

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP

1. The attached document has been submitted by the Chair of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.*

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The present document from the Chair of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) does not refer to Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15), which are shown below for ease of reference.

Directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group

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.*

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

- B. The present document mentions a number of initiatives in Central Africa relating to trade in bushmeat that are managed or coordinated by COMIFAC, FAO, WWF and TRAFFIC. The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group itself does not seem to have taken part in any of these. One meeting of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group has taken place since CoP15, and this was organized by the CITES Secretariat in conjunction with a joint CITES/CBD meeting on bushmeat (Nairobi, June 2011). The outcome of the joint CITES/CBD meeting and the associated meeting of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group are presented in document SC61 Doc. 42.
- C. The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group was established by six Central African countries, but its formal status, operational resources, *modus operandi* and contributions to activities relating to trade in bushmeat in Central Africa are unclear. The Secretariat notes that the Central Africa Bushmeat Working

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Group did not implement the Decisions that were directed to it at CoP13 and CoP14, perhaps because of a lack of resources. The present report suggests that much of the substance of the two Decisions directed to it at CoP15 was also not implemented. The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15) be deleted and that no further Decisions be directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

- D. The Secretariat is aware of considerable developments in relation to conservation of species used for bushmeat following the joint CITES/CBD meeting mentioned above and the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP11, Hyderabad, 2012), where Decision XI/25 on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management* was adopted (see also document CoP16 Doc. 13). These developments pertain to bushmeat in the tropics and the subtropics, and are not limited to Central Africa. The Secretariat believes that the Parties would benefit from incorporating new, relevant guidance and information into Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*. It therefore recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the following draft decision:

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.XX The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, and in consultation with interested Parties, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, relevant United Nations programmes, relevant Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other experts and stakeholders shall:
- a) review Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, taking into consideration the decisions and guidance developed under the CBD, the outcomes of the joint CITES/CBD meeting on bushmeat and other relevant sources of information; and
 - b) submit the results and its recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP
FOR THE 16TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (THAILAND)

Submitted by the Group's Chair

1. INTRODUCTION

The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group has not met since 10 June 2011 in Nairobi (KENYA). At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee, held in August 2011, the Chair of the Working Group provided an oral report pending receipt of the respective reports from the Working Group members.

It had been proposed to hold a meeting in Kinshasa from 2 to 5 August 2011 before travelling to Geneva to attend the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee, but the meeting not take place.

At the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Working Group requested the assistance of the Secretariat to prepare the report on the meeting in order to convey it to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting in Bangkok (Thailand).

2. DEVELOPMENTS

The following achievements have been recorded since June 2011:

2.1 On a national level

The six member countries of the Working Group, namely

Cameroon, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have a strategy and action plan in place for the management of the bushmeat trade.

These countries have received the help of TRAFFIC and the *Système de suivi de la filière de la Viande de Brousse en Afrique Centrale* (SYVBAC, the Central African Bushmeat Monitoring System), in accordance with the *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 Forest Commission for the implementation of legislation on trade in wild fauna 2011-2016) (PAPELCAF).

As a reminder, a validation workshop was held in November 2011 in Douala (Cameroon). All the member countries of the Working Group attended the workshop. WWF/DRC has set up *Projet Bushmeat* in the SALONGA-LUKENIE-SANKURU LANDSCAPE with the main goal of raising awareness among populations and educating them to protect the flagship species for which the Chair of the Working Group is the Focal Point. The Chair of the Working Group sent several messages and e-mails to his colleagues from the Central African countries concerned requesting their reports on the workshop but has not received any answers to date.

2.2 On a regional level

FAO has started the project entitled *Gestion durable du Secteur de la Faune et de la Viande de Brousse en Afrique Centrale* (sustainable management of the animal and bushmeat trade in Central Africa), which covers four Central African countries (Gabon, the Congo, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

The project has already been ratified by the Government in the four countries. The Sub-Regional Office of FAO based in Gabon has made a call for proposals to hire technical assistants in order to ensure the effective launch of the project, which will contribute to the management the bushmeat trade.

The Chair of the Working Group hopes that the CITES Consultant will invite the indigenous peoples of the member countries that participated in the joint meeting in Nairobi to CoP16 in order to reconcile their knowhow with the various actions that have to be undertaken in the field.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group should meet regularly to exchange information.
- The Secretariat is asked to support the Working Group through its organization by raising awareness among members to promote their attendance at meetings and the submission of reports.

The Chair of the Working Group
Reverend Léonard MUAMBA KANDA