

GLOBAL AND GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE BUSHMEAT CRISIS

U.S. and international governments play a key role in addressing the bushmeat crisis. The efforts detailed below combine an impressive level of expertise, resources and collaboration, and provide a source of great optimism for success. Seldom have such efforts been organized on such a broad and coordinated scale. BCTF would like to thank its many partners in US, European and African governments for working with us and sharing this information on their efforts to address the bushmeat crisis.



Photos left to right: Logging road; Wildlife and bushmeat education for indigenous children; Children with infant duiker



Jan McAlpine, Senior Forests Negotiator Dana Roth, Biodiversity and Foreign Affairs Officer OES/ETC, U.S. Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/>

The unsustainable and illegal harvest of bushmeat occurring at a commercial scale is a primary threat facing many wildlife species in the Congo Basin. Recognizing this challenge and its relationship to illegal logging and forest “management,” the U.S. Government has actively sought collaboration with Congo Basin country governments, NGOs and timber concessionaires to develop solutions. U.S. policy works to integrate multilateral environmental agreements (Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD], Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna [CITES]) or organizations (International Tropical Timber Organization [ITTO]), bilateral and multilateral cooperation and public-private partnerships to address the challenges of enforcement, governance issues, the needs of communities and the immediate threats to biodiversity. The U.S. and Congolese governments are working together with a number of partners to support bushmeat control in logging concessions (see Elkan and Elkan in this issue). This pilot program in the northern Republic of Congo employs local people as “eco-guards” to protect against commercial-scale bushmeat hunting and provides income for communities living on the edge of the national park.

The United States also led in facilitating the launch of an historic partnership in the Congo Basin (Congo Basin Forest

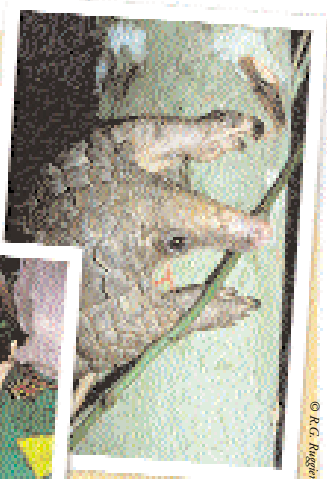
Partnership, CBFP) to focus on support for protected areas, well-managed forestry concessions and assistance to local communities who depend on the outstanding forest and wildlife resources of 11 key landscapes in six Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo). Twenty-nine partners have joined the U.S. at the initiative launched at the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) in Johannesburg, South Africa and participated in an event hosted by Secretary of State Colin Powell. They include public and private partners: 15 governments, seven NGOs, two industry associations and five international organizations.

Richard G. Ruggiero, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist Division of International Conservation U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://international.fws.gov>

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) Division of International Conservation (DIC) is actively involved in supporting conservation projects throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The FWS administers four Multinational Species Conservation Funds, including the African Elephant Conservation Fund (AfECF), the Great Ape Conservation Fund (GACF) and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, all of which actively support work in Africa. The FWS works through these funds and with USAID’s Central African

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Photos left to right:
Pygmy hunters surrounding
duiker; Child with
Crowned Eagle bushmeat;
Pangolin, a common
bushmeat species

Program for the Environment (CARPE) and its partners to assist African governments, NGOs and other conservationists currently addressing the bushmeat problem.

Because chimpanzees, gorillas and elephants are primary target species of the unsustainable, illegal, commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa, the AfECF and the GACF have been effective instruments to provide assistance to several important projects. For example, FWS works to provide technical and practical support to the Government of the Republic of Congo in the NNNP (Noubabalé-Ndoki National Park) partnership. This ground-breaking project is becoming a model that may have wide application across the Congo Basin.

The GACF also supports projects with education or research components that address the effects of bushmeat hunting on the survival of apes. Other projects supported by the GACF more directly control the illegal bushmeat trade by building the capacity of government agencies to regulate wildlife trade, enforce laws and monitor wildlife populations. In addition, through the DIC's participation in CARPE, FWS provides support to the CITES Bushmeat Working Group.

James Graham, CARPE Project Manager

(Summary prepared by BCTF)

**Central African Regional Program for the Environment
U.S. Agency for International Development**

<http://carpe.umd.edu>

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) works with a variety of partners to address the issues of biodiversity and deforestation in the Congo Basin. It has supported a number of initiatives in the region designed to promote actions towards building capacity and conserving wildlife and habitat. In addition to their support of the CITES Bushmeat Working Group (CBWG), CARPE provides support for gorilla conservation in Central Africa, including activities to prevent them from being hunted for bushmeat. CARPE works from a regional perspective with African participation to develop good scientific understanding for information sharing and capacity building. CARPE has been

identified as the recipient of a considerable increase in funding to implement key conservation actions with core partners.

**Melissa Othman, Africa Program
Coordinator**

(Summary prepared by BCTF)

U.S. Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/globelafrica/welcome.htm>

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has also played a significant role in supporting solutions to the bushmeat crisis in Africa and will be further engaged in facilitating additional partnerships and support for addressing sustainable forest management and the bushmeat issue. A CARPE partner, the USFS provides technical assistance and expertise in the area of forests and forest resources. In August 2002, USFS hosted a workshop on wildlife and timber concessions

in the Congo Basin to bring together logging companies, conservation organizations and government agencies to discuss the development of wildlife management and conservation principles, guidelines and models to be integrated into forest management plans and national planning efforts. In 2000, USFS provided support for a similar discussion held at the Lopé Reserve in Gabon. USFS also supported the efforts of Conservation International's Central and West African planning meeting on bushmeat hunting and conservation in 1999.

**Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD), Chairman
(Summary prepared by BCTF)**

**Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife,
and Oceans**

U.S. House of Representatives

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/107cong/fisheries/2002jul11/agenda.htm>

Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD), Chair, and the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans organized and held an official Oversight Hearing on the bushmeat issue in July 2002. Chairman Gilchrest has expressed considerable concern regarding this issue and interest in creating a forum for identifying potential solutions. Expert witnesses from the following institutions testified: U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Agency for International Development, Bushmeat Crisis Task Force, CITES Bushmeat Working Group, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund, US. The expert testimony is available on the subcommittee Web site listed above. The Chairman posed a series of important questions and expressed keen interest in a number of the recommendations provided by the witnesses, including the establishment of a Congressional Bushmeat Caucus.

Adam Matthews, Campaign Director

(Summary prepared by BCTF)

UK Bushmeat Campaign

<http://www.ukbushmeatcampaign.org.uk/>

In the United Kingdom (UK), a coalition of more than 30

conservation organizations supports the efforts of the UK Bushmeat Campaign, led by Barry Gardiner, Member of Parliament (MP) and Robert Evans, Member of European Parliament (MEP). This initiative was launched in 2002 and seeks to encourage the UK and the European Union to make the unsustainable bushmeat trade a priority in international forums. In addition, the UK Bushmeat Campaign works to raise consumer awareness regarding bushmeat and to engage international logging and mining companies in adopting a code of conduct in which only legal hunting would be allowed. The campaign has outlined objectives for various departments within the UK government for specific actions related to addressing the bushmeat crisis.

Marcellin Agnagna, Regional Coordinator CITES Bushmeat Working Group

<http://www.cites.org>

For nearly a decade, Central Africa has confronted an explosion of unprecedented illegal bushmeat commerce. Yesterday's need for subsistence has today given way to a highly lucrative practice for poachers and traders. This has come at an enormous cost to the sub-region, which lacks the resources to assure sustainable management of their biological potential. Bushmeat commerce is a dangerous menace to the survival of many species of wildlife and poses a food security problem to village communities. The trade traverses international borders; it is not difficult to find bushmeat in Paris, Brussels, London and New York. In April 2000 at the CITES 11th Conference of Parties (COP 11), the international community mobilized to support the establishment of an official CITES Bushmeat Working Group (CBWG), including the following core members from Central Africa: Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

CITES COP 12 will take place in Santiago, Chile in November 2002. The CITES Secretariat has recommended that the CITES BWG be renewed through COP 13, with support from external funding [see document 12.62 for details: <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/12/docs/eng/E12-62.pdf>].

Member nations have appointed official national representatives (the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas) and a National Bushmeat Officer (NBO) to conduct the work of the group. Through the support of the UK, the USFWS and BCTF, the CBWG has met several times to identify priority actions, including review and harmonization of policy and legislation regarding wildlife and bushmeat hunting and trade; institutional review of wildlife management and protected area departments; capacity building and training of personnel charged with wildlife management; development of a code of conduct regarding wildlife for logging concessions; establishment of a monitoring system for the bushmeat trade, and development of a public awareness campaign. BCTF provides technical and financial support to the CBWG through funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the USFWS. An office was recently established for the Regional Coordinator at the IUCN headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Bihini Won wa Musiti, Program Coordinator IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa (ROCA)

<http://www.iucn.org/places/brac/index.htm>

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is a unique international collaboration including states, government agencies and NGOs. A resolution on bushmeat, prepared and submitted by BCTF and three Supporting Members, was adopted by IUCN in October 2000. The resolution called for increased funding, law enforcement and collaboration to address the crisis. The IUCN-ROCA office responded immediately to the resolution and is playing an important role to develop actions, effective management and restoration of ecosystems in the sub-region to ensure that the bushmeat problem is well addressed and supported by lasting solutions.

IUCN-ROCA, as the facilitator of the CEFDHAC (Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale) process orients the countries in the sub-region towards common actions by all concerned parties. IUCN-ROCA is a leader in addressing the bushmeat crisis in Central Africa and provides opportunities for collaboration with other parties to effectively manage natural resources in the Congo Basin.

IUCN-ROCA has a number of achievements regarding the bushmeat issue involving collaboration in the Central Africa region. IUCN-ROCA is now circulating a GEF/UNDP (Global Environment Fund/United Nations Development Program) proposal on development and implementation of management strategies and alternatives to bushmeat. This proposal follows the recommendation from the IUCN/FAO/TRAFFIC bushmeat workshop held in September 2001 and the priorities raised in the Regional Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the environmental and biodiversity resources. We are collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in a number of ways: in October 2002, FAO and IUCN-ROCA hosted a workshop to draft a National Bushmeat Action Plan. This process will lead to similar exercises in Congo and Gabon; after a September 2002 workshop organized by FAO and IUCN-ROCA in Cameroon on 'Best Practices of Tropical Forest Management,' FAO will continue to work with IUCN on the implementation of CAWHFI (Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative) to continue successful collaboration at other sites in the region. Finally, we collaborate closely with the CBWG, and our offices provide the base for the CBWG Regional Coordinator.

The Great Ape Survival Project

(Summary prepared by BCTF)

UNEP and UNESCO

<http://www.unep.org/grasp>

The Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) was launched by Executive Director Dr. Klaus Toepfer in 2001 in an effort to bring experts and organizations together to raise awareness among key decision makers throughout the ape range states. Together they intend to develop national action plans for apes and to identify resources for support of ape conservation projects. 6

