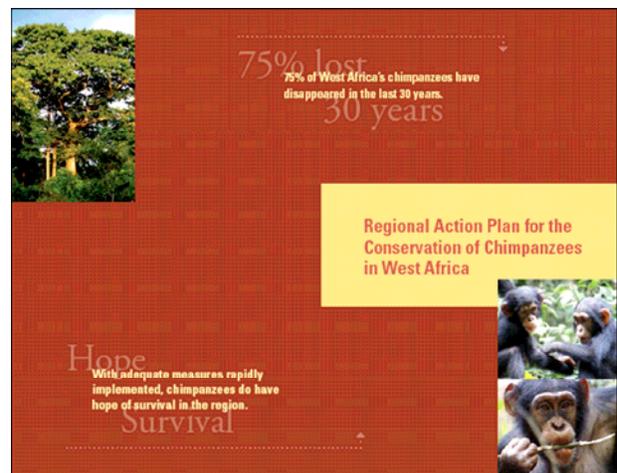
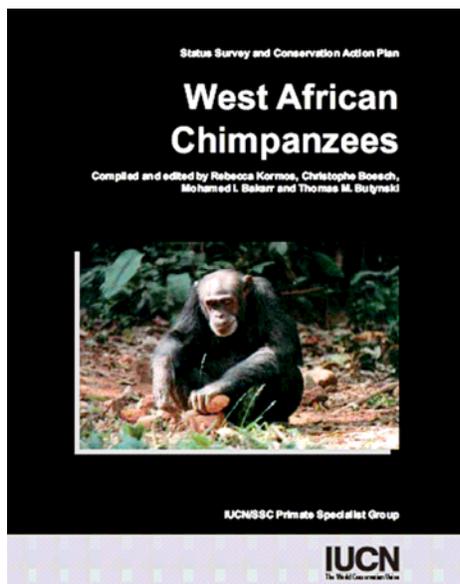


Impact Assessment: Action Plan for Chimpanzees in West Africa

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“An action plan that is not or cannot be implemented is, at most, an interesting academic exercises and not a real Action Plan!” (Giminez and Stuart, 1993).

“It is difficult to say the degree to which conservation actions have taken place solely because of the publication of the Action Plans, and to some extent this question is not the correct one. The correct question would be "Do Action Plans play an important role in the conservation process?" (IUCN, 2002)

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an impact assessment of two action plans: 1) *West African chimpanzees: Status survey and conservation action plan* (Kormos *et al.* 2003) and *Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa* (Kormos and Boesch 2003). These are both products from a workshop held in West Africa in 2002. Questionnaires were sent to original workshop participants, authors of the action plan, past and current project implementers, donors, government officials in each country, conservation NGOs working in the area, bilateral, as well as multilateral organizations and representatives from the private sector. Questions were aimed at collecting information on status of projects before and after the workshop, amount of funding received as well as suggestions for improvement in the process. Responses were received from 35 people and organizations. In general the action plan was appreciated as a good general and up-to-date source of information that was not easily obtainable elsewhere. The action plan was used and referred to in writing proposals and may have made a significant impact in increasing funding to the region. While the action plan was not successful at *stopping* many activities that will have negative consequences on chimpanzees and chimpanzee habitat, it may have been important in *mitigating* some of these activities. The action plan had little effect in influencing policy. It was most effective in countries that had good baseline knowledge of the chimpanzees already, and who had greater capacity and infrastructure to receive funding. The study found that greater emphasis is needed on the preparation time before the workshop in order to i) identify selection criteria for priority sites and actions, ii) select the most appropriate workshop participants, iii) secure donors to fund recommendations that are generated at the workshop, iv) develop a monitoring and evaluation plan. During the workshop, identification of national and regional leadership for chimpanzee conservation would greatly facilitate i) fundraising, ii) updating the action plan with information on new priorities, species numbers, new threats etc. iii) lobbying governments for policy changes and private sector to mitigate negative actions on chimpanzees. If these recommendations are incorporated into the process, this would increase the impact of the action plan itself as a useful tool rather than just a background document. The study concludes that leadership is the key to ensuring that the action plan is not just an academic exercise, but an instrument for action and change and the preservation of a species.

INTRODUCTION

This paper is an impact assessment of two action plans: 1) *West African chimpanzees: Status survey and conservation action plan* (Kormos *et al.* 2003) and *Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa* (Kormos and Boesch 2003). These are both products from a workshop held in West Africa in 2002. The former is a longer and more detailed IUCN/SSC publication. The latter is shorter and one in a series of publications by the Section on Great Apes (SGA) of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group. They contain similar information but presented in different formats for different target audiences.

Species action plans are generally reports analyzing the current status of a species in the wild, an analysis of threats to the species survival, as well as recommendations for what needs to be done in order to ensure the species' future survival. Action plans are important in that resources, (including both time and funding), for conservation are limited. It is useful therefore to assess where and how conservation activities can have the biggest impact. In addition, for many species, small or local actions alone may not be sufficient to prevent the extinction of species, and a concerted effort across the range of the species may be necessary.

Species action plans can also have many other benefits including:

- providing baseline information for range-state national governments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, as well as for international treaties;
- redirecting current efforts in low priority areas to higher priority areas and activities;
- galvanizing further financial support to conservation projects;
- increasing awareness of the plight of a particular species
- providing an objective assessment of priority sites and actions for donors

Species action plans however, are sometimes criticized for rarely being used or implemented. It is obviously extremely important to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation projects in general, especially if similar projects are planned for the future. This paper therefore sets out to examine the effectiveness of these two particular action plans. While specific for these two action plans, it is hoped that this analysis will have important implications for action planning processes for other species and sub-species of great apes in particular, as well as action planning for all species in general.

Species Action Plans

There are many different types of species action-planning processes. Some action plans describe the commitment of a country or a region to protect their biodiversity. The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plans (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>) for example, were produced in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (<http://www.cbd.int/>). They describe the UK's biological resources and commit to a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. Individual countries sometimes produce their own *national* action plans for threatened species found within their borders. The species' range may extend beyond the boundaries of the country, but these types of action plans represent that particular country's commitment to protect this species.

Other action plans, describe what it will take to ensure the survival of a particular species throughout its *range*. The IUCN¹-The World Conservation Union Species Survival Commission (SSC) Action Plans produce such action plans. The SSC Action Plan series assesses the conservation status of species and their habitats, and outlines conservation priorities. These are compiled by SSC's Specialist Groups, and are one of the world's most authoritative sources of species-related conservation information available to natural resource managers, conservationists and decision makers around the world. Since 1987, over 60 action plans have been published. More than three quarters of these have been for mammals. They can be found on IUCN's website².

BirdLife International's Action Plans for African Globally Threatened Birds are another example of these types of action plans (<http://www.birdlife-asia.org/eng/action/cms.html>). They also aim to help strengthen partnerships *within* BirdLife International and to help guide the network development of the organization. These are therefore also an example of a third type of action plan: those representing the strategy and commitment of a single *organization* for what they aim

¹ <http://www.iucn.org/>

² <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/publications/actionplans.htm>.

to do to protect a species. Another example of this type of action plan is the *African Elephant Action* plan by Stephenson (2007), which is intended as a framework for the World Wildlife Fund's support for elephant conservation throughout Africa. Although these are directed at one organization, they are often useful for outlining priority actions for the species in general.

Action Plans for Great Apes: A Review

The IUCN SSC has produced several action plans that either include species of great apes within a more general action plan for primates of a region (Oates *et al.* 1986; Eudey, 1987; Oates *et al.* 1996) or specifically addresses one or more species of great ape (Kormos *et al.* 2003). The methods used to create these action plans differ according to each action plan. More information for the methods used for the *West African chimpanzees: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* are found in the following section (Kormos *et al.* 2003).

In addition to the IUCN/SSC Action Plan for chimpanzees in West Africa, the Section on Great Apes (SGA) of the IUCN SSC produced a shorter summary version of the action plan (Kormos and Boesch 2003), providing a list of priority sites, priority activities for each site, and the amount of funding needed for each project. Two other action plans for great apes in this series have recently been produced. Tutin *et al.* (2005) produced an action plan for gorillas and chimpanzees in West Central Africa, which represents a consensus of the world's leading experts on priority areas and priority actions needed to conserve chimpanzees and gorillas in western equatorial Africa. The results were generated at a workshop held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo with over 70 participants including range state governments, national and international conservation organizations, research institutions and funding agencies. Oates *et al.* (2007) produced an action plan for the Cross River gorilla, as the result of three successive international workshops in 2001, 2003 and 2006. These action plans are freely available on the PSG website³.

