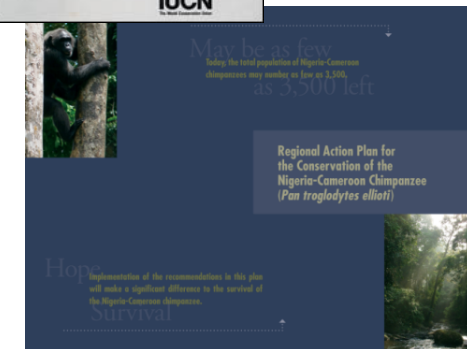
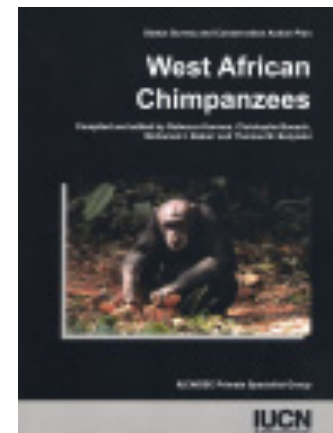
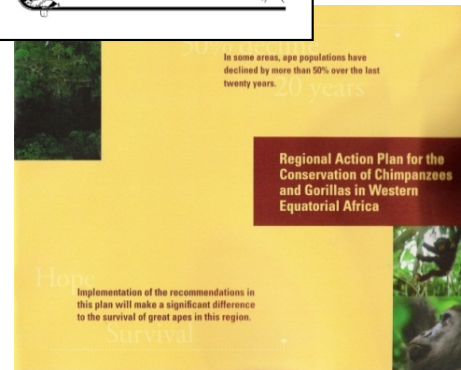
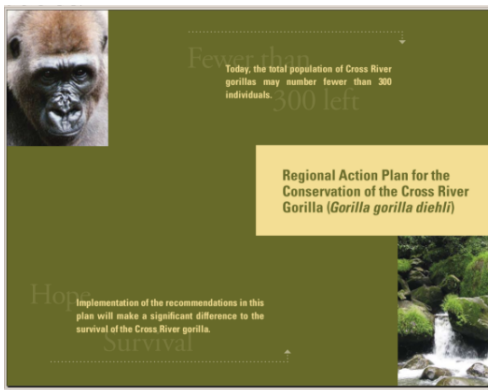
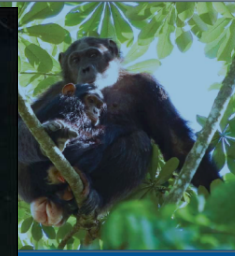
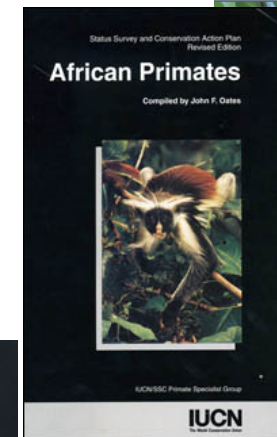
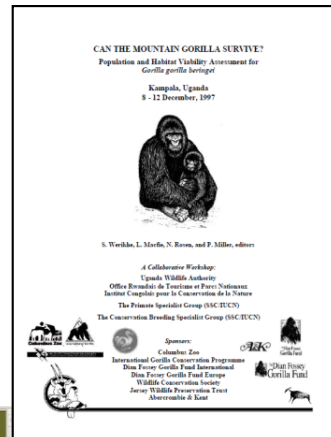
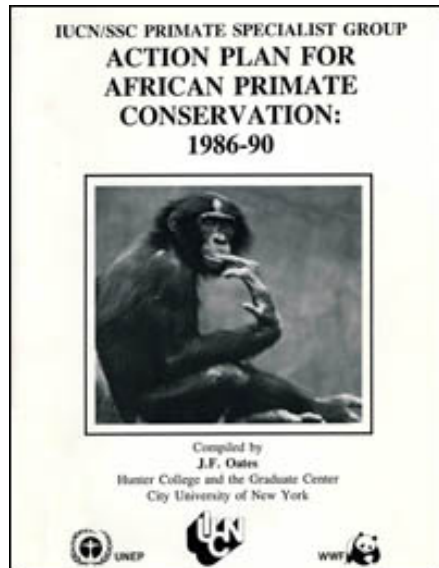


Do primate conservation action plans work?



