

Experiences from a public campaign to influence European policies on illegal bushmeat trade

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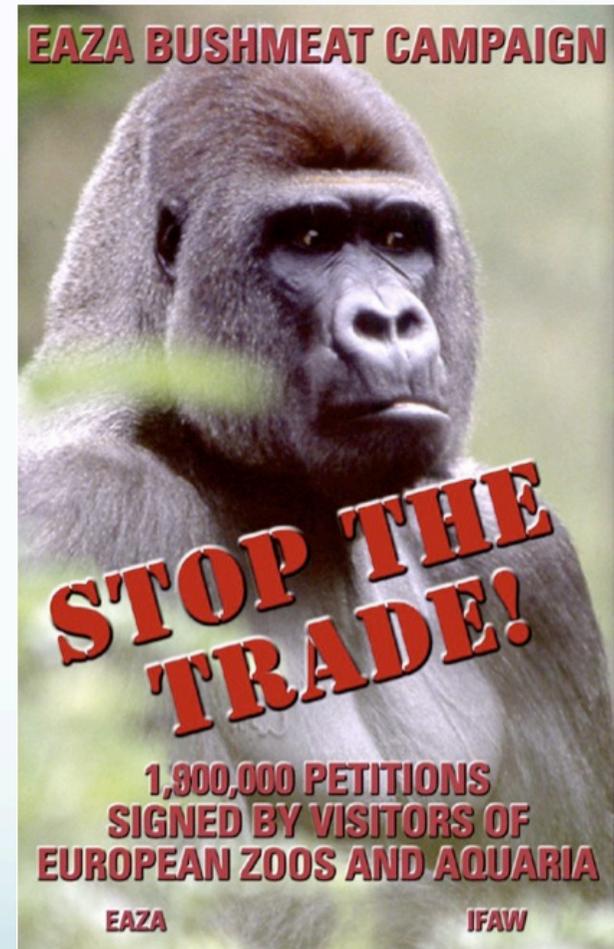
1. The Bushmeat Crisis in a nutshell

- The Problem: Unsustainable hunting and trading of wild animals for consumptive use
- The Region: Main problem in W- and C-Africa, but also other parts of Africa, Asia and L-America
- The Consequences: Local people deprived of key source of protein; Extinction of threatened species; Imports into EU pose huge health risks (Ebola, HIV)

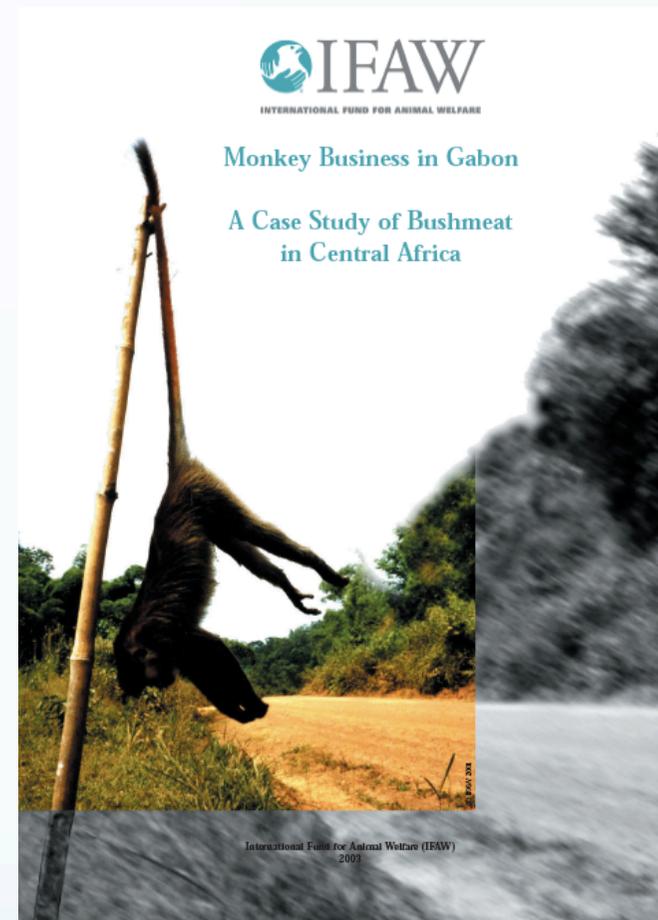


2. Civil Society Action: EAZA & IFAW Bushmeat Campaign

- EAZA: Public campaign in European zoos to highlight bushmeat problem (2000)
- 1.9 million signature petition presented to European Parliament & Council of Development Ministers (2001)



- Field research in Central-Africa, publication of “Monkey Business in Gabon” (2003)
- Review of EC’s policies and practices on wildlife conservation (2004)
- Lobbying of EU institutions by IFAW & others



3. Results of lobbying the EU for measures against bushmeat trade

- 2002/2003: 4 resolutions adopted by ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly referring to bushmeat
- 2003: Commission takes measures against illegal import of meat incl. bushmeat (2002/995/EC)
- 2004: EP Petitions Committee Report adopted & resolution calling for EU Bushmeat Strategy Plan, bushmeat issue firmly put on the Brussels agenda
- 2005-.....: Limited follow-up by Commission; no Bushmeat Strategy developed, and refusal to integrate bushmeat issue into FLEGT Action Plan

4. Bushmeat crisis again in the spotlight

- TRAFFIC report: Increase in bushmeat consumption in Central-Africa (2009)
- BBC report: illegal imports into EU airports (2010)
- UNEP/Interpol report on link between gorilla poaching, mining and conflict (2010)



5. What can Brussels do?

- Need to revitalize the lobby for an active role of EU in bushmeat crisis, with focus on health risks to EU citizens & importance for biodiversity conservation
- Provide funding for development of African enforcement plan for tackling bushmeat trade (in framework of CBD)
- But also: NGO campaigns targeting European multinationals, following successful consumer campaigns (e.g. Nestlé KitKat)