



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# GRASP

GREAT APES SURVIVAL  
PARTNERSHIP

**Dr. Johannes Refisch,  
GRASP Coordinator**

*CMS Gorilla Agreement  
meeting, June 18-20, Entebbe*



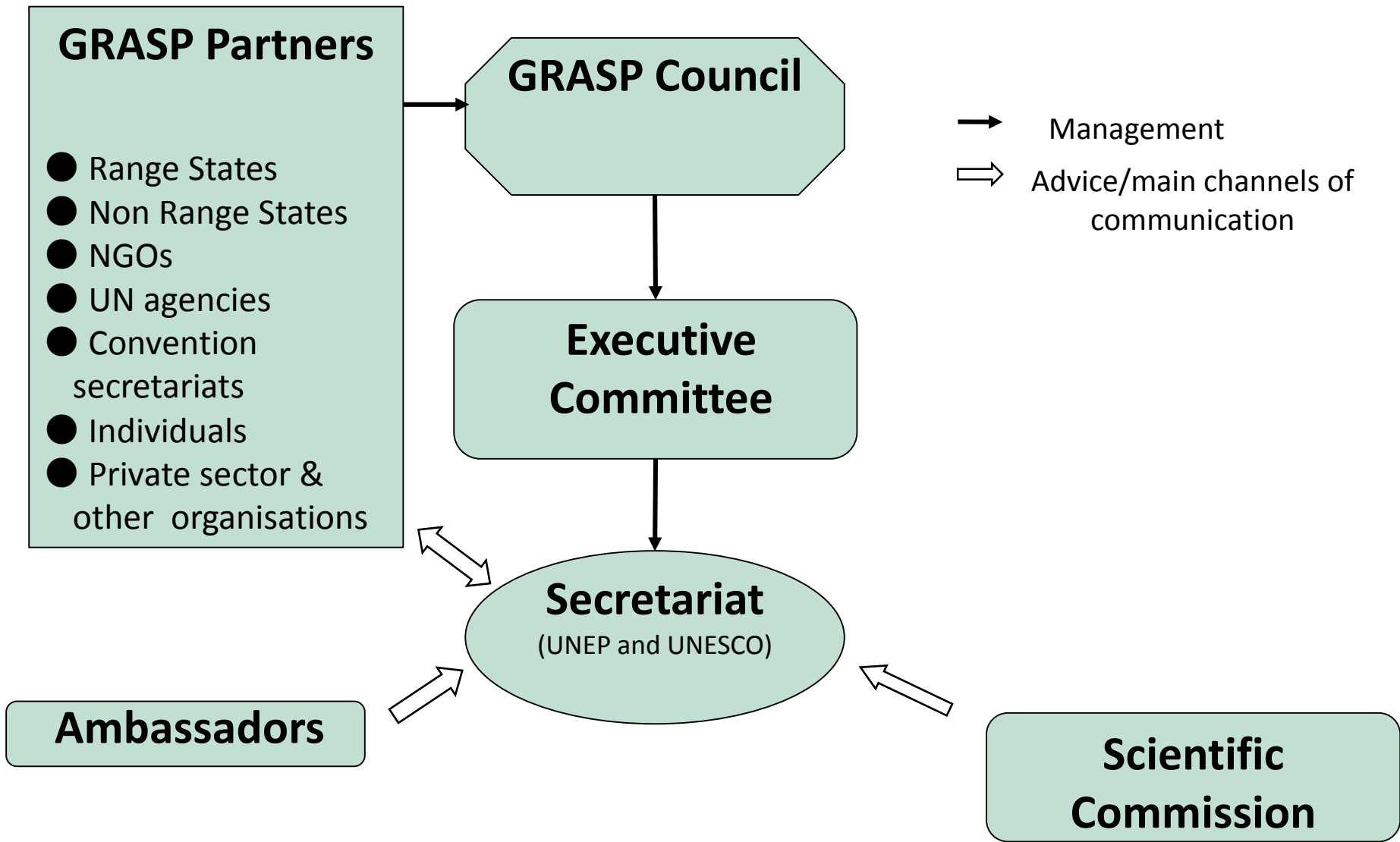
# GRASP: a UN-led partnership

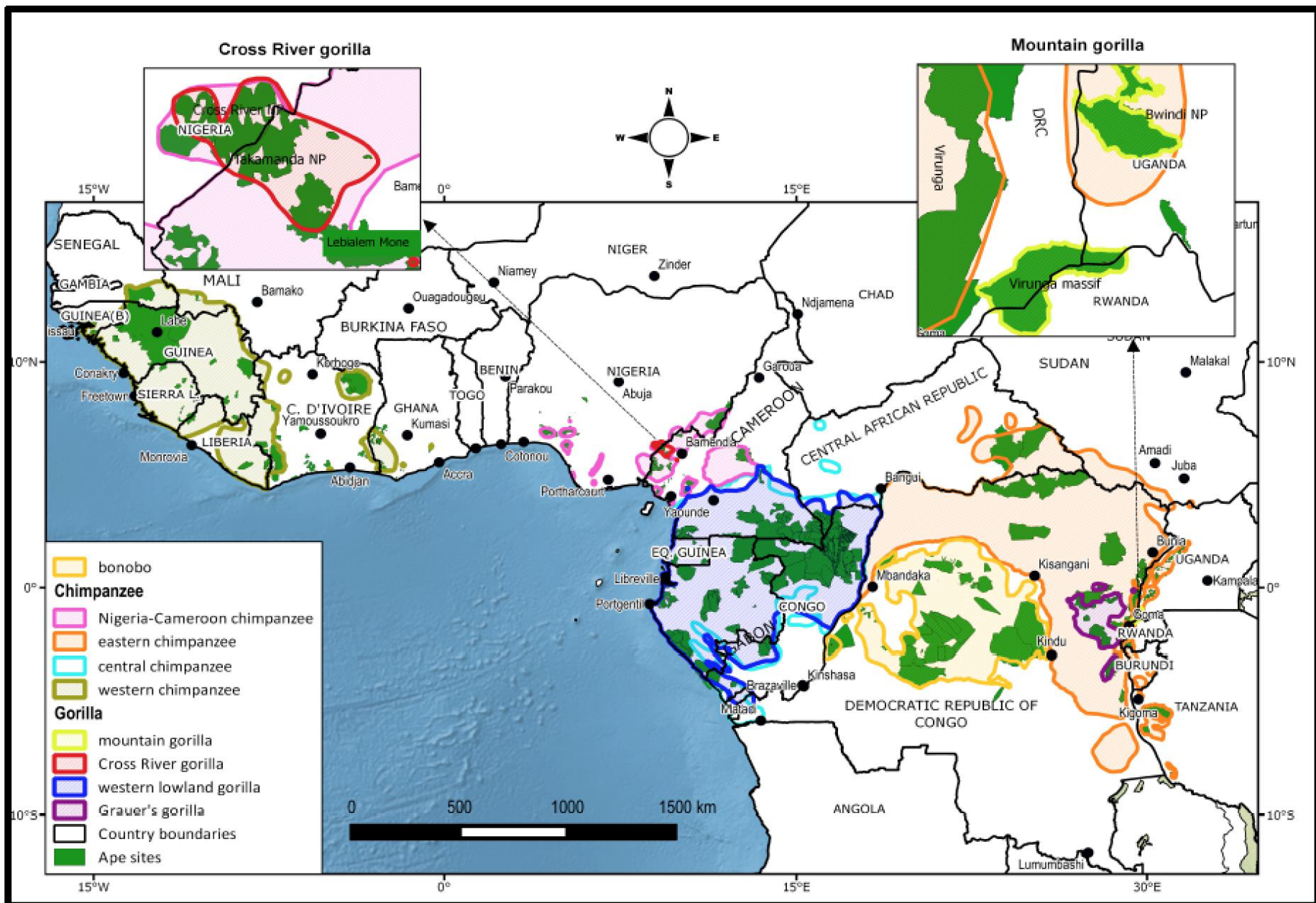
Registered as WSSD Type II Partnership

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- Founded 2001
- UNEP and UNESCO provide secretariat
- Convention secretariats: CBD, CITES, CMS, WHC, Ramsar
- 23 great ape range states incl. all gorilla range states
- Over 50 NGOs, 4 private businesses
- Donor governments and foundations
- Mandate: to conserve great apes and their habitats in Africa and Asia
- Not legally binding, all partners have a vote in GRASP





**Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of African great ape taxa and sites (IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. database, 2017<sup>1</sup>), Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

# CITES report on status of great apes and their habitats

- GRASP and IUCN submitted this report
- Direct threats to great apes include habitat loss, disease, poaching and illegal trade in live animals
- Only one subspecies of great apes increased in numbers, these are the mountain gorillas (increase in the Virunga massif from 480 in 2010 to 604 in 2016)
- Most endangered great apes are the Cross River gorilla between Cameroon and Nigeria with < 300 individuals and the newly discovered Tapanuli orangutan with 800 individuals

## Great Apes Status Report

Great Apes Survival Partnership & International Union for Conservation of Nature

