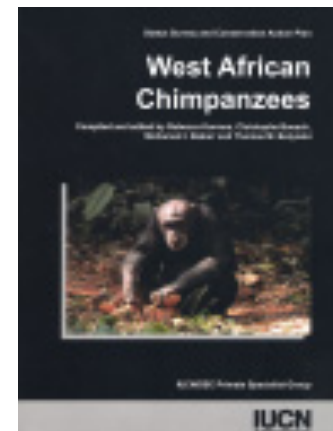
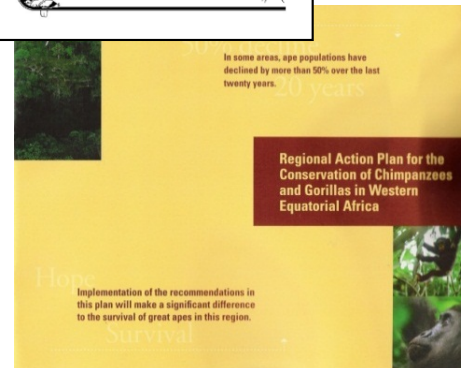
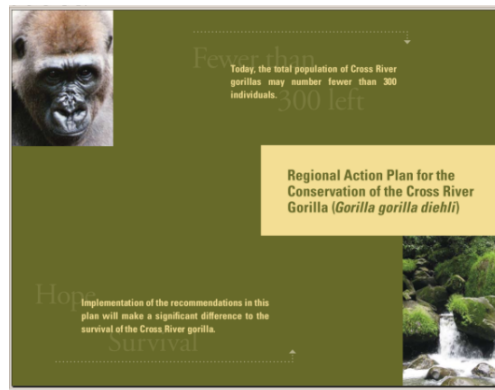
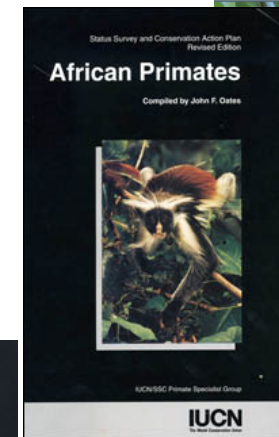
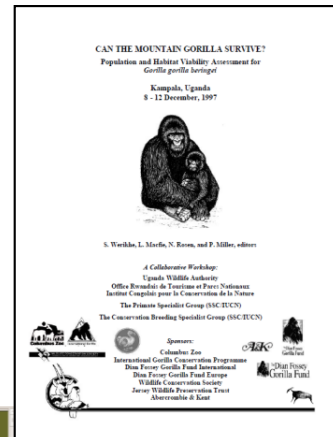
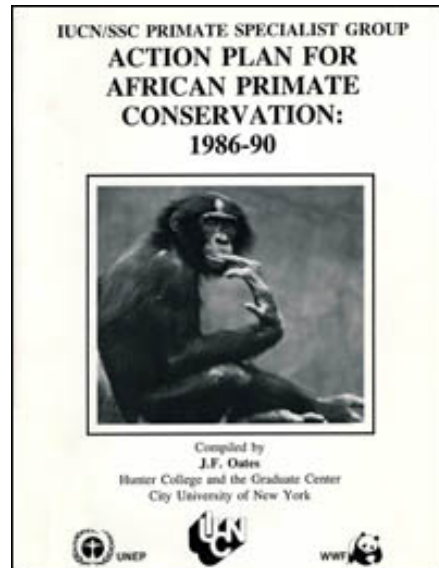


# Do primate conservation action plans work?



B. J. Morgan, A. Dunn, M. K. Gonder, R. Kormos,  
F. Maisels, A. Nicholas, J. Sunderland-Groves and  
E. A. Williamson

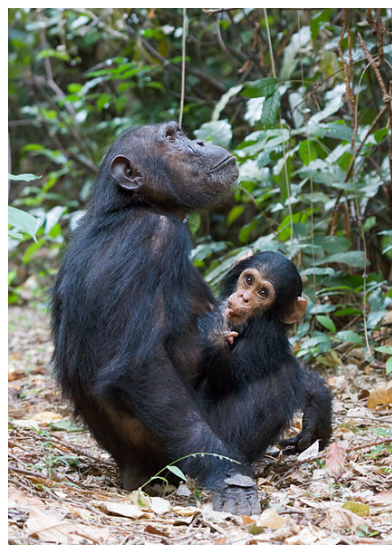
# What are conservation action plans?

