

## Update EAZA Bushmeat Campaign

by Corinne Bos, Coordinator EAZA Bushmeat Campaign

*During the Annual Conference in Prague, the petition signing part of the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign was officially closed and the next campaign, the EAZA Rainforest Campaign, launched. The Bushmeat Steering Committee is now actively wrapping-up EAZA's first campaign by preparing the handing over of the petitions to EU delegates and leaders of a number of Central and Western African countries. Further details on this last phase of the bushmeat campaign as well as a report on the press conference on bushmeat held in Stuttgart on 10 September are given below. Additionally, information is provided on a number of other organisations that are, and have been, active in fighting the bushmeat crisis. This information was taken from the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) document "Bushmeat Working Groups Around the World Update (no. 2 March - June 2001)". The complete overview, including updates on the various activities of these organisations, can be found on the BCTF website ([www.bushmeat.org](http://www.bushmeat.org)).*

### The bushmeat presentation in Brussels

The EAZA bushmeat petition has been signed by an overwhelming number of zoo visitors in approximately 170 EAZA member institutions. Many more petition forms, downloaded from the EAZA website, were completed by concerned people and sent to our office. The resulting 400 kg pile of signatures will be 'handed over' to the European Parliament and the EU Development Ministers on 8 November 2001. In cooperation with concerned Members of the European Parliament, EAZA is holding a half-day Public Hearing in the European Parliament. Key political representatives from European governments, the European Commission, African states, logging industry and NGO's have been invited to attend this important gathering. The handing over of the EAZA petition will coincide with the quarterly meeting of the European Development Ministers. The Ministers will be discussing the affect of development aid and forestry, in particular in Africa. Our petition fits perfectly in this theme. It is planned that EAZA will be assisted by Jane Goodall, Richard Leakey, Karl Ammann and several other celebrities in handing over the petition. Additionally, EAZA will host an exhibition in the European Parliament on the bushmeat crisis, using visual aids that were displayed in EAZA member institutions for the Bushmeat Campaign and Public Petition. All of the above activities are being organised with generous financial support from IFAW and using the expertise of their Brussels Political Office. Regular updates on the results and effects of EAZA's lobbying in Brussels as well as information on the organisation of EAZA's mission to Africa can be found on the EAZA website ([www.eaza.net](http://www.eaza.net)).

### Bushmeat Press Conference at Stuttgart

On 10 September 2001, the Association of German zoo directors (VDZ) held a press conference on the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign at the Wilhelma Zoo, Stuttgart. Invited speakers included Karl Ammann, who gave an introductory talk and showed some of his slides, VDZ president Dr. Ulrich Schürer, EAZA director Drs. Koen Brouwer, Dr. Uschi Eid from the German Ministry for Development, Dr. Konrad Schwaiger, Member of the European Parliament and Iris Weiche, representative of the Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe. NGOs supporting the EAZA campaign, namely Markus Walter (Jane Goodall Institute, Germany) and Aaron McLoughlin (IFAW-Brussels) were present as well.

The press conference was well attended by local and national media and journalists tried very hard to get clear commitments from the politicians, who said they welcomed the campaign. Concrete steps forward on ways to solve the crisis were unfortunately not provided by the politicians.

One of the goals of the press conference was to attract media attention for the "countdown" of the petition campaign (six weeks remaining for signature collection) and for the fact that this is the time for politicians to assist in fighting the bushmeat battle.

Thanks to the help of Dr. Angela Meder of the Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe, the German exhibition "gorillas in the pot – the slaughter of African wildlife for the bushmeat



Photo: Karl Ammann

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trade" was put on the Internet just in time before the press conference on 10 September, so that the 35 information panels on various aspects of the bushmeat crisis can now be seen and downloaded by anyone who has access to the web ([www.bushmeat-kampagne.de](http://www.bushmeat-kampagne.de)). The exhibition panels are still travelling through German zoos and will be shown at Hannover Zoo from October to December 2001. This zoo is regularly visited by the German chancellor Gerhard Schröder and his family, who will hopefully sign the petition before it is officially handed over on 8 November.

Source: Marianne Holtkötter, EAZA national bushmeat coordinator for Germany

## Other Bushmeat groups

The **Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF)**, founded in 1999, is a consortium of conservation organisations and professionals dedicated to the conservation of wildlife populations threatened by commercial hunting of wildlife for sale as meat. In 2001 BCTF seeks to continue development of its information databases concerning the bushmeat issue and to analyse the currently available information to identify gaps in the knowledge base and appropriate solutions. In addition it will continue to work with key decision makers around the globe as well as the media to raise awareness and support for addressing the causes of the illegal commercial bushmeat trade. A major education project will be developed during the coming year to provide support to conservation education programs in Africa. For more information, please visit their website ([www.bushmeat.org](http://www.bushmeat.org)).

