

# **Bushmeat Facts**

(Facts taken from [www.bushmeat.org](http://www.bushmeat.org) and [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org))

- In Africa, the forest is often referred to as 'the bush', and meat from wild animals hunted in the forest is referred to as 'bushmeat'.
- Bushmeat includes elephant; gorilla; chimpanzee and other primates; forest antelope (duikers); crocodile; porcupine; bush pig; cane rat; pangolin; monitor lizard; guinea fowl; etc.
- The commercial bushmeat trade has surpassed habitat destruction to become the most immediate threat to the future of wildlife in Africa.
- The commercial bushmeat trade has already resulted in widespread local extinctions in Asia and West Africa.
- The loss of wildlife threatens the livelihoods and food security of indigenous and rural populations.
- Bushmeat consumption is increasingly linked to deadly diseases like HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and Foot and Mouth disease.
- Bushmeat constitutes approximately 80% of all animal-based protein consumed in Central Africa.
- One million metric tons of wildlife is killed for food in Central Africa each year.
- In Brazzaville (Congo), approximately 15,000 carcasses pass through the markets per year and approximately 290 are chimpanzees.
- Given current population growth rates, it is likely that the demand for bushmeat will increase by 2-4% per year- a rate that exceeds the replacement potential of already over-hunted wildlife populations.
- Bushmeat orphans- usually primates whose parents were killed for meat- are often traded into the pet or entertainment industries and kept in horrifying conditions or left to die in the forest or the market.
- For more information, please visit [www.janegoodall.org/africa-programs](http://www.janegoodall.org/africa-programs).