Editors: J. Refisch<sup>1</sup> and S.A. Wich<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Population data analysis, compilation and maps: Tenekwete Sop, IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. database manager<sup>5</sup>

With contributions and reviews by (in alphabetical order): Marc Ancrenaz<sup>3,4,6</sup>, Rich Bergl<sup>1,4,7</sup>, David Greer<sup>3,8</sup>, Tatyana Humle<sup>9</sup>, Rebecca Kormos<sup>10</sup>, Hjalmar Kühl<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Elizabeth Macfie<sup>1</sup>, Fiona Maisels<sup>11,12</sup>, John Oates<sup>13</sup>, Martha Robbins<sup>1,5</sup>, Julie Sherman<sup>14</sup>, Tenekwete Sop<sup>5</sup> and Liz Williamson<sup>3,12</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Executive Committee of IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG) Section on Great Apes (SGA)

<sup>4</sup>Scientific Commission of Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)

<sup>5</sup>Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

<sup>6</sup>HUTAN – Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme, P.O. Box 17793-88874, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

<sup>7</sup>North Carolina Zoo, 4401 Zoo Parkway, Asheboro, North Carolina, USA

<sup>8</sup>WWF Uganda, Kampala, Uganda

<sup>9</sup>Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NR, UK

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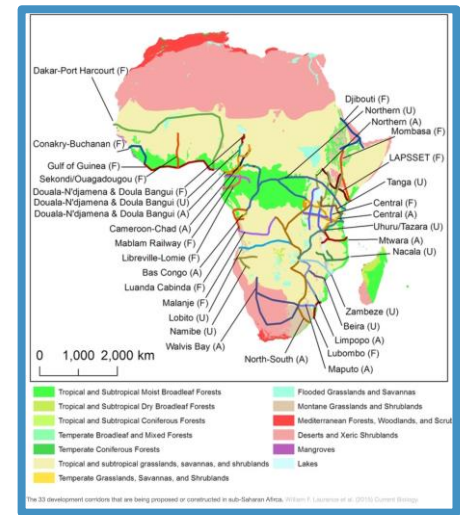
<sup>13</sup>Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065, USA

<sup>14</sup>Wildlife Impact, P.O. Box 31062, Portland, OR 97231, USA

Citation: GRASP & IUCN (2018). Report to the CITES Standing Committee on the Status of Great Apes. United Nations Environment Programme Great Apes Survival Partnership, Nairobi, and International Union for Conservation of Nature, Gland.

