



For Immediate Release

GLOBIO And Great Ape Diaries Create Global Partnership To Save Apes

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Gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and bonobos may disappear from the wild by the end of this decade. Less than ten years! Great apes; just like us, at risk like us, and up to us to determine their, and in turn our, fate.

Hope lies in focusing on our closest wild relatives—great apes—to understand the state of our planet. That is the goal of a new project partnership between GLOBIO and Great Ape Diaries announced today. The partnership will aim to increase education and awareness of disappearing great ape populations to both children and educators around the world over the next three-years.

GLOBIO, a children’s education non-profit based in Portland, OR, U.S.A., has partnered with Great Ape Diaries, started by GLOBIO’s founder, photojournalist Gerry Ellis, to explore opportunities to strengthen global awareness of the critical issues facing the long-term survival of great apes in their wild habitats.

“GLOBIO see the highly charismatic great apes as a perfect vehicle for connecting to children and helping educators help children explore complex issues facing our planet such as deforestation, climate change, population growth, poverty, infectious disease and conflict over resources”, said Lauren Roden, the new GLOBIO-GAD Project Coordinator.

All great apes are listed as endangered, some critically, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Wild great apes—gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans—once ranging across Africa and Asia, are now only found dramatically shrinking forests in Central and West Africa and in Indonesia and Malaysia. These tropical forest habitats are under increasing threat of total destruction from a host of human-caused activities. In addition to great apes, they are home to over 3 billion people and the most diverse range of plant and animal species in the world.

The new partnership is a return to GLOBIO’s origins where flagship species form the basis for engaging children in exploring and discussing the world and the factors threatening species health and survival. GLOBIO will look to develop a range of web-based resources that enable educators to access existing learning materials that use great apes as a medium to help children understand complex global environmental issues. Some of these resources will utilize the growing body of photos, video and audio being created by the Great Ape Diaries team over the next three years.

“A year into this project it’s become clear that Great Ape Diaries is an education and public awareness project. Great ape survival depends on it, and GLOBIO’s experience and support reaching kids and educators, who may be the hope and the tipping point for real conservation, is critical.”, said Gerry Ellis, GLOBIO Founder and Great Ape Diaries project creator.

ABOUT GLOBIO

Founded in 2001, GLOBIO is an educational nonprofit organization. Our mission is to engage children in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, inspiring them to protect the diversity of all life on earth. GLOBIO aims to engage 7-12 year old children on how to make respectful, conscious decisions about the planet in which they live and to understand how they can make a difference in environmental quality and biodiversity issues. www.globio.org

ABOUT GREAT APE DIARIES

Great Ape Diaries is environmental photojournalist Gerry Ellis’ personal journey to answer “What must we do to ensure great apes survive in the wild by the end of this decade?” Faced with habitat encroachment, climate change, disease transmission and a host of other pressing threats, it’s not clear wild apes will exist outside of captivity in the very near future. To try to answer this question, Gerry has embarked on the most ambitious project of his 30-year career – a three-year global journey into remote Borneo and Sumatra, and the heart of Africa to chronicle the issues facing great ape survival. The journey will take a global perspective; including interviews with the most prominent individuals studying and working to save great apes as well as local people whose lives are inextricably linked to neighboring great apes. www.greatapediaries.com

For More Information

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