

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

BUSHMEAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15) are directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group as follows:

**Decision 14.73**

*The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in its work and is invited to draw to the attention of the Standing Committee and/or the Conference of the Parties to any matters relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11.*

**Decision 14.74 (Rev. CoP15)**

*The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to continue its work, also by collaborating with the Convention on Biological Diversity Liaison Group on non-timber forest resources, and to report to the Standing Committee on progress made in implementing national action plans relating to the trade in bushmeat and other initiatives it takes regarding this subject. A report on the subject of bushmeat should be submitted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is composed of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The Working Group was not able to provide a report on the subject of bushmeat at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010), as envisaged under Decision 14.74, and to date, it has also not been able to report on the implementation of Decision 14.73 to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties.

Activities since CoP15

4. With generous support from the European Commission, the Secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened a joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group on 7-10 June 2011 in Gigiri, Kenya. This was attended by 55 experts representing 43 governments and United Nations agencies, international and national organizations and indigenous and local communities. The joint meeting provided updates on the conservation and sustainable use of species hunted for bushmeat in tropical and subtropical countries, and formulated revised recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat, incorporating those from the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.
5. The outcomes of the joint meeting will be made available as information documents at the present meeting. The Secretariat wishes to commend all participants in the joint meeting for their active engagement and high quality interventions (meeting and background documents, as well as power point

presentations, are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=LGBUSHMEAT-02>). The Secretariat is most grateful to the partners that contributed to the organization of the meeting, and in particular to its CBD colleagues for their exemplary collaboration and support. There is clearly scope for further cooperation and synergies between CITES and CBD in the area of bushmeat, *inter alia* to ensure the adoption and implementation of the recommendations emanating from the joint meeting.

6. At the end of the joint meeting mentioned above, five of the six members of the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea) met on 10 June 2011. This meeting of the Working Group, convened by the Secretariat, was also attended by representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Great Apes Survival Partnership, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-GRASP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), TRAFFIC, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and indigenous and local communities from Central Africa. The meeting was chaired by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
7. The Working Group discussed:
  - a) the composition, chairmanship and mandate of the Group;
  - b) the organization of the work of the Group;
  - c) the outcomes of a study on elephant meat trade in Central Africa;
  - d) the recommendations emanating from the joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group; and
  - e) other initiatives concerning bushmeat in Central Africa.
8. The Chairman's report of the meeting is contained in the Annex. In addition, the Secretariat would like to underline the following outcomes:
  - a) The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group will nominate a chair at its next meeting, following prior agreement on terms of reference and responsibilities of the chair. The Working Group provided suggestions in this regard and asked the Secretariat to assist in finalizing these terms of reference.

The Group welcomed a suggestion by the Secretariat to meet in the margins of a Subregional Steering Committee meeting for MIKE Central Africa, due to take place in Kinshasa on 10-11 August 2011, and that would involve all members of the Group.
  - b) The Group agreed that observers would be allowed to its meetings. It welcomed in particular the representatives of Central African indigenous and local communities, and of organizations that were actively involved in addressing bushmeat problems in Central Africa, such as FAO and TRAFFIC. The Working Group also considered expanding its composition.
  - c) The Group briefly discussed the production of a report on bushmeat for CoP16, acknowledging that this should address:
    - i) collaboration with the CBD and FAO;
    - ii) the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11 (*Bushmeat*);
    - iii) collaboration with the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat;
    - iv) implementation of national action plans relating to the trade in bushmeat; and
    - v) other initiatives concerning bushmeat.
  - d) The Working Group acknowledged the importance of the outcomes of the study on trade in elephant meat in Central Africa, undertaken by the IUCN/SSC African elephant Specialist Group in the context of the implementation of the Secretariat's MIKE Phase II project in Africa. It requested that the results be communicated to Central African CITES authorities and used as a basis for further monitoring and studying trade in elephant meat and ivory as factors in the illegal killing of elephants.

- e) The Working Group expressed its full support for the recommendations of the joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

The Working Group intended to provide further detailed guidance on those recommendations that were particularly pertinent to CITES. In this regard, it emphasized:

- i) the need for increasing capacity to evaluate comprehensively the nature and scale of the bushmeat trade and to establish appropriate policies and management regimes (including the need for surveys of species that are hunted for bushmeat, for making non-detriment findings and for enhanced traceability of meat entering trade);
  - ii) the importance of science, monitoring and traditional and indigenous knowledge;
  - iii) the need for capacity-building, training, education and awareness-raising; and
  - iv) the impact of international bushmeat trade on the survival of the species and the livelihoods of the indigenous people and local communities depending upon them.
- f) The Working Group recognized that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had developed a national bushmeat strategy with the assistance of TRAFFIC, and it invited TRAFFIC to collaborate with other countries in Central Africa in producing similar national strategies and providing broad support in addressing bushmeat problems.

The Working Group further considered that the following initiatives in Central Africa were relevant to bushmeat, expressing its full support to and intention to closely follow up on these initiatives:

- i) *SYstème de suivi de la filière "Viande de Brousse" en Afrique Central* (SYVBAC, Central African Bushmeat Monitoring System);
- ii) *Plan d'action de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) pour l'application des législations sur le commerce de la faune sauvage 2011-2016* (Action plan of the Central African Forests Commission for the implementation of legislation on trade in wild fauna 2011-2016); and
- iii) A regional FAO-led Global Environment Facility project on bushmeat for the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon to demonstrate in pilot sites that legal and sustainable use of non-threatened bushmeat species through community-based natural resources management can be an effective conservation strategy in the Congo Basin.

### Recommendations

9. The Secretariat expects that the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group will provide a verbal update on its implementation of Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15) at the current meeting. The Standing Committee is invited to review the progress made, and consider further guidance to the Working Group. This may include amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.11, and the identification of actions based on the outcomes of the joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group that are pertinent to CITES.