

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the A.P.E.S. database. This letter provides a short summary of progress made on this project, and gives an outlook to future developments. The Newsletter will be published twice yearly. For more detailed information, please visit the A.P.E.S. website (<http://apes.eva.mpg.de/>) or contact us at: apes@eva.mpg.de.

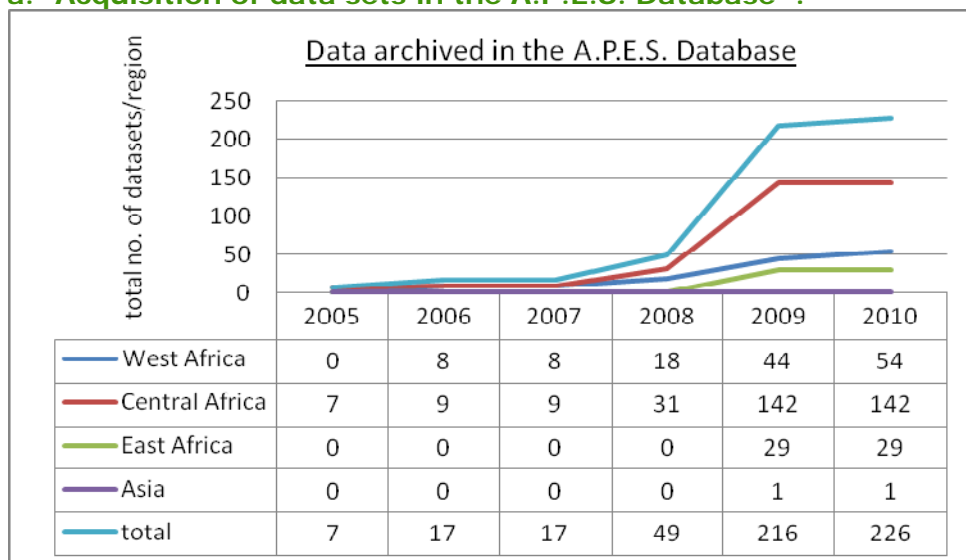
I. General Information

The A.P.E.S. database is a collaborative effort of several academic institutions and conservation organizations endorsed by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group. Our aim is to provide an accurate and objective global picture of the distribution and status of great apes, and thus inform long-term management and conservation strategies for these taxa.

II. Current Status

The core of the A.P.E.S. database is an archive that contains a catalogue, listing all known data sets on great ape status and distribution, and a data archive that allows you to search and display survey information by specific geographic areas.

a. Acquisition of data sets in the A.P.E.S. Database*:



List of data sets: http://apes.eva.mpg.de/common_files/APES_list_of_datasets.pdf

*Status: February 2010

b. Data processing



The success of the A.P.E.S. database largely depends on the contribution and exchange of data.

Therefore, as described in the A.P.E.S. Policy, one of the main principles of the A.P.E.S. Database is the transparency of our work.

The flow chart illustrates the procedure of data processing by the DRWG for each new dataset before being archived in the APES database.

(http://apes.eva.mpg.de/common_files/DRWG_data_processing.pdf)

c. Data Review Working Group

The Data Review Working Group (DRWG) is responsible for:

- overseeing the organization of the database
- producing and disseminating annual status reports
- evaluating and following-up requests for data, and
- ensuring adherence to the database policies.

The DRWG is also in charge of implementing measures to evaluate the quality of data deposited in the database and promoting high standards for future ape surveys. At present, the DRWG consists of members of the MPI EVA. However, we want to establish an efficient network of reviewers from different ape ranging countries and organizations involved in ape surveys. Only by this plurality we can achieve the highest standard of data quality and master the requests for data sets. We would therefore be grateful for applications of interested parties to join the DRWG to ensure high data quality standards, data accessibility and the appropriate usage of the data.

III. Current projects

To ensure that ape status information is not openly accessible, the following outcomes of the A.P.E.S. Database are password protected. To request the password, please email us (apes@eva.mpg.de).

a. Country sheets

The PDF-Country sheets provide an overview of national ape status information according to our current state of knowledge. As this project is and always will be a work in progress, only one country sheet is downloadable at the moment; Ivory Coast. Sheets for Nigeria, Cameroon and Guinea will be available soon.

If you wish to contribute data or information for a specific country, please contact us (apes@eva.mpg.de).

b. Wiki

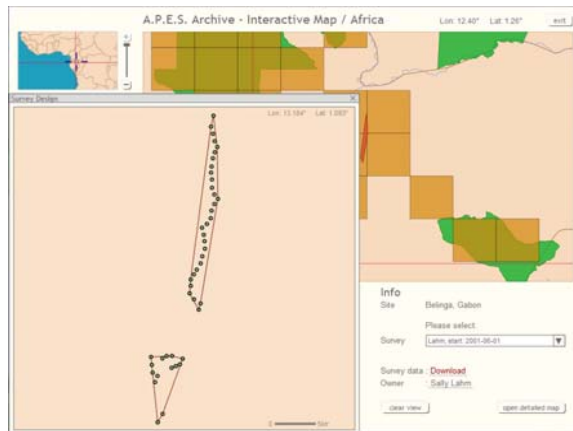
The A.P.E.S. Wiki aims to give extensive qualitative information about each ape field site or population. Such an overview does not exist yet. Therefore its quality will depend on the contribution of information by any party involved in ape surveys. Therefore, we would appreciate if you and your colleagues could add to the A.P.E.S Wiki any information you possess about ape sites you have worked at.

c. GIS layer

One of the major objectives of the A.P.E.S. project is to conduct meta-analyses of compiled data sets and derive GIS layers, which can be used by ape conservation organizations.

Preliminary versions of several GIS layers have already been produced:

- Data availability/Ape survey data gap analysis:
 - Ape survey data availability as grid
 - Ape survey data availability as Minimum Convex Polygons
 - Ape survey references
- Ape occurrence probability
- Trends in ape occurrence probability



Please visit: http://apes.eva.mpg.de/eng/gis_resources.php

The following layers are in preparation:

- Data availability:
 - Ape survey data sampling locations
- Ape occurrence:
 - Ape survey data presence points

- Ape occurrence probability 1980's and 2000's period
- Ape survey data and occurrence gap analysis

IV. Next Steps

In the project period 2010-2011 we plan to:

1. Update data compiled in the "Ape Conservation Informational Database" from Lincoln Park Zoo, and integrate it into the A.P.E.S. database.
2. Update existing and produce the following new GIS layers based on the data compiled in the A.P.E.S. Database:
 - Conservation:
 - Protected areas with confirmed ape presence
 - Non-protected areas with confirmed ape presence
 - Threats to ape populations
 - Organizations managing ape field sites
 - Occurrence of law enforcement activities.
3. Update existing and produce new country sheets summarizing ape population status.
4. Update and extend the A.P.E.S. Wiki library with information on ape population sites.

V. Important Request

As the A.P.E.S. database is an interactive website we invite everyone interested in ape surveys and ape conservation to take part in the A.P.E.S. Community and the [A.P.E.S. Forum](#).

This project is a permanent work in progress. Thus we also welcome feedback concerning the A.P.E.S. website and its functionality. Please [contact us](#) or start a new thread in the forum.

The A.P.E.S. Database is also an essential element of the Apes Portal (www.apesmapper.org), a project in development with UNEP/WCMC. It is supported by:

