



Country Focus: **Tanzania** **Katavi National Park Field Assessment**



- ▶ **Tanzania wildlife trends show significant declines in the last thirty years.**
- ▶ **Katavi NP wildlife is being negatively impacted by illegal hunting with the majority of households hunting wildlife to meet basic income needs.**
- ▶ **There is a high demand for protein and income in Tanzania that is being supported by wildlife.**
- ▶ **Increased capacity for enforcement, alternatives for protein and income, greater awareness and stakeholder co-operation are needed in Tanzania and the communities associated with National Parks such as Katavi.**

**Wildlife Trends in Tanzania**

Although nearly a quarter of Tanzania’s land surface (24%) is designated as some form of protection for wildlife, in the 1970’s and early 1980’s wildlife in Tanzania suffered dramatic declines due to lack of capacity to manage increasing poaching pressures. As a result, Tanzania lost nearly half of its elephant populations and almost all its black rhinoceros populations. Herbivore survey data from across Tanzania revealed that further declines in many wildlife populations had occurred from the late 1980’s to early 2000’s in over 50% of the survey areas. Wildlife policy provides for licensing of both resident subsistence and sport hunting in Tanzania but capacity to manage illegal hunting for bushmeat is limited. Demands for necessary protein and income to support Tanzania’s growing human population – from 17 million people in 1977 to 39 million in 2007 – are being supplemented through illegal bushmeat hunting and trade. Illegal hunting has been identified through scientific research as a primary cause of significant wildlife declines in Tanzania and is now an issue requiring high priority action.

**Study Area**

Katavi National Park, with a size of 4,471 km<sup>2</sup> is the third largest park in Tanzania. It is located in the southwest near Lake Tanganyika. A bushmeat assessment was conducted in this region in April-May 2008 to evaluate the current status and estimated trends of bushmeat hunting and trade associated with this national park and nationally in Tanzania. The bushmeat assessment was conducted primarily in communities around Katavi National Park in Mpanda District of Rukwa Region. This district is composed of mixed tribes, including subsistence farmers, agro pastoralists, and pastoralists.

**Overview of the Katavi National Park, Tanzania Assessment**

Methods used in collecting the nationwide data included a literature review of unpublished research, poaching and arrest statistics, wildlife records and population census, and interviews. Village household (n=120) and key informant interviews (n=22) from conservation and development stakeholder groups were conducted using questionnaires. Household interviews were randomly selected from a total of 3,895 households (population 30,856). Additional interviews included National Park wardens and village leaders as well as group discussions with Village Game Scouts supported by direct observations.



Source for Map: Bamse 2007

**BUSHMEAT**

The bushmeat trade is the illegal, over-hunting of wildlife for meat and income. Already in West and Central Africa this trade has resulted in declines and local extinctions of many wildlife species and the economic, cultural and ecosystem services they provide. In addition, a number of human health threats have emerged from the trade in bushmeat including linkages with HIV/AIDS, ebola and the threat of anthrax. Bushmeat trade is not regulated or managed by any authority. Economic benefits from the trade go mainly to hunters and traders. If current trends continue, future generations of citizens in Africa will not have the opportunity to access benefits from wildlife. Using wildlife to meet protein and income demands cannot be supported in the long term. The immediate threat of loss of economic opportunity, cultural and ecological services, and other values to a wider community must be addressed today.

## Results and Findings

Hunting for wildlife is a tradition in Tanzania using different kinds of traditional weapons, but now it is becoming commercialized. Today in Tanzania, expanding human populations have created a situation where large numbers of poor people live close to protected wildlife populations. The needs of people and wildlife come into conflict. People struggling to feed their families and earn an income resort to activities that negatively impact the environment such as converting natural habitat into farmland and participating in illegal bushmeat hunting. In most of Tanzania's national parks, illegal hunting impacts the migratory and non-migratory herbivore populations.

This study found that key stakeholder organizations interviewed participate in addressing bushmeat trade through a number of pathways including: law enforcement (25.6%), infrastructure development inside protected areas (20.9%), support of policy formation (11.6%), research – community based conservation and capacity building (9.3%), and coordination with wildlife exporters/hunters and government (4.7%). Despite its importance as a key factor in addressing the bushmeat trade, none focused on protein or income alternatives for local communities.

Respondents largely believed (50%) that bushmeat hunting is increasing due to increased human populations and increased commercialization of the bushmeat trade. International trade includes marketing to the Middle East, Burundi and Kenya via the international airport. Another factor driving the problem is limited collaboration among stakeholders to address the bushmeat issue.

More than 70% of households surveyed (n=120) stated that they hunted wildlife for cash while less than 10% stated they hunted wildlife for food. An estimated 20% stated they hunted wildlife for both cash and food. Consumption rates in lower income communities were more likely to be occasional (annually or semi-annually) while those in the higher income households tended to eat bushmeat more frequently (weekly or monthly). Consumers prefer buffalo and warthogs. The vast majority of respondents (80%) suggested that hunting success rates have declined in the last five years in this region and almost 90% stated that poaching exists primarily for economic reasons.

Data suggests that wealth differentials, poverty, and seasonal food insecurity are the prime drivers for expansion of bushmeat hunting from subsistence to commercial levels. Domestic meat is available in the village markets from ethnic pastoralist groups but it is very expensive compared to bushmeat and therefore, this deters its consumption by the local communities.

## Recommendations

Bushmeat trade is a complex problem which requires creative solutions that can be adapted to constantly changing social, political, economic, and ecological conditions. For a sustainable solution for the bushmeat problem around Katavi National Park, local communities will need: 1) development of culturally acceptable alternatives for income generation (such as eco-tourism) and a supply of protein alternatives, 2) effective enforcement/improvement of laws, 3) education and awareness with a well focused message and recommended actions, 4) engagement of local communities in wildlife management planning, and 5) integration of conservation and development strategies through stakeholder co-operation and co-management.



For more information about BEAN and bushmeat in eastern Africa please visit: [www.bushmeatnetwork.org](http://www.bushmeatnetwork.org)

The Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN) is an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional network consisting of stakeholders (wildlife professionals, human development experts, government representatives, private industry personnel, academic experts, local community leadership and citizens etc.) who work collaboratively to raise awareness, focus attention, share information, analyze, evaluate and report on trends, and leverage resources to build local partnerships and capacity to implement grassroots solutions that directly address bushmeat exploitation problems affecting protected and surrounding areas in eastern Africa.



**Sources:** Andimile, M. 2008. Draft Report from Assessment of Illegal Bushmeat Trade in Tanzania: The Case of Communities Around Katavi National Park. College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Tanzania, 93 Pages.

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## MENTOR

BEAN emerged from the USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program [[www.mentorfellowshipprogram.org](http://www.mentorfellowshipprogram.org)] a funded cooperative agreement from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [[www.fws.gov/international/DIC/regional%20programs/africa/Africa.html](http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/regional%20programs/africa/Africa.html)] to the College of African Wildlife Management- Mweka, Tanzania [[www.mwekawildlife.org](http://www.mwekawildlife.org)] and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group [[www.abcg.org](http://www.abcg.org)].

