

UK TROPICAL FOREST FORUM

BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP

23rd May 2007

14:30 – 17:30

The Mappin Pavilion, Zoological Society of London

Meeting report

Attendees List

Sophie Allebone-Webb, Institute of Zoology, ZSL
Guy Cowlshaw, Institute of Zoology, ZSL
Glyn Davies, Director of Conservation Programmes, ZSL
Lyndsay Gale
Matthew Hatchwell, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Europe
Olly Hymas, Projet Gibier, Gabon
Noelle Kumpel, Conservation Programmes, ZSL
Barbara Maas, Care for the Wild International (CWI)
Chris Ransom, Conservation Programmes, ZSL
Ian Redmond, Ape Alliance/ GRASP
Jacqui Sunderland-Groves, CIFOR
Ian Watson, Watson Fish Consulting

The Chair, Dr Glyn Davies, Director of Conservation Programmes, ZSL, welcomed participants and reminded them that this is not a ZSL group but a UK group to discuss research and especially policy related to bushmeat. He noted the small attendance and suggested that something may have to be done to change the format to encourage more industry and government personnel to attend.

Glyn read out an update provided by Dave Wootton from Defra on the recent report by Brown, Fa and Gordon, 'Assessment of Recent Bushmeat Research and Recommendations to HMG'. The draft report was circulated by ODI to a peer review group of 20 specialists, before being presented to the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGb) on 26 March. It will be revised and re-edited after the peer review and IDMGb discussion. It is hoped that the final report will be agreed upon and published formally in June/July and the drafting of HMG response's will take place in the autumn.

Attendees introduced themselves. The Chair drew attention to the agenda.

The Neotropical bushmeat crisis and its effect on primate populations, and proposal for a CITES Neotropical Bushmeat Working Group

Dr Barbara Maas, Care for the Wild International (CWI)

Dr Barbara Maas presented a recent report by CWI and ProWildlife: Going to Pot: the Neotropical Bushmeat Crisis and its Impacts on Primate Populations. She began with an introduction to CWI's primate protection work which includes giving money to the Great Ape Crisis Fund, orangutan rescue and rehabilitation in Indonesia, Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Kenya, the Cambodian slow loris, a gibbon sanctuary in Thailand and the Beirut Primate Rescue Centre.

Barbara then moved on to the findings of the report which reviewed almost 200 primarily scientific publications covering 22 countries across Central and South America and demonstrates that current levels of offtake are unsustainable across most Neotropical primates' range. In at least 16 of the 22 countries hunting for bushmeat poses a critical threat to primate populations, with a paucity of data available for the remaining 5 countries.

The threats to primates are hunting, deforestation and the capture of live animals. Hunting can be broken down into 2 types: subsistence whereby a proportion of the meat is offered at local markets; and opportunistic which is driven by loggers seeking food. The use of primates tends to be for food, medicine and occasionally bait.

Primates are a favourite target for hunters because they live in social groups that are easy to locate because of their noisy behaviour. Capuchin, woolly, spider and howler monkeys are frequently targeted due to their large body size whilst also being most susceptible to over-exploitation because of their slow reproductive rates, in some cases being locally extirpated. A shift from traditional hunting practices to more efficient modern methods, such as the replacement of blow pipes with guns, has intensified hunting pressure.

Barbara reported that rural populations in the Brazilian Amazon are estimated to consume between 2.2 and 5.4 million primates per year, and that 8 million people in the Amazon Basin regularly consume bushmeat. Data from hunted areas in many different Amazonian sites show that large primate biomass has dropped by up to 93.5% in comparison to areas where hunting is absent.

Deforestation is another major threat to Neotropical primates. In the 1970s 2.4% of the Amazon was cut, since then 600,000 km² (~15 %) has been cut. In the 1980s 15,000 km²/year was lost and this figure increased through the 1990s. The main causes of this were cattle ranches (60%) and small scale subsistence (30%). Logging damages habitats and opens up the forest. Timber companies must feed their workers. This improves access to the forest – three-quarters of the Amazon can now be reached on foot. She suggested that selective logging is also a problem as 32% of selectively logged forests have been found to have been completely cleared within four years. This is a livelihoods issue, as people are commonly clear-cutting to survive. But Barbara likened this scenario to a 'house of cards' – and cited an example of the disappearance of spider monkeys as fruit dispersers in one case study impacting the forest structure itself (Pacheco and Simonetti, 2000). The pet trade is a further threat to primates in particular.

