

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Other themes and issues

BUSHMEAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, on behalf of the Bushmeat Working Group (BWG).

Background

2. At its 11th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 11.166 as follows:

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *note the concerns, issues and suggestions contained in document Doc. 11.44 'Bushmeat as trade and wildlife management issue' and, taking this document as a starting point, convene a working group of interested range and donor States to examine issues raised by the trade in bushmeat, with the aim of identifying solutions that can be willingly implemented by range States; and*
 - b) *contact organizations such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and others that can make a contribution to achieve better and sustainable management of the bushmeat trade under their own mandates, and invite them to participate in the above-mentioned working group.*
3. A number of Parties in Central Africa volunteered to form a working group to fulfil the aims stated in paragraph a) of the Decision. The Secretariat expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and to IUCN-the World Conservation Union for their assistance in facilitating and supporting the activities of the working group. A lack of resources has prevented the Secretariat from participating fully in these activities but its staff have attended two meetings of the working group.
 4. With regard to paragraph b) of the Decision, the Secretariat advised the above-mentioned organizations of the establishment of a working group and invited them to participate. It then supplied to these organizations copies of the proceedings of the working group meetings. The Secretariat also established a section on its website relating to bushmeat, so that information on the activities of the working group could be widely disseminated.

Membership and objectives of the BWG

5. The BWG consists of representatives from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. These Parties agreed to form a case study region to identify the scope of work and possible solutions to what is now commonly described as the 'bushmeat crisis'. The BWG also includes a wider range of countries, including: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire,

Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zambia, which have expressed their interest in learning from the activities of other members of the Group and employing any of the strategies identified to control the trade in bushmeat.

6. The primary objectives of the BWG are to:
 - a) identify the scope of problems relating to bringing national and cross-border bushmeat trade into the context of a sustainable and legal process;
 - b) identify solutions that address the problems; and
 - c) facilitate the process of achieving solutions.

Activities of the BWG

7. The BWG held its first meeting in Douala, Cameroon, in January 2001, where it established the scope of its work and identified priority actions for the group. In addition, the members provided a review of the status of bushmeat hunting and trade, policy, and capacity for their countries and agreed that the bushmeat problem continues to be a real issue. They noted increasing evidence that illegal trade in bushmeat involved commercial trade across national boundaries that evades the controls of the Convention with regard to specimens of CITES-listed species and derivatives thereof. The first formal meeting of the group was supported by the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supported a meeting of the core members of the working group, along with representatives from the dissemination group and donor countries during a special session of the coalition of non-governmental organizations called the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) at its Collaborative Action Planning Meeting in May 2001 in Washington, D.C., United States of America, where opportunities for collaboration between BCTF and the BWG were identified.
8. The BWG held its second formal meeting in Cameroon in July 2001 where it established a framework for its priority actions. This formed the basis of a joint BCTF–BWG three-year (2002-2004) funding proposal, subsequently approved by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and co-funded by the United States of America Department of State, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Additional funding to support this project is being sought from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, the United States of America's Agency for International Development and others.
9. With support from a USAID Global Bureau grant, the BWG members met at the École de Faune de Garoua (Garoua Wildlife College), Cameroon, in March 2002 during the bushmeat curriculum development workshop co-organized by the college and BCTF. During this meeting the BWG established a framework for its three-year implementation plan and the establishment of an office at the IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The action plan includes: a policy and legislation review; training for bushmeat trade law enforcement and monitoring and the development of a related database; a review of wildlife management authority structures; public awareness campaigns in Central Africa; and the development of wildlife management guidelines within logging concessions. Funding from the MacArthur Foundation specifically supports bushmeat officers in each of the six core BWG countries, a post of regional coordinator for the next three years (2002-2004), as well as the purchase of equipment and the costs of communication.
10. In April-May 2002, a bushmeat information session, hosted by the Environmental Grantmakers Association at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Council on Foundations in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America, was organized by the MacArthur Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the BCTF and the BWG. The Chairman of The BWG (Mr Marcellin Agnagna of the Congo) provided a presentation on its activities at this session and met with a number of representatives of funding agencies. After these meetings, the Chairman met with the BCTF in Washington, D.C., United States of America, to discuss further development of collaborative efforts with the existing CITES MIKE programme and areas of

potential partnership regarding database management, training, information gathering, and coordination for establishing an information mapping system for bushmeat problem areas and trade routes.

11. The United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs funded a report ('Assessment of the solution-orientated research needed to promote a more sustainable bushmeat trade in Central and West Africa') examining the bushmeat trade in terms of institutions, policies, biodiversity and livelihoods and setting out principles and recommendations for further action in promoting a more sustainable trade in Central and West Africa. The report was made available to the BWG in May 2002.

Conclusion

12. The BWG has made significant progress toward developing regular communication among the six Central African directors of wildlife and protected areas and has fulfilled its initial mandate in terms of Decision 11.166. The Group has developed an action plan, secured funding to implement the plan, and identified logistical support through IUCN for housing the regional coordinator. With the funding available for priority activities during the period 2002-2004, it aims to develop databases of trade in bushmeat, harmonize legislation related to wildlife exploitation and trade, collate information for a regional perspective on bushmeat trade, provide law enforcement training, and raise awareness among the general public in Africa regarding the consumption and exploitation of wildlife. It is expected that these actions will culminate in a set of recommended solutions that can be willingly implemented by range States, as required by Decision 11.166.

Recommendations

13. In light of the positive work undertaken by the BWG, the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions presented in the Annex.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regarding bushmeat as a trade and wildlife management issue

- 12.x The Bushmeat Working Group (BWG) shall be maintained with its current balance of membership and approximate size until the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will continue, using external funding, to examine issues raised by the trade in bushmeat and to implement its action plan, with a view to proposing solutions.
- 12.x The Secretariat shall continue to facilitate and overview the work of the BWG and shall report on its activities to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.