

# Bushmeat-the Sudan Experience

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for the:

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BUSHMEAT AND THE CITES CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT  
WORKING GROUP**

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# I. Background

## ✳ Forests:

### *Area*

Natural forests: 41 million ha;

Tropical forests: 12.3 million ha.



### *Change in Forest Cover*

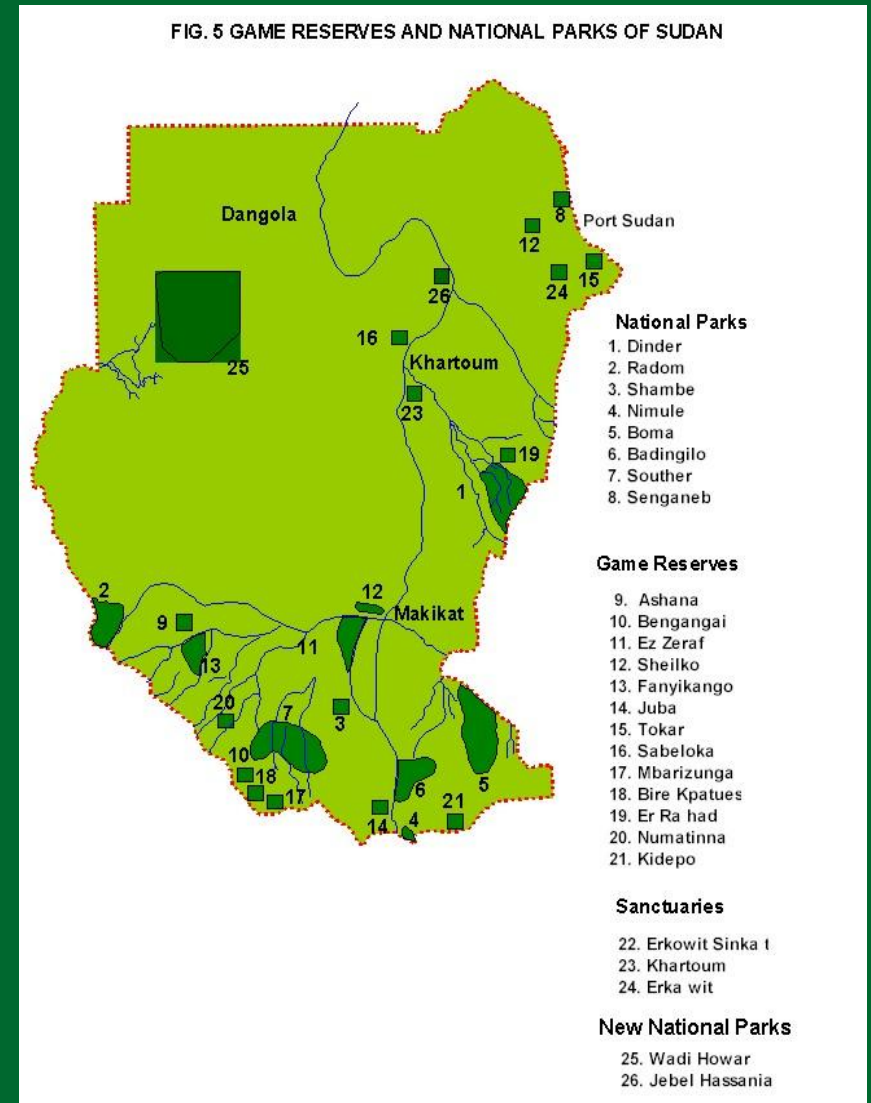
Between 1990 and 2010, Sudan lost an average of 321,600 ha or 0.42% per year.

In total, between 1990 and 2010, Sudan lost 8.4% of its forest cover, or around 6,432,000 ha.

*A forest is best defined as an ecosystem or assemblage of ecosystems dominated by trees and other woody vegetation.*

# ☀ Wildlife Areas (National Parks, Game Reserves and Sanctuaries)

**Protected Areas: 11, consisting of 8.6 million hectares, or 3.45% of total land mass.**



## II. Socio-economic importance of bushmeat

- ▶ Bushmeat (wild meat) has always been part of the Sudanese diet, with the exception perhaps of the most ancient agricultural societies based along the Nile.
- ▶ During periods of famine, conflict and critical fallback of food sources (crop and domestic livestock), many Sudanese consume all types of wild fauna, from buffalo to field mice.

