



**Global Youth  
Biodiversity  
Network**

## **GYBN Intervention on Sustainable Wildlife Management**

*Montreal, Canada, April 28 2016*

Thank you Mister Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network

For centuries, wildlife resources have been utilized largely for subsistence. However, as the human population expands, wildlife resources are increasingly subjected to severe pressure. It not only questions the sustainability in bushmeat extraction, but also threatens wildlife's very existence.

We acknowledge the XIV World Forestry Congress report which details the important link between bushmeat consumption and food security. However, while we recognize the need of bushmeat consumption for subsistence, we are concerned that our current practices will not be able to sustain them for long.

We believe that strict enforcement with prohibitions, arrests and fines are proving to be ineffective, thus management plans for sustainable bushmeat use subsistence should be developed in a participatory manner with local communities.

Therefore, we urge parties to engage with indigenous peoples and local communities and develop game management and management strategies in an inclusive participatory manner concurrent with the development of awareness raising campaigns.

Regarding the commercial use of bushmeat, we are extremely worried with the increase in urban market demand for bushmeat. Due to the large scale of its operations and the inability of our ecosystems to cope with this exploitation, we believe that strategies used to reduce these demands should be drastically different from those taken to address subsistence bushmeat consumption.

Thus, we welcome the road map presented in the aforementioned report and the Sustainable Development Goal 15, Target 15.7 that calls on Governments to "take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products."

We urge parties to enforce strict regulation with respect to the extraction of commercial bushmeat. In order to effectively curb commercial exploitation of bushmeat awareness raising campaigns targeting consumers are needed.

In situations where these strategies are ineffective, we would urge governments to venture out of the box and consider formalizing the bushmeat sector in a way that we reduce pressures on wild animal populations.

Thank you`.