

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 10
JUNE IN NAIROBI, KENYA

INTRODUCTION

At the invitation of Mr Tom DE MEULENAER, from the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group held its meeting in conference room No. 6 in Nairobi on Friday 10 June 2011.

Five of the six members of the Working Group (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea) were present. Several partners also attended the meeting as observers.

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

The Working Group elected Reverend Leonard MUAMBA KANDA as Chair of the meeting. Reverend Leonard MUAMBA KANDA is the CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Director of Nature Conservation, and was the Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the joint CBD/CITES meeting.

Having actively participated in the joint CBD/CITES meeting, the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group adopted all the relevant recommendations related to CITES.

After listening to the presentations made by Mr Daniel Stiles, a consultant on elephant meat for the MIKE programme, Mr Roland Melish, a representative of TRAFFIC, and Mr Edgar Kaeslin, a representative of FAO, the Working Group formulated the following recommendations:

To CITES:

- Intensify the training programme of bodies assisting the CITES Management Authorities of the Parties concerned (Customs, border police and staff of wildlife agencies);
- Cover the costs of studies on non-detriment findings for the species most affected by the bushmeat trade in Central Africa, with the help of other partners; and
- Involve other organizations and groups such as indigenous communities in CITES meetings.

To FAO:

- Formalize the project on the sustainable management of bushmeat in Central Africa by ensuring timely funding for the project so that Parties can implement other actions (i.e., draw up strategies and action plans on sustainable management of bushmeat).

To TRAFFIC:

- Provide technical support to Parties in their search for sustainable solutions to bushmeat management (strategies and action plans).
- Provide training to enforcement authorities in the identification of other species that are not known yet.

The Working Group expressed its intention to draw up terms of reference for subsequent meetings and, in this regard, the Secretariat proposed a meeting in Kinshasa from 2 to 5 August 2011, prior to the meeting of the Standing Committee to be held in Geneva on 15-19 August 2011.

At the end of the meeting in Kinshasa, the group will elect a Chair and perhaps a coordinator to replace ANYANYA.

The Secretariat indicated that, at present, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a member of the CITES Standing Committee as a representative of Central Africa. As such, it is the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who will attend the Standing Committee meetings in Geneva. The Parties discussed several issues, and particularly welcomed the remarkable presence at the meeting of the representatives of the indigenous communities from Central Africa, who accepted to attend it as observers.

CONCLUSION

The meeting allowed the members of the Working Group to harmonize their approach to the CITES bushmeat issue.

Development partners understood the need to support Parties in the search for sustainable solutions.

The indigenous communities accepted to help CITES Management Authorities identify the species most consumed as bushmeat by using their traditional knowledge.

The meeting lasted from 2:00 to 5:45 pm and was closed by the Chair of the Working Group after thanking the CITES Secretariat and all the development partners who accepted to provide their assistance to the member Parties of the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

Written in Nairobi on 10 June 2011
Reverend Leonard MUAMBA KANDA
Chair