A consensual list of activities that, if implemented in specific, often priority sites, should stem the decline in the numbers and/or distribution of the taxon in question

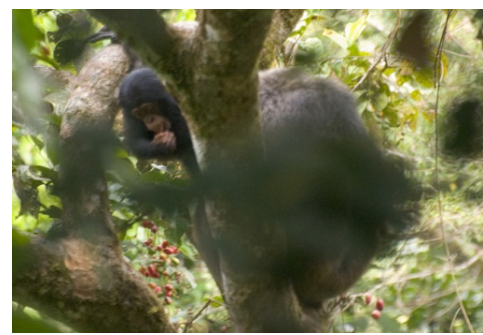
- Brief history of conservation action plans
- Development of action plans
- Structure of action plans
- How do we evaluate effectiveness ?
- Moving forward – suggestions and recommendations for future action plans



*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*  
central chimpanzee



*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*  
eastern chimpanzee



*Pan troglodytes ellioti*  
Nigeria-Cameroon  
chimpanzee



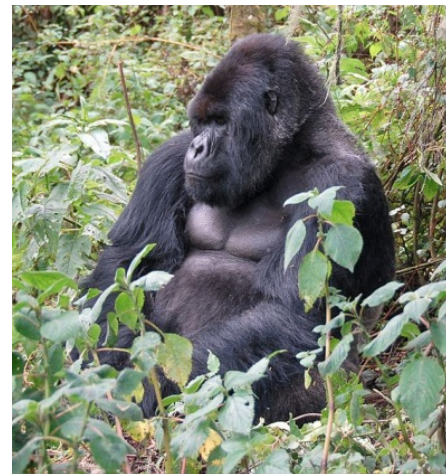
*Pan paniscus bonobo*



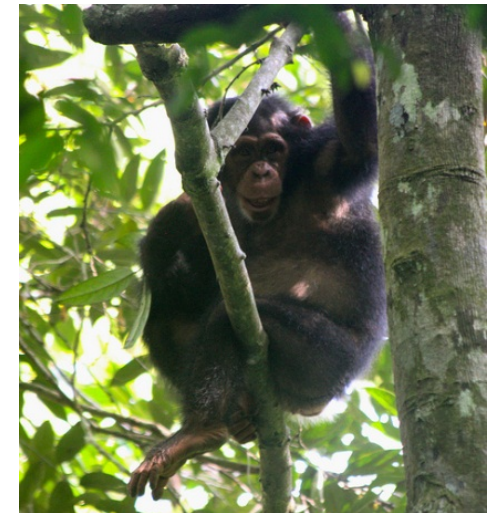
*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*  
western lowland gorilla