# Huge challenges in conservation

- 33 new development corridors planned in sub-Saharan Africa
- Often there is no cross sectoral land use planning process in place
- Often there is no regulatory framework, governments, private sector and financiers are not respecting best practice guidelines, nor World Bank or IFC safeguards, etc.
- Often as a by-product, there is also illegal trade in body parts and live animals



# GRASP priorities

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1. Law enforcement and judiciary
2. Advocacy
3. Habitat protection and enhancement
4. Disease
5. Conflict sensitive conservation incl. facilitation of trans-boundary collaboration efforts
6. Green economy

# 1. Law Enforcement and Judiciary

## Great Apes seizures database

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- many seizures do not cross int'l borders
- GRASP partners requested the secretariat to develop a global database
- Developed in partnership with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre & expert organizations
- Support to regional, national and international law enforcement



- Database is operational and was launched at the CITES CoP in South Africa in 2016
- Data validation in progress

## 2. Advocacy

### Brazzaville declaration, G7

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- Brazzaville declaration
- G7 Environment Minister meeting



# 3. Habitat protection

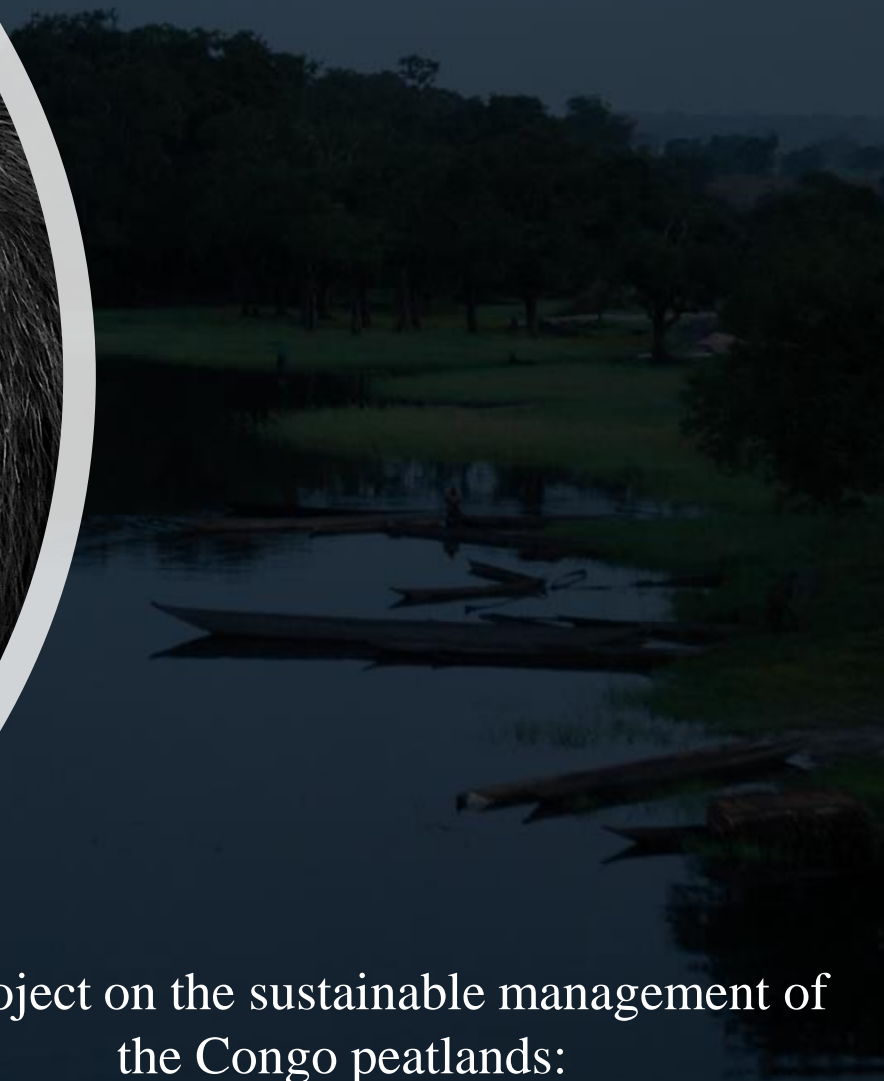
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- Sustainable management of the Congo peatlands
- Vanishing Treasures



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG



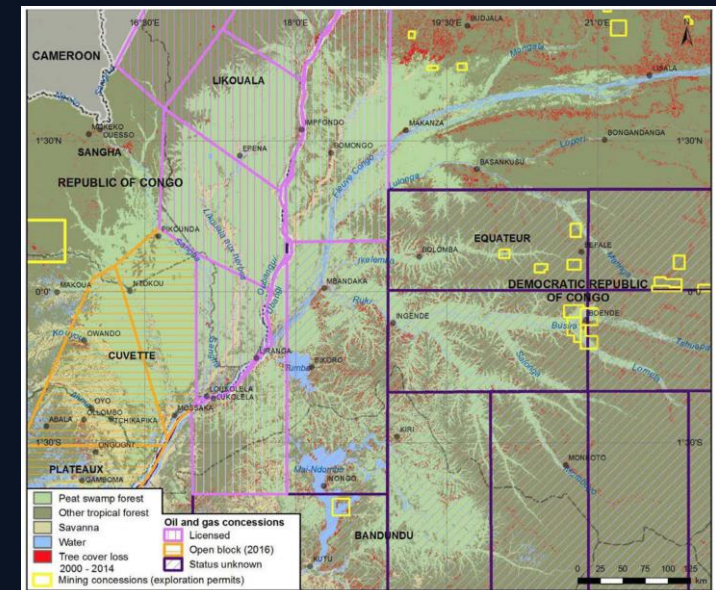


IKI project on the sustainable management of  
the Congo peatlands:  
Biodiversity, carbon, water and livelihoods