Another IUCN Specialist Group, the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, is also part of the Species Survival Commission and is supported by a non-profit organization incorporated under the name Global Conservation Network. CBSG conducts Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVA) where data on species biology, genetics, and ecology are integrated with estimates of human-based threats. Computer models are then used to generate an evaluation of the risk of the species population decline. The workshop participants also develop recommendations for action. CBSG has produced PHVA reports for chimpanzees in Uganda (Edroma *et al.* 1997), for Mountain gorillas (Werikhe *et al.*, 1998) and for orangutans (Singleton *et al.* 2004; Ellis *et al.* 2006). PHVA final reports are available on the web⁴.

CBSG also conducts Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshops which are rapid, broad-based evaluations of a selected group of species. Through this process, the CAMP helps to establish priorities for global and regional species conservation. These workshop reports include basic recommendations for conservation research and management activities. Finally, CBSG has also produced a Bonobo Conservation Assessment (Coxe *et al.* 1999). All these reports can also be found on the web at the CBSG website listed above.

³ <http://www.primate-sg.org/action.plans.htm>.

⁴ <http://www.cbsg.org/cbsg/reports/>.

The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), a project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is producing a *Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat*. The aim of this document will be to encourage the Government of each great ape range State to develop and adopt a national great ape survival plan (NGASP). These national plans outline the status of current knowledge with regard to each species' population and distribution, and relevant legislation. Currently NGASPs for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda can be found online⁵.

In addition, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has produced a *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation* (Caldecott and Miles 2005) that provides a comprehensive review of what is currently known about the great apes, including a description of their ecology, distribution and key threats that each great ape species faces. The Atlas includes an assessment of the current status of great ape species in each of the countries where they occur, together with an overview of current conservation action and priorities.

The United Nation Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention) is developing an Agreement for the conservation of gorillas, called the CMS Gorilla Agreement. CMS prepared a series of draft Status Surveys and draft Action Plans as backup documents for this Agreement. These draft documents have been circulated to Ministers in charge of the Environment and Natural Resources of the 10 Range States, as well as to all GRASP Focal points, CMS Focal Points and Scientific Councilors. All CMS draft action plans are available on-line⁶.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has produced a status survey for chimpanzees in Uganda (Plumptre *et al.* 2003) which includes a discussion of threats and recommended activities. This report was published as part of the Albertine Rift Technical Reports series, which aims to publish results from research activities that the Wildlife Conservation Society has undertaken with other partners in the region of the Albertine Rift.

Action Plans for Chimpanzees in West Africa

The *IUCN Status Survey and Action Plan for Chimpanzees in West Africa* (Kormos *et al.* 2003) (hereafter called the SSAP), and the *Regional Action Plan for Chimpanzees in West Africa* (Kormos and Boesch 2003) (hereafter called the RAP) are the subjects of this impact assessment. These action plans target the two chimpanzee subspecies in the region of West Africa: the western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*) and the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*). These are the two most threatened subspecies of chimpanzees in the wild. The following provides more specific background on these action plans in particular and how they were developed.

Prior to 2002, many different projects already existed for the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa, especially at the sites of Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) and Bossou (Guinea), where chimpanzees had been studied for 25 and 30 years respectively. Shorter-term studies, surveys and conservation projects for chimpanzees had also been conducted in almost every country within the two species' ranges. However, a concerted and cohesive plan for their

⁵ <http://www.unep.org/grasp/publications/Action-plan/index.asp>.

⁶ <http://www.sciencesnaturelles.be/science/projects/gorilla>

conservation did not exist. In September 2002, a regional meeting was held in Abidjan bringing together 72 experts in chimpanzee ecology, as well as biologists, conservationists, protected area managers and politicians from each of the countries within the Western chimpanzee range. During the workshop priority areas for the conservation of these subspecies, priority actions for each of these areas, as well as regional priority actions were identified. The results were intended to represent a consensus of all workshop participants. The results of the workshop were published in a summary document, which was distributed in May 2003 (the RAP). The objectives of this summary document were to raise awareness of regional priority sites and actions for chimpanzee conservation, and for use as a fundraising tool.

In preparation for this workshop, experts on chimpanzee ecology from each of the countries within their range, wrote a short summary containing information on what research had previously been done on this species in each country, the specific threats to their survival in each country, and recommendations for national priority actions and sites. Drafts were circulated to participants prior to the 2002 workshop. This information was then compiled into an IUCN/SSC Status Survey and Action Plan for Chimpanzees in West Africa and published in 2003 (the SSAP). The document represents a collaborative effort with 48 authors from 23 different countries as contributors. The objective of the SSAP was to give a more in-depth account of the problems facing this species in each country and national solutions that need to be implemented to ensure the survival of chimpanzees. The document also provides an analysis of general threats to chimpanzees in West Africa. The target audiences were intended to be conservationists who wish to have more in-depth background on this species, as well as governments and policy makers requiring the most up-to-date information on this species and threats, in order to make the best informed decisions about strategies for their protection.

The whole process, including the preparation for the workshop, the workshop itself, the publication and dissemination of the action plan cost \$109,328. Funding was received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the amount of \$68,011, The Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the amount of \$33,617 and the Primate Action Fund (PAF) in the amount of \$5,000 and GRASP in the amount of \$2,700. GRASP and Foundation Step by Step paid for the participation of several participants to the workshop, and several other individuals also paid for their own participation. Not included in this calculation are the costs of the *time* of individuals for their contribution to the writing of the action plan. This financial investment for the workshop and publications should be kept in mind when examining the impact that the workshop and action plans had for conservation on the ground, and should be compared to the worth of other methods of conservation.

Action Plan impact assessments

Despite the number of Action Plans available, the greater awareness in the conservation community of the need for monitoring and evaluation of conservation activities (Margoluis and Salafsky 1998), and increased pressure from donors to demonstrate tangible results, surprisingly few analyses of the effectiveness of species action plans have been conducted to date. The following outlines some of the most important assessments that have been completed.

In 2002 the Species Survival Commission commissioned an evaluation of some aspects of its Action Plan Programme⁷. This assessment had two phases. Phase 1 assessed the type of actions that were recommended in 42 Action Plans. The most important conclusions from this study were that “1) there was little consistency between plans in the way that recommendations were developed and presented; 2) there was a broad division between general recommendations and specific actions; and 3) research of one form or another comprised a large proportion of the recommendations” (SSC 2002).

Phase 2 assessed the implementation of recommendations in four Action Plans (equids, lagomorphs, otters and crocodiles) and on the progress of 284 recommendations. A total of 18% of these recommendations were considered complete, 50% ongoing and 32% not started. The reason that nearly half had not been started was given to be a lack of resources (funds and/or personnel) and political sensitivity. Nearly 70% of implemented actions were classified as either research or ecological management.

For Phase 3, Action Plans were evaluated with respect to: Specialist Group planning and process; SSC Secretariat management; product quality and distribution; and implementation of priority projects. Recommendations included the need for more detailed identification of, and collaboration with target audiences, and increased guidance on Action Plan development and content.

In 2003, Fuller *et al.* (2003) evaluated three IUCN/SSC Action Plans. They examined the number of priority projects outlined in the three Action Plans that were initiated within the 5-year time frame. They found that of 54 projects suggested in the plans, 33 had been initiated in the 5 years since the publication, and 35 specific conservation actions were undertaken. They believe that the results indicated that a substantial amount of conservation activity that occurred was directly attributable to the process. They did however suggest that there is a need for a clearer definition of the role of the Action Plans since many of the criticisms of Action Plans result from an over-optimistic view of the power to catalyze action. They also provide a new model for a niche of Species Action Plans within a wider context of conservation biology and policy.

Gimenez-Dixon and Stuart (1993) conducted an assessment of 18 Action Plans. Using questionnaires sent to the Chairs of the Specialist Groups and compilers of the Action Plans, as well as using information from other sources, they found that the general reactions to the action plans were positive. People tended to regard them as important documents providing up-to-date information that is not readily available from other sources. The extent to which Action Plan recommendations were taken up by government agencies and NGOs depended on whether there were Specialist Group members constantly active in the process. The main constraint in implementation was said to be lack of adequate funding and time.

Information from such assessments as described above can help to improve the processes leading up to producing action plans, the action plan itself, and also the follow-up after the action plans have been produced.

⁷ http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/for_members/apevalxecsumm.htm.

METHODS

Five years after the 2002 regional workshop that led to the production of the RAP and the SSAP is a strategic time to conduct this assessment. Five years allows sufficient time for fundraising and fund disbursement to occur and for projects to be initiated. It is also a short enough timeframe for the results of this analysis to be useful. In addition, it is useful to conduct this analysis now before any further action plans are produced for other species of great apes, so that the results of the analysis can be used to improve on the action–planning process.

