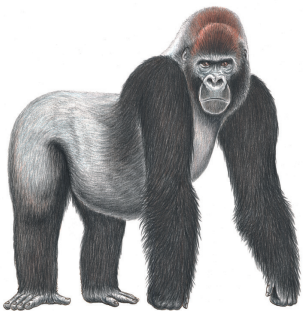




Great Ape Section (SGA) of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group

www.primate-sg.org

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Adult male western
lowland gorilla
(*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*)

The Great Ape Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group is a team of experts leading research on and conservation of the great apes. The role of the SGA is to promote conservation action on behalf of the great apes based on the best scientific information available. The SGA serves as a forum for discussion and information exchange; its members establish guidelines for best practice in research and conservation, formulate conservation action plans and advise on the effective protection of great ape populations in the wild.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, bringing together States, government agencies and a diverse range of NGOs in a unique world partnership which seeks to assist societies throughout the world to conserve the diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN has six Commissions, of which the **Species Survival Commission (SSC)** is the biggest. This network of volunteer scientists advises IUCN on the technical aspects of species conservation. Most SSC members are deployed in Specialist Groups focused on over 120 distinct species or species groups. The **Primate Specialist Group (PSG)** is concerned with more than 680 species and subspecies of monkeys, apes and lemurs, carrying out conservation status assessments and making recommendations on taxonomic decisions, which inform IUCN policy as a whole. The PSG produces a number of journals and newsletters, including *Primate Conservation*, *African Primates*, *Asian Primates Journal*, *Lemur News* and *Neotropical Primates*. The **Great Ape Section** of the PSG focuses exclusively on issues affecting the 13 taxa of bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans.



Central chimpanzee
(*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*)

The goal of the SGA is to prevent the extinction of the great apes by informing and supporting sound policy decisions by habitat countries. The SGA provides advice on effective conservation strategies based on current knowledge of the populations and distributions of the great apes and the many pressures that threaten their survival. As an integral aspect of this role, the SGA facilitates the exchange of critical information among primatologists and the professional conservation community.

With over 130 members—including some of the world's most distinguished and experienced great ape researchers—the combined expertise of the SGA spans the scientific, social and ethical aspects of great ape conservation, providing a comprehensive perspective on the challenges and solutions available.



In common with other Specialist Groups, the principle activities of the SGA are the following:

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Members of the SGA are responsible for compiling and reviewing Red List assessments for each great ape taxon; for making recommendations for any change in status and providing the necessary documentation in support of those changes. We compile the most up-to-date information available and evaluate population trends and threats to produce an assessment of each species and subspecies of great ape. Red List website: www.iucnredlist.org/

Status Survey and Conservation Action Plans

Members of the SGA have supported and helped to coordinate regional workshops focussed on bonobos, each subspecies of chimpanzee and three of the four gorilla subspecies. These workshops brought together researchers and conservationists, protected area managers and officials from range states, and the resulting Action Plans outline their consensus opinion on the priority sites and priority actions vital to the protection of great apes in those regions. All action plans are free to download at: www.primate-sg.org/action_plans/

Establishing guidelines for specific research and conservation practices

Drawing on expertise from within the IUCN network, the SGA produces best practice guidelines that provide guidance to field scientists, governments, donors and development organizations involved in great ape conservation. Topics covered to date include:

- Great ape tourism
- Monitoring and surveying great ape populations
- Reintroducing great apes to the wild from sanctuaries
- Reducing the impact of commercial logging on great apes in Western Equatorial Africa
- Conflict between humans and great apes
- Health monitoring and disease control in great ape populations (in preparation).

PDFs in English, French and Bahasa are available at: www.primate-sg.org/best_practices/

A.P.E.S. Portal

The IUCN/SSC Ape Populations, Environments and Surveys (A.P.E.S.) database is a joint initiative of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and the SGA. A.P.E.S. is a repository for survey data on great apes; a place to store information for monitoring populations and distributions that allows for the analysis of population trends and for well-informed priority-setting, hypothesis testing, and policy advice. The database is the foundation of the A.P.E.S. Portal, where information on species status, data availability and survey data gaps, geographic range, occurrence probability, threat and trends in occurrence is available and will be regularly updated. See: <http://apesportal.eva.mpg.de/>



Sumatran Orangutan
(*Pongo abelii*)



Bonobo
(*Pan paniscus*)

Contact

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Websites:
www.iucn.org
www.primate-sg.org