Wild Meat on the Menu

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Outline

• Why did I do this study?
• How did we collect the data?
• What did we find in the markets and restaurants?
• How can we make use of this for conservation purposes?
How to Measure Urban Wild Meat Demand?

• Map 185 eating establishments and major markets; track sources of meat to an urban center

• Internal and independent informants collect 3000 weekly client and sales observations over 12 months in major urban wild meat markets

• Conduct 150 in-depth interviews with restaurant clients in representative sample of restaurants
Restaurants by Average Bushmeat Meal Price in Yaoundé Cameroon, 2009

Legend
Average Meal Price
- <1000 f/CFA
- 1000 to 2999 f/CFA
- 3000+ f/CFA
Uses of Market Animals

- events
- unspecified
- consumption
- sale
Market Client 90 Ethnic Groups

Market Client Ethnic Groups by Region

- Center: 48%
- East: 17%
- South: 21%
- West: 8%
- Littoral: 6%

Market Client 90 Ethnic Groups
Observations

• Markets are not the primary Class A species issue but this should not indicate that networks aren’t based in these markets.

• Yaounde bushmeat restaurants have increased by 33% since 2000.

• Complicity of law enforcers calls for independent monitoring of law enforcement.

• Increased but weak law enforcement paired with improved telecommunications results in viral like growth of wildlife trade.
Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Urban Trade

• Work with Government:
  
  – Amend wild meat collection permitting law to incentivize Class C species traders into regulated realm:
    125,000 f/CFA for Class C species
    250,000 f/CFA for Class B and C species
  
  – Issue permits with unique seal to discourage illegal permitting beyond quotas.
  
  – Conduct 10 strategic, randomly-timed market and restaurant raids aimed to prosecute illegal Class A and B trade and unpermitted Class C trade.
  
  – Institute incentives program to award law enforcers bringing wildlife offenses to prosecution.
  
  – Initiate three strikes penalties rule for businesses (e.g. CAMRAIL, bus agencies) transporting wildlife parts and meat.
Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Urban Trade

• *Outsource:*

  – Establish nodes in urban areas to inform about illegal large-scale traders and Class A in particular.

  – Conduct long-term monthly independent monitoring of urban trade through informants and anonymous leads.

  – Support already successful, independent private investigations of Class A species meat, live animal and trophy trade.
Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Urban Trade

• *Employ Business strategies:*

  – Place billboards and posters in public places of each Class A animal and legal consequences of selling these.

  – Establish and advertise an anonymous hotline to report information regarding illegal or corrupt trade/related wildlife law enforcement.

  – Pair promotional give-away program at city entrances with discreet private car monitoring and prosecution program.
Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Urban Trade

• **Fund Research:**

Support Cameroonian and international student research in business, social and natural sciences to:

• Test DNA of meat in markets to accurately identify animals sold and compare to stated meat sold

• Study non-consumptive and non-economic uses of rare animals for political or social gain
  
  (Political Science student at U Yaounde I currently undertaking this study)
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