► Recently, hunting with rifles is widespread in Southern Sudan in and around protected areas where bushmeat is a source of protein and income.

► Economic pressures underlie the destruction of northern and central Sudan's wildlife, as well as the degradation of its protected areas.

# III. Status and trends of bushmeat harvesting

(Pastureland, Protected area and Forestlands are becoming Battlefields)





- ❑ The harvesting of animals in Sudan takes the following forms:
- commercial poaching for non-meat products\*,
  - bushmeat culture and industry,
  - combination of both.



\*This form of harvesting is completely illegal in Sudan, with the sole exception of the continued existence of a small-scale commercial trophy hunting business in the Red Sea hills.

❑ No data or detailed information are existing on bushmeat production and/or consumption.

❑ UNEP reported:

“did not find proof of an ongoing widespread commercial bushmeat trade (in Southern Sudan)”.

Local people in Southern Sudan reported:

“ both sides in the north-south conflict had taken bushmeat to feed their forces and trade”.

In both cases, there is no empirical evidence.



❑ The focus on trade in wild meat has been increasing in recent years.

❑ The trade is primarily on a local to national scale, with the majority of meat being consumed within the country of capture, although a small percentage does cross national borders.

❑ There is very limited control on the continued harvesting of important food species such as the white-eared kob.



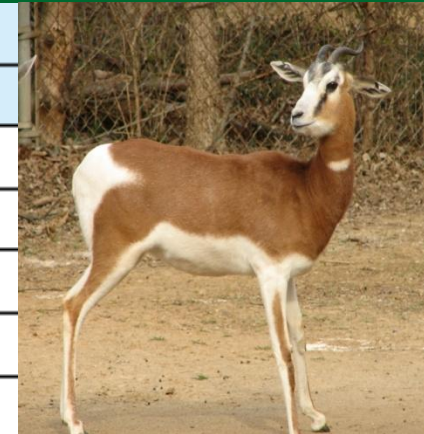
## IV. Status and trends of forest-dependent species (e.g. IUCN Red List, other data)

- Migration and land use changes have resulted in new villages existing along and around national parks borders and forests.
- Poaching is also a major problem, as is the felling of trees for firewood by trespassers and fires set in the course of honey extraction.



# Globally endangered Species occurring in Sudan

Common name	Scientific name	Red List category
<b>Mammals</b>		
Addax*	<i>Addax maculatus</i>	CR A2cd
African ass	<i>Equus africanus</i>	CR A1b
Dama gazelle	<i>Gazella dama</i>	CR A2cd
Nubian ibex	<i>Capra nubiana</i>	EN C2a
Grevy's zebra*	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	EN A1a+2c
Rhim gazelle	<i>Gazella leptoceros</i>	EN C1+2a
African wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	EN C2a(i)
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	EN A3cd
<b>Birds</b>		
Northern bald ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	CR C2a(ii)
Sociable lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	CR A3bc
Basra reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	EN A2bc+3bc
Saker falcon	<i>Falco chemug</i>	EN A2bcd+3b
Spotted ground-thrush	<i>Zoothera guttata</i>	EN C2a(i)
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	CR A1bd
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	EN A2bd

