

PRESENTATION TO JOINT CBD AND CITIES BUSH MEAT MEETING IN NAIROBI, KENYA JUNE 7- 10, 2011

COUNTRY: LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

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BACKGROUND

- Liberia is a west African country situated on the coast of the Atlantic ocean, with an area size of 43,000 square miles. The country has suffered from 14 years unrest (1989-2003) with several consequences in terms of socio-economic and environmental collapse.
- The country is known to continue harboring a rich and unique biodiversity which is facing high threats through its contribution to the forest dependent communities and bushmeat traders.
- Bushmeat situation in Liberia is of major concern due to the lack of sufficient and recent scientific information. Though, partner organizations are carrying on comprehensive bushmeat study.

Socio- Economic importance

- Though bush meat hunting in Liberia is a complementary activities, it is important to outline that it plays a great role in human Food consumption (protein);
- A large number of forest dependent people and some urban market women rely on bushmeat for income generation;
- Economic value of bush meat trade is distributed much more evenly across the Liberian society.
- Revenue generated is used to pay children tuition in High Schools and Universities

Status and Trend of bushmeat harvesting

- There is rareness of data related to the harvesting rates of bushmeat in Liberia;
- Nevertheless, the harvesting of bushmeat is significant from the way it is seeing in the major markets;
- A study conducted by Ansty (1991) revealed that the take-off rate of wildlife in Liberia is one of the highest in Africa (at 150,000 tons per year);
- Hunting is carried out in community forest areas and also in protected areas without data

Status and Trend of forest-dependend species

- The nature of species hunted depends on the localities and access to roads
- Until a thorough study can be done on bushmeat in Liberia, it is important to say that all the bushmeat harvested and sold are from the forests
- The bodies of hunted animals are normally exposed along road sides for commercial purpose.

Observed impacts on populations and species

- Subsistence and commercial bush meat trade constitute a threat for the conservation of biodiversity;
- Civil conflict (1989 – 2003) and the collapse of national economy promoted the expansion of wildlife harvesting;
- Among the many species found in the bushmeat market in Liberia are those of conservation significance (IUCN listed) and also includes those ones that are protected nationally by law.

National policies & Legislations

- New Forestry reform Law of 2006,
- Wildlife Law 1988,
- Draft wildlife and Protected Areas Management Law(2009)
- NTFP Regulation 2009 in place,
- The Acts establishing Protected Areas (SNP 1983, ENNR 2003, Lake Piso pending, Protected Areas network 2003
- Regulations on benefit sharing, Regulation on Community Rights Law etc

Summary of Key National activities in 2011 and 2012

- Creation of community and communal Protected Forest around Protected areas (to control forest uses and forest resources harvesting)
- Gazette three new protected areas
- Demarcate their boundaries
- Pilot the REDD Project to reduce deforestation and forest degradation
- Construct a research center
- Promote sustainable harvesting of NTFPs
- Ensure the passage of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Law
- Promote Ecotourism program

Major opportunities and Challenges

- Contains 42% of the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem
- Liberian forest and wildlife species are known to be of high priority in the upper Guinea forest ecosystem (1999 priority setting workshop);
- There is high increase in domestic animal production (NGOs); Bee Keeping for example.
- Pilot wild animals raising program (ENNR) ongoing;
- Capacity building of local community people in cattle and wild animals rearing (ongoing);
- Sensitization of forest dependents on the consumption of bushmeat for domestic animals
- Sensitization of communities about protected species
- There is a need for revamping traditional conservation methods which could give respect to the totem species;
- Put into place safeguard measures for PA establishment

CONCLUSION

Wildlife utilization particularly for meat is a major conservation concern in Liberia. Most species are hunted throughout Liberia as main sources of protein in rural areas.

The threats to Liberia's wildlife from bushmeat hunting have been widely noted by researchers in the past.

To date, beside the NGOs and the GEF/World Bank project; COPAN and EXPAND, no adequate resources were made available to the FDA, the state's agency charged with regulating forest use and management to enforce existing regulations; no significant measure is taken to provide alternative source of bush meat.

I THANK YOU