

# EAZA Bushmeat Campaign

## An Update on the various activities

EAZA News 35



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### **400.000 signatures collected**

*Materials on bushmeat exhibitions are being sent to the EAZA Executive Office from all over Europe. Newspaper clippings, photos, articles, leaflets and brochures arrive at the office on a daily basis! Zoo educators, animal keepers, volunteers, PR staff as well as curators and directors are clearly very enthusiastic about the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign. The campaign seems to cross hierarchal boundaries and shows the strength of joining forces, both within zoos and between zoos.*

Currently over **170 (?)** EAZA member institutions are participating in the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign. At least **400,000 (?)** signatures were collected by mid-June 2001. The main goal of the campaign, the collection of at least one million signatures, was mentioned in the last issue of EAZA News. However, some of us now have a secret hope of breaking the record for the biggest petition ever presented to the European Union. This would mean that we have to redouble our efforts to come up with a total of 2.2 million signatures! On average, this would mean the collection of 13,000 signatures per participating zoo. We know of zoos that have set an ambitious goal of collecting 50,000 signatures (Lisbon Zoo, Portugal) or even 100,000 signatures (Burgers' Zoo, the Netherlands). Which EAZA member zoo will be able to collect the most signatures?

### **'Hot-shots' help the Belgian campaign**

Jane Goodall visited Planckendael Zoo on the occasion of the first Belgian 'Roots and Shoots' day on 22 March. The participating Belgian schools presented their projects to Jane and a series of games and activities were organised for the school children. This was of course the ideal occasion to also present the bushmeat campaign and therefore a game for children was developed which focussed on the bushmeat trade and the underlying problems. The game let the children discover the difference between sustainable and unsustainable hunting of wild animals. The EAZA Bushmeat Campaign was officially launched in Belgium on 12 April, with a joint press conference of all the participating Belgian zoos: Antwerp Zoo, Wild Animal Park Planckendael, Parc Paradisio, Monde Sauvage Safari and Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de la Ville de Tournai. The personal experience of Jef Dupain, the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (RZSA) field biologist responsible for bushmeat related projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Cameroon, ensured the necessary press attention and even an interview on the national (VTM) lunch-time news. Jef also gave a very well attended talk to the members of the 'Save the Bonobos' fund about the current results of the bushmeat market research in the DRC. The 'Save the Bonobos' group included a page on the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign and the petition on their website (<http://www.savethebonobos.org>).

'Flanders day', an initiative of Mr. Dirk Van Mechelen, Flemish Minister of Economics, Spatial planning, Media and Scientific Policy, was held on 22 April to promote contact with the Flemish people by "opening the doors" of government institutions. Because the Centre for Research and Conservation receives funding from this ministry, the RZSA decided to participate by 'offering more zoo for less money' by letting the public actively experience several aspects of scientific research. This gave us the RZSA excellent forum to again present the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign. Coincidentally, the same day was also World Earth day and it was therefore decided to also participate in the 'Wake up action' of Chomutov Zoo and asked people to bring an alarm clock when they visited Antwerp Zoo or Planckendael Zoo that day. At five to twelve, Minister Van Mechelen started the ringing of the alarm clocks with a loud gong-beat, to signify that due to the bushmeat crisis it is 'five to twelve' for many animal species. Even though only about 50 people brought alarm clocks, the symbolism was great and was experienced by the several thousand people in the parks that day, as well as by everyone listening to the resulting radio interviews and reading the newspaper articles. Source: Kristin Leus, National Bushmeat Coordinator for Belgium

### **Massive media attention in Denmark**

The Danish Bushmeat Campaign is running in five EAZA zoos: Aalborg, Copenhagen, Givskud, Odense and Randers Regnskov. The campaign was launched with a joint press release and a press conference at Copenhagen Zoo on 23 March. The individual zoos started their campaigns on different dates between 24 March - 28 April due to differences in seasonal opening times and varying traditions for initiating campaigns. The five zoos have produced their own individual exposition material. Apart from the expositions, which are generally placed in the ape facilities, campaign materials have been published in the zoo magazines and placed on web-sites with the possibility of downloading the petition in printout format. Educational material is prepared for school classes and there are plans for a signature barometer showing the present number of signatures in Denmark. The campaign has received a massive media attention with 36 (!) feature items in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet, radio and TV programmes so far.