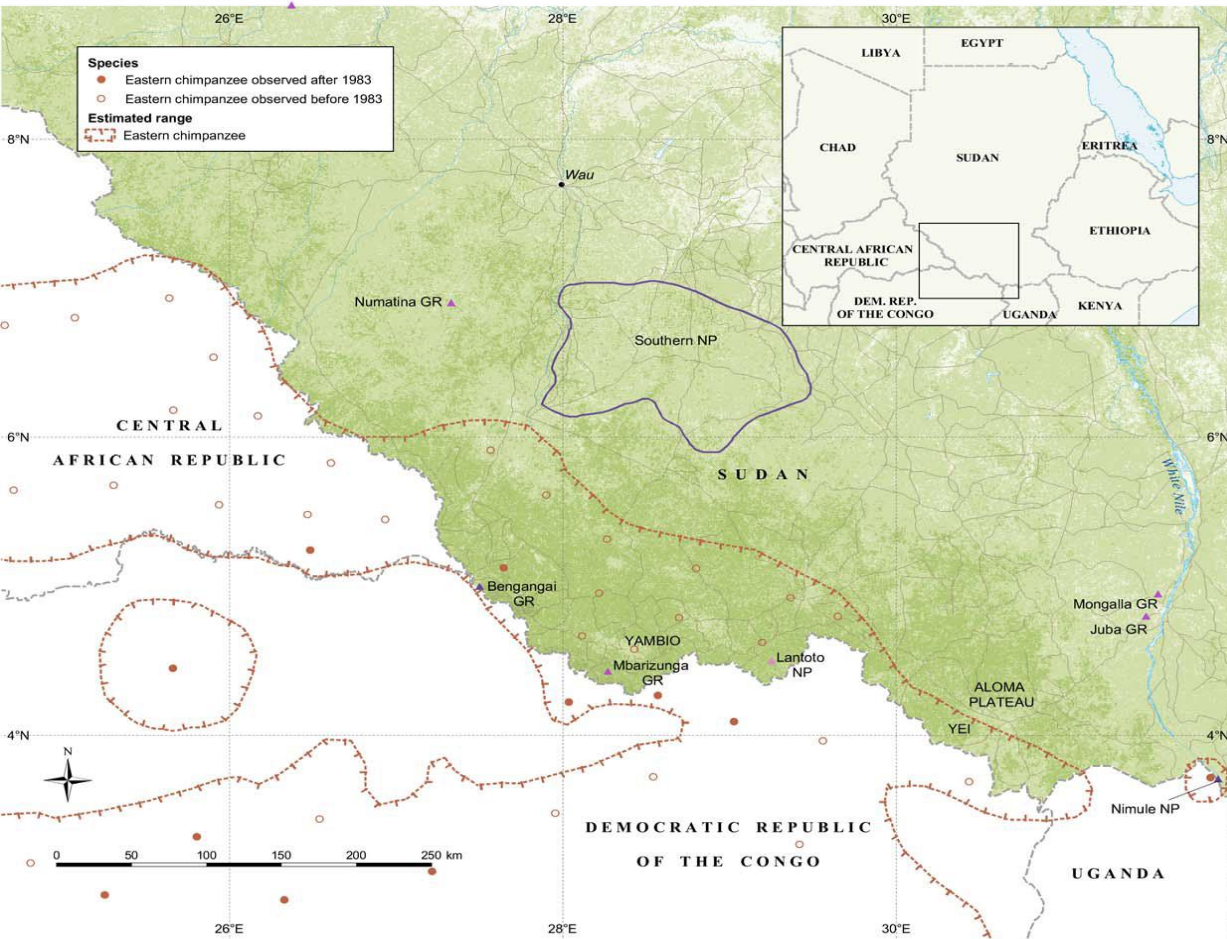


CR = critically endangered; EN = endangered; \* questionable occurrence in Sudan.

**Wildlife: 21 species threatened**



## Chimpanzee distribution in Sudan



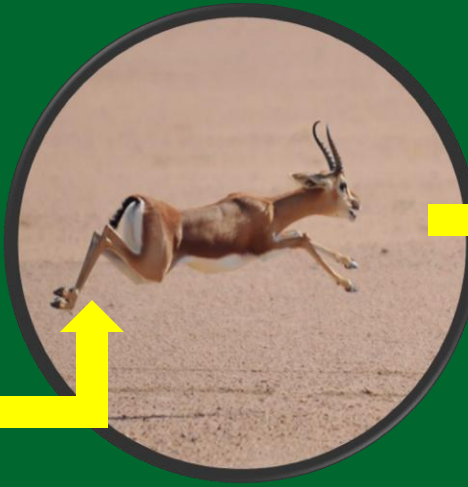
### • *Chimpanzee in Southern Sudan*

The chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) is found in relatively undisturbed tropical forest regions in the forests of the far southern edge of Sudan represent the eastern limit of its habitat.

