



Country Focus: **Tanzania**

**Field Assessment of Urban Centers:
Morogoro and Kilombero Districts**



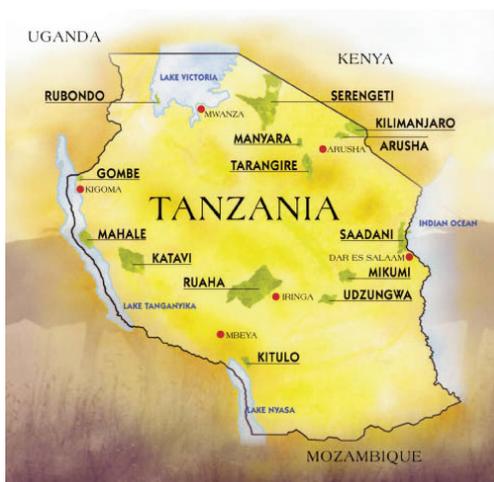
- ▶ **Tanzania wildlife trends show significant declines in the last thirty years.**
- ▶ **Respondents interviewed in urban areas of southeastern Tanzania have observed these wildlife declines but continue to demand, consume and trade bushmeat – mostly in private house-to-house sales.**
- ▶ **Law enforcement capacity to manage the bushmeat trade in Tanzania is limited.**
- ▶ **Protected areas are a significant source of bushmeat for urban communities. Addressing the bushmeat trade in Tanzania is a priority.**

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

A bushmeat field assessment was conducted at both the national and local site level in April to May 2008. At the national level, the status of bushmeat trade countrywide was examined. At the site level (Morogoro Urban and Kilombero Districts) in south-eastern Tanzania, the study sought to examine the status of bushmeat trade in urban centers with emphasis on ecological impacts and identifying potential nutritional and economic alternatives to urban dwellers. The Morogoro Region is associated with four wildlife areas: Selous Game Reserve, Mikumi National Park, Udzungwa National Park, and Wami Mbiki Wildlife Management Area.



Source for Map: Bamse 2007

Overview of the Morogoro Urban and Kilombero District Assessment, Tanzania

A review of literature, monitoring reports and interviews with key informants provided information on wildlife trends in Tanzania over recent decades. Interviews with key stakeholders (n=22), bushmeat traders and hunters (n=33), and bushmeat consumers (n=303). Bushmeat consumers interviewed represented nearly 10% of the total households (N=3,127) for seven urban communities surveyed.

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

Key stakeholders interviewed generally agreed that wildlife populations in Tanzania have decreased over several decades citing illegal bushmeat hunting and trade coupled with increasing human population numbers and demands as important contributors to this decline. Most commonly hunted species include: wildebeest, zebra, eland, giraffe, hippopotamus, buffalo, elephant and both small and medium-sized antelope. Major source areas of bushmeat provided to these urban centers include: Selous Game Reserve, Mikumi National Park, Kilombero Game Controlled Area and Wami Mbiki Wildlife Management Area

Despite the fact that bushmeat hunting and trade is illegal in Tanzania, nearly all respondents (90%) were aware that there was a bushmeat trade taking place in the study area. Sources of bushmeat included unlicensed and licensed hunters as well as animals from problem animal control exercises. Most preferred trade mechanism for bushmeat purchase includes individual sellers providing bushmeat to private homes (upon request). Bushmeat is largely sold privately, but can be found in some locations in the open.

The major driver for this bushmeat trade was identified as lack of income and poverty combined with increased costs of hunting licenses and fuel (for transport to hunting areas). Additionally, increased bushmeat hunting and trade is enabled by limited law enforcement capacity to control illegal activities. There is a cultural preference for bushmeat that also contributes to its demand in urban areas. The majority of respondents (76.5%) stated that wildlife populations were in decline as was evidenced by hunters who suggested that hunting success rates had been decreasing over the previous five years (2003-2008). Additional interviewees suggested that animals being hunted were young and middle-aged indicating overhunting impacts.

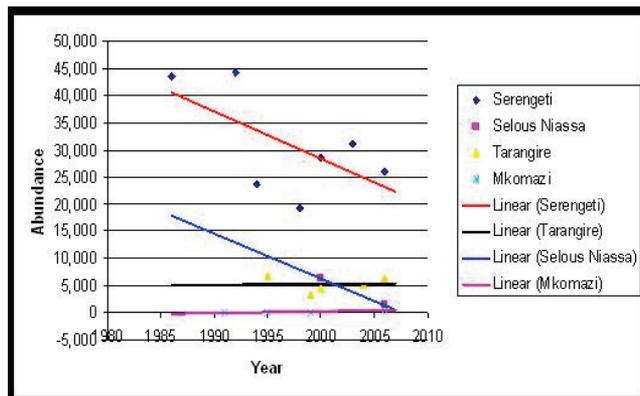


Fig. 1. Buffalo population trends in selected Tanzania National Parks 1985-2007. Source TAWIRI Aerial Census 2007.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this survey, it is recommended that wildlife laws, regulation and law enforcement capacity be reviewed and improved. Bushmeat awareness raising targeting key stakeholders, law enforcement agencies and communities is essential. Partnerships and co-management among private industry, development experts, conservation and government personnel toward developing income and protein alternatives, improved management and monitoring of wildlife, and effective enforcement can effectively address these dramatic wildlife declines. Wildlife security needs to be assured to support continued ecosystem services, economic development, and cultural support for generations to come.



For more information about BEAN and bushmeat in eastern Africa please visit: 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.



MENTOR

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



Sources: Bamse. 2007. Map of Tanzania National Parks and Conservation Areas. Wikimedia Commons [Accessed February 2009: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4d/Parks_Tanzania.svg]

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