



Wild meat and food security

Prof. John. E. Fa¹ & Dr. Jean-Claude Nguingiri²

¹Manchester Metropolitan University/CIFOR, ²FAO Sub regional office for Central Africa

POACHERS OR PROTECTORS?

Local Communities at the Frontline of Conservation

What really drives wildlife trade, hunting and trafficking?

20 April 2016

European Parliament, Brussels

Wild meat

A widespread essential and socially acceptable informal sector... but *de facto* a unregulated activity in most of the countries



Oceania	South America	South/SE Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa
3	3	14	16
	6	76	6
34	53	75	60
6	53	23	210

Taxonomic composition of terrestrial vertebrates hunted for bushmeat in tropical and sub-tropical habitats in different world regions. *Full list of species in Redmond et al. (2006). Recipes for Survival. Ape Alliance/WSPA.*

Extraction versus Consumption



K. Ammann

Consumption determined from various studies that directly calculate amount eaten in meals (kg/person/year)

Extraction from hunting studies extrapolated to the entire basin

In tonnes/meat/year

	Consumption	Extraction
Amazon	909,000	1,299,000
Congo	3,198,000	4,569,000

From Nasi et al. (2011)



What is so special about wild meat?

- Economically significant
- Socially acceptable
- Largely non substitutable
- Gender differentiated
- Regulated but not controlled
- Poor's people businesses

BUT

- Unsustainable
- Resource base is degraded or capital depleted
- State has no revenues
- Corruption reigns

→ LOSE-LOSE situation, everyone loses!

5 million tonnes/year of wild meat extracted in the Congo Basin is equivalent to:



15 million

2 billion



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

42.3

(108)



GABON

30.9

(85)



CAMEROON

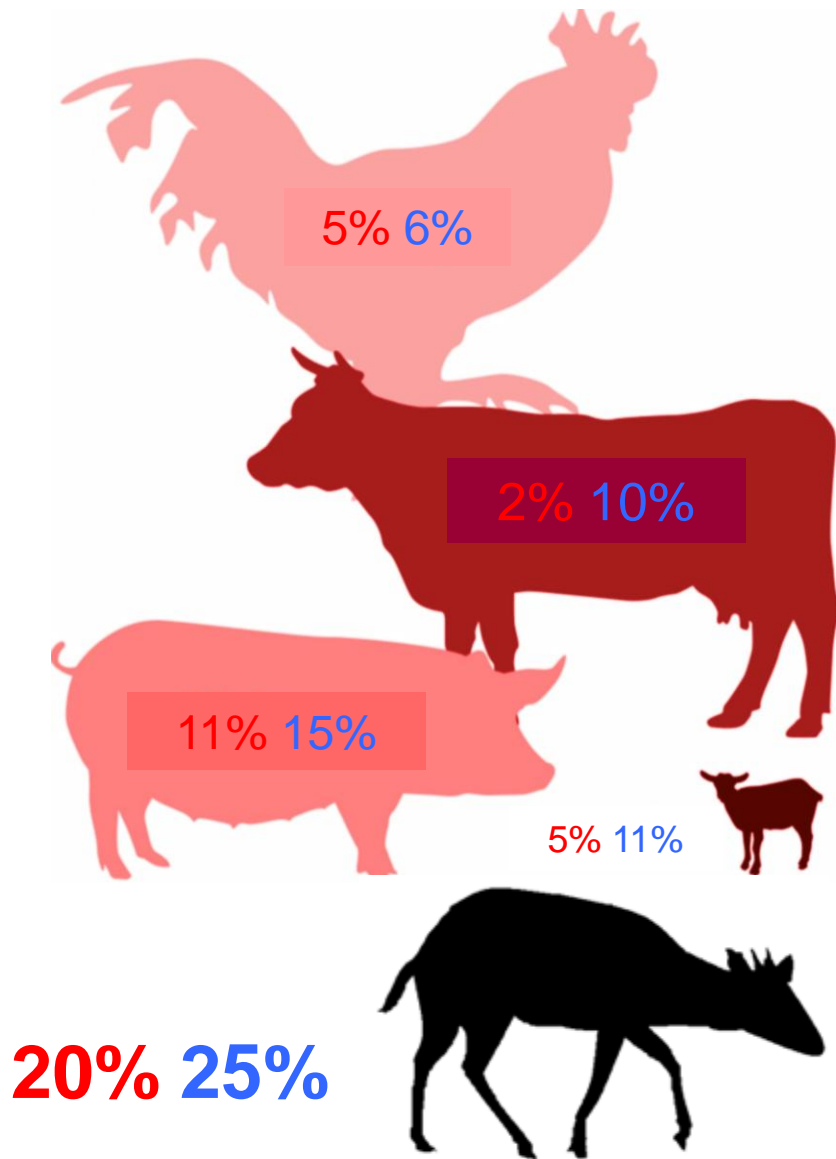
9.8

(122)

In Central Africa, financial profits and gross economic benefits from the wild meat sector (Million €/yr) is high.

Numbers in brackets = Gross economic benefit (incl. self-consumption)

From: Lescuyer et al. (2012)



Wild meat is regularly eaten

Example: rural and urban children in Kisangani, DRC, report higher consumption of wild meat than any other meat.

Urban/Rural



But, what are the consequences on **food security** and **human nutrition** if wild meat resources are depleted?



A protein gap?