Barbara stated that the impacts of all these factors are huge. Primates are threatened in 16 nations. Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Costa Rica have all seen local extinctions in areas.

Barbara then described the recommendations made in this report to range states, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Range states

- Prohibit hunting, capture and sale of primates.
- Strengthen enforcement to ensure the implementation of hunting, logging and trade bans, as well as to ensure the safety of protected areas.
- Increase the size of protected areas and their buffer zones and improve their monitoring.
- Develop and extend local education programmes, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Ensure logging companies take measures against primate hunting
- Ensure EIAs are carried out for future development planning, including for roads, logging concessions etc, in remote forested areas and sensitive ecological zones

CBD

- CBD Parties should explicitly address the issue of the Neotropical bushmeat crisis in the context of the CBD Bushmeat Liaison Group.

- CBD should ask Parties from the Neotropics to report on the bushmeat consumption in their countries, together with its impact on primate populations.
- The Bushmeat Liaison Group should closely cooperate with CBD parties from the Neotropical region to collect and review data.
- The CBD should ask Parties to develop policies in order to protect tropical forests, expand a network of protected areas and biological corridors, and strengthen implementation and enforcement.

CITES

- Establish a Neotropical Bushmeat Working Group, similar to its current Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group – or alternatively incorporate a Neotropical component into a more general (renamed) 'CITES Bushmeat Working Group'.
- Pursue the development of national action and management plans regarding the trade in bushmeat in Central and South America.
- CITES Parties should be asked to collect data on the bushmeat trade and report to CITES.
- Review implementation and efficiency of national laws
- The CITES Secretariat should draw the attention of relevant organisations (e.g. FAO, ITTO) to the issues and invite them to participate in the Working Group.

To conclude, urgent national and international action is required to address the threats.

Glyn thanked **Barbara** for her presentation and invited questions.

Ian Watson asked if prohibiting hunting was a realistic option or will it just mean unenforceable laws, particularly as many of the indigenous people rely on hunting for their livelihoods? **Barbara** replied that there is no easy solution and a catalogue of measures was needed, one of which could be prohibiting hunting.

Ian Redmond asked to what extent the trade was cross border and so the concern of CITES? **Barbara** replied that CITES was just one apparatus for addressing this problem and that is why recommendations were also made for the range states and CBD.

Jacqui Sunderland-Groves asked what ratio of the meat is sent to large cities compared to that consumed in rural areas. **Barbara** replied that it is becoming less subsistence and moving towards commercial. **Jacqui** asked if bushmeat was preferred or whether it was consumed through need. **Barbara** replied that it was just seen as a type of meat, and is not aware of any meat being exported overseas like African bushmeat. **Glyn** pointed out that the high supply of beef in the Neotropics compared to the Afrotropics, reducing demand for bushmeat.

Discussions on standardizing data collection for determining dependence on bushmeat and bushfish by the WildMeet student group. Sophie Allebone-Webb, ZSL Institute of Zoology (IoZ)

The WildMeet group came about as a forum for PhD students from a variety of UK-based institutions (e.g. IoZ, Imperial College, University College London, University of East Anglia, Cambridge University, Oxford University) studying use of wild meat or wild fish to discuss methods and exchange ideas. They realised that many people were specifically looking at the use or dependence on wild meat or wild fish so it seemed logical to try to compare the bushmeat and fisheries systems. This resulted in discussions on ways of standardising data collection so that results can be compared for larger-scale analysis.

Two methods which have been developed to try and achieve this and the group thought worth looking into are:

- CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research) PEN questionnaires which use existing PhD students to carry out questionnaires, taking a couple of months out from their PhD fieldwork.
- SocMon (Global Socioeconomic Coastal Monitoring Programme) data collection – which uses standardised data collection forms which allow you to decide on the exact data you want to collect.

Issues:

- Should data collection involve using identical questions, or is collecting the same type of data enough?
- Can data collection be standardised across such different systems (studies/regions)?
- Is it useful?
- Can we distinguish between use and dependence? The group thought that this would only be possible (if at all) by looking at access to alternative livelihoods, or perhaps the seasonal change in use.
- What data should we collect to include all potential explanatory variables?
- Is this feasible for a PhD student to collect? (Many different physical/social/economic factors – not just the study of meat/fish use alone – would this require additional training/expertise as well as time?)