# Wild meat is not harvested only in the Bush! It could be harvested elsewhere too!

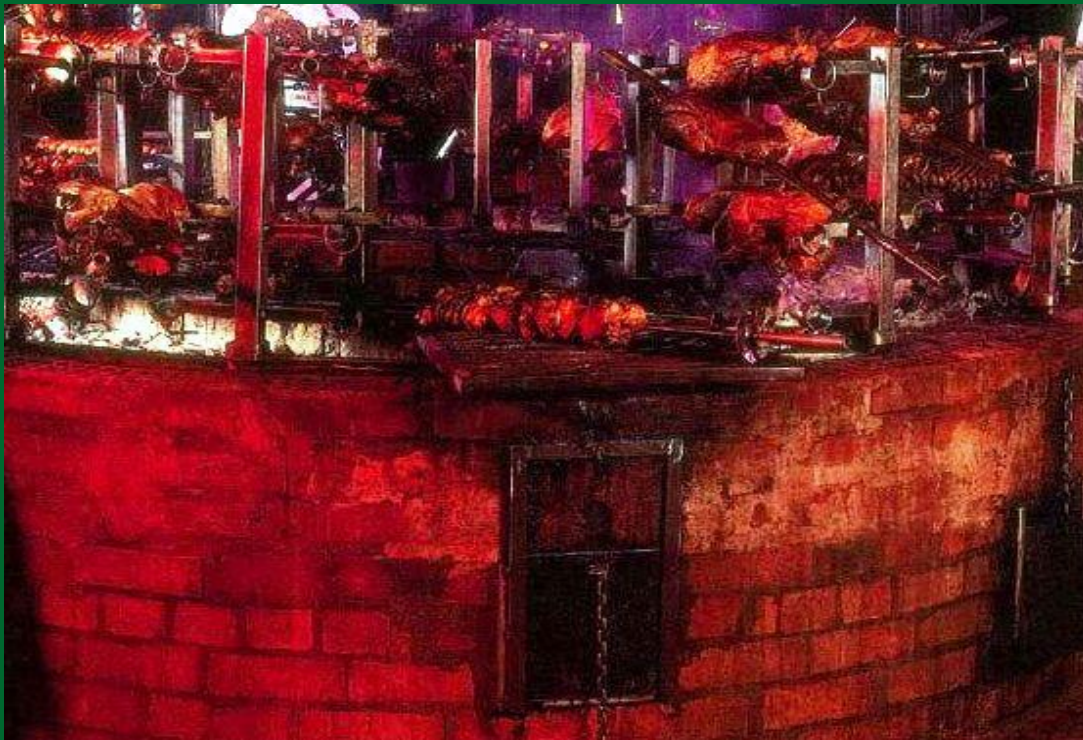
The focus on the consumption of wild meat has been increasing in recent years.

- In the Desert  
(Tourist Hunting)





- **In the City** (special delicacy)  
(Increasing culture of Carnivore restaurants in Sudan)





# V. Observed impacts on populations and species

## *Commercial poaching and bushmeat*

◆ The ready availability of firearms has been the most significant factor in the reduction of wildlife in Sudan, and has also compounded the problems of habitat destruction in northern and central Sudan.

◆ Uncontrolled and unsustainable levels of hunting have devastated wildlife populations and caused the local eradication of many of the larger species including elephant, rhino, buffalo, giraffe, eland and zebra.



◆ The main center of the ivory trade is the capital city. It was reported in 2005 that there were 50 souvenir shops, 150 craftsmen and up to 2,000 items in individual shops.



\*\* The main ivory (foreign) buyers were reported to be Asian expatriates.

## Comparison of population estimates of larger ungulates in the years 1980 and 2001 in Boma National Park

Species	2001 Count (wet season)	1980 Count (wet season)	1980 Count (dry season)
White-eared kob	176,120	680,716	849,365
Lesser eland	21,000	2,612	7,839
Roan antelope	1,960	2,059	3,085
Mongalla gazelle	280	5,933	2,167
Tiang	Not seen	116,373	25,442
Lelwel hartebeeste	5,600	8,556	47,148
Zebra	Not seen	24,078	29,460
Buffalo	Not seen	2,965	11,179
Giraffe	Not seen	4,605	9,028
Waterbuck	Not seen	620	2,462
Grant's gazelle	Not seen	1,222	1,811
Elephant	Not seen	1,763	2,179
Lesser kudu	Not seen	654	170
Oryx	Not seen	1,534	396
Cattle	7,980	7,056	93,815



❖ The bird life of Sudan is thought to include 937 species, of which over 600 are resident and over 300 regular seasonal migrants.



❖ Fortunately, the bird life is little hunted or harassed although habitat loss, particularly in wetland situations, could have significant adverse impacts on this component of biodiversity.

## **VI. National policies, enabling legislation and strategies that promote conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources and related products**

➤ There are four issues facing the wildlife and protected area management sector, which are cumulative in effect:

- habitat destruction and fragmentation;
- park encroachment and degradation;
- commercial poaching and bushmeat; and
- wildlife tourism (or lack thereof).

