

State of the Apes 2013

Extractive Industries and Ape Conservation

Current dominant thinking and practice in the private and public sectors continually assert that peoples' development needs are in conflict with, or mutually exclusive to, the need to conserve the biosphere on which we depend. Consequently, we are asked to either diminish development in the name of conservation or diminish conservation in the name of development. Efforts to identify complementary objectives, or mutually acceptable trade-offs and compromises indicate, however, that this does not always have to be the case. *Extractive Industries and Ape Conservation*, the first volume in the new *State of the Apes* series draws attention to the evolving context within which great ape and gibbon habitats are increasingly interfacing with extractive industries.

Aimed at a broad range of policy makers, industry experts and decision makers, academics, researchers, and NGOs these publications aim to influence debate, practice and policy, seeking to reconcile ape conservation and welfare, and economic and social development, through objective and rigorous analysis.

State of the Apes

Series editors

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The world's primates are among the most endangered of all tropical species. All great ape species – gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo and orangutan – are classified as either Endangered or Critically Endangered. Furthermore, nearly all gibbon species are threatened with extinction. Whilst linkages between ape conservation and economic development, ethics and wider environmental processes have been acknowledged, more needs to be done to integrate biodiversity conservation within broader economic, social and environmental communities if those connections are to be fully realized and addressed.

Intended for a broad range of policy makers, industry experts and decision makers, academics, researchers, and NGOs, the *State of the Apes* series will look at the threats to these animals and their habitats within the broader context of economic and community development. Each publication presents a different theme, providing an overview of how these factors interrelate and affect the current and future status of apes, with robust statistics, welfare indicators, official and various other reports providing an objective and rigorous analysis of relevant issues.

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Extractive Industries and Ape Conservation





CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore
 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107067493

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First published 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-06749-3 Hardback
 ISBN 978-1-107-69621-1 Paperback

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Foreword

Apes, including gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans and gibbons, inhabit tropical forests across Africa and Asia. The alarming rate at which these forests are disappearing, due to deforestation and land degradation, is cause for global concern. Forest loss is one of the factors linked to climate change, which is resulting in a range of impacts on our planet. Forests also secure a host of important ecosystem services, as well as providing a habitat for a rich biodiversity of species. Charismatic species such as apes can act as ambassadors for these important forests. Apes also serve to illustrate our link to all other species on this planet. The shared evolutionary linkages between humans and non-human apes, and the similar genetic make-up and physiology are evident in our shared behaviors and intelligence. The conservation and protection of apes is of paramount importance as we look to secure the futures of humans, biodiversity and the planet.

The 2013 *State of the Apes* report is the first in a series, and unprecedented not only in its presentation of the current status of great apes and gibbons globally but also in demonstrating our understanding of how the survival of apes is impacted by extractive industry practice. The report discusses the relationship between global, national and local processes that interact with extractive industry activity and ape conservation. It presents an overview of our current understanding of the impacts of extractive industries on ape communities, acknowledging that a fundamental shift in approach is required, one that recognizes the importance of both extractive industries and the environment. Although there is little doubt that any form of extractive industry negatively impacts the wellbeing of great apes and

gibbons, the report notes that there is scope for industry practice to mitigate its impacts on their wellbeing, and that these practices have yet to be broadly implemented.

A key message contained in this report is that the indirect impacts of extractive industry action are often more destructive and extensive, for both apes and their habitats, than the direct impacts. Policies and investments that focus on improved practice and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples can reduce the environmental impacts of the industry, thus contributing to the protection of these important species. Although there are still gaps in our understanding of the interaction between ape conservation and extractive industry, examples show how nation states and individual projects strive to reconcile these disparate entities through partnership, research and dialogue.

Ultimately it is only through engagement across sectors, and acknowledgment of the importance of the different goals that meaningful conservation of apes and other species can be achieved. To this end, the *State of the Apes* is a resource that provides a benchmark against which progress in overcoming the challenges and opportunities for ape conservation will be measured.



Zhang Xinsheng
President IUCN
(International Union for Conservation of Nature)

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The Arcus Foundation

The Arcus Foundation is a private grant-making foundation that advances social justice and conservation goals. The Arcus Foundation works globally and has offices in New York City, USA, and Cambridge, UK. For more information on the Foundation visit arcusfoundation.org or connect with Arcus at: twitter.com/ArcusGreatApes, and facebook.com/ArcusGreatApes.

