



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

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The Director-General

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am honoured to inform you that the Emeritus Professor of Kyoto University, Toshisada Nishida, is a Patron of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), a joint project between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Executive Director of UNEP, Dr Klaus Toepfer, first recognized Professor Nishida's role as a GRASP Patron in January 2003. The GRASP Patron Team currently consists of the following distinguished experts:

- Dr Toshisada Nishida, President of the Primate Society of Japan and Executive Director of the Japan Monkey Centre;
- Dr Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Committee for Primates;
- Dr Jane Goodall, Head of the Jane Goodall Institute;
- Dr Richard Leakey, World renowned conservationist and Former Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Dr Nishida established and is the leader of GRASP-Japan, which began in 2004. This body is supported by the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, and the Primate Society of Japan. It collaborates with UNESCO to raise funds and awareness about GRASP. All the Japanese primatologists that belong to GRASP-Japan are leading international research scientists on great apes.

GRASP was launched in May 2001 by Dr Toepfer and acknowledged in September 2002 as a Type II Partnership between UNESCO and UNEP at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It was formulated to save the highly threatened great apes (chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans) from extinction. Japan has assumed responsibility for and commitment to the great apes given their high consumption of tropical timber from areas that are great ape habitats.

UNESCO is aware of the urgent need for commitment - at the highest levels - to the survival of these endangered species in all of the 23 great apes range states. Emeritus Professor Nishida and GRASP-Japan have the full backing of UNESCO in their efforts to raise awareness and support for GRASP.


Koichiro Matsuura