The analysis is being conducted by one of the project leaders for the workshop and first editor of the action plans. Internal assessments⁸ of the impact of an action plan by project leaders or action plan authors themselves could perhaps lead to biases in results, especially if people providing opinions about the usefulness of the action plan felt that they could not answer questions honestly, or if the results were interpreted with prejudice. The purpose of this impact assessment is not to show whether the action plan succeeded or failed, but to draw out lessons-learned from the process and to use these to help improve the way action planning is done for other species in the future. For this goal, it is helpful that the author has an in-depth knowledge of the action plan and the process that led up to its creation. Respondents are already familiar with and have worked with the action plan authors, and therefore may believe more strongly that their opinions could make a difference. Hiring an external consultant to assess the action plans would be much more costly in terms of both money and time.

Impact assessment methods

In order to gather information, 75 questionnaires were sent to the original workshop participants, authors of the action plan, past and current project implementers, donors, government officials in each country, conservation NGOs working in the area, bilateral, as well as multilateral organizations and representatives from extractive industries. Questions were aimed at collecting information on the status of projects before and after the workshop, amount of funding received as well as suggestions for improvement in the process, the action plan and the follow-up (the questionnaire for project implementers is attached in Appendix I and the questionnaire for donors is attached in Appendix II).

Indicators

Appendix III provides a results chain for the Action Plans and Appendix IV provides a results chain for the Workshop. In general, the first desired result of both the workshop and the action plan was raising awareness. It was hoped that increased awareness among donors would lead to an increase in funding which would in turn lead to better conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa. Raised awareness among conservationists would lead to a greater number of projects in high priority areas and less redundancy between projects and more collaboration between colleagues for a stronger conservation force. This would in turn result in more effective conservation projects in West Africa. It is hoped that raising awareness of those in the private sector/extractive industries would lead to fewer destructive interventions in high priority areas. Raising awareness among policy makers, it was hoped, would increase commitment and

⁸ **Internal or Participatory Evaluations** – Evaluations are conducted by the project, program, or organizational managers themselves.

influence changes in laws and policies protecting chimpanzees in West Africa. Thus, indicators used to assess the action plan's impact were:

1. **Awareness:** The change in the awareness about the plight of chimpanzees in West Africa in the general public;
2. **Funding:** The amount of new funding available for chimpanzee conservation in West Africa following the publication of the action plan;
3. **Project implementation:** The number of conservation projects on the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa (including the percent of the projects in the action plan implemented);
4. **Collaborations:** The number of collaborative activities and information sharing between stakeholders such as protected area managers, researchers, and governments concerning chimpanzee conservation;
5. **Efficiency:** The change in the overlap and redundancy of projects
6. **Policy:** The number of instances that the action plan affected policy decisions related to chimpanzee conservation;
7. **Mitigation:** The number of times the action plan mitigated activities that would have been destructive to chimpanzees in West Africa.

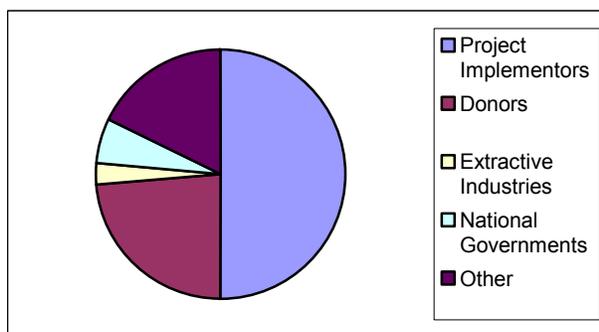
While the answers to the above list are a good general indicator of the impact of the action plans, it is unfortunately difficult to link these results specifically to the existence of these documents. There are many external factors and confounding variables that could also affect these results, such as civil conflict, general conservation awareness, national economies, that it is difficult to show causality between the action plan and the indicators.

The results are presented below, and the challenges to the interpretation of these results due to the problems of demonstrating causality, are discussed for each indicator.

RESULTS

Responses were received from 35 people, which represents about half of the number of requests for information. Respondents are listed in Appendix V. Figure 1 provides information showing the number of respondents for each category.

Figure 1. The number of respondents per category



The following reports on each of the selected indicators of the impact of the action plans:

Indicators

1. Awareness

Ideally, the raising of awareness about chimpanzees in West Africa would result in increased funding to the region, and/or changes in policies affecting chimpanzees, and/or fewer destructive interventions affecting chimpanzees, and therefore greater protection of chimpanzees as an end result, as shown in the Results Chains in Appendix III and IV.

Most respondents believed that the workshop and action plan did result in increased awareness of the plight of chimpanzees in the region, but found it difficult to assess the degree to which this happened. One respondent stated that the existence of the action plan certainly elevated chimpanzee conservation as a priority amongst organizations concerned with the wider issues of wildlife conservation, as well as amongst government wildlife officials in the country. However, they did not believe there was any direct link between the content of the action plan and the activities of conservationists. They believed that conservationists continued to pursue what they believed was fundable.

Several people responded positively that the action plan provided good baseline information (especially the SSAP). Respondents replied that the action plan was helpful in:

- Providing the various GRASP organs (secretariat, Technical Support Teams, etc), including the partners with a good overview of the needs and priorities in West Africa
- Forming the scientific basis of Guinea Conakry's National Great Ape Survival Plan, allowing Guinea to develop and approve their national strategy in record time and at low cost
- Helping to motivate West Africa chimpanzee range states to take an interest in more national ownership of chimpanzee conservation
- Providing useful background information for the preparation of the new GRASP *Plan it for the Apes: Activity and Finance Plan* (http://www.unep.org/grasp/Publications/Official_Documents/official_docs.asp)
- Assisting new PhD student to select sites in which to work based on the list of priority sites in the action plan.
- Aiding in proposal writing.

How this actually translated into conservation results on the ground however, is not obvious.

Raising awareness is linked to the dissemination and the availability of the action plan. The action plan was distributed to all workshop participants, and certain key focal institutions within each country in hopes that they could disseminate it further to where it would be most effective. Copies were also sent to other conservation organizations and donors such as USAID, USFWS, and CEPF. This method was fairly *ad hoc* and many respondents commented that there could have been a much more systematic approach to dissemination.

One donor suggested that too often Species Action Plans end up in the hands of the “converted” – those who are interested in the subject matter and already care about conservation. When “non-converted” types get access they are often viewed in a cynical or dismissive manner (in relation to issues of endemic poverty, poor nutrition, low education and health service). Another donor

commented that very few people seemed to have the document actually in the region. Around 80 documents were shipped to West Africa in 2006 in addition to those that were originally distributed directly after publication. Therefore, although documents are being disseminated, they are obviously still not reaching all those who might find them useful. Another respondent suggested that the document was not provided to the “right” people within the governments in the countries in West Africa. With high turnover rate in governments, these documents often disappeared onto top shelves or bottom drawers and new people filling the positions in government often had never even seen the action plan. Even within organizations such as USAID, although documents were sent to them, current officers did not have a copy. Although multiple copies of both action plans were mailed to the GRASP secretariat, GRASP commented that they had only received the SSAC plan and not the RAP.

It is a challenge to make sure that the action plan remains a “living document” and that each person new in post has access to this information, whether it be within donor organizations, governments, universities etc. WWF made several hundred CDs that included all the Action Plans for the GRASP Paris 2007 meetings. The SGA coordinator has been disseminating them for example, at Ape Alliance and primate meetings in Scotland. If conservationists in the region, donors and new staff of bilateral organizations are still not receiving copies, then clearly, the process of dissemination and ensuring continued accessibility of the action plan should be examined. Nonetheless, the documents are free for download via the internet.

2. Funding

Overall

Figure 2 shows the amount of funding given to chimpanzee conservation per year in West Africa since the year 2000. This figure is based on the results of the questionnaires and the data listed in Appendix VI.

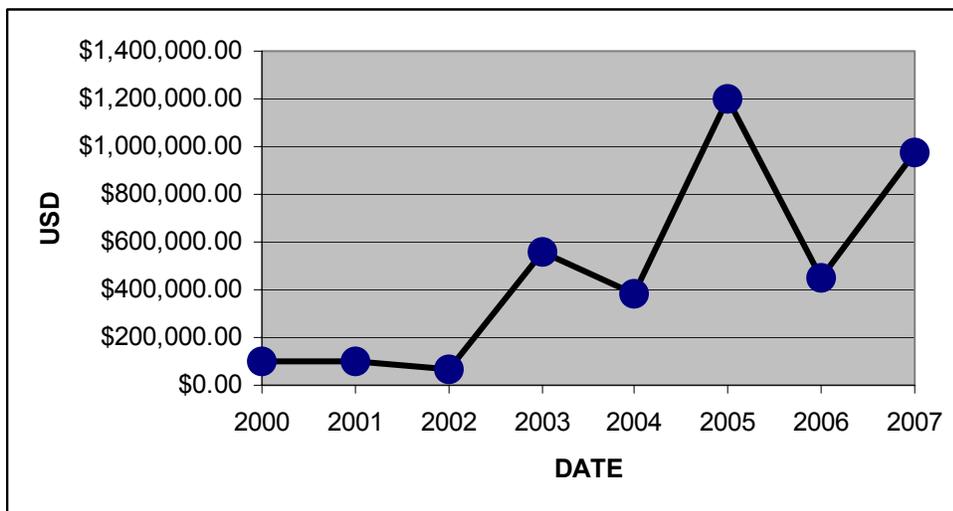


Figure 2. Amount of funding received for chimpanzee conservation projects per year from 2000-2007. These numbers represent direct funding from donors and do not include counterpart matching, or in-kind funding. Some of the funding amounts were provide in other currencies. Conversion was made using yahoo currency converter on November 19, 2007. This list was as complete as possible given the time constraints of the

project, but was reliant on responses to the questionnaires. The list of funding obtained does not include larger general conservation projects. This includes some funding for captive chimpanzees in sanctuaries in West Africa.

