



## A Strategy for Conservation

The Great Ape Trust's mission makes conservation of great apes a priority, with special emphasis on in situ conservation (conservation in the wild). Our conservation strategy builds on long-term collaborative efforts and professional relationships of Great Ape Trust senior scientists in primate range countries. At present this includes Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh's collaboration with the Great Apes of Congo Center and the Bonobo Protection Fund in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Rob Shumaker's collaboration with the Balikpapan Orangutan Society in Indonesia, and Dr. Benjamin Beck's collaboration with the Associação Mico Leão Dourado (Golden Lion Tamarin Association) in Brazil. Support of Kyenjojo Alleviation of Wood Resources and Environment in Uganda is currently included as well. Summaries of this work appear in the Appendix.

### Types of Supported Activities

There are three general classes of activities that we fund.

Conservation Action: These are activities that directly increase the probability of survival of habitat and the species that live there, with sustainable co-existence with people that live there. Some common examples are salaries and equipment for rangers/guards who discover and eliminate illegal activities, reforestation programs, and community education programs.

Alternative Economies and Cultural Assistance: These are programs that provide respectful sustainable economic livelihoods to people living in these places as alternatives to extractive activities that threaten habitat and species. Some examples include tree farming (for reforestation, construction material, and fruit), goat and chicken farming, bee-keeping, crafts micro-industries, and ecotourism as alternatives to hunting, tree-cutting, and surface mining. Cultural assistance may include building and funding schools and medical clinics, and supporting higher education for people living in these places.

Conservation-Useful Science: Basic research activities conducted to increase our scientific knowledge of the primate biology and ecology, of the sociology and culture of the people who share nonhuman primate environments. The primary goal of the scientists conducting this research is to publish findings in the scientific literature and to train graduate students, but the research can be used to plan conservation action programs. Knowing the population size of bonobos, the identity and phenology of fruit

trees eaten by orangutans, foraging strategies and cognitive mapping, the inter-birth intervals of gorillas, the reproductive strategies of male chimpanzees, and methods of people to collect and use firewood, can all be good science and essential to conservation action. The mere presence of scientists in primate habitats can also discourage illegal, environmentally damaging activities.

Our preference is to fund an entire activity from start to finish, or to provide annual support for an ongoing activity, rather than to provide seed money to start a project whose completion will depend on subsequent support from Great Ape Trust or others, or to join with other contributors to fund a larger-scale project. We ordinarily do not contribute more than nominally to organizational maintenance or administrative costs. In simple terms, we fund activities with which Great Ape Trust can be distinctively identified, and which we can visit, see, touch and photograph. Our funded activity will ideally be part of a larger collaborative effort, but we want our signature on a discrete piece.

## Selecting Funding Targets

The primary mechanism by which we identify funding targets is by nomination by our own senior scientific staff. This is more efficient and cost-effective than some form of open competition, which is especially critical while the total amount allocated for conservation is relatively small. We don't see the full competitive panorama, we may not even see the best candidates, and we may overlook some promising start-ups. But this method allows us to build on tested professional relationships between our scientists and counterparts in primate range countries. It ensures a good fit between Great Ape Trust's mission and the conservation activities we support, and it allows quick application of funds after decisions are made.

When a member of the Great Ape Trust scientific staff identifies a project, she/he and collaborators prepare a written proposal and budget for review by the scientific staff (and perhaps in some cases by outside reviewers). The purpose of the review is not to approve or disapprove, but to provide feedback, often from different perspectives, that can strengthen the proposal, and to acquaint the entire senior staff with the plans of each individual scientist.

The proposal need not be encyclopedic but should provide enough background to allow those not familiar with the work to fully appreciate its significance and its place in conservation biology. It should provide a clear set of objectives, detailed methodology, and a set of specific performance measures that will allow later evaluation of effectiveness. These performance measures should be linked to real conservation accomplishments whenever possible (i.e. in addition to stating that "we will make 40 presentations on the dangers of eating primate bushmeat", there should be a measure such as "losses of apes due to commercial hunting in the area will drop by 40%"). A detailed budget (at this time requests should not exceed \$US10,000) and timeline should be included. The proposal should provide a set of references that point the way to additional information for those that are interested.