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

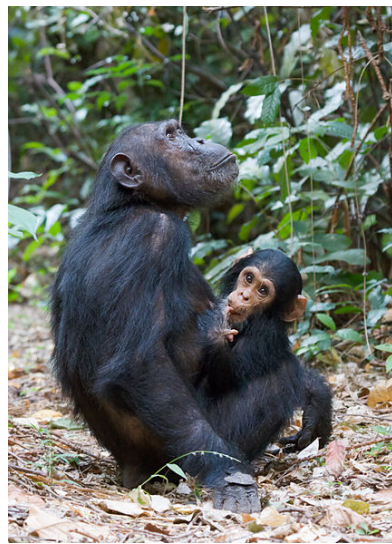
What are conservation action plans?

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

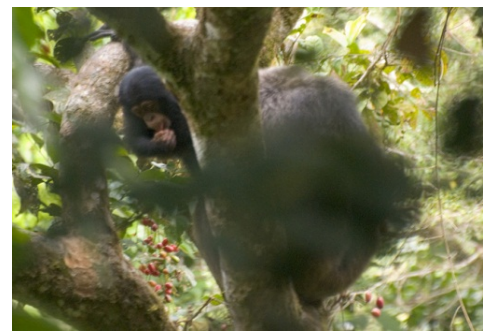
- Brief history of conservation action plans
- Development of action plans
- Structure of action plans
- How do we evaluate effectiveness ?
- Moving forward – suggestions and recommendations for future action plans



Pan troglodytes troglodytes
central chimpanzee



Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii
eastern chimpanzee



Pan troglodytes ellioti
Nigeria-Cameroon
chimpanzee



Pan paniscus bonobo



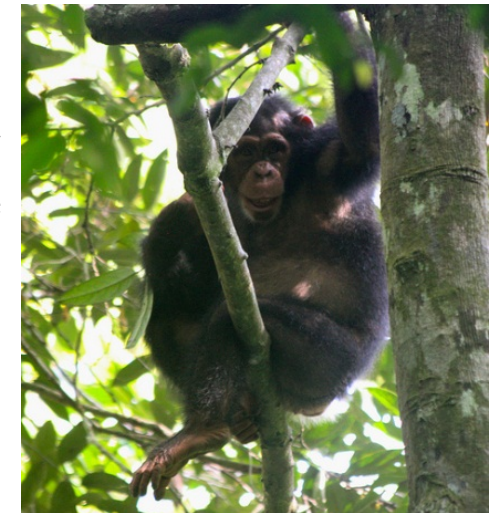
Gorilla gorilla gorilla
western lowland gorilla



Gorilla beringei graueri
Grauers gorilla



Gorilla beringei beringei
mountain gorilla



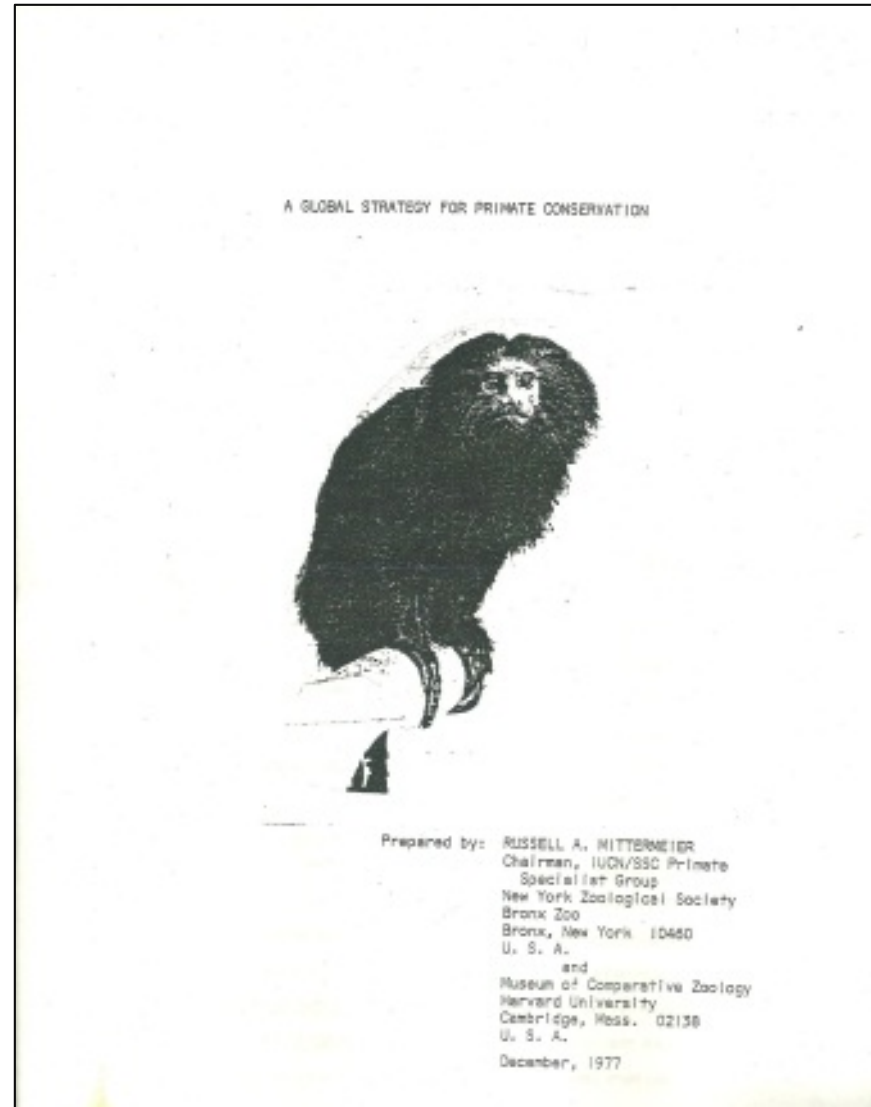
Pan troglodytes verus
western chimpanzee



