



Implications of Bush-meat Hunting and its Detriment to Animal/Environmental Welfare and Sustainable Development

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What is Illegal Bush-meat Hunting?



Unsustainable hunting of wildlife through illegal methods, regardless of species or protected status in protected and unprotected zones.

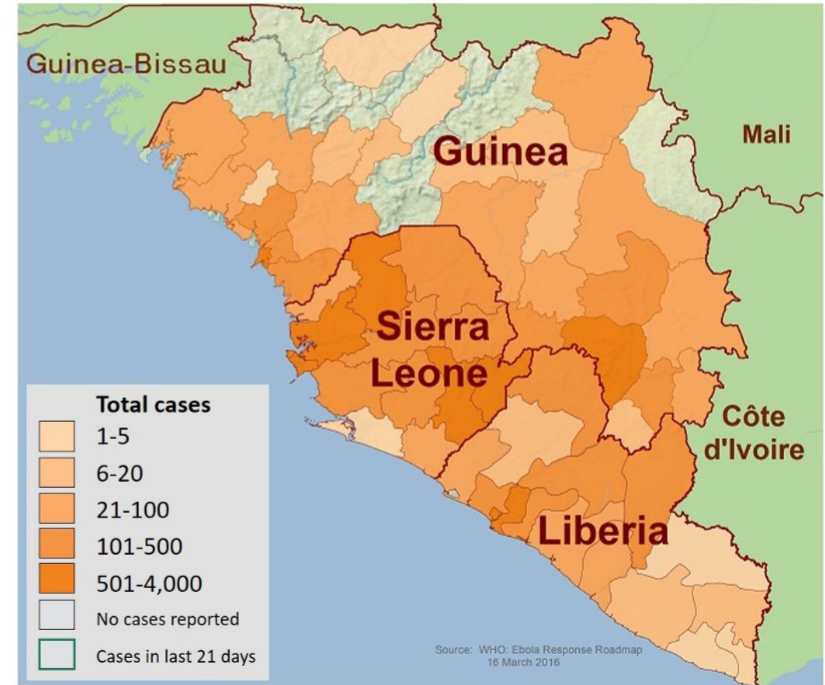
Such hunting is indiscriminate resulting in loss of countless species and infringement to Animal Welfare Freedoms.

Why is Illegal Bush-meat Hunting Dangerous to Humanity and the Environment?

- Bush-meat handling and consumption provides a transmission route for a number of serious tropical diseases (*zoonoses*) that infect humans - zoonoses. Such infections pose a serious risk to global human health and well-being.
- Loss of hunted species resulting in an alteration of the structure and function of ecosystems in which they occur and the services they provide. Hunted species have important ecosystem functions, such as seed dispersal.

African Context

- The bush-meat trade has long been recognized as a severe threat to wildlife populations in the forests of West and Central Africa and is considered a conservation crisis - *FAO*
- The Western African Ebola virus epidemic (2013–2016) was the most widespread outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in history—causing major loss of life and socioeconomic disruption in the region.



Kenyan Context



800 kilos of bush meat impounded at Nairobi's Burma market

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- 800 kilos of bush-meat nabbed at a major meat outlet in Nairobi
- Growing menace despite considerable efforts by wildlife authorities and conservationists.

Report by Task Force on Wildlife Security

- Bush meat has long been part of local consumption in many parts of Kenya. But recent trends indicate escalating incidences of poaching linked to killing of wildlife for bush-meat.

The problem is so serious that it is posing a great challenge to conservation, and seriously affecting tourism in Kenya's key parks.

Implications to Sustainable Development

- 1 High Poverty and Hunger (SDG 1,2 & 8) – Zoonoses poses a serious danger to human life leading to loss of human labor force. The Western African Ebola virus epidemic (2013 – 2016) caused 11, 310 deaths with catastrophic socioeconomic effects. Loss of life contributes to poverty and hunger and risks the actualization of all the 17 SDGs.
- 2 Poor health and well-being – Consumption of bushmeat poses a risk to the health of humans. Of the 1,415 pathogens known to infect humans, 61% are zoonotic.
- 3 Reduced National economic growth (SDG 8) – Loss of wildlife through hunting reduces wildlife population that contributed to the national GDP. In Kenya, wildlife-based-tourism contributes to nearly 14 per cent of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product
- 4 Irresponsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) - Wildlife is a national heritage that should be preserved for future generations. Bush meat poaching jeopardizes this idea!
- 5 Degraded Life of Land (SDG 15) - Bushmeat hunting significantly reduces the number of seed dispersing animals that play a key role in forest composition and distribution, altering both the structure and function of the forest and potentially causing irreversible ecological effects.

Call to Action

- Mapping out of key regional and national stakeholders addressing the illegal bush meat menace – Share experiences, ideas and innovations developed.
- Adopt a Multi-sectoral Approach in combating the illegal hunting - wildlife authorities, local administrators and the community.
- Undertake proper and elaborate research on bush meat poaching and their markets to ascertain the scope and magnitude of the menace to inform planning and decision making (*Report on Wildlife Security*)– Proposed research on the prevalence of bush meat consumption in key conservation zones in Kenya
- Wildlife DNA forensics as an applied field that has emerged from a synthesis of conservation genetic research and forensic genetic practice to meet the increasing need for investigative tools in wildlife law enforcement.

Thank You!

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