The outcome of these discussions was a list of things that are important to measure:

Dependant Variables

- Harvest: quantity harvested, Number of species
- Income from wildmeat/fish: Total income, % income, 5 consumed vs. sold
- Consumption: Proportion of meals containing wild meat/fish

Independent Variables

- Site specific: climate, market access, village demographics, governance, employment opportunities, community infrastructure
- Household specific: HH demographics, HH income, ranked wealth, residency
- Resource specific: distance/cost to resource, resource condition.

Sophie asked for any suggestions.....

Ian Watson commented that consumer demand could be included, **Glyn Davies** asked if they had looked at the development literature (e.g. Save the Children surveys) and **Matthew Hatchwell** suggested that they may be able to find information in the development literature about sources of animal protein. **Sophie** replied that Save the Children's work was designed for use in pastoralist systems, and so focusses on livestock rather than wild protein. **Glyn** pointed out that this may be due to the organisation working in many famine areas where there is often little choice – **Sophie** agreed and said that although some of the approaches they use are useful, they've focuses on the CIFOR PEN and SocMon because they are more adapted to wild harvesting.

Ian Redmond suggested adding in a temporal/generational element by asking older people to see if trends have changed and adding in catchment area to see if they have access to other foods.

Olly Hymas questioned whether it was possible to standardise methods and suggested that it would never be possible to standardise across continents considering the variations even between villages in the same area. He also pointed out that the CIFOR PEN questionnaire takes 4-5 hours to do and is very general. **Sophie** replied the difficulties of standardising questionnaires across such different regions is one of the reasons why they do not think this approach will work.

Barbara Maas suggested they should collect offtakes from each site in order to pick up shifts in availability over time.

**Report of a recent Gabonese workshop on national bushmeat strategy
implementation.
Olly Hymas, Projet Gibier**

Olly Hymas has spent the last 3 years working in Gabon on 'Projet Gibier', funded by the Darwin Initiative. Project Gibier was initially begun in 2000 by Dr Kate Abernethy on the request of the then Director of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) to gather data on Gabon's bushmeat trade. Funding was then obtained from various sources to continue the project which culminated in this recent national bushmeat workshop.

In 2000, the then Director of DFC requested information on the bushmeat trade in Gabon, specifically what was happening in the markets of Gabon.

The main aims drawn up for the project were:

- Monitor the different markets in Gabon.
- Get an idea on how the markets work and the transport routes of bushmeat.
- Undertake a taste study to better understand people's preferences.
- Undertake socio-economic studies to understand what, why, who etc are eating bushmeat.
- Hold courses for university students on the bushmeat problem. Including the use of computers.
- Train key staff in the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) on the use of computers.

By 2006 the project had already a good idea on bushmeat issues in Gabon such as:

- Majority of bushmeat comes out of logging concessions.
- Half the bushmeat consumed is by the rural population (15.6 % of the Gabonese population) consisting mainly of fast-reproducing species. The rest is consumed by the urban population, but this tends to be made up of threatened species.
- The main transport system for bushmeat from the interior is by train and cars.
- No two markets, even those close together, are alike.
- Raids on markets have no impact on the trade.
- Gabonese forestry laws concerning bushmeat are not respected.
- Few people in the Gabonese administration know the parts of the forestry law concerning bushmeat, this includes the police.
- The civil servants that work for the ministry of Water and Forestry usually have a forestry background rather than a fauna background.
- The Gabonese administration is very centralised and territorial., resulting in the police not upholding forestry laws.
- This centralisation has resulted in little communication between different Departments within the same ministry and between different ministries.
- A change in attitude by the Gabonese administration from bushmeat being a taboo subject to where it could be openly discussed.

With this information it was decided in 2006 that Projet Gibier's principal mission should be changed from being research-orientated to that of encouraging the DFC to enforce the Gabonese Forestry Law, by soliciting help from other government administrative bodies that are implicated in bushmeat issues.

The project wished to achieve the following:

- Increase collaboration between the DFC and Projet Gibier.
- Invite a Gabonese delegation to see the CAMRail Project in Cameroon.
- Support the DFC financially and logistically so that they could organise a cross-institutional meeting on the application and regulations of the bushmeat trade in Gabon.