Great Apes Program

The long-term survival of humans and the great apes is dependent on how we respect and care for other animals and our shared natural resources. The Arcus Foundation seeks to increase respect for and recognition of the rights and value of great apes and gibbons, and to strengthen protection from threats to their habitats. The Great Apes program supports conservation and policy advocacy efforts that promote the survival of apes in the wild and in sanctuaries that offer high-quality care, safety and freedom from invasive research and exploitation.

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Notes to readers

Acronyms and abbreviations

A list of acronyms and abbreviations can be found at the back of the book on page 319.

Annexes

All annexes can be found at the back of the book, starting on page 306 except for Annex IV, which is available from the State of the Apes website www.stateoftheapes.org

Glossary

There is a glossary of scientific terms and key words at the back of the book, starting on page 324.

Chapter cross-referencing

Chapter cross-references appear throughout the book, either as direct references in the body text or in brackets. For example, in Chapter 1: ‘The resulting increases in forest degradation and fragmentation, hunting, and poaching of animal species are explored in Chapter 7.’ And: ‘As great apes and gibbons primarily inhabit tropical forest in Asia and Africa, the impact on their survival is likely to be significant (see Chapter 3).’

Acknowledgments

The first edition of *State of the Apes* has been an extensive undertaking, and one that we hope will not only encourage the critical engagement of current conservation, industry and government practice but also expand support for great apes and gibbons. To all who contributed, from those who attended our stakeholder meeting, to our contributors and reviewers and all those involved in the actual production and design of the book, thank you for your input, advice, expertise, support, flexibility and patience!

The support of Jon Stryker and the Arcus Foundation Board of Directors was essential to realise the production of such a publication and we thank them for supporting our vision to bring an overview of critical ape conservation issues to important audiences.

Without a comprehensive global view of the status of apes, this publication would not have been possible and we would also like to thank all the great ape and gibbon scientists who contributed, and continue to contribute, their valuable data to improving the robustness of the Ape Populations, Environments and Surveys (A.P.E.S.) database, which led to the creation of the A.P.E.S. Portal. It is through such collaborative efforts that effective and efficient conservation action can be achieved.

Authors, contributors, and those who provided essential data are named at the end of each chapter, and we thank them again here. We could not have produced this book without them. Detailed chapter and whole book reviews were provided by: Marc Ancrenaz, Elizabeth Bennett, Susan M. Cheyne, Wendy Elliot, Kay Farmer, Barbara Filas, Chris Hallam, Tatyana Humle, Nigel Kieser, Cyril Kormos, Rebecca Kormos, Sally Lahm, Sam Lawson, Jerome Lewis, Andrew Marshall, Rob Muggah, Sten Nilsson, Tim Rayden, Jamison Suter, Serge Wich, and David Wilkie. Most of the photographs included were generously contributed by their creators, who are credited alongside each one. We are also grateful to those organisations

that allowed us to include extracts from previously published books and reports and from internal documents; they are acknowledged alongside these entries.

Particular thanks also go to the following: ArcelorMittal, Artisanal Small-scale Mining in and around Protected Areas and Critical Ecosystems, Cambridge University Press, Tom Clements, Lori Ann Conzo, Doug Cress, Bruce Davidson, Fauna and Flora International, Ruth Fletcher, Forest Peoples Programme, Forest Stewardship Council, Neba Funwi-Gabga, Elisa Gerontianos, Jo Gilbert, Global Witness, Great Apes Survival Partnership, Liz Greengrass, David Greer, Martin Griffiths, Groupe Rougier, Paul Hatanga, Matthew Hatchwell, John Howell, Paul-Emmanuel Huet, Kirsten Hund, International Finance Corporation, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nigel Kieser, Justin Kenrick, Estelle Levin, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Linda May, Max Planck Institute, Yekoyada Mukasa, Fiona Napier, Pallisco-CIFM, Guy Parker, Bardolf Paul, People and Nature Consulting International, Adam Phillipson, Signe Preuschoft, Chris Ransom, Ben Rawson, Jamartin Sihite, Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée, Marie Stevenson, Indrawan Suryadi, Reiner Tetgmeyer, Melissa Tolley, Cristina Villegas, Wildlife Conservation Society, Glenys White, Lee J.T. White, Serge A. Wich, Elizabeth A. Williamson, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, World Wide Fund for Nature, Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta, and the Zoological Society of London. Thanks also to Phoenix Design Aid for the translation and re-design of the French and Indonesian editions.

Many others contributed in various ways that cannot be attributed to the content of specific chapters, by providing introductions, anonymous input, strategic advice, and helping with essential, if sometimes tedious, administrative tasks. We also thank all those who provided invaluable moral support.

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 and Annette Lanjouw**
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