

**Let us stop the ecocide and disappearance of great apes!
Launch of the manifesto ^mAⁿ**

This 4 April 2008 in Neuchâtel, on the occasion of the festival « Sauvons les grands singes », an international manifesto entitled ^mAⁿ (**manifesto for Apes and nature**) is launched in order to raise the awareness of governments to the disappearance of our primate cousins and their habitat, the tropical forest.

Christophe Boesch:

"The situation on site continues to worsen and it is becoming imperative to appeal for our governments to no longer support the anarchic and illegal exploitation of tropical forests as well as the bush meat trade."

Hedwige Boesch:

"It is five minutes to midnight for the great apes. Can we just watch idly? What are our governments doing for our 'cousins'?"

Emmanuelle Grundmann:

"Each year, about 10 million hectares of forest disappear, cut, burnt, slaughtered. Great apes are among the first victims of this crime against biodiversity along with the people living in and relying on these forests."

Blaise Mulhauser:

"If great apes disappeared, humanity couldn't recover from it."

The ^mAⁿ - manifesto for Apes and nature - is targeted at governments and international organizations. The objective of the campaign is to obtain the support of at least one million people all over the world.

An internet page has been created in order to obtain these supporting signatures (www.apesmanifesto.org) where the text of the manifesto is available in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. It will also be available soon in other languages. Any person who wishes to stop the reduction of the populations of chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans and gibbons may sign.

Among the about 100 official signatories are primatologists from all continents who are locally involved in the protection of species and of ecosystems. University Professors of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Anatomy, Eco-Ethnology and, of course, Primatology, support this campaign, too.

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