# Important figures

- *Contains an estimated 30 gigatons of carbon*
- *Equivalent to 2 years of global greenhouse gas emissions*
- *The area contains the highest densities of western lowland gorillas in the world*
- *Other flagship species: bonobos, chimpanzees and forest elephants*
- *But: development proposal for oil & gas, forestry, agriculture*

-> Right time to assist countries in cross sectoral land use planning





# VANISHING TREASURES

PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES

# AT A GLANCE

**DURATION:** 2018 – 2022 (4 years) including inception phase

**BUDGET:** 9 Million Euros



**CENTRAL ASIA**  
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

**HIMALAYAS**  
Bhutan

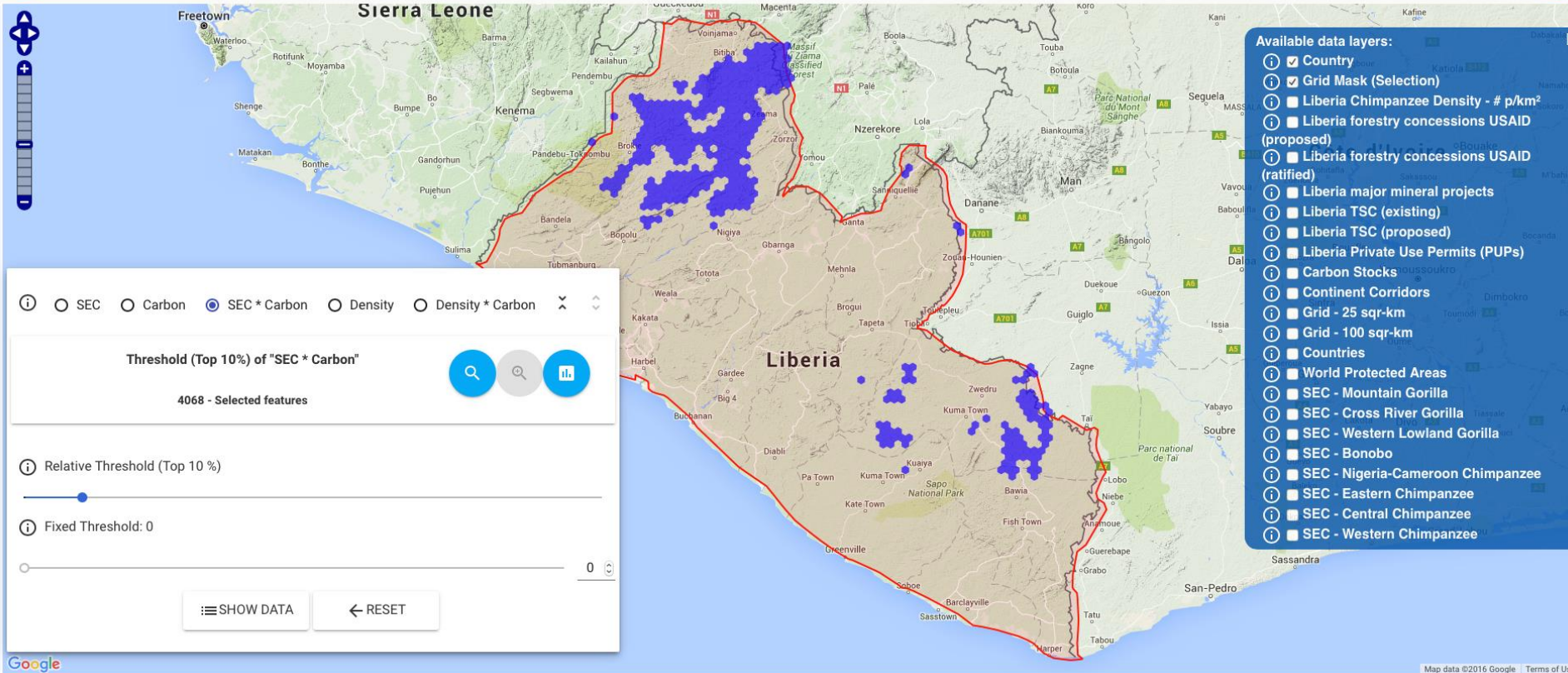
**VIRUNGA MOUNTAINS**  
Uganda, Rwanda



Foggy days and rain during the dry season have become rare.