Sustainable protein supply from wild meat in the Congo Basin:

6.5 - 13.0g/person/day now

0.4 - 0.8g/person/day in 2050
(given deforestation & population growth)

Overall protein supply will fall from about **85g** to **41g**/person/day by 2050, due to reductions in wild meat availability. **This is 79% of the WHO recommended minimum of 52g/person/day.**



A fat gap?

The suggestion from a study in Ecuador is that if wild meat and fish availability decreases, the most immediate and serious effect would not be a **reduction** in protein intake, but in **fat intake**.

Wild meat provides fat as well as protein. Fat is energy-rich, and contains vitamins. Dietary fat should supply at least 15-20% of the energy intake.

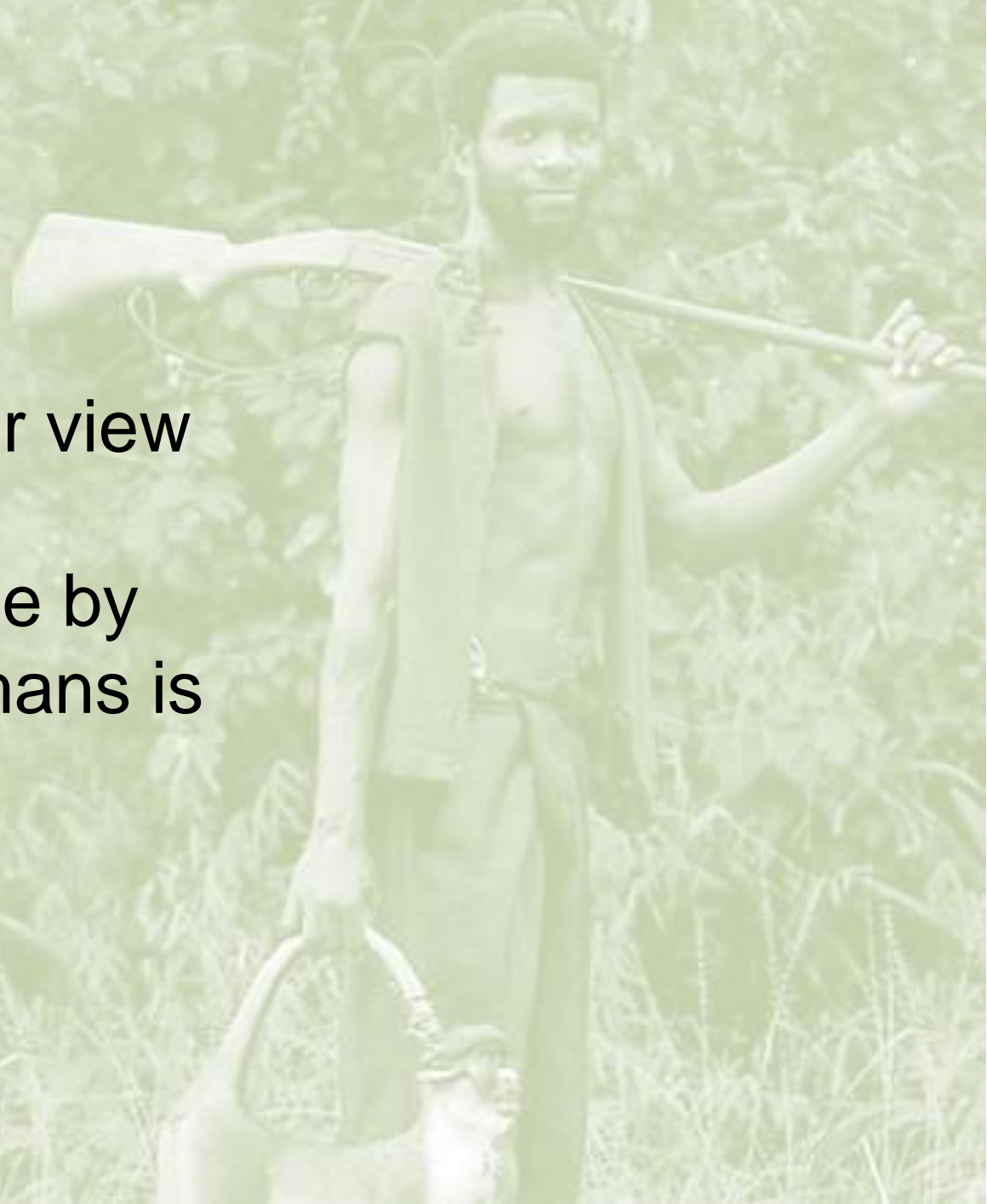


A micronutrient gap?

In a study of children under 12 y of age in rural northeastern Madagascar, **consuming more wildlife** was associated with significantly **higher haemoglobin concentrations**.

Removing access to wildlife would induce a **29% increase** in the numbers of children suffering from anemia and a tripling of anaemia cases among children in the poorest households.

Hence, a broader view of the nutritional contribution made by wild meat to humans is necessary.



Is there a way forward?

Repression only won't work!
“Laissez-faire” won't work either!

Include in national statistics as a vital national economic activity

Legitimise the debate around bushmeat

Acknowledge contribution to food security and health in national strategies

A new menu

Review national legislation for coherence, practicality and to reflect actual practices (without surrendering key conservation concerns)



Develop a framework to “formalize” parts of the trade

Analyze both the livelihood and conservation implications of a given intervention on all stakeholders (including gender)