

## Bushmeat Factfile

- Between 1 and 5 million tonnes of bushmeat are removed from Congo Basin forests every year<sup>1</sup>
- The harvest is almost certainly unsustainable:

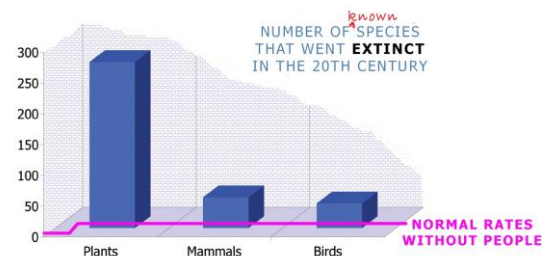
***"...we are witnessing massive and completely unmanaged harvesting, in conditions of ever-increasing public access, improvements in destructive technologies, wide availability of arms, ammunition and growing penetration by high spending and strategically-positioned "elites"..."***<sup>2</sup>



- A 2010 study estimated that up to 5 tonnes of bushmeat is smuggled into Europe each week via Paris airport<sup>3</sup>
- Gorillas, chimpanzees and other primates are especially vulnerable to over-hunting, as they have few offspring and high rates of natural mortality<sup>4</sup>
- The bushmeat crisis is part of what people are calling the sixth mass extinction, the biggest loss of species since the dinosaurs disappeared<sup>5</sup>



- Major threats to wildlife in the 21st century include over-hunting, deforestation, introduced species and pollution<sup>6</sup>
- Over 700 species of animal have gone extinct in the wild since 1500AD<sup>7</sup>



- One in 5 mammals, one in 8 birds, and one in 3 amphibians are at a very high risk of extinction<sup>8</sup>

### Notes, references and links

1. D. S. Wilkie & J.F. Carpenter Bushmeat hunting in the Congo Basin: an assessment of impacts and options for mitigation. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 8: 927–955, 1999; Fa, J. E., Peres, C. A., & Meeuwig, J. Bushmeat exploitation in tropical forests: an intercontinental comparison. *Conservation Biology* 16, 232–241, 2002
2. Conservation and Use of Wildlife-Based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis CBD Technical Series No 33, 2008 [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-33-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-33-en.pdf)
3. Anne-Lise Chaber, Sophie Allebone-Webb, Yves Lignereux, Andrew A. Cunningham, J. Marcus Rowcliffe. The scale of illegal meat importation from Africa to Europe via Paris. *Conservation Letters*, 2010 reported at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100617210641.htm>
4. The Gorilla Foundation: <http://www.koko.org/about/facts.html>
5. Anthony D. Barnosky, Nicholas Matzke, Susumu Tomiya, Guinevere O. U. Wogan, Brian Swartz, Tiago B. Quental, Charles Marshall, Jenny L. McGuire, Emily L. Lindsey, Kaitlin C. Maguire, Ben Mersey and Elizabeth A. Ferrer. Has the Earth's sixth mass extinction crisis arrived? *Nature*. Vol 471, Issue 7336, March 2011: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v471/n7336/full/nature09678.html>
6. [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/threats-to-biodiversity\\_52.html](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/threats-to-biodiversity_52.html)
7. ...and those are only the ones that were recorded before they disappeared. For a list of creatures that will never be seen again visit: <http://www.petermaas.nl/extinct/lists/globally.htm>
8. IUCN Redlist 2010: For a summary, visit: [www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02766.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02766.pdf)