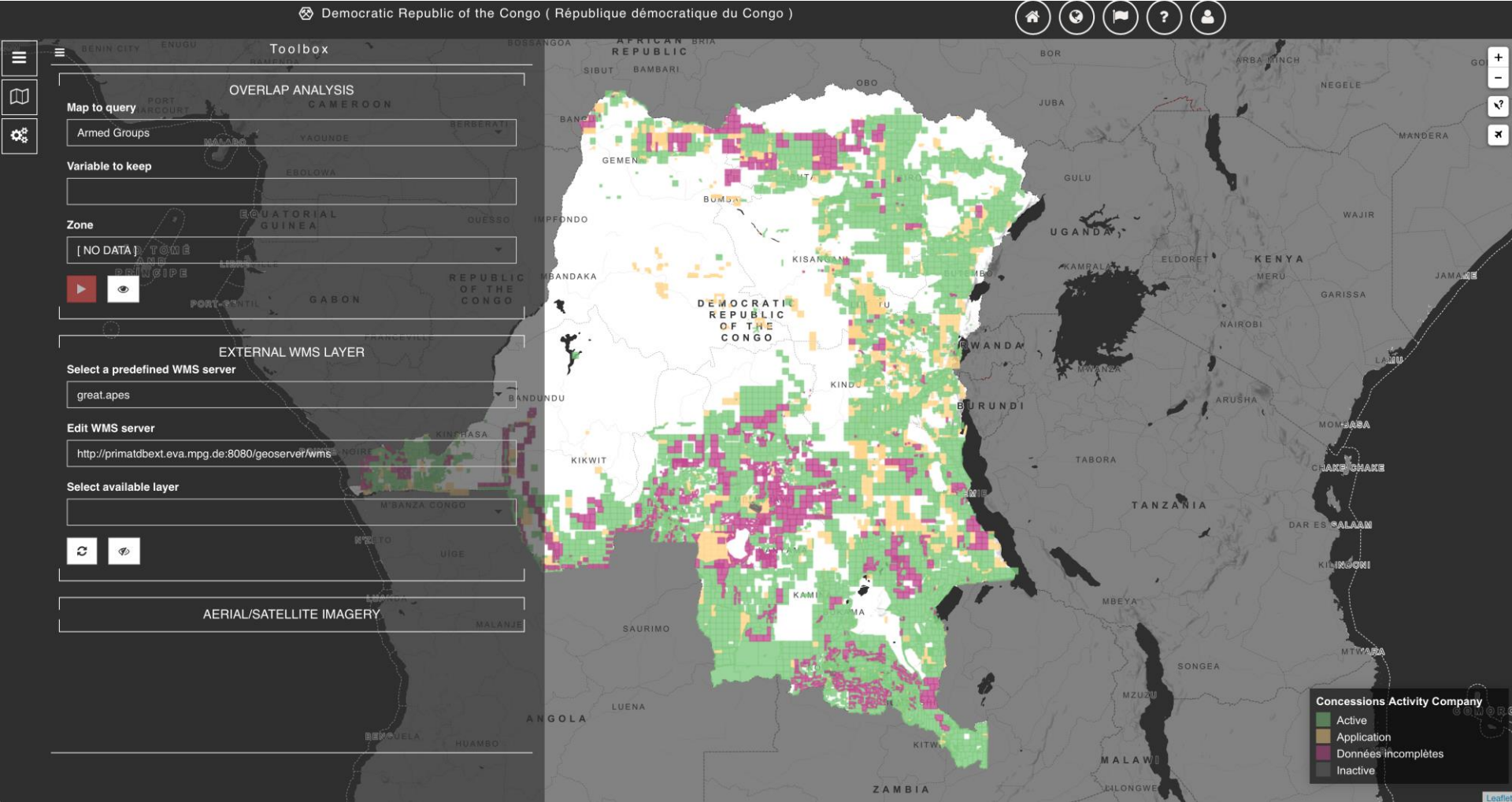
Local people enter the park in search of drinking water.



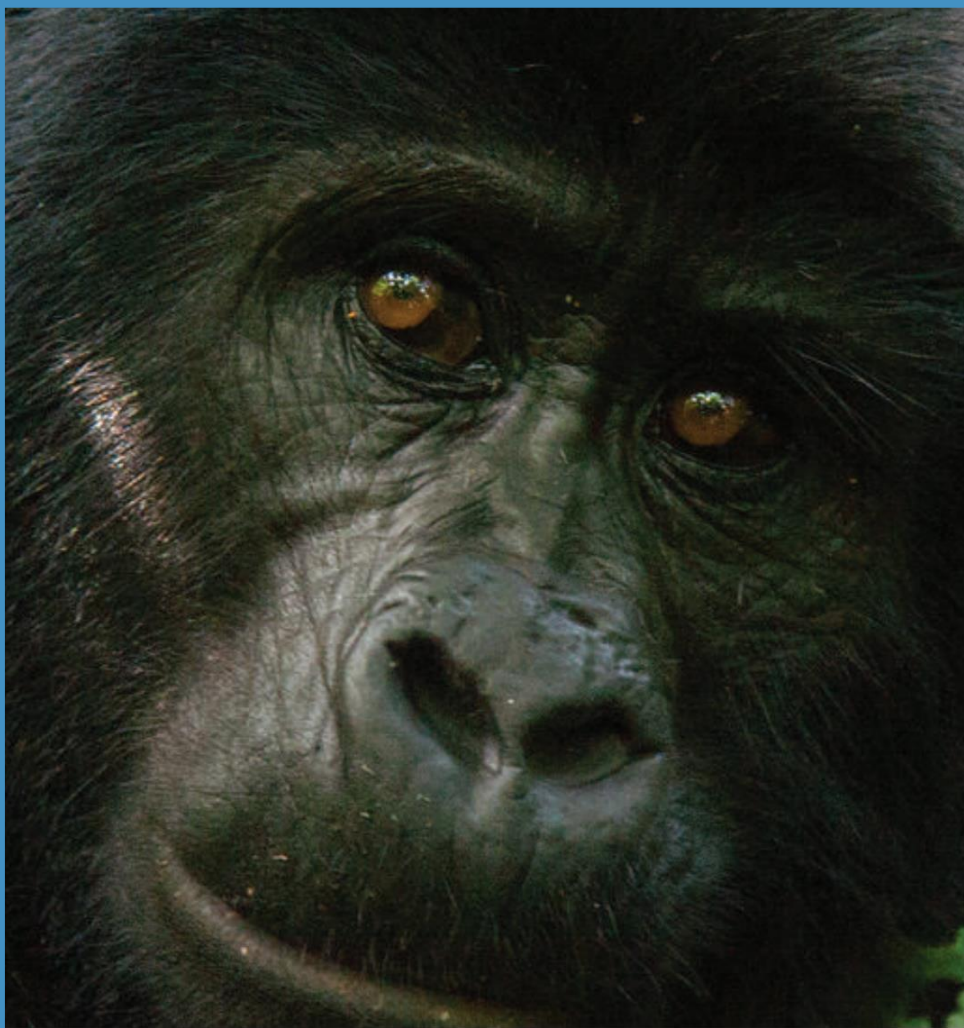



The maps are made available through the Ape Populations, Environments and Surveys (A.P.E.S.) database, a web-based decision support system (<http://apescarbon.eva.mpg.de>)

# MAP-X: A clout solution for mapping and monitoring the sustainable use of natural resources



## 4. Disease



  
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# Ebola & Great Apes

**Ebola is a major threat to the survival of African apes**

There are direct links between Ebola outbreaks in humans and the contact with infected bushmeat from gorillas and chimpanzees. In the latest outbreak in West Africa, Ebola claimed more than 11,000 lives, but the disease has also decimated great ape populations during previous outbreaks in Central Africa. What are the best strategies for approaching zoonotic diseases like Ebola to keep both humans and great apes safe?

