

Results and Findings

Wildlife trends in Uganda are in dramatic decline for a number of species. From 1960 to 2006, significant declines occurred in populations of: elephant (30,000 to 4,200), black rhino (400 to 0), white rhino (300 to 0), hippopotamus (26,000 to 7,500), buffalo (60,000 to 30,000), hartebeest (25,000 to 4,500), topi (15,000 to 1,750), and giraffe (2,500 to 240) among many others.

Based on questionnaire interviews, species identified as commonly hunted and traded are hippopotamus, Uganda kob, warthog, and cane rats. Species noted in considerable decline (less available in markets) are hippopotamus, buffalo, and elephant. A majority of the respondents stated that current law enforcement efforts are not sufficient to curb illegal bushmeat hunting and trade activities due to limited capacity and lack of coordination among agencies.

Higher consumption levels of bushmeat occur among households interviewed that were in closer proximity to national parks where bushmeat is primarily traded directly through households. Respondents reported that some trade also occurs in restaurants and markets. Most respondents suggested they consume bushmeat on a weekly basis. Bushmeat is less expensive than domestic meat in urban areas that are closer to national parks. In urban areas that are farther from national parks (Kampala and Gulu), bushmeat is more expensive than domestic meat but is still a consumer choice.

A majority of the respondents suggested that they are aware of the laws relating to bushmeat and they get their information from friends, newspapers, radio and sometimes hunters themselves. Awareness about bushmeat is limited in Uganda. Average monthly income for bushmeat traders is \$317 USD per month. There is a high turnover rate of police personnel and very low investigation or prosecution of bushmeat cases in the courts.



Photo: Vincent Opyente

Confiscated bushmeat in Uganda.

Recommendations

Coordination of stakeholders (law enforcement, wildlife agencies, development agencies, local communities, reformed-hunter groups, academic institutions, private sector, and media) to build partnerships and capacity to raise awareness, apply alternatives and improve governance to effectively address overhunting of wildlife. Develop public awareness campaigns in urban areas coupled with increased focus on protein and income alternatives. Engage local leadership (e.g. Kings) in working with other stakeholders and local communities to identify and develop alternative protein and income sources.



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

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