

State of the Apes 2013

Extractive Industries and Ape Conservation

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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).’

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**Helga Rainer, Alison White
and Annette Lanjouw**
Editors