# 5. Conflict-sensitive conservation

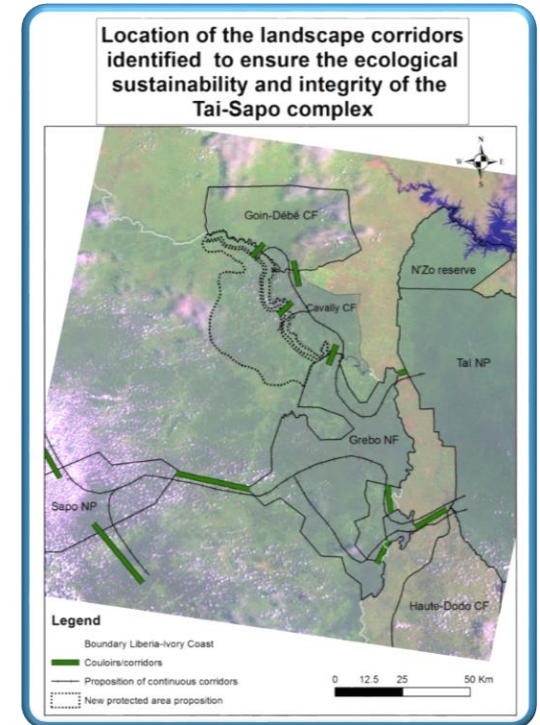
## Virungas



## Mayombe

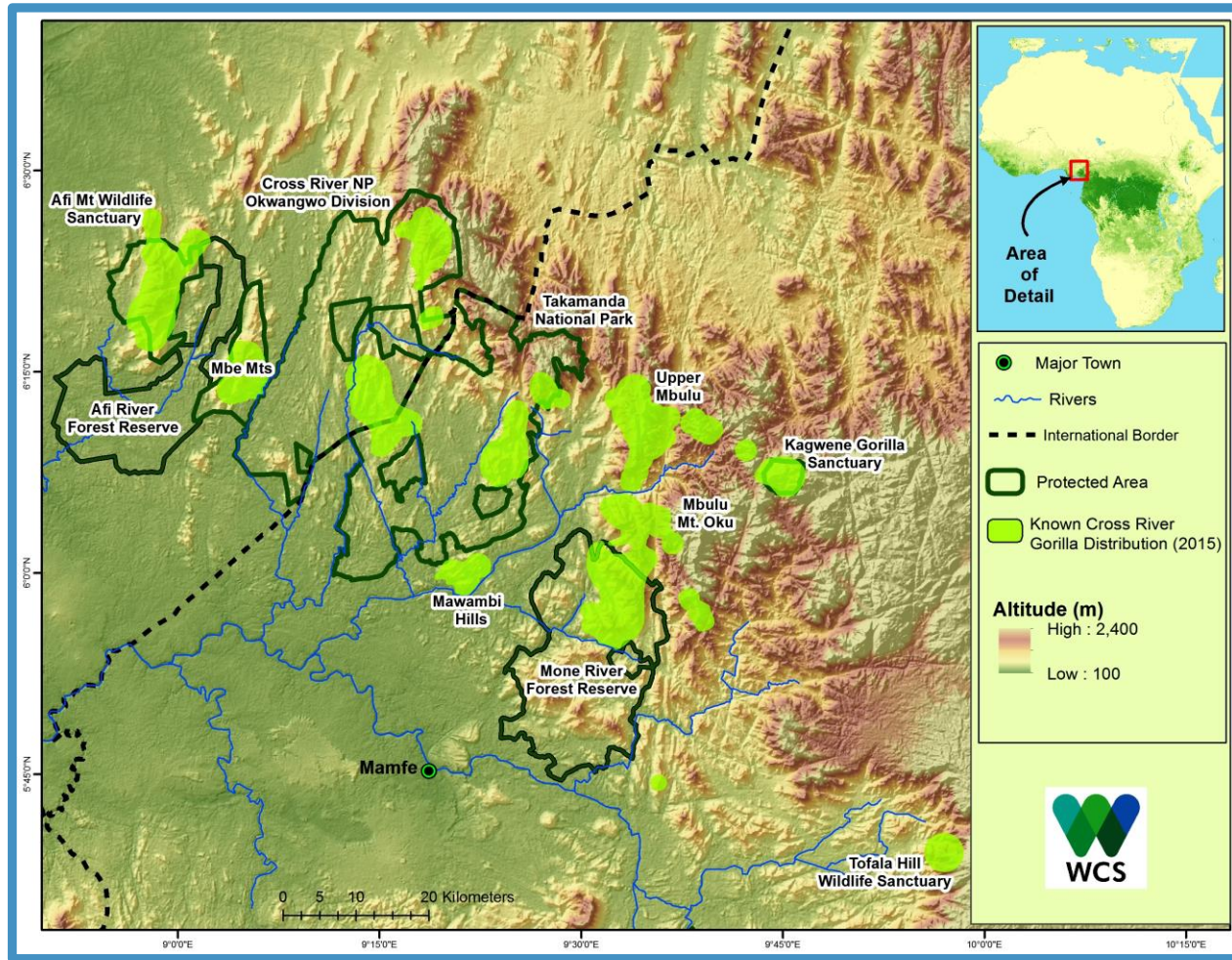


## Tai-Sapo



# 5. Conflict-sensitive conservation

Transboundary collaboration for the conservation of the Cross River gorilla



# 5. Conflict-sensitive conservation



Involved in conflict resolution and natural resource management for Eastern DR Congo involving the peace keeping mission, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the UN to the Great Lakes Region, the Executive Secretariat for International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, national park authorities and conservation partners