The amount of funding for chimpanzees in West Africa seems to be increasing, with an increase of 8.5% from 2002 to 2003 and an overall increase from the year 2002 to 2006. The amount of funding recorded for the five years following the workshop (2003-2007) was \$3,567,289. This represents an underestimate of the total amount of funding due to several factors.

Firstly, despite the fact that many conservationists were extremely generous in providing information on their projects, almost 50% of people approached did not respond and thus the results present an underestimate of the funds received. Secondly, while some funding is given for chimpanzee conservation projects specifically, much more funding goes to larger more general conservation projects such as for habitat or park management, which also benefit chimpanzees. It is difficult to tease out how much funding is actually directed at chimpanzee conservation within these broader projects.

With an estimated 200,000 wild chimpanzees in West Africa, the amount of funding per chimpanzee over the last 5 years has therefore been \$18 per chimpanzee. This is a total of \$3.60/chimp/year. While the total amount of funds is substantial, the action plan concluded that at least \$9 million dollars was necessary to help this species survive.

Funding for captive chimpanzees

Figure 3 shows the amount of funding for chimpanzee sanctuaries in West Africa per year since 2000.

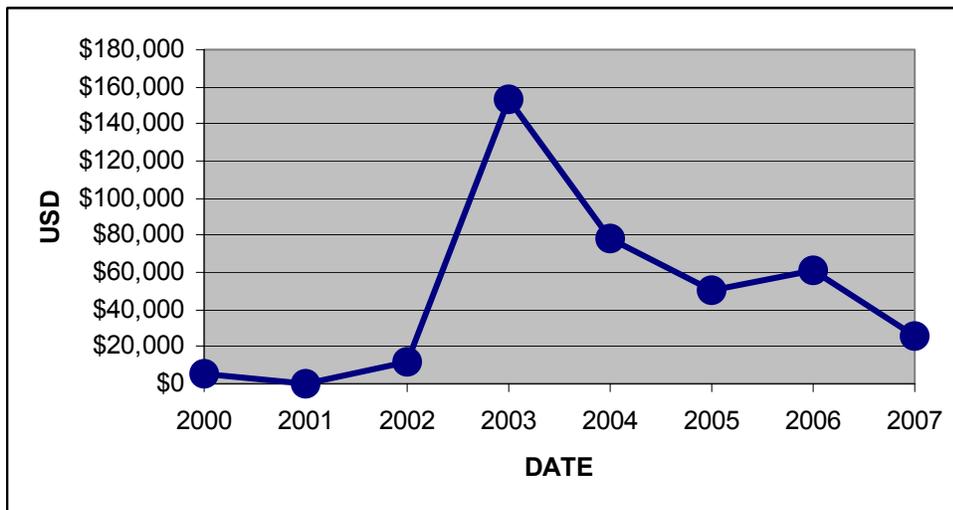


Figure 3. Amount of funding received by sanctuaries with chimpanzees in West Africa 2000–2006.

Sanctuaries for chimpanzees in West Africa include the Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC) in Guinea, the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone, the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project in the Gambia, Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre (DRBC) in Nigeria, and the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) in Cameroon. Other organizations working in West Africa to aid chimpanzees in sanctuaries include the Pandrillus Foundation, Conservation Society of Sierra

Leone, and Foundation Step By Step. Relevant government departments in these countries also play an integral role in supporting sanctuary projects. Funding for captive chimpanzees in West Africa since the year 2000 totals \$380,818. This is an underestimate of the total amount as information for all sites could not be obtained in time for this report. Although this figure is an underestimate, it already represents 11% of the total funds received for chimpanzee conservation in the region. The population of captive chimpanzees represents approximately 171 of 200,000 wild chimpanzees, which is less than 0.1%. This is approximately a total of \$2,227 per captive chimpanzee since the year 2002, or \$445/chimpanzee/year.

While this is substantially more than for wild chimpanzees, as mentioned in the action plan, these sanctuaries also represent opportunities for education and awareness, thus their conservation reach is further than just for the individual chimpanzees in the sanctuary.

Funds per country

Since the regional workshop in September 2002, the majority of the funds went to two countries: Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea (Figure 4). One respondent from Sierra Leone pointed out that they felt that the countries that benefited the most from the conservation action plan were those that were already the most advanced in their conservation activities on the ground. Countries like Sierra Leone, that in 2002 was just emerging from almost a decade long civil conflict, had very little information on the current status and distribution of chimpanzees in the country. One respondent commented that in 2002 it was almost impossible for them to prioritize sites and actions, and that the list they presented was more of a “wish list” than a realistic and informed prioritization of what needed to be done, as there are many other basic needs to be taken care of in countries emerging from conflict. Prior to 2002, nationwide surveys had already been conducted in both Guinea and Côte d’Ivoire. These countries also have some of the longest-running projects on chimpanzees in all of Africa. It is probably no coincidence therefore that they may have been able to use the action plan as a fundraising tool more effectively than other countries which had poorer baseline knowledge, capacity and infrastructure for chimpanzee studies and conservation. An alternative possibility is that donors purposefully invested in these countries since these were the countries with the largest populations of chimpanzees.

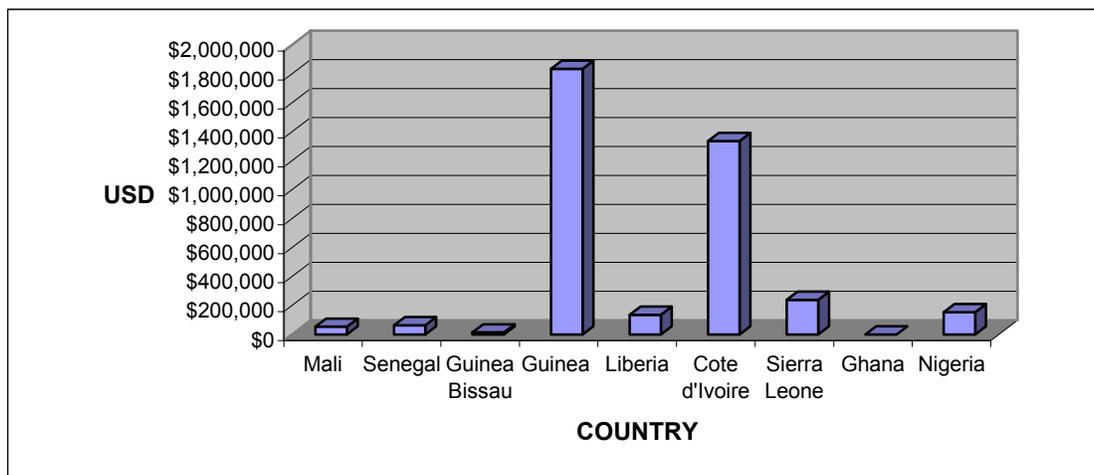


Figure 4. Amount of funding received per country for chimpanzee conservation since 2000

Sources of funding

Not only is it interesting to look at where the funding is going, but where the funding coming from. Several respondents felt that many US donors are still nationally oriented and it is difficult or simply impossible for non-American based foundation to have access to such money sources. It was felt that this attitude blocked attempts of NGOs from the Europe and Africa to work as effectively as they could. The USFWS however, is one of the main donors for great ape conservation in Africa (15% of all funds since 2000), and being a government organization, they are able to give directly to NGOs in Europe and Africa.

Funding procured as a result of the action plan?

Ideally we would compare the amount of funding received for chimpanzee conservation before and after the workshop in order to measure the impact of the action plan. However there are many external factors influencing the amount of funding directed to chimpanzee conservation in this region (and to conservation in general) and thus an accurate before-and-after comparison is not possible. For example, it was not until the year 2000 that the U.S. Congress passed the Great Ape Conservation Act, which created the Great Ape Conservation Fund for the conservation of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans and gibbons. It was not until May 2001 that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the Great Ape Survival Project. Both the USFWS and GRASP have provided significant funding to chimpanzee conservation in West Africa. It is interesting to note however, that in a recent study, it was found that the overall amount of funding given to conservation NGOs in Africa from 2004 to 2006 has only increased by 1.25 times (Scholfield and Brockington *in prep*).

