

Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN) 2012



Envisioning a future marked by partnerships that enable diverse, sustainable wildlife populations, viable protein and income alternatives, freedom from wildlife diseases and conflict, and supporting eastern Africa's cultural, economic and ecological heritage for generations to come.

BEAN

The Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN) is an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional network. It consists of stakeholders working collaboratively to: raise awareness, focus attention, share information, analyze, evaluate and report on trends, and leverage resources. BEAN aims to encourage local partnerships and capacity that implement grassroots solutions to directly address bushmeat exploitation problems affecting protected and surrounding areas in Eastern Africa.



BEAN 2008-2011

BEAN emerged as a network from the **2008-2009 MENTOR Fellowship Program** on bushmeat capacity building offered by the US Fish and

Wildlife Service, College of African Wildlife Management Mweka and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group. **During** the fellowship participants **researched** and **developed** bushmeat trade and **mitigation efforts** in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan. **Following** the fellowship participants and stakeholders from throughout the region **committed** during a December 2009 workshop in Uganda **to work together** to address the growing bushmeat threat. In **2010 - 2011** the BEAN network (1) **continued** implementing **mitigation** efforts in communities associated with key protected areas, (2) **collaboratively implemented** key **strategies** of awareness-building, enforcement-training, information management, alternatives development and capacity building, and (3) **engaged a team** of graduate students from Johns Hopkins School of International Studies (SAIS) economics and environment program in

Washington, DC **to evaluate the optimal network structure to support addressing the bushmeat issue in Eastern Africa.** The results of this work included recommendations regarding the **need for national-level information-sharing networks** on the bushmeat issue as well as **continued multi-sector approaches to developing local-level partnerships and solutions** to address the complex bushmeat hunting and trade dynamics found associated with each protected area.

BEAN 2012-2015



The founding members of BEAN plan to continue working as professionals in their fields of expertise while contributing time and effort toward building the networks of

stakeholders needed at local, national and regional scales to mitigate the social, economic and ecological threats posed by unsustainable wildlife exploitation. Go To: www.bushmeatnetwork.org



Alternatives

Bushmeat serves as both a source of **income** and a source of **food** to communities around protected areas. To address the bushmeat problem with these stakeholders, initiatives

must engage in helping them to **replace reliance on wildlife**. Addressing livelihood challenges needs multi-disciplinary cooperation among government agencies, local leaders, and development and conservation organizations to develop **locally-specific, climate resilient approaches** to strengthen

economic security around protected areas. BEAN's alternative projects include increasing production and improving preservation of fish; promoting good health in chicken and other domestic animals; and supplying community groups with starting goat populations. Projects are often geographically restricted, resource-intensive, and can target only a limited number of people—initiatives are long term investments that will not stop hunting quickly, thus they must be partnered with education campaigns and continued law enforcement efforts. Preventing bushmeat exploitation must be linked with larger development issues. Development agencies should be encouraged to work with communities adjacent to protected areas.

Awareness



There is an urgent need for bushmeat awareness campaigns in Eastern Africa. Hunting for bushmeat is unsustainable and continues to be an under-recognized threat in the region. Most citizens and governments in Eastern Africa do not recognize the magnitude of the problem nor what they can do about it. BEAN founding members were trained in developing targeted communications plans and have applied this training through radio campaigns, educator workshops, bushmeat-specific education materials, plays, songs, study tours for community leaders, and targeted presentations for professional development seminars across multiple sectors - military, development, agricultural, and conservation organizations. BEAN has also developed a website and information materials for regional and international awareness.

Enforcement



The magnitude of both commercial and subsistence bushmeat hunting and trade exceeds the capacity of most wildlife law enforcement agencies to manage. BEAN identified critical challenges in the law enforcement process and targeted efforts through multi-agency workshops in each country to provide training and tools to enhance detection, arrest, prosecution and sentencing. These workshops have resulted in further programs to support ranger training and multi-agency cooperation. BEAN is currently developing a prosecution and magistrates training manual for East Africa with case studies from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In addition, BEAN is working toward developing training courses for wildlife institutions across the region to further develop essential knowledge, skills and approaches to address the bushmeat challenge.

Capacity-building



Bushmeat is a threat because the capacity to address what drives the trade does not exist. BEAN was established to help address this need in the region. BEAN works at multiple levels from providing information to **individuals** to building **teams** of conservation professionals that work together in key protected areas. BEAN supports **institutions** such as wildlife colleges and universities to develop curricula that enables problem-solving leading to interdisciplinary solutions. BEAN also builds **constituencies** such as the capacity of law enforcement stakeholders to strengthen governments' abilities to prosecute wildlife crimes. BEAN works at the **systemic level** to develop international recommendations through participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and CITES in order to voice African conservation concerns and knowledge.