When the proposal is finalized, it will be distributed to all Great Ape Trust staff members so that we all are fully conversant with and invested in the conservation activities that we support. The proposal will also be the basis for communication with our membership and other external audiences about our conservation activities.

Since the Great Ape Trust budget follows a fiscal year format, the submission and review of proposals will occur annually.

Despite this strategically planned approach to conservation funding, we recognize that unanticipated opportunities and emergencies may arise during mid-cycle. We will reserve 10% of our annual conservation budget as an emergency reserve; allocations will be made by the Director of Conservation after consultation with Great Ape Trust senior staff.

## Accountability

This is a post-award process that helps us to decide if our support has been successful and effective. The GATI staff member and collaborator(s) will prepare an annual report on each funded activity. The heart of the report is restatement of the performance measures contained in the original proposal, and a detailed assessment of accomplishments on each measure, with special emphasis on those measures that reflect real conservation accomplishment. This can be supplemented with photos, educational materials, copies of scientific publications, copies of media coverage and other products. A staff member's new proposals will not be entertained until completed annual reports have been received on previously funded proposals. Annual reports will be circulated to all Great Ape Trust staff to stimulate internal communication and appreciation, and may be turned into newsletter copy, website content and media releases.

A site visit can be made by Great Ape Trust staff or a colleague(s), and is most productive if there is a checklist of the performance measures against which the visitor can make observations. Site visits are not a substitute for written annual reports, but the combination is a powerful evaluative tool. Site visits allow Great Ape Trust staff to personally meet the people, animals and work we are supporting. Site visits can also be an effective donor destination. The site visitor's journal and photos can be turned into newsletter copy and website material. But we can easily spend more on travel expenses for site visitors than we provided to fund the work.

The written annual report must also contain a complete accounting of expenditures, with some form of auditing or validation. Receipts must be provided upon request.

## Work Supported in 2003-2004

### Balikpapan Orangutan Survival Foundation – Indonesia (BOS-Indonesia) and the Balikpapan Orangutan Survival Foundation – USA (BOS-USA)

BOS-Indonesia and BOS-USA are both nonprofit environmental organizations that support conservation of orangutans and their habitats.

Specifically, BOS-Indonesia 1) supports the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry in the field of law enforcement 2) sponsors rehabilitation and reintroduction programs for confiscated orangutans on the island of Borneo 3) supports educational activities for school children, focusing on nature conservation and orangutans and 4) sets up new protected areas in Indonesia. BOS-Indonesia is also involved in preparatory work for setting up the new Meratus National Park, as well as efforts for a new debt for nature swap for an important swamp forest area where wild orangutans still have a chance to survive in the wild. BOS-Indonesia also works closely with local people to teach them better ways of land use that do not destroy or burn forests, while providing higher sustainable income.

BOS-USA is an independent U.S. nonprofit organization, formed to support orangutan conservation and to raise awareness of the plight of the orangutan. BOS-USA supports the following projects in the field:

**Wanariset Orangutan Rehabilitation Center**  
**Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project**  
**Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Center**  
**Project Hutan**

The Great Ape Trust has made contributions to BOS-USA for conservation education purposes and funded professional interactions for in situ conservation action and ethics for BOS-Indonesia. Additionally, Lead Scientist Robert Shumaker serves on the Science Advisory Board of BOS– Indonesia and the Advisory Board of BOS – USA.

### The Bonobo Protection Fund

The Bonobo Protection Fund (BPF) is a nonprofit foundation sponsored by Georgia State University and Dr. Kuroda's research team from Kyoto University. BPF was established over 10 years ago by Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh and Dr. Kuroda. It supports educational programs for elementary school, high school and college age students in Kinshasha. It also supports educational programs for the local village of Wamba in the Congo and surrounding areas. BPF is responsible for the translation of several hundred popular and scholarly articles on bonobos into Lingala, thus making the information in them available to the local people. BPF has operated a conservation office in Kinshasha for the past 4 years. BPF distributes conservation information on all three species of African great apes. It also makes internet service available to anyone wishing to learn more about conservation. It has distributed laminated copies of the most important of these articles in both Kinshasha and at the Wamba research and conservation site. In addition, BFP provides funds for conservation missions to this area and assists local villagers in the maintenance of a large network of trails, many on stilts across swamps, so that bonobo groups in the area can be followed and protected. This

site has been developed and maintained by the Japanese research team initially headed by Dr. Kano and now headed by Dr. Idani.