One way of determining if there might be a link between the action plan and funding is to ask project leaders. Most grantees that were interviewed said that they did refer to the action plan in their grant proposals. Some felt that the action plan was extremely helpful in writing proposals. The Jane Goodall Institute, for example, which did not previously have a presence in West Africa, was invited to submit a proposal to the US Agency for International Development for chimpanzee conservation in Guinea and Sierra Leone. The action plan provided them with essential information on priority sites and actions as well as a good base of contacts for partners and experts in the region whom they could include in their proposal. They felt that this information assisted them in obtaining funding. Many other respondents however, did not know if it had helped them to obtain grants. Several grantees said that the action plans did help them to include information to which they would not have otherwise had access.

Another way of assessing the link between funding and the action plans is to ask donors how they used the action plans. Over half of the donors responded that their awards were indeed influenced by the action plan, including the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) which provided a grant of \$50,000 to the SGA specifically to fund actions outlined in the action plan for chimpanzees in West Africa following the workshop. The USFWS which funded many of the projects outlined in the action plan said that it was beneficial to a proposal if their activities were in a high priority area or listed in the action plan since this showed that there was a scientific and consensus decision that these activities were a priority. The SGA also used the action plan to make their decisions on which proposals to fund. GRASP said that the plan was helpful in guiding GRASP in their conservation investments. In general, the action plan did seem to validate the worth of specific projects and made it easier for donors to accept or reject applications.

Other donors stated that their project funding had not been affected by the action plan. WWF provided funding to chimpanzee conservation projects post-workshop, but said that they would have funded these activities regardless of the action plan. One USAID respondent was not aware of the action plan and did not therefore feel that there had been a link between their giving and funding.

One negative aspect of donors using the action plan to guide their funding was highlighted by one respondent: “The ying and yang....is that sometimes in life a great idea emerges and if it doesn't fit the mold it gets discarded; not because it isn't worthwhile but because there are no more free thinkers to evaluate it because everyone preaches what the bible says.” It is necessary therefore to emphasize that the action plans should be living documents and that priority areas and projects may change with new information and changing circumstances

In summary, the majority of grantees found the action plan useful for writing proposals and the majority of donors indicated that decisions about their awards were influenced the action plans. In addition, the level of funding for chimpanzee conservation in West Africa increased significantly after the 2002 workshop and publications. Although it is difficult to demonstrate a direct link, the action plans have positively influenced the funding situation for the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa.

3. Project implementation

One indicator of the action plan's impact is the number of projects for the conservation of chimpanzees implemented following publication of the action plan, and the percentage of projects listed in the action plan that have been implemented: 27 of 72 priority projects (38%) have either been implemented or are in the course of being implemented. Once again, it is difficult to show causality since the projects might exist irrespective of the the action plan.

Some respondents feel that there was no?? link between certain projects implemented and the action plan. For example:

- A survey of chimpanzees in southwest Nigeria in 2006 was funded by USFWS and CI's Primate Action Fund. This was a survey recommended by the big Action Plan (17.8.2.3), but had been planned before the workshop.
- A range of conservation activities have continued in the Takamanda-Okwangwo area in Nigeria (17.18.2.2 in the Action Plan). However, these have not been done by specifically referring to the chimp plan, but more through the need to protect Cross River gorillas.
- In late 2005 and early 2006 surveys took place in a number of small forests in western Ghana to assess populations of several endangered primate species, including chimpanzees. This was a Government of Ghana project, funded by GEF. The selection of sites seemed not to be based strongly on action plan recommendations (see 13.8), but more on ideas of the Department of Wildlife within the Government of Ghana.

Civil conflict was listed as the main external factor affecting the project implementation. West Africa is a region that has been fraught by civil conflict: Sierra Leone is still emerging from over a decade of fighting—officially declared over in January 2002. The second Liberian Civil war

began in 1999 and did not end until August 11, 2003. Riots occurred again in 2004 and Liberia's peace today remains fragile. The civil wars that engulfed Liberia and then Sierra Leone during the 1990s also negatively affected relations between Guinea and its neighbors. In late 2000 and early 2001, Guinean dissidents backed by the Liberian government and RUF rebels from Sierra Leone attacked Guinea causing over 1,000 Guinean deaths and displacing more than 100,000 Guineans. The Ivorian Civil War began in September 2002. Most of the fighting in Côte d'Ivoire ended by late 2004, but the country remained divided, with a rebel-held north and a government-held south. A peace agreement was signed in March 2007, which could lead to the holding of elections and reunification of the country.

It is incredible that despite these conflicts, many conservation projects continued in West Africa. In Côte d'Ivoire, activities in Taï National Park were only interrupted for six months and around Marahoué National Park for two months. There were, however, several disruptions to projects as a result of the conflicts. For example:

- National Parks in the north of Côte d'Ivoire could not be included in certain components of some of the projects due to the division of the country, the difficult access and low security in the northern region.
- During the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, WWF moved its office from Abidjan to Accra Ghana. The move weakened the overall project management structure across the region.
- Civil conflict in Nigeria probably impacted the chances of conservation projects receiving funds. The violence and kidnapping of expatriates in the Niger Delta led to the surveys of southwestern Nigeria being restricted to areas outside the delta.

Studies have shown that donors are often more reluctant to provide funding during conflict situations (Shambaugh *et al.* 2001), and that humanitarian concerns take precedence over what is perceived as longer-term conservation concerns.

4. Collaborations

It was hoped that one of the benefits of the workshop would be for conservationists to meet colleagues working towards the same goal, and that this would in turn lead to more collaborations and therefore a more united and stronger force for conservation. In general, respondents felt that the workshop was a useful exercise in bringing together colleagues, but had difficulty citing collaborations that were formed as a result of the workshop. It is difficult to either measure the number of new collaborations, or to demonstrate that these collaborations resulted in better conservation on the ground.

5. Efficiency

It was also hoped that one result of greater communication and collaboration between colleagues, would be that there would be less overlap and redundancy between projects. This was also a difficult indicator to measure as there was little information about this prior to the workshop to do any before and after comparison.

6. Policy

There have been several major policy changes affecting chimpanzees in West Africa since the 2002 workshop and publication of the action plan. These, and the possible links to the action plan are discussed below.

In July 2007 Sierra Leone outlawed the capture and killing of chimpanzees and declared a one-month amnesty for anyone keeping a chimpanzee to give it to authorities. The fine for anyone violating the new regulations is US\$1,000 or jail.⁹ Several factors could have led to this change in policy. In April 2006, several chimpanzees escaped from the Tacugama Sanctuary killing a driver who was working for USAID, and seriously injuring two expatriots. It is possible that this incident prompted the government to address more seriously the problem of captive chimpanzees and the root causes of their capture from the wild.

A more likely cause of the change in policy was a review of Sierra Leone's wildlife laws by the Jane Goodall Institute and the Humane Society International (HSI) as part of a larger USAID-funded project. The review recommended that Sierra Leone take administrative steps to provide urgently needed protection to its endangered chimpanzee population. In terms of any link between the action plan and this change in policy, JGI, believe that the action plan had a “trickle down” effect in that its existence helped them to procure funding for this project, which in turn probably influenced the policy change.

The Liberia Forest Re-assessment Project succeeded in getting the Liberian Nimba Nature Reserve law passed in October 2003. This project, funded by the EC and Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, extended the protected area coverage of Liberia. A press release dated 13 November 2003 read “Protection of 155,000-Acres of Forest Areas to Protect Large Population of Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzee.”. However, two project personnel who responded to the questionnaire felt that this policy change probably had little to do with the chimpanzee action plan.

In Mali, the Bafing Faunal Reserve was upgraded and expanded in 2001-2002, but this was before and thus independent of the workshop and action plan. The new BBR consists of two national parks and a chimpanzee-specific faunal reserve.

In summary, the action plan at best may have had a positive influence on policy decisions by raising awareness and by providing background information for policy decisions. Most of the policy changes, however, were due to the hard work of individuals on the ground.

7. Mitigations

It seems that the action plan did not *stop* negative actions against chimpanzees and that many actions with negative consequences continued despite the efforts of conservationists in the region. Some examples provided by respondents of negative-impact projects in West Africa in the last 5 years are as follows:

- In Guinea, mining in Nimba and Pic de Fon area is still planned to continue

⁹ http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/07/25/sierraleone.chimps.reut/index.html?eref=rss_world.

- In Sierra Leone, the Bumbuna Hydropower Project (BHP) is nearing completion, and the reservoir basin is due to be filled starting April 2008.
- In Mali and Senegal, a major road-building project financed by the African Development Bank gained final approval and funding in 2002, and the project is now underway. The road will go through a BBR buffer zone in Mali (and along the edge of one of its component national parks) and traverse chimpanzee habitat in Senegal.
- In Mali, illegal logging has increased in the BBR since the area has become more accessible as a result of the road-building.
- In Senegal, mining companies have begun prospection for and exploitation of gold in areas where there are chimpanzees.

