



CITES and bushmeat

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CBD LIAISON
GROUP ON BUSHMEAT AND THE CITES
CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING
GROUP**

Nairobi, 7-10 June 2011



Bushmeat

- Bushmeat refers to the meat, used for food, of any terrestrial wild animal.
- Most trade in bushmeat is domestic and therefore not of direct relevance to CITES which deals with international trade.
- However, cross-border and international trade in bushmeat, where it occurs, is often unsustainable and illegal.



Bushmeat

- Bushmeat trade involves both CITES-listed and non-CITES species
- Commercial trade may be highly organized and professional, or conducted simply by the road
- Bushmeat trade today is often for the purpose of supplying prosperous city-dwellers in range States and elsewhere with expensive status foods



International trade in bushmeat

- Studies suggest export of 14-40% of bushmeat in Cameroon; Congo 60%; CAR 35%; Equatorial Guinea 34%
- As the trade is officially unrecorded, some indication can be derived from seizures in Europe
 - 2005: airports in the UK confiscated 25,000 loads of bushmeat from passengers' luggage
 - 2008: an estimated 5,000kg transported every week from Africa to France (based on extrapolation of case study in Paris airports)



International trade in bushmeat

- Control and identification are difficult and pose health risks



Bushmeat – Appendix I species

- Bonobo
(*Pan paniscus*)



- Forest crocodile
(*Osteolaemus tetraspis*)



Bushmeat – Appendix II species

- Tree pangolin
(*Manis tricuspis*)
- Ornate monitor
(*Varanus ornatus*)



Bushmeat – many non-CITES species

- Porcupines, cane rats



CITES and bushmeat

- CoP11 (2000): Bushmeat Working Group
 - Promote awareness and action to achieve better and sustainable management of the bushmeat trade.
- CoP13 (2004): Resolution on Bushmeat
- CoP13: Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group
 - Instructed to report at next CoP on implementation of national bushmeat action plans and other initiatives.



CITES and bushmeat

- Resolution Conf. 13.11 on Bushmeat
 - Recognizes seriousness of problem, and that illegal bushmeat trade constitutes greatest threat to e.g. gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants and crocodiles in Central Africa
 - Advises relevant Parties to: improve domestic management of CITES-listed species; ensure sustainable offtake for App. II and III and prohibit offtake of App. I; establish property rights and involve local communities; clarify administrative responsibilities; adopt codes of conduct for extraction industries; identify alternative foods



CITES and bushmeat

- Resolution Conf. 13.11 on Bushmeat
 - Improve awareness of inspectors, government agencies, enforcement staff, judiciary,...;
 - Education and capacity building; collection and use of relevant information; help with identification;
 - Provide funding and expertise;
 - Calls for broad collaboration amongst international organizations to assist range States in regulating trade in bushmeat and tackling associated issues of poverty, habitat degradation, human population growth and utilization of natural resources



CITES and bushmeat

- CoP14 (2007) and CoP15 (2010): Decisions for Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group
- Decision 14.73:
 - Collaborate with CBD and FAO in its work
 - Draw to the attention of the Standing Committee and/or the CoP any matters relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11



CITES and bushmeat

- Decision 14.74 (Rev. CoP15):
 - Collaborate with CBD Liaison Group on non-timber forest resources (*now: CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat*)
 - Report to Standing Committee on progress made in implementing national bushmeat action plans and other initiatives (August 2011 and July 2012)
 - Submit a report on bushmeat at CoP16 (March 2013)



Meeting objectives

- (a) facilitate implementation of CBD and CITES Decisions relating to bushmeat;
- (b) enable Parties, IGOs and NGOs to discuss actions to ensure conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources in tropical and sub-tropical forests;
- (c) work plan for CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group;
- (d) compile lessons and best practice examples



CITES Secretariat Geneva

www.cites.org