*Gorilla beringei graueri*  
Grauers gorilla



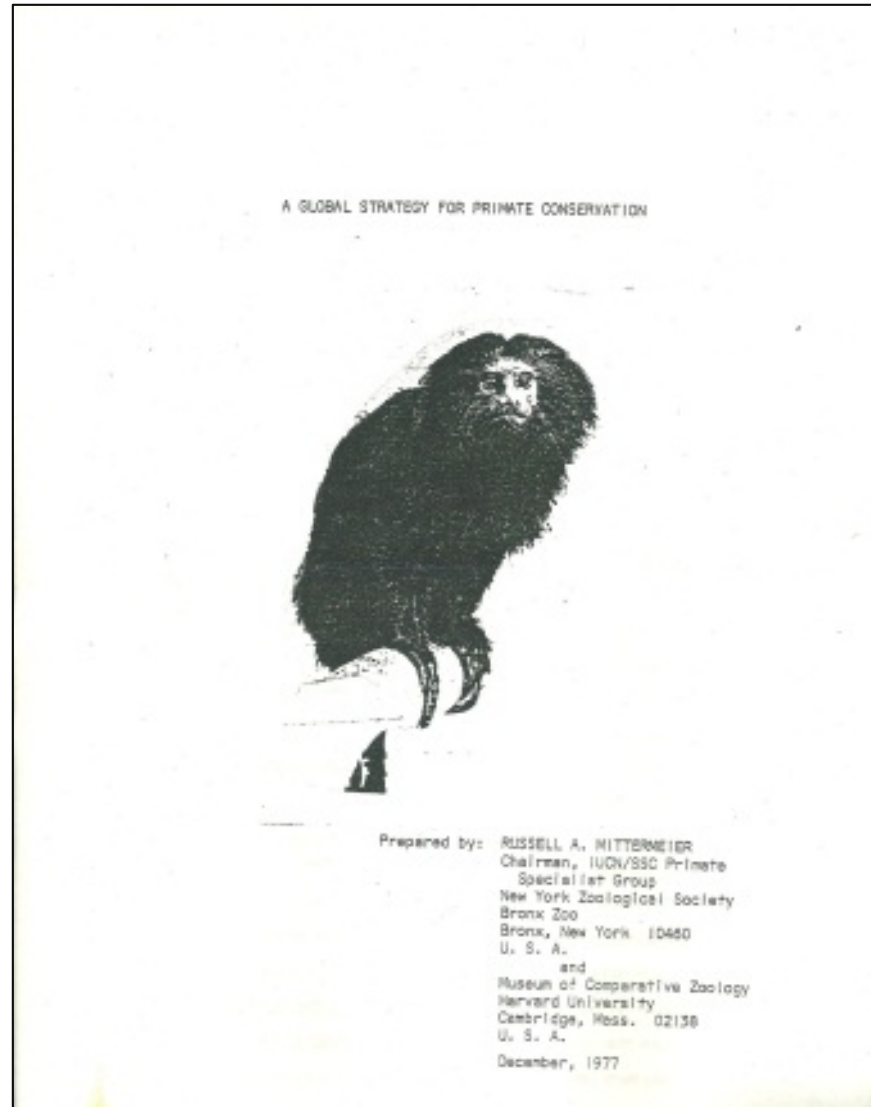
*Gorilla beringei beringei*  
mountain gorilla



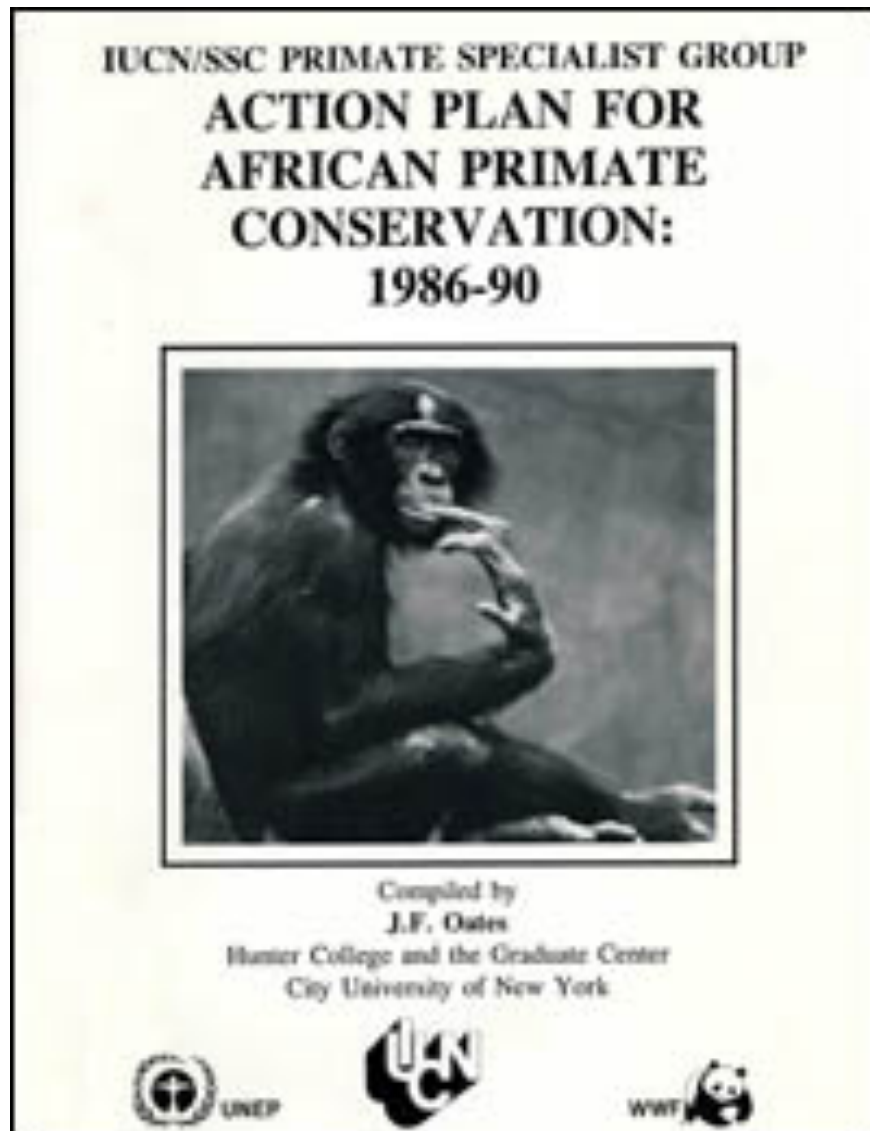
*Gorilla gorilla diehli*  
Cross River gorilla