- Put into motion the formation of a cross-institutional network that would support the DFC in getting a National Bushmeat Strategy signed, and provide law enforcement and education.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Show how different ministries are implicated in bushmeat issues.
- Show research that has been carried out in Gabon on wildlife and bushmeat.
- Show the importance of bushmeat for rural populations.
- Give a summary of the Gabonese legislation concerning bushmeat.
- Show what the Ministry of Water and Forestry is currently doing.
- Show how the Cameroonian administration is dealing with the bushmeat problem.

The major outcomes being aimed for were:

- To start discussion on the formation of a bushmeat network with a protocol.
- To resurrect the National Bushmeat Strategy.

Finally a two day workshop was held between 16 - 17th April 2007. The first day was a series of presentations followed by the formation of three workgroups on the second day to discuss the issues and make recommendations.

Workgroup 1: Legislation and the Application of Regulations

Problems	Recommendations
No application of texts related to bushmeat	Get texts applied
Little knowledge of regulations	Education via implicated institutions
Legal traditional hunting tools are not well known by villagers	Redefine hunting tools and educate
Village hunting law is not well understood, lack of collaboration between Ministries of Justice, water and forests and Interior	Improve collaborations and education
Lack of management of hunting in forestry concessions	Develop and reinforce partnerships between administration and forestry companies. Monitor the application of the partnerships.
In protected areas there is a lack of management plans to stop hunting, lack of staff and lack of collaboration between different implicated partners.	Reinforce legislation and collaboration
In buffers zones there is a lack of demarcation.	Define and demarcate buffer zones.
Transporters and resellers of bushmeat have no knowledge of the texts applying to bushmeat.	Educate, develop partnerships with transporters and resellers.

Workgroup 2: Poaching and Alternatives

- Recommendations for the ministry:
 - Reinforce finance to acquire material, to function, hire more staff and educate everyone in the ministry.
 - Educate the Ministry of Justice about the fauna laws.
 - Favour research projects that will improve knowledge.
 - Put in place projects to breed wild animals.
- Recommendations for economic operators:
 - Make available the legal texts so they can formulate their ways of applying them.
 - Educate them about the problem.
 - Regroup hunters into an association.
 - Start negotiations to stop hunting.
- Recommendation for local populations:
 - Educate, especially important people in the community.
 - Educate the populations on the fauna laws.
 - Get the fauna laws respected.
 - Globally their role is as the managers of their resources.

- Recommendation for the a national bushmeat strategy:
 - Create a document with the laws, texts and drafts that are applicable to bushmeat.
 - Make available this document to implicated organisations
 - Hold workshop to get the document accepted and signed.
 - Create a committee inside the bushmeat network that will look after the strategy.

Workgroup 3: Partnership and Communication

- All the organisations affected by bushmeat and so should be part of the network were listed and then the principal ministerial ones highlighted.
- Principals of the partnership for the network should be:
 - Accept that the good management of bushmeat is of national priority.
 - Agree that a special committee should be set up inside the network that should get the current laws applied.
 - Agree to work with this committee.
 - Select a focal person from each of the different parties in the network that should be on the committee.
 - Agree that all the parties and focal persons should participate in meetings organised by this committee.
 - Make available any information asked for by the committee.
- Terms of reference of the committee:
 - Calculate a budget and find finance to cover it.
 - Organise regular meetings for the network.
 - Put into place a way to evaluate the network.
 - Finalise and get signed a bushmeat strategy.
 - Assure monitoring of the reselling of bushmeat.
 - Create a website with access for both public and the network.
 - Produce annual reports.
 - Help specific protocols and collaborations.
 - Put in place and evaluate a communication strategy
 - Follow up on the application of laws and what happens to people caught.

Ian Redmond asked if there was reference to the 2002 conference which developed a national bushmeat strategy. **Oilly** replied that the previous strategy had been 'buried'. Implementation of the strategy was blighted by low capacity and also had only gone through the Ministry of Water and Forests, whereas this is an inter-ministerial issue and all ministries affected need to be involved if the strategy is to be taken seriously and passed by everyone.