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS  
GREAT LAKES  
FRAMEWORK OF HOPE . PEACE . SHARED PROSPERITY



MONUSCO

*Experts' background report on illegal exploitation and trade in natural resources benefitting organized criminal groups and recommendations on MONUSCO's role in fostering stability and peace in eastern DR Congo*



## 6. Green Economy

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- Sustainable palm oil
- Ecotourism (Kahuzi-Biega, Lossi, Gunung Leuser)
- REDD+ in Cameroon, DRC, CdI)
- IFC Performance Standard 6

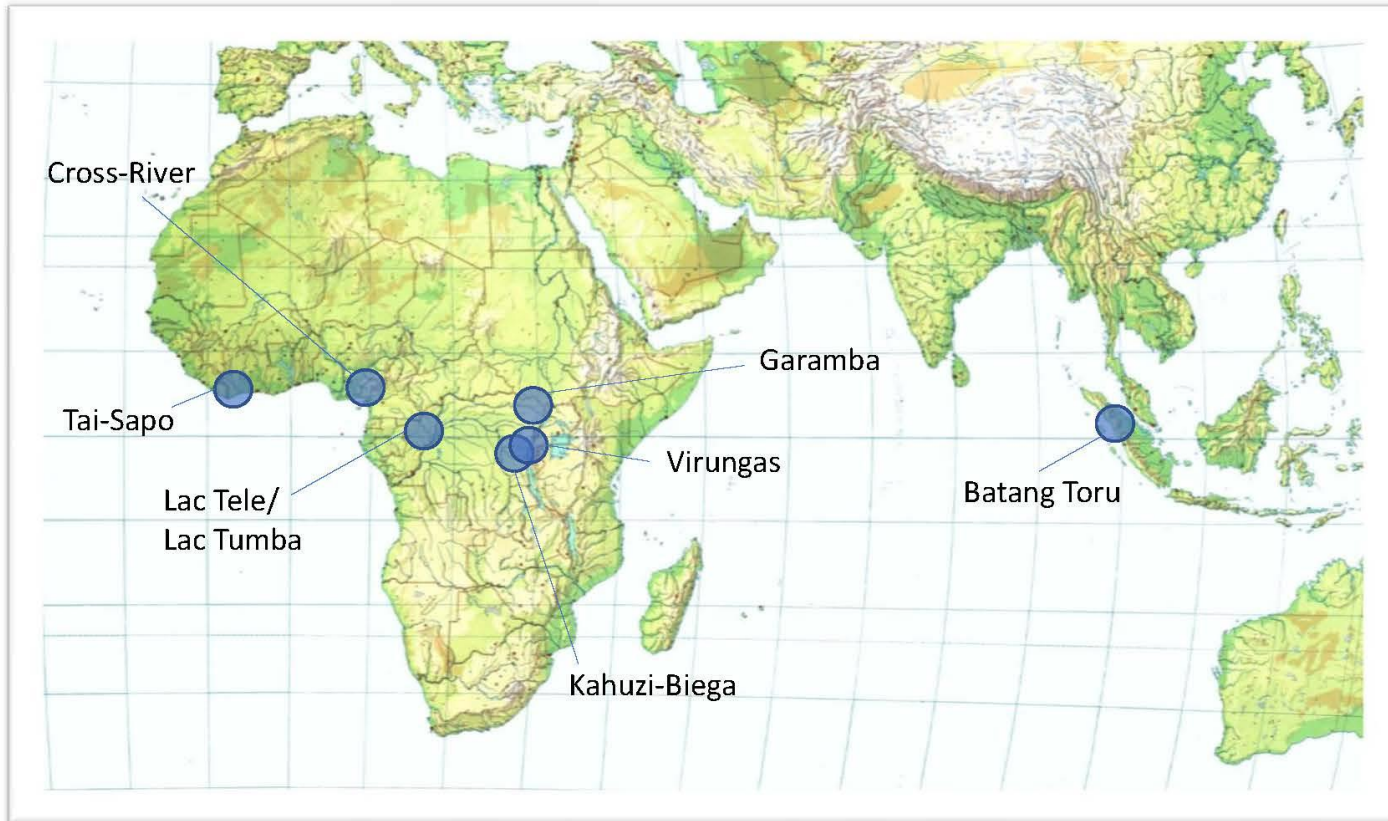
# Other GRASP higher level achievements... some examples