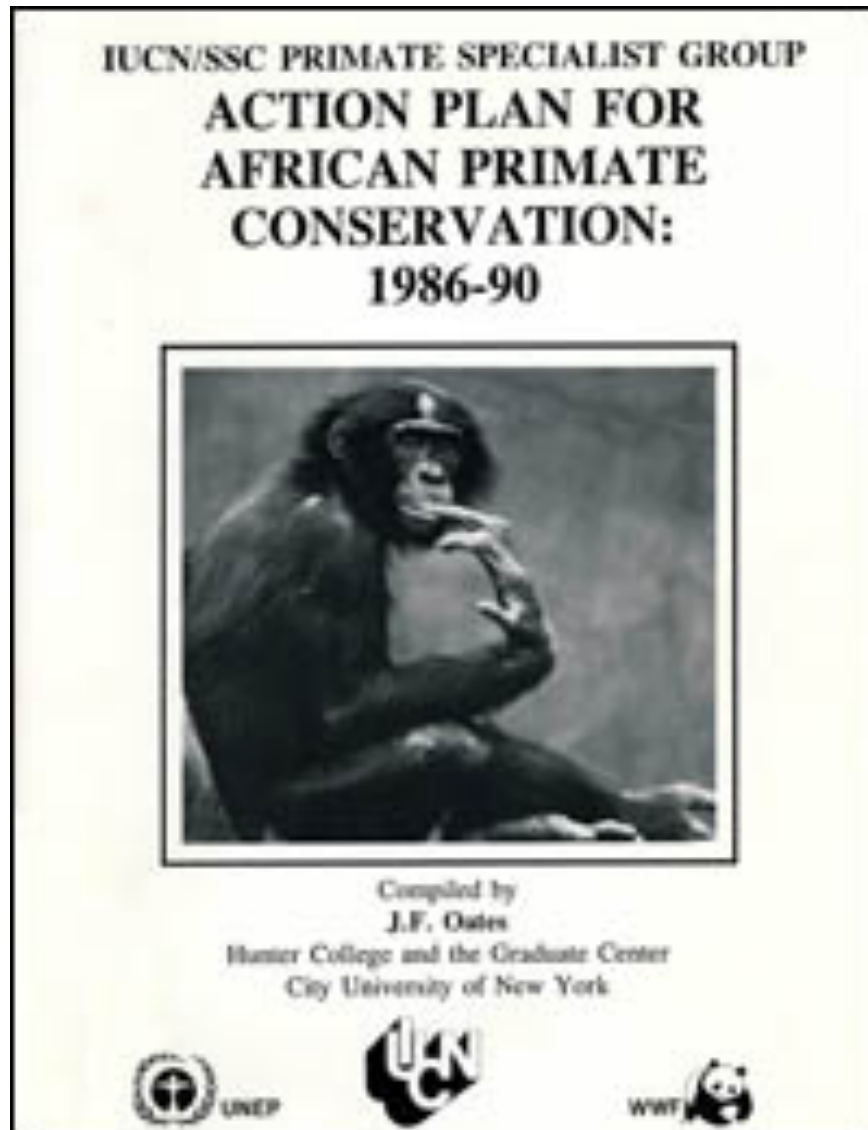
Gorilla gorilla diehli
Cross River gorilla