The Bonobo Protection Fund has maintained these efforts even during the periods of civil war in the Congo. These efforts, in conjunction with the Japanese researchers' trips to the site, are largely responsible for the fact that bonobos still exist in large numbers in the Wamba area. The local protection efforts were the result of the combined impact of the conservation and research programs conducted in this area. Local people widely recognize both the conservation and economic value of the bonobos for their villages. BPF has been responsible for a decrease in consumption of apes as food in both Kinshasa and in Wamba and has partnered with WWF and BCI on a number of conservation projects.

## Golden Lion Tamarin Reintroduction

Great Ape Trust is joining the Frankfurt Zoological Society as a supporter of the reintroduction of golden lion tamarins (GLTs). Benjamin Beck, Great Ape Trust Director of Conservation, has served as coordinator of this program in Brazil since 1983. During those two decades, 153 GLTs drawn from zoos and research centers from more than a dozen countries on three continents have been reintroduced into remnants of Brazil's Atlantic Coastal Rainforest. The reintroduced GLT population reached 550 in 2003, due to reproduction. This is more than one-third of all GLTs now living in the wild in Brazil. These GLTs live in the Poço das Antas Biological Reserve (created specifically to save the last wild GLTs) and on 26 privately owned ranches surrounding Poço das Antas. These ranches constitute more than a third of protected habitat available for wild GLTs and all of the other animals and plants that make up this ecosystem.

A major challenge at this juncture is to link up the Reserve and all of these isolated ranches so that wild and reintroduced GLTs can move freely and interbreed. An ambitious program to plant interlinking corridors of native trees is underway and monitoring the use of these corridors by the reintroduced population is a new initiative for the reintroduction team.

Another change is that while we will continue to try to monitor individuals and groups in the reintroduced population, we are purposively embarking on a five-year plan that will change our emphases from intensive behavioral data collection of provisioned groups with known composition, to population-wide monitoring of less habituated groups whose composition will be recorded twice per year. This has become the only cost-effective option for tracking the size and distribution of such a rapidly growing population. GIS/GPS technology is being used to follow the GLTs' habitat use and changes in the area of available habitat.

## Kamwenge Alleviation of Wood Resources and Environment

Great Ape Trust contributes to the Kamwenge Alleviation of Wood Resources and Environment (KAWRE), a three-year project in Uganda. Only 40% of forest/woodland in

Uganda is formally protected. The balance is privately or publicly owned and forest cover is being rapidly depleted for charcoal manufacture, harvest for construction beams, and clearing for grazing. Reforestation is virtually non-existent and demand is increasing. The resultant pressure on protected areas impacts a variety of forest-dwelling wildlife, including chimpanzees and gorillas. KAMRE's goals include 1) survey of all remaining tropical high forest, 2) community needs assessment for wood resources, 3) public education concerning forest conservation, reforestation, and sustainable use, 4) priority reforestation of selected sites suffering serious erosion, fuel wood shortage and water shortage due to clear-cutting, 5) enlistment and training of local residents for tree nursery care, tree planting and care, and tree species selection, 6) mobilization in local communities for long-term forest conservation and regeneration, with 7) special involvement of disadvantaged groups (women, disabled, young people, HIV/AIDS sufferers). The research and community training is conducted primarily by staff of the Makerere University Biological Field Station. Great Ape Trust contributions support KAMRE, a local NGO founded by Babiha John and currently coordinated by Tinka John. KAMRE is a group of local stakeholders (e.g. park managers, agriculturalists, women's groups, ecotourism operators, local officials) whose implementation efforts complement the technical efforts of the Field Station. There are measurable outputs, and future support will depend on progress toward these goals.