



# THE STORY BEHIND BUSHMEAT

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RISING VIRAL DISEASES AND  
DIMINISHING ANIMAL COMMUNITIES**

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# OUTLINE

1. Bush Meat Overview
2. Drivers
3. Zoonotic viral transmission
4. Other impacts
5. Ugandan scenarios
6. Mitigation options
7. Conclusion



# BUSH MEAT OVERVIEW

- Meat illegally harvested from wild animals and sold for human consumption in different continents such as Africa, Asia, South America, Europe and others.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone, one million tons of bushmeat flows to urban markets each year.
- Across Central and West Africa, as much as 5 million tons of bushmeat is consumed each year.

# DRIVERS

- Culture (dignity, magic, cure, etc.)
- Increased demand for Animal Protein and limited alternatives
- Agricultural encroachment (Livestock grazing in PAs)
- High levels of poverty in communities adjacent to the PAs (high populations)
- Minimal capacity to enforce laws
- Weak policies/laws and insufficient implementation and/or corruption
- Political instability
- High food prices
- Covid19 pandemic

# ZOONOTIC VIRAL TRANSMISSION

- Wildlife silently harbors zoonotic disease pathogens
- People getting in contact with blood and tissues of the wildlife are at the threat.
- Livestock serves as an intermediate host, livestock farmers are at high risk

- HIV
- EBOLA
- COVID19
- MARBURG
- SWINE FEVER
- MONKEY POX
- SIMIAN FOAMY

# OTHER IMPACTS

- Declining wildlife species (loss of biodiversity)
- Ecosystem malfunctioning (impoverished ecosystem services)
- Shrinking of tourism industry
- Loss of cultural heritage
- Economic crisis
- Other dangerous diseases such as anthrax, rift valley fever, FMD

# UGANDA SCENARIOS

- Commercial bush meat high in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls PAs (Travers *et al.* 2017).
- Large amount of unregulated and illegal bushmeat hunting, like other African countries.
- There is an increasing demand for bush meat in Uganda (TRAFFIC 2020).
- Regulated wildmeat hunting for non CITES and vermin species.

# MITIGATION OPTIONS

- Global implementation of one health approach
- Effective management through multi-structural governance
- National bans in bush meat trade and consumption
- Equip and protect populations at higher risk of exposure
- Education
- Awareness creation, adequate nutrition, alternative livelihoods
- Enforcement
- Gaming (wildlife farming/ranching)



# CONCLUSION

- Action should be taken for the rescue, recovery, rebuilding and expansion of the global network of protected and conserved areas.
- The need to fully implement one health approach with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.