➤ The National Interim Constitution (NIC)-2005

**Articles on Environment and Natural Resources:**

*“11 (1) The people of the Sudan shall have the right to a clean and diverse environment; the State and the citizens have the duty to preserve and promote the country’s biodiversity.*

*(2) The State shall not pursue any policy, or take or permit any action, which may adversely affect the existence of any species of animal or vegetative life, their natural or adopted habitat.*

*(3) The State shall promote, through legislation, sustainable utilization of natural resources and best practices with respect to their management”.*



➤ With the exception of Dinder National Park (DNP), data on terrestrial wildlife and protected areas of Sudan are insufficient to allow development of management plans.

➤ This would entail implementation of the current management plan, which is both adequate and up to date.

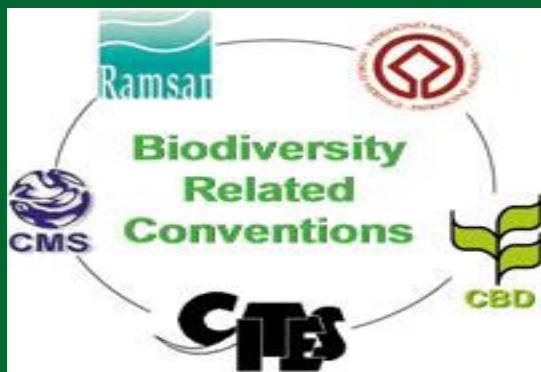
## **VII. Major opportunities and challenges to address the unsustainable harvesting of bushmeat (e.g. obstacles at national level)**

### **A. OPPORTUNITIES**

- 1) Both civil authorities and some communities seem to have a potentially positive attitude towards wildlife conservation.
- 2) The new wealth provided by oil revenue might hopefully allow a gradual reversal of this situation.
- 3) Potential alternatives include sustainable game ranching and the formalization of the bushmeat industry. This can help ease pressure on wild populations and can even prove benefit to the local populations (by restocking).

- 4) Improved Food Security in targeted markets and communities might possibly lessen the pressure on wildlife resources by ensuring that adequate relief supplies reach people moving into areas adjacent to known areas of wildlife concentration.
- 5) Provision of protein rich food sources, perhaps small ruminants, rabbits and chickens will help to alleviate the need for hunting.

## 6) Sudan being party to Biodiversity Related Conventions



	Sudan's position
Convention	Ratification
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1995
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – (AEWA)	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	1982
World Heritage Convention (WHC)	1974
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	2005

The role of the central government is to strengthen synergies between the (Rio) conventions as regards the development of the forestry sector

## 7) Sudan is signatory to the Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes

Sudan signed during the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the first council meeting of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on September 9, 2005.



## **8) Partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) & Flora and Fauna International (FFI)**

- Wildlife Conservation Society, an international NGO, announced in November 2006 that it was forming a multi-year partnership with the GOSS to build capacity in the wildlife forces and progress sustainable management of wildlife resources via a series of practical projects.

- One of the early activities planned is a major aerial survey of the protected areas to count wildlife populations and assess habitat conditions. The first stage of the fieldwork was completed in early 2007.



## **B. OBSTACLES – CHALLENGES**

- i. One of the greatest challenges associated with the management of exploitation of wildlife resources in Sudan is scarcity and incompleteness of data on wildlife production and/or consumption.
- ii. Lack of biological and socio -economic data on a national scale that would help decision-makers to assess impacts on and benefits from the bushmeat resource.

- iii. The governance structure and legal situation of the wildlife and protected area management sector are complex and partially non-adaptive.
- iv. National parks in Sudan have been managed with emphasis on law enforcement, depending fully on patrolling programs.

- v. Much of Sudan's wildlife is found outside of protected areas (especially in Southern Sudan).
- vi. Large numbers of animals move widely, even into adjacent countries and typically towards the wetland areas in the dry season.

- vii. A number of international conventions e.g. (CITES) and (Ramsar) are managed at the federal level. This creates some confusion for the management of sites and issues in the individual states and Southern Sudan.
- viii. No actual coordination, synergy or implementation of the national action plans that emerged from related conventions.
- ix. Dominance of sectoral behavior among related institutions (no adoption of ecosystem or holistic approaches).
- x. Lack of public awareness (including among some foreign tourists) about sustainable bushmeat harvesting.





*Thank you*