# History of ape conservation action plans (1)

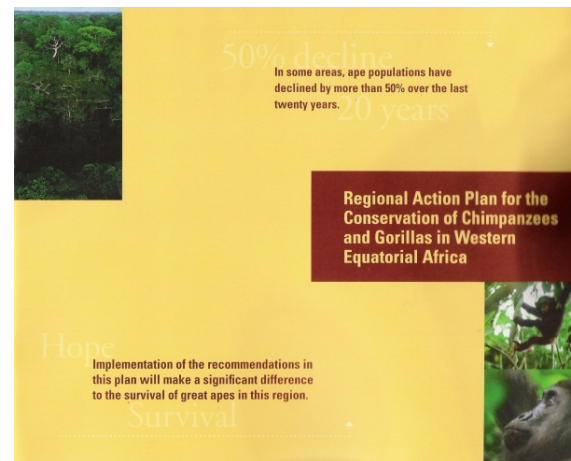
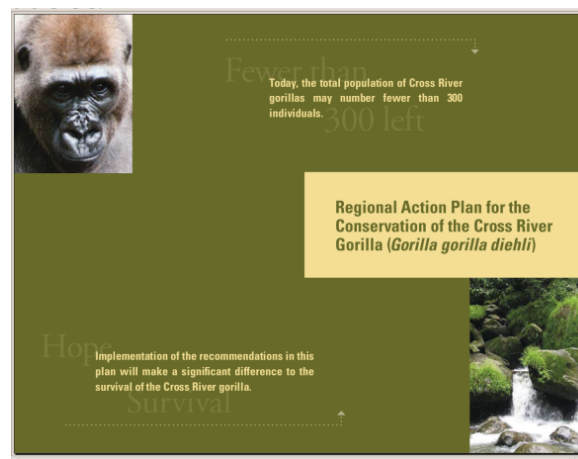
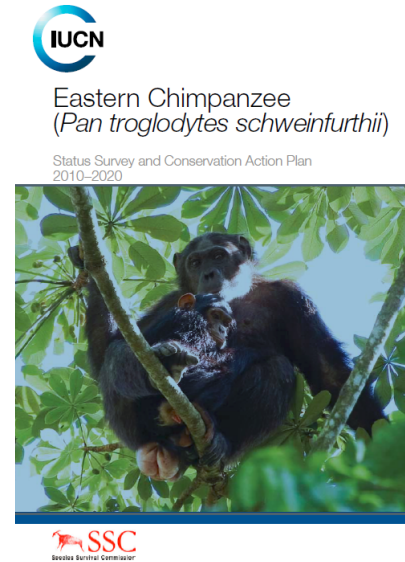
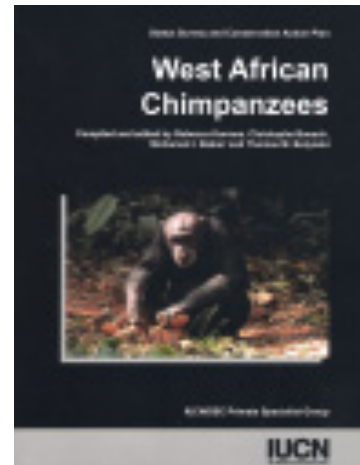
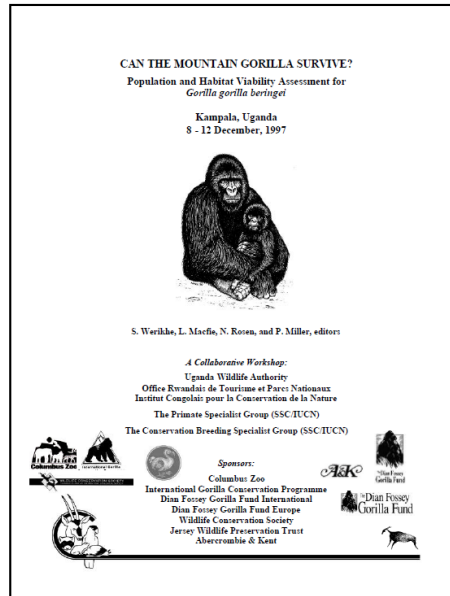
## A Global Strategy for Primate Conservation (1977)



