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Great Apes and Logging: WWF recommendations

Recommendations for governments of timber producing countries

- **Adopt efficient land-use planning resulting in a land-use mosaic consisting of networks of effectively protected areas linked with FSC-certified industrial concessions and community owned forestry operations.**

Governments should ensure effective land-use planning which results in a well-designed landscape mosaic linking of national parks and FSC-certified concessions and community forests in order to create the large areas necessary to hold a viable population of great apes. Management of the national parks, concession areas and community forests must be aligned for effective result.

- **Create the enabling environment for increased FSC certification**

Governments should promote FSC certification of concession holders by making it a prerequisite for obtaining and keeping concession permits.

- **Enforce existing laws on poaching and illegal logging.**

All great ape range countries have laws prohibiting the killing and trafficking of great apes. However, capacities for law enforcement in the field are woefully inadequate. In many cases when poachers are caught committing crimes against protected species including great apes, they frequently are released unpunished. Part of the concession fees paid by logging companies should be utilised to enforce anti-poaching laws. Moreover, governments should further support field level law enforcement efforts by ensuring swift, effective judiciary process.

Recommendations for governments of timber consuming countries

- **Implement strict policies regarding responsibly produced timber.**

The Dutch Government has the ambition that from 2010 onwards 100 percent of their purchases and tenders are sustainable. This ambition is set for all purchases including timber. Similar ambitions should be expressed by all consuming countries based on the knowledge that failure to do so will not only lead to further demise of great apes and biodiversity in general, but will eventually threaten future supply. It is important that not only ambitions are stated; results and progress should be measured and evaluated regularly.

- **Stimulate the use of lesser known, certified timber species.**

In a responsibly logged area, small numbers of many different tree species are logged. Provided that the outtake doesn't increase this method ensures that the composition of the biodiversity in the forest remains unaltered. Markets, however, are accustomed to large volumes of only a few select species. A shift towards new species can be brought about by the use of these species in governmental projects. Another way to stimulate the use of new timber species is to finance research in the (applicable) traits of these timber species.

Recommendations for forest companies

- **Pursue FSC Certification.**

Several organisations - e.g. The WWF Global Forest Trade Network (GFTN) - can provide assistance to help forest companies pursue FSC-certification in a stepwise approach.

Participation in the GFTN can strengthen the competitive advantage of forest companies through for example new and strengthened links to markets and business partners; higher rates of efficiency and environmental performance; and reduced business risks

- **Effectively control illegal logging and poaching as well as trade of bush-meat.**

This can be achieved by controlling timber transporters, closing roads into logging areas as well as contributing to the well-being of workers and local communities; and avoid new non-traditional urbanisation in concession areas. WWF has produced a full set recommendations on how the FSC guidelines in the Congo Basin could be improved to ensure great apes are not threatened by logging activities. These will shortly be available at www.panda.org

Recommendations for retailers and consumers of forest products

- **Actively prioritise the FSC-brand while purchasing wood-based products**

If you cannot find FSC-labelled product put pressure on your suppliers/retailers to provide such products.

- **Be willing to use and promote lesser known, certified timber species.**

In a responsibly logged area, small numbers of many different species of trees are logged. This ensures that the composition of the biodiversity in the forest remains unaltered. Markets, however, are accustomed to large volumes of only a few select species. Companies and consumers can bring about a shift towards new species by using these species in their own projects.

Recommendations for FSC

- **FSC should ensure that certified operations thoroughly fulfil the FSC requirements**

This is best ensured through high-quality auditing of FSC accredited certification bodies using well trained and skilled auditor.

- **FSC should ensure high quality standards**

FSC should ensure that the revised Principles and Criteria as well as national and/or interim generic standards ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and protection of rare and threatened species, particularly those requirements related to sustainable hunting and the control of illegal activities such as trading of bush-meat. WWF has produced a full set recommendations on how the FSC guidelines in the Congo Basin could be improved to ensure great apes are not threatened by logging activities. These will shortly be available at www.panda.org