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

Presentation by Mark van Dorp (DUVILLA), Consultant to International Fund for Animal Welfare

Brussels, September 30, 2010
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 derived 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

- 2003: Commission takes measures against illegal import of meat incl. bushmeat (2002/995/EC)
- 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).