History of ape conservation action plans (1)

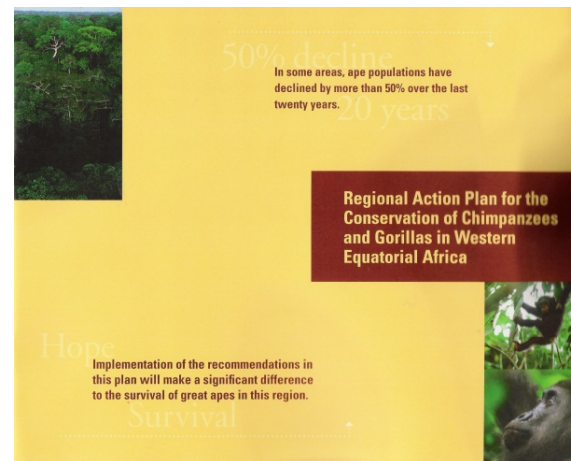
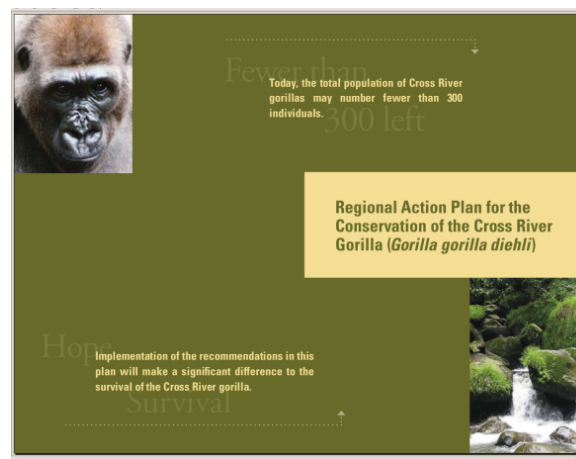
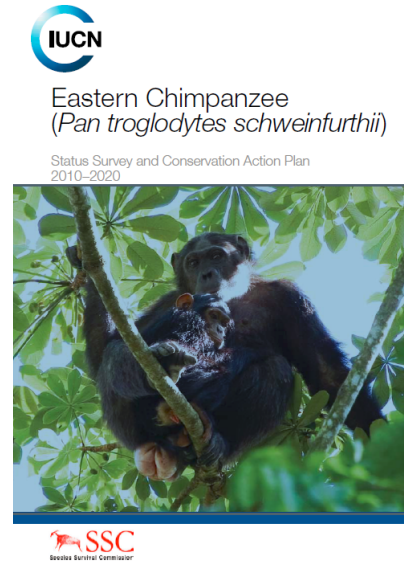
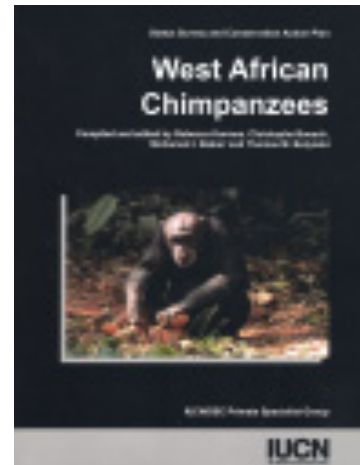
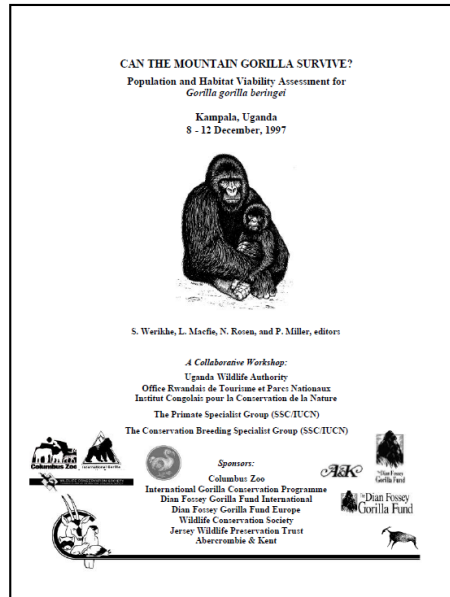
A Global Strategy for Primate Conservation (1977)



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