Many respondents were disappointed that the action plan did not seem to galvanize the necessary political will to prevent some of the above actions from occurring. Several respondents noted that what is needed is a stronger political force to save forested habitats for biodiversity and not for exploitation of resources such as wood and bauxite.

While it is true that the action plan not prevented these activities, it is possible that it has contributed to *mitigating* the impacts. The following are a few examples provided by respondents:

- The presence of chimps and the visibility of the Nimba chimps that the action plan promoted has been included in the (possible) design of the proposed Guinea Nimba Mountains Iron Mine. Environmental impact surveys specifically calling for information on the impact of activities on chimpanzees have been requested.
- An Environmental and Social Advisory Panel (ESAP) was formed to examine the impact of the Bumbuna Hydropower project. Chimpanzees were of particular concern to this panel and were singled out for a special impact survey because of their importance. As a result they proposed to ‘offset’ the habitat that will be lost at inundation by conserving an area of similar habitat elsewhere in Sierra Leone: the Loma Mountains. This proposition will be assessed by means of a biodiversity study and socio-economic assessment of the area. Participants in this survey indicated that the special concern shown to chimpanzees was a result of awareness created by the action plan. One respondent said that the recommendation for Loma Mountains to form an offset was more because of the overall biodiversity disruption being caused by the dam, than because of the action plan. However, another respondent said that chimpanzees were the main “thrust” of this plan.
- The Guinea Alumina project has requested a specific impact study for primates, and chimpanzees in particular, in Western Guinea.
- GRASP used the action plan as a tool to discuss minimizing the impact of a road being built near the Bafing Biosphere reserve with the African Development Bank.

It is possible therefore that although the action plan did not *stop* these activities, the increased visibility of chimpanzees brought about by the action plan may have helped to increase the likelihood that these negative-impact activities first assessed and then tried to at least mitigate or offset their impact on chimpanzees.

Comments on process

The above sections present measurements for different indicators of the impact of the action plan. The following summarizes the feedback received from respondents on preparation for the workshop, the workshop, the action plan and the follow-up after the action plan was published. Each of these stages was critical to the success of the action plan.

Preparation

A first draft of the SSAP was circulated in both French and English before the workshop. This was costly in that translation of the document therefore had to be done twice (again after the workshop for the final version). In addition, many people did not find time to review the document before the workshop. Several respondents commented that more could have been done in terms of preparation before the workshop. However, these comments were more concerned with the preparation for the “criteria” of selection for priority sites and several respondents suggested that a working group be formed prior to the workshop to develop these criteria (please see below).

Workshop

Many comments were received concerning participation at the workshop. Participants were selected to include the world’s experts on chimpanzee behavior, ecology and conservation in West Africa, as well as protected areas managers, local NGO representatives and government officials from range countries. Several respondents, however, questioned whether the “right” people had been selected. As is common in any region, there is often a high turnover rate in government positions in West Africa. While it is important to involve high level government officials so that the results of the workshop have a greater probability of being taken on board and implemented, several respondents also suggested that 1) more lower-level government officials should have been included (for whom there might be less turnover), and 2) more technicians from range-state countries should have been invited and not only political representatives. In addition, several donors expressed disappointment that they had not been invited. One donor suggested that it would be useful to split the workshop into several days of technical discussions, and then perhaps one day at the end of the workshop where donors and politicians were invited for the presentation of the results.

In terms of format, several respondents felt that the workshop was useful inasmuch as it brought together many key stakeholders and renewed momentum for chimpanzee conservation in the region. Some respondents felt however, that a better use could have been made of people’s time at the workshop. In order to achieve this it was suggested that more work be done *before* the meeting. Many criticized the development of the “criteria” used to select the priority sites and actions. It was suggested that a working group be set up prior to the workshop and the criteria for selection of priorities circulated before the workshop. During the plenary these criteria could have been evaluated and then applied. Several respondents felt that this would have ensured that the results would represent a “true” consensus. One respondent even felt that there was already a

“set agenda” and that the workshop was done in the “guise” of participation. It was pointed out that having workshop organizers and facilitators who worked in the region was not the best choice, as it made people suspicious of their motives, in listing their own sites as priorities.

Despite these criticisms, all respondents seemed to agree with the conclusions of the workshop and did not disagree with the priority sites and actions identified. Since publication of the action plans, some changes in priorities have been suggested, such as moving some former “unknown” areas to the top echelons of conservation priority since new information is available (i.e. Wologisi, Wenegisi, and Lofa) .

Action Plan Format

There were few suggestions for changes in format of the action plans themselves. While both the SSAP, as well as the RAP were produced for chimpanzees in West Africa, only the shorter RAP was produced for gorillas and chimpanzees in West Central Africa (Tutin *et al.*, 2005) and Cross River gorillas (Oates *et al.* 2007). It is important therefore to assess whether the extra input in terms of funding and time are useful in terms of producing both styles of plans.

Many donors found the concise Regional Action Plan (RAP) to be more useful. Since the RAP focuses on sites rather than countries, several respondents found better at giving an at-a-glance overview of the species status. Many people found action points in the RAP to be more specific, and found that it contained useful guides on implementing parties and costs. Some felt that the SSAP to be wordy and less direct. One respondent commented that the RAP feels much more “action-oriented”, whereas the IUCN/SSC Action Plan actually feels like a reference book. One donor however, found the IUCN/SSC Action the most useful in that it provided the detail of information that they needed to assess their proposals.

Most project managers found the IUCN/SSC Action Plan more useful because it provided more detailed information and it helped to put much of the relevant national issues in context. Most people commented that both action plans were important and believed the two to be complementary.

Follow-up

One respondent replied that for this action plan, as for many others, implementation/follow-up could have been improved if one or more organizations had, at the outset, made a commitment to assure that a wide range of recommended projects was implemented and monitored. Several donors did in fact specifically aim to fund follow-up activities from the workshop, such as USFWS, CEPF and the SGA. However, what was perhaps missing was one person or one organization to take the lead or to help to co-ordinate fundraising and implementation. Another idea suggested was to set up a working group that should meet regionally a year or two later to review progress and how priorities have changed.

One of the most difficult aspects of assessing the action plan was obtaining answers to the questionnaires. Individual project implementers are often extremely busy, and questionnaire formats are often daunting and time consuming. It would be good for any action plan in the future to determine a monitoring and evaluation strategy before the project commences. Project participants could discuss and agree on format and ideally agree to provide the required information. It would be beneficial to outline the importance of a subsequent evaluation so that

more responses are forthcoming when an evaluation is conducted. Participants would feel that they had a voice in improving the system. Finally, if there were improved leadership and greater communication following the workshop, this information would also be more readily available.

DISCUSSION

There has been an increase in the number of action plans produced for great apes over the last five years. This may be due to several factors. Action plans may be viewed as more important due to an increased awareness of the extreme vulnerability of these species to extinction and the need for imminent action (eg., Walsh *et al.* 2007). Perhaps there is greater recognition that individual site-based conservation projects are not enough to save species from extinction, and that unified concerted effort is now needed. It is also possible that there is a stronger belief that not everything can be saved and that conservation resources need to be concentrated in the highest priority sites and activities. However, critics may say that an increase in the number of action plans might merely reflect an activity that has become popular among conservation organizations and that this activity continues despite any real demonstration that action plans have a true impact on conservation activities on the ground.

Since the number of action-planning processes has increased, it would be helpful to have greater collaboration between those working on national and regional action plans. The IUCN action plans and the NGASPs already complement each other. GRASP states that “Whereas the IUCN plans provide scientific consensus and a regional approach to prioritization, the NGASPs are formal government policy documents, which are needed to increase government engagement in conservation. The NGASPs are also important in particular if they can be incorporated into national development planning and federal budget allocation processes. As a way of increasing collaboration between IUCN and GRASP, any future West Africa (or elsewhere) NGASPs should incorporate IUCN regional action plan priorities. On the other hand, IUCN regional plan proponents/actors should advocate for national-level ownership as much as possible (not just the international NGOs doing everything) and implementation of existing NGASPs.”

There is interest in producing action plans for the other species and subspecies of great ape. For this reason it is important to draw out lessons learned and recommendations for improving the action-planning process, so that future processes can benefit from this experience. The following, therefore, are recommendations and conclusions drawn from the above analysis.

