

INTRODUCTION

Section 2: The Status and Welfare of Great Apes and Gibbons

Two chapters comprise this section of *State of the Apes*. **Chapter 7** focuses on *in situ* ape conservation in Africa and Asia. It presents the findings of a study of changes in ape habitats between 2000 and 2014, based on in-depth analysis of thousands of satellite images. By extrapolating current rates of deforestation, the chapter also projects future habitat loss,

thus quantifying likely threats to the long-term survival of apes. **Chapter 8** reviews the status and welfare of apes in captivity around the world. It also considers the history and context of sanctuaries in ape range states, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing them and their role in broader conservation efforts.

The online Abundance Annex—available at www.stateoftheapes.com—presents updated population estimates for apes across their ranges. In combination with figures provided in the previous volumes in this series, the annex allows for the tracking of population trends and patterns over time

Chapter Highlights

Chapter 7: Mapping Change in Ape Habitats

This chapter examines the status of forested habitats used by apes by quantifying the rates of tropical forest destruction utilizing the Global Forest Watch platform. This is

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Chapter 8: Sanctuaries and the Status of Captive Apes

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Captive apes are held in a variety of contexts within ape range states. These include private homes, public displays for tourists, zoos and safari parks, and specialized non-commercial care facilities that are often referred to as rescue centers, rehabilitation centers or sanctuaries. This chapter presents the findings of a study of 56 sanctuaries in ape range states. It discusses their history and context, as well as opportunities and challenges linked to ongoing and emerging threats. Conditions varied across the facilities under review; only a small minority achieved independent accreditation based on their welfare and care standards.

the first in-depth analysis of forest loss to use spatially explicit, high-resolution forest change data across the entire ape range. Based on thousands of satellite images, the assessment quantifies annual loss of ape range forest in 2000–14 and projects future habitat loss rates for each ape subspecies. The results can serve as a measure of their long-term survival.

A variety of drivers push apes into captivity. These include forest loss and degradation due to agricultural expansion, mining, logging and infrastructure development as well as the hunting and capture of apes for private collections and entertainment. The number of apes in need of captive care is growing and already far exceeds current capacity. At the same time, ape habitats are shrinking, meaning that options for reintroducing or translocating rescued apes are dwindling and that even rehabilitated apes are likely to spend their lives in captivity. Compounding the situation is the absence of legal consequences for many perpetrators of wildlife crimes, which places a double onus on sanctuaries if they are to contribute to conservation objectives. The first is to tie the intake of apes to appropriate legal consequences; the second is to raise the public's awareness of apes' protected status and the legal consequences of hunting or buying apes. In this context, increased collaboration between sanctuaries and governments, conservation NGOs, industry and other stakeholders needs to be strengthened.

Protected areas are vital to the conservation of biodiversity, including apes, as they comprise 26% of African ape ranges and 21% of Asian ape ranges. Their “protected” status has not spared these areas from experiencing forest loss, however, even if the rate of loss was lower than it was beyond their borders. In total, a staggering 453,000 km² (45.3 million ha) of ape range was lost between 2000 and 2014. The findings also reveal that gibbon habitats were impacted to a far greater degree than those of great apes. Indonesia has been particularly affected, accounting for 63% of total habitat loss in Asia and 50% of the total loss of ape habitat globally. The extent of forest loss across all ape ranges indicates that ape conservation faces grave challenges regionally and globally. If forest loss continues at the same rate into the future, the consequences for both African and Asian apes will be significant, and particularly devastating for Asian apes.