Glyn Davies asked how implementation of a sustainable bushmeat strategy would work given the low capacity to manage Gabon's 13 National Parks. **Oilly** replied that there needs to be decentralisation and improved coordination between the ministries on enforcement - for example, if meat is poached from a protected area controlled by one agency (e.g. wildlife authority and then confiscated by another agency (e.g. police). **Glyn** pointed out that in Gabon timber concessions are huge and asked to what extent wildlife has been discussed and timber certification likely to impact upon wildlife exploitation. **Oilly** replied that he didn't think it would have much of an impact as there are very strict laws for companies and concessions but these are rarely adhered to by certain operators such as the Chinese and Malaysians. **Glyn** suggested that the Chinese were becoming increasingly interested in certification too now because although 50% of the world's timber goes to China, much of this is processed and exported to Europe – so a legal and eventually certified chain of custody may also soon be needed for this market. **Oilly** noted that this will only really apply to the valuable wood that goes to Europe – other cheaper timber such as that used for making chopsticks and scaffolding is for the Chinese market alone.

Barbara Maas asked Oilly who is buying the ivory from elephants killed in Gabon. **Oilly** said they think it is the Chinese, with the ivory route passing through Sudan. There is a very high Chinese population in Gabon (they now make up over 50% of the expatriate community in Libreville). **Ian Redmond** asked if ivory and elephant meat was available in Libreville? **Oilly**

said yes there was and even though some is confiscated by officials and perpetrators fined, these same officials will often sell it on again themselves or eat it at social occasions. **Ian** asked if there was any push for COMIFAC to make neighbouring countries manage forests, including bushmeat, together. **Oilly** said that COMIFAC are more concerned with forestry issues than bushmeat issues and also that they realise it is necessary to have a national strategy before a regional strategy can be developed.

Topics for future discussion

Glyn thanked the speakers for their interesting talks. He pointed out that the next point on the agenda was a discussion of what we want from the UKBWG but that this was touched upon in the last meeting and so he is inclined to wait until we have a larger and more diverse constituency (including HMG and industry). He then asked for suggestions of other topics that people would like to see covered or any policy issues we could discuss.

Noelle Kumpel suggested a discussion of wildlife management in timber concessions – feedback could be invited from a participant at the recent regional workshop on 'Gestion de la faune dans les concessions d'exploitation forestière dans le bassin du Congo' held in Gabon (Makokou, 18-21 April 2007). **Jacqui** added that it would be interesting to hear from people in the commercial sector who are actually trying to manage wildlife in their concessions, for example timber companies. **Matthew Hatchwell** drew people's attention to a new report being published by IUCN on 'Reducing the Impact of Logging Concessions on Great Apes'.

Noelle also drew the participants' attention to a report summary sent in by Dave Wootton at Defra on a pilot bushmeat DNA testing project, published in March 2007. Noelle said it would be good to get the group in Defra who commissioned the report or the University of Bangor authors to present the study in more detail and justify their conclusions and the next steps.

Noelle also suggested further discussion following the publication of Brown, Fa and Gordon report's report in June/July. **Glyn** added that it would be interesting to hear feedback from DFID on the report as well as Defra's comments.

Barbara Maas informed participants that the Hackney (East London) community enforcement officer contacted CWI looking for support to employ helpers and produce information materials for distribution. His job is informing people of the bushmeat laws as it seems this is a big problem in this area.

Oilly Hymas asked if there were data on how bushmeat affects livelihoods? **Glyn** replied that this was perhaps too large a topic for this forum – a conference in itself. **Matthew Hatchwell** added that the dynamics changed between each country.

Ian Redmond suggested discussion of avoided deforestation as a carbon offset, and **Jacqui** said that the concept of paying people not to hunt would be interesting.

Sophie Allebone-Webb wondered if it would be possible to discuss human population increase as a driver of bushmeat demand, given that many projects site this as one of the causes, and to bring in the sensitive subject of birth control. **Glyn** said that he wasn't sure this was a major driver – isn't the problem more changes in consumption patterns? **Matthew Hatchwell** mentioned the problems of dealing with this, particularly as all USA aid agencies (e.g. USAID) stayed well away from any family planning/birth control type projects due to religious conflicts from some factions in America. Everyone agreed.

A final suggestion was made to invite someone from CITES/CBD if something relevant came out of any recent meetings.

AOB

Ian Watson recalled a meeting on illegal unreported fishing held at Chatham House and said that the Chinese were illegally fishing off the coast of West Africa. He asked if there were

any signs of the Chinese being involved in the bushmeat trade in Africa and exporting meat to China? No one was aware of this but **Matthew Hatchwell** said there was a problem at one time of tortoises being taken from Madagascar to Taiwan.

Many thanks to all who attended