Recommendations

1. **Discuss expectations *a priori*:** The expectations of what an action plan can achieve should be discussed *a priori* and at the workshop itself in order to avoid anticipation of unrealistic results and a role that the action plan is unable to fulfill. A discussion of expectations can also lead to a more targeted product and narrowed focus of the action plan and action-planning process. Questions should be asked as to whether the action plan should be aimed at increasing the amount of funding for conservation projects on the ground, or influencing policy, or mitigating the effects of extractive industries on the species habitat, or all of the above? Two action plans were produced for chimpanzees in West Africa: one targeted at donors, and the other providing more detailed information for conservation projects. Having two separate documents was more costly but allowed

more targeted products. There were, nonetheless, expectations that the action plan should have had a greater influence on policy or prevented road building or mining projects. A discussion and clarification of the role of the action plan should therefore take place at the outset.

2. **Disseminate the action plan proactively and/or aggressively.** Dissemination of an action plan should be strategically planned to maximize impact and facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the plan. In order for the recommendations to be influential, it is necessary that the action plan reach the right audience. Not only should conservation NGOs, donors, and relevant Ministries receive the action plan, but it should be sent to representatives in extractive industries, multilateral organizations and so on. Creating dissemination lists should be an integral part of an action-planning workshop, and workshop participants should list suggested contacts in order to promote the recommendations to a broader audience. With more aggressive dissemination, this could increase the likelihood that the document will have a greater effect on policy decisions and mitigation of negative activities on chimpanzee habitat.
3. **Integrate the recommended actions into broader initiatives:** The action plan may have been more effective had it been integrated into larger conservation-oriented initiatives that address a wider range of issues (environmental services, food security, climate change).
4. **Identify and promote leadership at both national and regional levels to assist with communication, coordination and fundraising and to act as a clearinghouse of information.** Having national and regional leadership could remedy many of the above criticisms of the action plan follow-up, and would facilitate communication between project implementers, aid in fundraising and lobbying of the private sector. Greater coordination and collaboration could also result in more funding being granted to non-American based organizations.
5. **Develop a mechanism to ensure greater “lasting power” of these action plans and to keep them "alive" in the political system of the range states.** Identifying a local player in each country and a regional representative to assume a leadership role in the conservation of chimpanzees would help tremendously to keep the document living, information updated, and to ensure that new members of government and agencies are aware of the existence of the plan. Another possible mechanism to keep the action plan up-to-date, would be to post information on-line and enable members to update information as it becomes available.
6. **Great care should be taken in the selection of the workshop participants to ensure technical representation from each range state in addition to political invitees.** Substantial effort needs to be made to find "key" people that count and can make a difference. Every effort should be made for participants to be those who are most dedicated to chimpanzee conservation despite their position and those who have “staying-power”.
7. **Attempt to pair regional discussions of priorities with national discussions of priorities.** Where possible, time should be given for development of lists of national

prioritization, planning, and coordination. Adequate numbers of participants from each country should be represented at the workshop to ensure that these discussions are possible.

8. **Develop a mechanism for utilizing the action plan to galvanize political clout.** As mentioned above, one of the most significant ways of doing this would be more aggressive dissemination and greater leadership for conservation activities in each country.
9. **Build greater flexibility into the action plan for new priorities and new projects to be incorporated.**
10. **Design a monitoring and evaluation strategy to assess impacts of the action plan *a priori*.** This way, baseline information can be collected before the action plan is produced, and participants can agree to provide information at a future date or as it becomes available. In addition a point person or organization, or task force could be named to compile information as it comes in and act as a clearinghouse of information for the species throughout its range. Having a focal point for information for each (sub)species would also facilitate the IUCN Red List assessments. Not only should the monitoring plan assess indicators, such as those listed in this report, but the assessment should address the question: “have the actions that have been implemented been successful in securing the survival and recovery of the species?”
11. **Fundraise prior to as well as after the workshop/publication of the action plan.** Background work for the action-planning process should include securing donor commitments to fund follow-up activities to the workshop. The immediate availability of funding would help maintain momentum after the workshop when the action plan is produced.

Conclusions

Some of the major findings of this assessment are as follows:

1. The action plan was appreciated as a good general source of information that was not easily obtainable elsewhere.
2. The action plan was used and referred to in writing proposals and may have contributed to increasing funding to the region.
3. The action plan did not *stop* certain large-scale activities that will have negative consequences for chimpanzees and chimpanzee habitat, but it may have been important in *mitigating* some of these activities.
4. The action plan had little effect in influencing policy.
5. The action plan was most effective in countries that already had good baseline knowledge of their chimpanzees, and who had greater capacity and infrastructure to receive funding.

To conclude, if the recommendations listed above are implemented, this would greatly increase the impact of a conservation action plan as a useful tool rather than just a background document. Leadership is the key to ensuring that an action plan is not just an academic exercise, but an instrument for action and change and the preservation of a species.

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Appendix I. Impact Assessment Questionnaire for Project Implementors

Project Information

Please could you provide a list of any projects on the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa that you are currently implementing or have implemented since September 2002 (- the date of the Abidjan workshop that led to the production of the action plan). This information will help us to determine how many of the projects have been implemented and how many still need to be addressed. Please could you include project name, date, location, amount of funding received, donors, collaborators and whether the activities were listed in the action plan (please see <http://www.primate-sg.org/> for list of projects in the action plan)

Please could you provide a list of any projects on the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa that you implemented in the five years previous to September 2002. This is the most time consuming part of this questionnaire, but it will help us to determine how much of an impact the action plan has had on conservation activities on the ground by comparing activities before and after the workshop.

Do you believe that the existence of the action plan helped you to receive funds for any of these projects? Please explain.

Do you believe that the workshop helped you to form new collaborations for projects working towards the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa? Please explain.

Policy Changes

Are you aware of any policies about chimpanzees in West Africa that have changed over the last five years? If yes, could you please explain? (For example, new laws against hunting chimpanzees, new policies about confiscating of chimpanzees etc.)

Do you think that these policy changes were in any way aided by the existence of the action plan? Please explain.

Mitigation and/or offsets

Do you believe that the existence of the action plan mitigated any negatives impact on chimpanzees? Please explain? (For example, preventing the building of a dam, the mining of an area, or the logging of a forest etc.)

Were there any other external factors that affected your ability to implement projects listed in the action plan (such as civil conflict)? Please explain and list which projects.

General

Please provide any suggestions you may have of ways in which the workshop, action plans, or follow-up from this project could have been improved. I would love to hear your suggestions and will include them in the report (anonymously). This will aid to guide the direction and methods used in future action-planning processes for other species of great apes.

Which action plan did you find more useful, the 1) *Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa*, or the 2) *West African Chimpanzees: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*? Please could you explain why?

Appendix II. Impact Assessment Questionnaire

Projects and Funding

1. Did you find the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa useful for your work?
2. If yes, in what way did the action plan help you?
3. Please could you provide a list of any projects on the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa that you are currently funding or have funded since September 2002 (- the date of the Abidjan workshop that led to the production of the action plan). This information will help me to determine how many of the projects have been implemented and how many still need to be addressed. If possible, please could you include project name, date, location, amount of funding given, matching funds and collaborators.
4. Please could you provide a list of any projects on the conservation of chimpanzees in West Africa that you funded in the five years previous to September 2002. This is the most time consuming part of this questionnaire, but it will help us to determine how much of an impact the action plan has had on conservation activities on the ground by comparing activities and amount of funding before and after the workshop.
5. Do you believe that the existence of the action plan encouraged you to give funds for any of these projects? Please explain.

Policy Changes

1. Are you aware of any policies about chimpanzees in West Africa that have changed over the last five years? If yes, could you please explain? (For example, new laws against hunting chimpanzees, new policies about confiscating of chimpanzees etc.)
2. Do you think that these policy changes were in any way aided by the existence of the action plan? Please explain.