In response to numerous requests from member institutions of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and other BCTF Supporting Members and partners from the field, BCTF has embarked upon an effort to develop educational materials for the US public. This effort was initiated at the **Conservation Education Committee (CEC)** meeting at AZA's annual conference in Orlando, Florida in September 2000. Subsequently, a concept paper was developed and circulated to interested CEC members and shared with the participants of the BCTF Collaborative Action Planning Meeting in May 2001. In recent months, BCTF and CEC have worked together to develop a concept paper for bushmeat education in US institutions and to form stronger linkages with bushmeat education on the ground in Africa. CEC approved the concept paper on 4th April 2001. During BCTF's Collaborative Action Planning Meeting in May 2001, the **Bushmeat Education Sub-committee** met and incorporated these plans into their long-term strategy for addressing the bushmeat trade in Africa. CEC and BCTF are now making plans for a review of current bushmeat education projects in zoos, the development of a template for zoo displays and the creation of an integrated set of age-appropriate educational materials for zoos, including videos, interactive CD-ROMs, other visual displays, as well as appropriate action to link to these educational initiatives.



Photo: Karl Ammann

### The IUCN Forest Conservation

**Programme** is working in the Dja Wildlife Reserve, a World Heritage Site in Cameroon, to create appropriate solutions to the unsustainable exploitation of wildlife in the region. Addressing the bushmeat crisis, IUCN is led by Bihini Won Wa Musiti in the ROCA offices in Cameroon who is in direct communication with the BCTF Office in the USA to develop further information sharing mechanisms.

**The Ape Alliance**, a UK-based coalition of conservation organisations chaired by Dr. Ian Redmond, is concerned with protecting great apes in the wild and in captivity and was one of the first organisations to establish a Bushmeat Working Group. This group works to encourage timber companies to adopt a code of conduct that protects wildlife from bushmeat hunting and to raise awareness of the problems associated with the illegal trade among bushmeat consumers and traders. For more information, please check out their website ([www.4apes.com](http://www.4apes.com)).

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The **CITES Bushmeat Working Group** was proposed by the UK (Document 11.44), and approved at the April 2000 COP11 in Nairobi, Kenya following overwhelming support by range states, other party nations, and numerous NGO's.

The CITES BWG is recommended to:

- 1) Set the scope of problems relating to bringing national and cross-border bushmeat issues into the context of a sustainable and legal process;
- 2) Work on identifying the solutions that address the scope of problems; and
- 3) Facilitate the implementation process in achieving the solutions.

Representatives of range states (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo) form the core of the pilot working group, and will direct its actions. This core group will meet 2-3 times annually and the broader group will meet annually. The first meeting of the CITES Bushmeat Working Group was held in Douala, Cameroon from 24th to 26th January 2001. At that event, the international community agreed that there was clear evidence that trade in bushmeat was being conducted, in some areas, in an unsustainable fashion and in contravention of national and international laws. The Conference was particularly concerned about the trade's impact upon highly endangered animals, such as elephants and the great apes, whilst recognizing that a wide variety of other animals were also being affected. At the Conference, Parties from the Central Africa sub-region volunteered to examine the issues involved with the aim of identifying solutions. During the course of its discussions, the Group identified the following as factors contributing to the negative aspects of trade in bushmeat: socio-economic issues; political instability; legislation inadequacies; lack of information and education; unformed governmental policy; inappropriate natural resources management; adverse impacts of technology; commercialisation of the trade; and shortcomings in institutional capabilities. Participants agreed that some issues, such as poverty, were outside the control or normal capabilities of wildlife departments and would require long-term effort and very substantial financial commitment that it was impractical to focus on these issues at this time, although it was important that they be identified. Consequently, the Working Group attempted to prioritise the issues and discussed possible solutions.

The **Congo Basin Project (CBP)** has been initiated by the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI). Objectives of this project include: elimination of the illegal commercial bushmeat trade, regulation of the legal bushmeat trade, and protection of the immediate environment which bushmeat species inhabit. Conservation, education and public awareness and advocacy initiatives will work in partnership with other conservation organisations, local communities, and the private sector to develop and establish a multifaceted field programme in Central Africa, as well as global educational materials. The Congo Basin Project is currently partnering with other aspects of the JGI programmatic spectrum including projects in Tanzania, zoos which participate in the chimpanzee programme, and Roots and Shoots, the youth environmental education programme. More information can be found on their website ([www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org))

The **CBSG Bushmeat Working Group**, convened by John Knowles, first met at the annual conference of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group in the Republic of South Africa in October 1999. Attendees at the meeting identified important goals in addressing the bushmeat crisis:

- 1) Reduce pressure on target ecosystems and bushmeat species;
- 2) Change environmental attitude of commercial exploiters of natural resources;
- 3) Reduce commercial market for unsustainably hunted bushmeat species; and
- 4) Enhance awareness in target countries of the plight of unsustainably hunted bushmeat species.

Key actions proposed by meeting attendees included:

- 1) To encourage consumers and consumer country governments to pressure product suppliers to reduce harmful impact on ecosystems;
  - 2) To improve forestry management and environmentally sound planning;
  - 3) To establish in-country education programmes on sustainable use of bushmeat;
  - 4) To increase awareness among consumers of environmental damage in bushmeat regions;
  - 5) To enforce existing wildlife protection legislation in urban bushmeat markets;
  - 6) To educate hunters in sustainable hunting practices;
  - 7) To develop alternative sources of income and alternative sources of protein;
  - 8) To establish research programmes on a variety of bushmeat-related topics; and
  - 9) To encourage links between relevant bushmeat working groups and relevant government agencies.
- For more information please visit the CBSG website ([www.cbbsg.org](http://www.cbbsg.org)).