# History of ape conservation action plans (2)



# Regional, taxon-specific plans (1993 →)



# How are action plans developed?

- Consensus that it is necessary and will be used
- Grant writing
- Workshops
- Drafts
- Publication!
- Distribution....
- (Monitoring/evaluation)
- Repeat the process, updating as necessary

# What do action plans contain?

- Definition and identification of priority sites
- Priority actions at specific sites (e.g. anti-poaching, habitat protection)
- Identification of sites needing (more) surveys
- Non-site specific priority actions (e.g. research/health/tourism)
- Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA)
- Financial needs – 4 of 7 plans:
  - West African chimpanzees \$9 million
  - Western Equatorial African chimpanzees and gorillas \$30 million
  - Cross River gorillas \$4.6 million
  - Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees \$14.7 million

# **How might we evaluate the effectiveness of the action planning process?**

- The degree and quality of information provision
- The extent of implementation of priority actions
- The success in raising funds from new sources and increasing overall funding levels
- Evidence of policy changes and threat mitigation
- Measure improvements related to increased collaboration and efficiency between stakeholders

# Evaluations of regional action plans

- *Pan troglodytes verus* (Kormos 2008, unpublished report to SSC/PSG and Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund) 35 questionnaires analysed from 75 workshop participants
- *Western Equatorial Africa - Gorilla gorilla gorilla and Pan troglodytes troglodytes* (Maisels 2011, unpublished report to WCS, IUCN & CMS) 27 people commented on progress with priority actions. No action had been taken at some sites. No evaluation of fundraising success.
- *Gorilla gorilla diehli* (Dunn, Nicholas, Sunderland-Groves, unpublished excel spreadsheet) Workshop participants commented on specific actions. No evaluation of fundraising success. No review for several actions.

**Do action plans work?**

**Are action plans worth  
the time and effort of  
their development...?**

# Are action plans worth the time and effort of writing? – **Yes**

- Action Plans consolidate often disparate and unpublished information
- Action Plans may contribute to improvement in collaboration and information sharing between stakeholders, stemming from the workshop process
- They lead to implementation of priority actions
- Funding agencies use IUCN-endorsed plans for assurance that their funds are being directed to tackle the highest priority conservation issues, which should then receive highest chances of being funded

# Are action plans worth the time and effort of writing - **No?**

- They are expensive to develop and write
- They may contribute towards a culture of feigned action
- Unless they are updated frequently, stakeholders may be liable to overlook commitments
- If costs of actions are stressed, some stakeholders may not feel capable or motivated to implement actions
- If those who use an action plans are unconvinced of its efficacy, alternative methods should be sought to bring solutions

# Recommendations for future plans

- Ensure that conservation decision-makers are fully engaged and officially endorse the action-planning process
- Priority actions need to be, as far as possible, very specific
- Reconsider the wisdom of estimating the costs of priority actions
- Find a way to remind conservation decision-makers of the action plan
- Develop ‘living’ action plans, through updating information online
- Build in some degree of action-based evaluation of progress from the start
- Consider audiences who have the power to mitigate damaging activities
- Consider the overlaps with other conservation priority sites
- Declare ‘no-go’ zones
- Prioritise professional development of early career in-country conservationists
- Consider adopting a champion/coordinator for each region or ape subspecies
- Consider establishing a seed fund for each region/subspecies

# THANK YOU

**John**, the flagship ape, for encouragement, and for improving the ape conservation action plans in Central and West Africa through critical thinking and unwavering attention to detail

**Everyone who has contributed to the development or/and implementation of an action plan**

**Anthony Rylands and Russ Mittermeier** for supporting the process and publications