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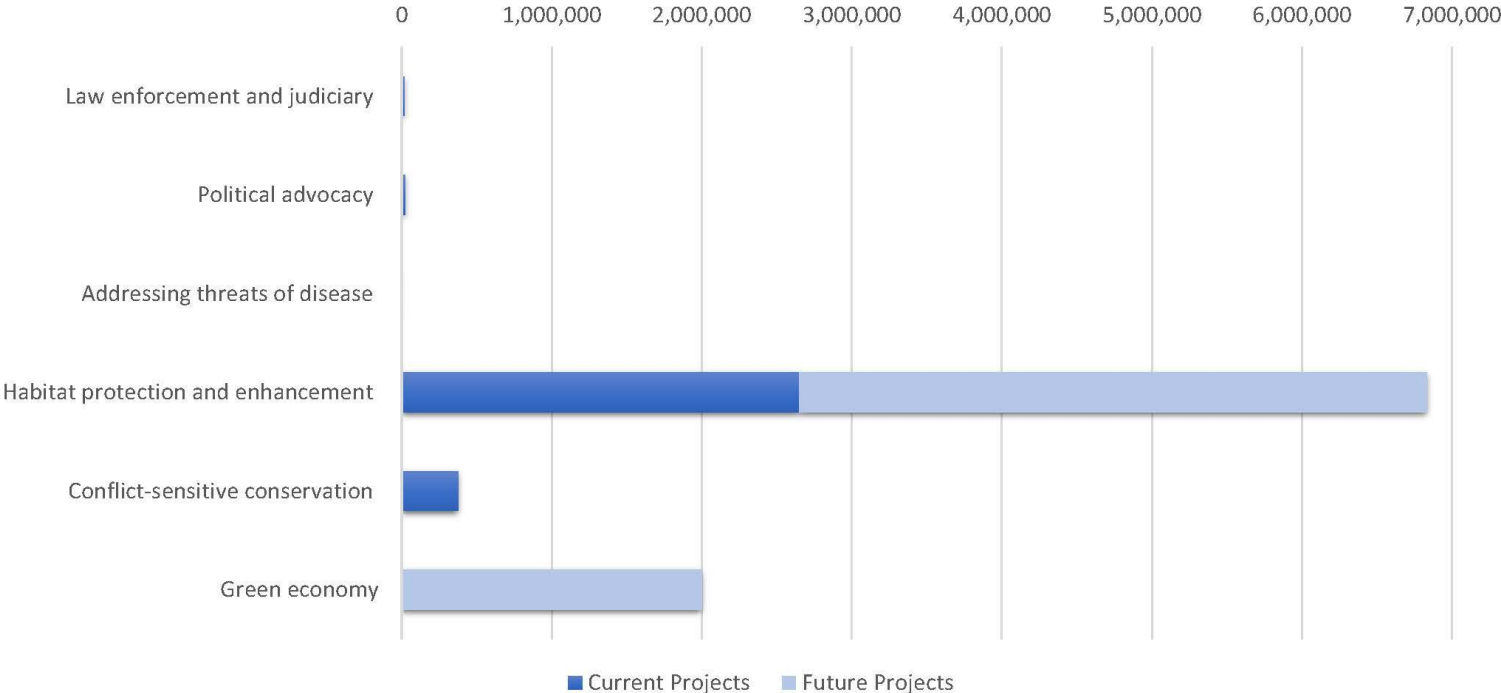


- GRASP contributed to the first high end tourism project in Central Africa (gorilla tracking in the Lossi Interzone, Congo)
- GRASP contributed to the formulation of the new mandate of the peacekeeping mission in DRC with the result that peacekeepers can accompany park rangers on patrols in conflict areas

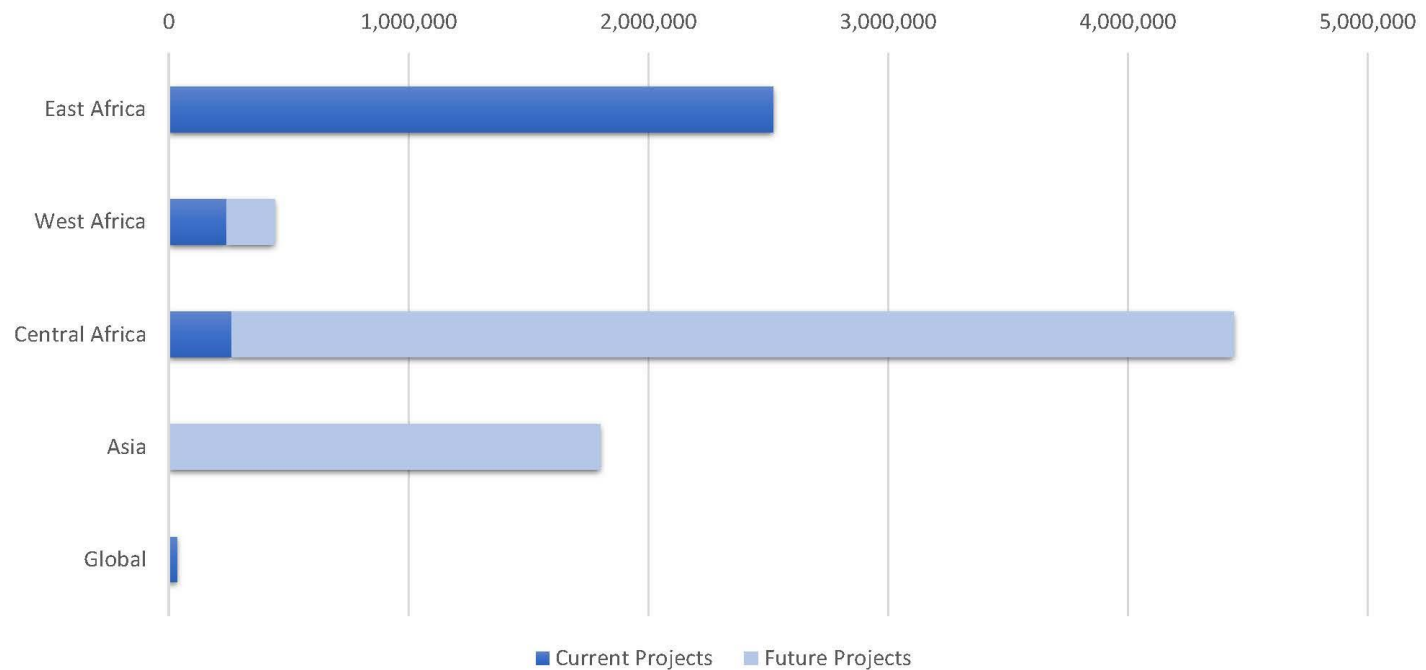
# Sites GRASP has supported



# GRASP Budget 2017-2019 by Priority Area



## GRASP Budget 2017-2019 by Region



*Thank You!*