National TV will run a special feature in August, and the option of producing a documentary with an European/Danish angle on the bush meat and timber trade issues is presently being researched. An advertisement-campaign in which a poster of the head of a dead gorilla is displayed on busses in the greater Copenhagen area is encouraging people to visit the bushmeat exposition. The bus advertisement-campaign will continue throughout the summer and will be supplemented with advertisements on bus stops all over the city as well as 'go-cards' (free post cards in public buildings etc). A thematic day 'Threatened wildlife as a result of hunting in a modern world - from Africa to Greenland' is being planned. This will offer lectures and debate involving representatives from diverse sectors such as the Danish Parliament, interest groups, trade organisations, grass roots movements, journalists, professional debaters and foreign representatives. As of 15 May the Danish Campaign has collected some 23,500 signatures.

Source: Frands Carlsen, National Bushmeat Coordinator for Denmark

### **Exhibition on childrens' drawings in Kaliningrad Zoo**

Kaliningrad Zoo (Russia) started its Bushmeat Campaign officially in February 2001. However, school children were already being informed about the bushmeat crisis in December 2000, and took part in preparing the Kaliningrad Zoo's plan on how to participate in the Bushmeat Campaign. An exhibition of 260 drawings made by more than 230 children on the theme 'Let's Save the Animals of Our Planet' drew much zoo visitor attention and even TV stations and newspapers reported on the exhibition. The best wildlife conservation drawings were awarded with prizes. Approximately 20 volunteers from the Kaliningrad Zoo Biology Class, led by teacher Irina Motkova, are taking part in running the Bushmeat Campaign. They help to collect signatures and have prepared an exhibition on bushmeat, located in the zoo's Primate Exhibit Hall, that will be presented to the public from June to September 2001.

Source: Dmitri Grigoriev, Primate Section Curator Kaliningrad Zoo

### **Goal Dutch zoos: 750.000 signatures!**

As mentioned in EAZA News #33, all 12 members of the Dutch Zoo Federation (NVD) started their Bushmeat Campaigns in October 2000. The NVD campaign was 're-launched' with the help of Karl Ammann on 27 March 2001, before the visitor 'high-season'. This event created significant interest from a number of major national newspapers and television stations. The EAZA Bushmeat Campaign was also promoted during a lecture of Jane Goodall at the Utrecht University on 27 April. This lecture was part of Jane's official lecture tour through Europe to celebrate the 40-year-anniversary of her research on chimpanzees. Amersfoort Zoo together with NVD staff members organised a booth on bushmeat during this event and were able, together with Roots & Shoots, to collect signatures from over 75% of the people present. The NVD bushmeat working group has set themselves the goal of collecting 750,000 signatures. On average this would mean an amazing number of 62,500 signatures per zoo!

### **'Fish and Chimps' in Bristol Zoo Gardens**

Along with many other UK Zoos, Bristol Zoo Gardens (UK) is participating in the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign. Nearly 20,000 signatures have been collected so far, including those of a number of famous people including Sir Ranolph Fiennes, Antarctic explorer and Nick Baker, naturalist and BBC/National Geographic TV presenter. Bushmeat crisis information boards and petition signing stands have been in place at the zoo since summer 2000. There is also a link to the EAZA website petition page on the Bristol Zoo Gardens website (completed petitions have been received from Australia!) and when visitors buy drinks and ice-creams from the vending machines, posters on the machines remind visitors to sign the petition! During the school summer holidays there will be an extra concerted effort at the zoo. The 2001 summer holiday campaign will be entitled 'Fish and Chimps: who would you have for dinner?' and will take a look at the ways in which people over-use wildlife resources, for example by commercial trade in bushmeat in Africa and by over-fishing seas. Through drawing parallels between Europe's over-fishing of the seas and the bushmeat trade, Bristol Zoo Gardens hopes to deliver important messages about the unsustainable use of wildlife, without laying the blame solely with people in developing countries. It is hoped the play on words in the campaign's title will make visitors curious to have a look at the exhibition and consequently interested in the issue.

