John Oates authored the first primate conservation Action Plan in 1986, which assessed the status of and proposed conservation actions for all mainland African primate species. A revised version of the continent-wide plan was published in 1996, but since then, action plans have generally evolved into prioritizing actions for specific species, often within defined landscapes. We will review and evaluate the content and success of conservation action plans for the nine currently recognized taxa of chimpanzees and gorillas in Africa. Since 2003, six detailed action plans and one population viability analysis have been published, covering priority actions and landscapes for seven of the nine great ape taxa in Africa. Two further action plans (for gorillas and chimpanzees in Eastern DRC and for bonobos) are in the final stages of review and may also be included in the analysis. Assessments for western chimpanzees, Cross River gorillas, western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees have been peer reviewed, and we will consider their recommendations and the challenges of quantitatively evaluating the success of primate conservation action plans.

Delayed benefits of transferring food include enhancement of agonistic support and mating opportunity, or other social benefits. In chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes), meat transfer among nonrelatives is common, but plant food transfer is usually rare except between mother-offspring pairs. However, observations of plant food and tool transfer among savanna chimpanzees at Fongoli, Senegal contrast with previous research on chimpanzees in general and support findings that West and East African chimpanzee subspecies differ socially. In 45 cases, chimpanzees at Fongoli transferred plant foods and tools to unrelated individuals. Most observations involved males transferring resources to females, perhaps as a long-term strategy to increase males’ copulation frequencies. Fongoli chimpanzees also share meat, similar to patterns seen elsewhere. Furthermore, we were able to examine meat transfer from the female perspective, since females at Fongoli hunt as often as males. A similar pattern of tolerance emerged. Males rarely monopolized carcasses, and while females transferred meat to males, they also effectively ignored males’ begging behavior. We examine these relatively unusual food and tool transfer behaviors in Fongoli chimpanzees within the context of chimpanzee sociality and hominid evolution.