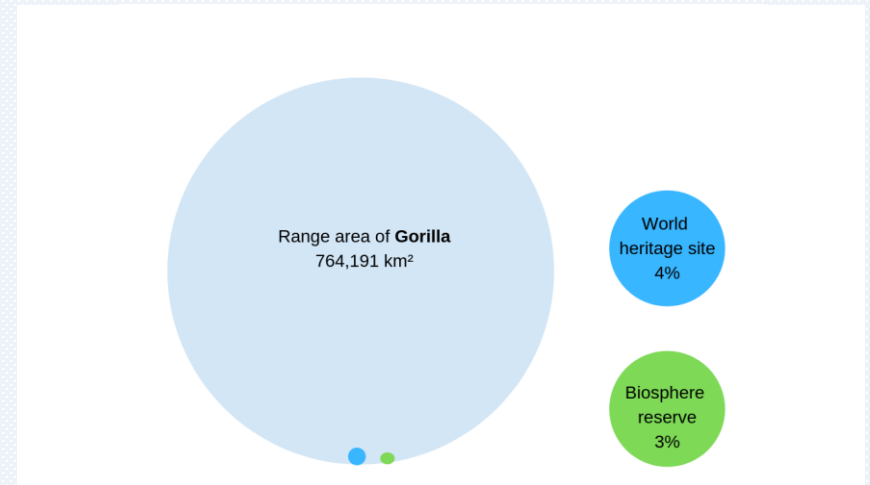
Biosphere reserves and World heritage sites are home to six out of the seven species of Great apes;

On-going proposal : 1 transboundary BR in Cameroon and Nigeria home to Cross River Gorilla



# Coverage of Great Ape habitats protection

unprotected areas)



# BR and WH sites show examples of good practices

## Ecotourism in Tangkaban, Geneug Leuser Park, Indonesia

Promotion of ecotourism in Tangkaban, in the buffer zone of the Geneug Leuser biosphere reserve.

Results: **reduced poaching & other illegal activities**



## Rehabilitation of the Nindja Corridor, Kahuzi Biega National Park, RDC

Promotion of green economies in the Nindja Corridor.

Results: **Illegal activities (hunting mostly) reduced by 40%**



<https://www.un-grasp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LifeWebMagazine-31October2014-min.pdf>

# UNESCO's added value to GA conservation

Survival of Great Apes is a conservation multifaceted issue, which requires **intersectoral, interdisciplinary, and multistakeholder** approach

UNESCO is an **intersectoral, interdisciplinary, and multistakeholder** Organisation of experts

INTERNATIONALLY DESIGNATED SITES (IDAs)  
BIOSPHERE RESERVES  
WORLD HERITAGE SITES

# UNESCO actions to support Great Apes conservation

## Knowledge creation

**Identification** of priority areas for conservation

**Mobilisation of traditional and indigenous knowledge, know how and practices** to ensure their inclusion in decision making related to decision making and Climate change

**Improve mapping** of the apes' habitats using participatory methods involving local communities

## Education and Training

**Environmental education** to improve interactions between humans and apes.

### Vocational training

Ex: capacity building for ecotourism in BR and WH sites

Green economy activities

## Sustainable management of the habitats

**Establishment of** specific protection and monitoring programmes for great apes in BR and WH sites

**Promote** collaboration between Member States through establishment transboundary BR and WH sites

**Foster** collaborations between scientific community, decision makers, local communities through multidisciplinary projects

**Support creation** of new BR and WH sites home to Great Apes