Events and exhibitions will include:

- C a 'bushmeat shop' in the Education Centre where visitors can learn the ecological consequences of 'buying' different types of wild caught meat from cod to gorilla;
- C a display about over-fishing in the Zoo's Aquarium;
- C an 'Our Chimps are Missing!!!' trail where visitors can have fun spotting the (fake!) chimps in trees around the Zoo (there are no real chimps at Bristol Zoo Gardens). When visitors collect a prize for completing the trail, they are asked to sign the petition.

The emphasis throughout the campaign will be on involving people in fun events and then 'hitting them' with strong but positive conservation messages.

Source: Lynn Hughes, Education Officer Bristol Zoo Gardens

### **Cooperation in France**

A total of 17 EAZA zoos and five non-EAZA zoos are participating in the French EAZA Bushmeat Campaign. Four zoos started their campaign early in 2001, and were able to collect 3,500 signatures by 1 June. The remaining zoos started their campaign in mid June. Some of these zoos prepared their own exhibitions, supported by the national coordinator Pierre Moisson, while other zoos made use of the informative panels which were produced by the Board of the French Association of Private Zoological Gardens (ANPJZ). The panels are paid by the ANPJZ Office and are sold to interested zoos for less than half of the production costs! Sixteen zoos have shown interest in the panels (the ANPJZ logo replaces the EAZA logo for the non-EAZA zoos). One zoo (African Safari) prepared two big boards (4m x 3m) with pictures of an orphan gorilla and a decapitated head of a gorilla and placed them next to the road nearby city Toulouse. Smaller posters have been placed at bus stops asking people to come to the zoo to sign the petition. Furthermore, one veterinary university and one agricultural school have shown interest in the campaign and are preparing an exhibition and will run the petition. Details of the campaign are also available on the website of the French-speaking Primatological Society ([www-sfdp.u-strasbg.fr](http://www-sfdp.u-strasbg.fr)). Discussion on the subject is planned to take place in October at the annual meeting of the Society.

Source: Pierre Moisson, National Bushmeat Coordinator for France

### **'People, Wake Up!' campaign**

As reported on in EAZA News #33, Chomutov Zoo (Czech Republic) organised the 'People Wake Up!' campaign on World Earth Day, 22 April 2001. Ten zoos within the Czech Republic and seven zoos outside the country (located in Belgium, South Africa, Ukraine, Russia, United Arab Emirates and Slovakia) participated in the campaign in which zoo visitors rang their alarm clocks simultaneously to emphasise the need for the conservation of nature. Chomutov Zoo is trying to get the number of simultaneous ringing alarm clocks into the Guinness Book of Records, but it is not known whether this will be successful. The campaign was however clearly a big success in Chomutov Zoo and Kate Bauer, coordinator of the campaign, sensed that the visitors participating in the alarm clock campaign really wanted to contribute to nature conservation. Chomutov Zoo launched its bushmeat campaign the same day, and a total number of 625 signatures were collected just on the opening day.

Source: Kate Bauer, Coordinator 'People Wake Up!' Campaign, Chomutov Zoo

### **And the other zoos?**

- C** The three EAZA member zoos in Israel (Ramat Gan Safari, Kfar Daniel Monkey Park and Jerusalem Zoo) launched their bushmeat campaign together in April 2001. The zoos are regularly in contact with each other to fine-tune campaign developments.
- C** The Czech zoos started their bushmeat campaign on 22 April 2001.
- C** Two Swiss zoos (Zürich Zoo and Basel Zoo) are working together on the bushmeat campaign. Their campaign was launched with a press conference in Zürich on 2 May 2001. Part of their awareness campaign is a brochure on the bushmeat crisis, based on the text of the Stuttgart Zoo bushmeat campaign.

Please check the EAZA website ([www.EAZA.net](http://www.EAZA.net)) regularly for information on the number of collected signatures, the zoos participating in the campaign, relevant bushmeat links as well as information on the fund-raising campaign for bushmeat-related projects in Africa. Furthermore petition forms can be downloaded from this site for families, schools and companies to print out and sign in support of the EAZA Bushmeat Campaign.