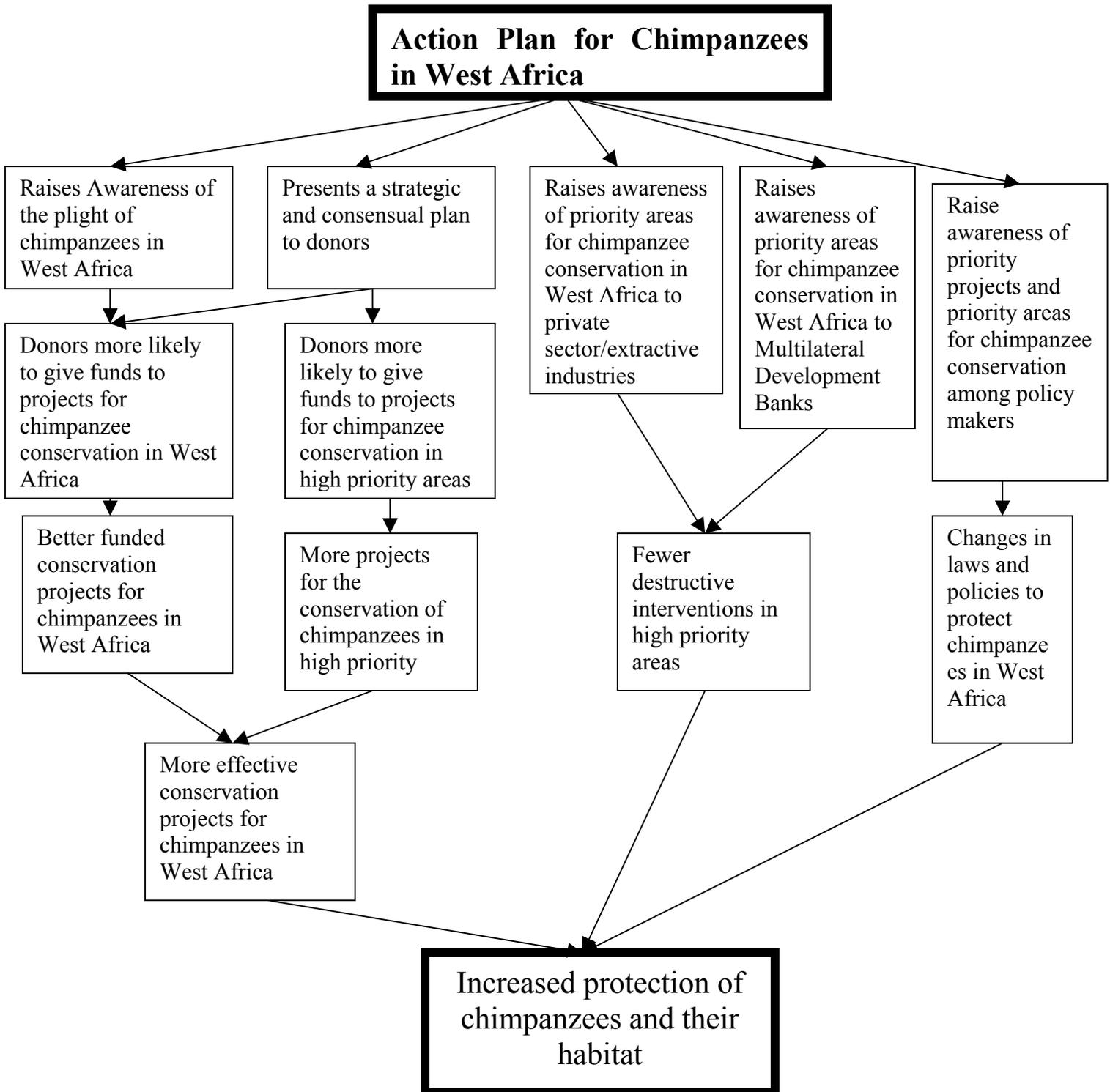
Mitigation and/or offsets

1. Do you believe that the existence of the action plan mitigated any negatives impact on chimpanzees? Please explain? (For example, preventing the building of a dam, the mining of an area, or the logging of a forest etc.)

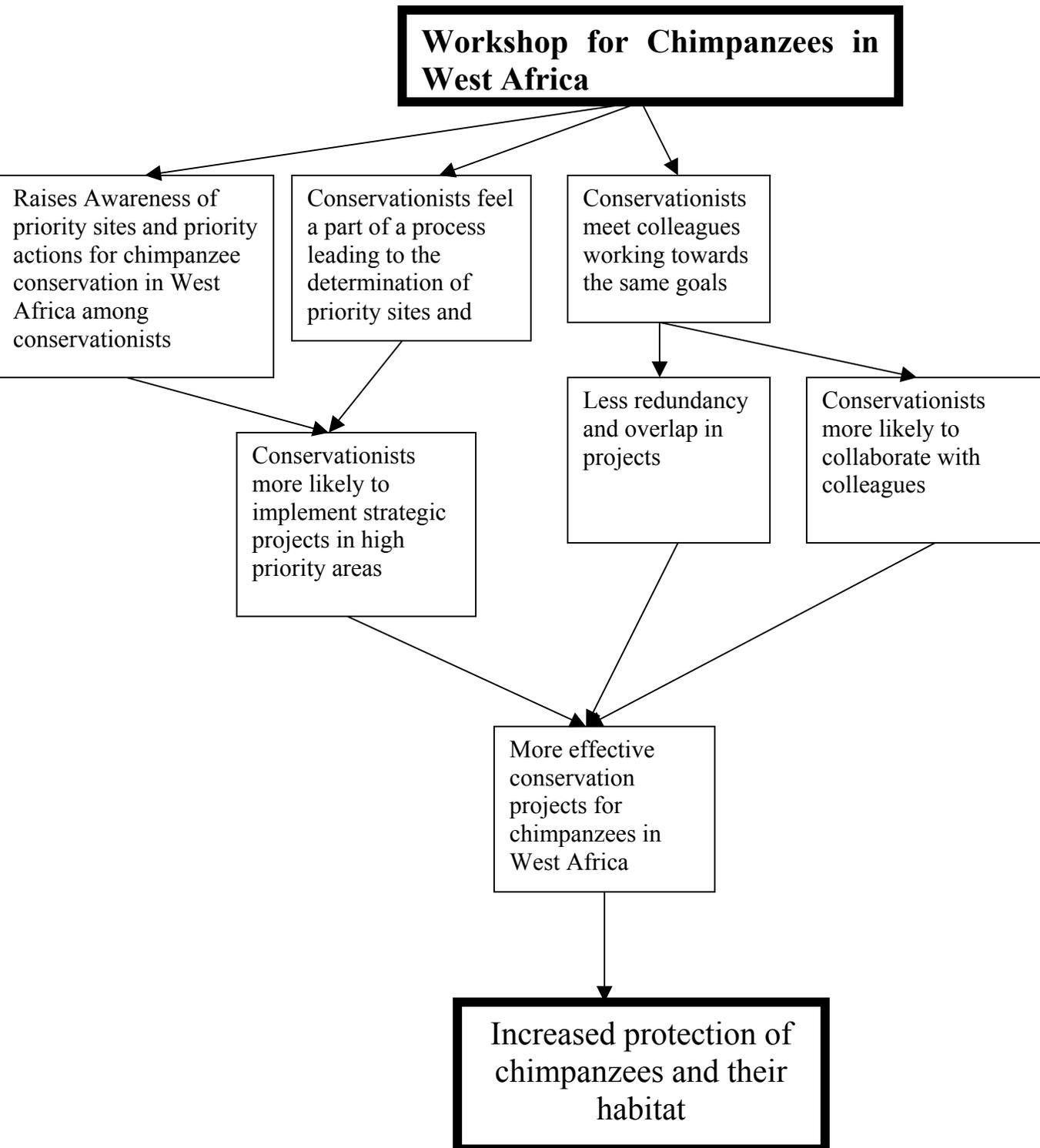
General

1. Please provide any suggestions you may have of ways in which the workshop, action plans, or follow-up from this project could have been improved. I would love to hear your suggestions and will include them in the report (anonymously). This will aid to guide the direction and methods used in future action-planning processes for other species of great apes.
2. Which action plan did you find more useful, the 1) Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa, or the 2) West African Chimpanzees: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan? Please could you explain why?

Appendix III. Results chain for the action plans



Appendix IV. Results chain for the workshop



Appendix V. Respondents to questionnaires

Aaron Brownell	USAID
Abdoulaye Barrie	National Environmental Consultant, Bumbuna Hydro Electric Project, Sierra Leone
Alex Peal	Conservation International, Liberia
Asami Kabasawa	University of Kyoto, Japan
Chris Duvall	Michigan State University
Christophe Boesch	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Cote d'Ivoire
Claudia Sousa	Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
Estelle Rallaband	CCC, Guinea
Hedwige Boesch	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Cote d'Ivoire
Janis Carter	Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project, Gambia
John Oates	CUNY University, USA
Kathelijne Koops	University of Cambridge, UK
Spartaco Gippoliti	Associate Editor Journal of Anthropological Sciences, Italy
Tatyana Humle	Kyoto University/University of Wisconsin
Tommy Garnett	Environmental Foundation for Africa, Sierra Leone
David Jay	UNEP-GRASP
Dirck Byler	USFWS
Ibrahima Camara	USAID
Jean-Michel Pavy	World Bank
Mathew Woods	UNEP-GRASP
Nina Marshall	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
Richard Ruggiero	USFWS
Rob Clausen	USAID
Jamison Suter	BHP-Billiton, Iron Ore, UK
Bourama Niagate	Direction National de la Conservation de la Nature, Mali
Souleye Ndjaye	Ministère de l'Environnement et la protection de la nature du Sénégal
Christina Ellis	WWF
Frans Lanting	Frans Lanting Studio, USA
Jean-Christophe Vie	IUCN
Lisa Pharoah	Jane Goodall Institute, USA
Liz Williamson	IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, Section on Great Apes
Norm Rosen	IUCN-CAMP/PHVA
Simon Stuart	IUCN/SSC - CI/CABS Biodiversity Assessment Unit, USA
Philip McGowan	World Pheasant Association, UK