

# Bush Meat on the Nutrition and Health Agenda

Conservation and sustainable used of wildlife  
“How to optimize complementarity”

Presenters

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# Outline

- ❖ Introduction (2)
- ❖ Bushmeat demand, Anticipation , and management of increasing urban demand (3-6)
- ❖ Bushmeat and the Ebola Virus (7-8)
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# Introduction

Bushmeat stands for meat sourced from wild animals to be used as food or for commercial purposes

In central Africa, wild animal species commonly hunted before processing into bushmeat include: Cane rat, porcupine, antelopes, squirrels, tortoise, and to a lesser extent non-human primates etc.

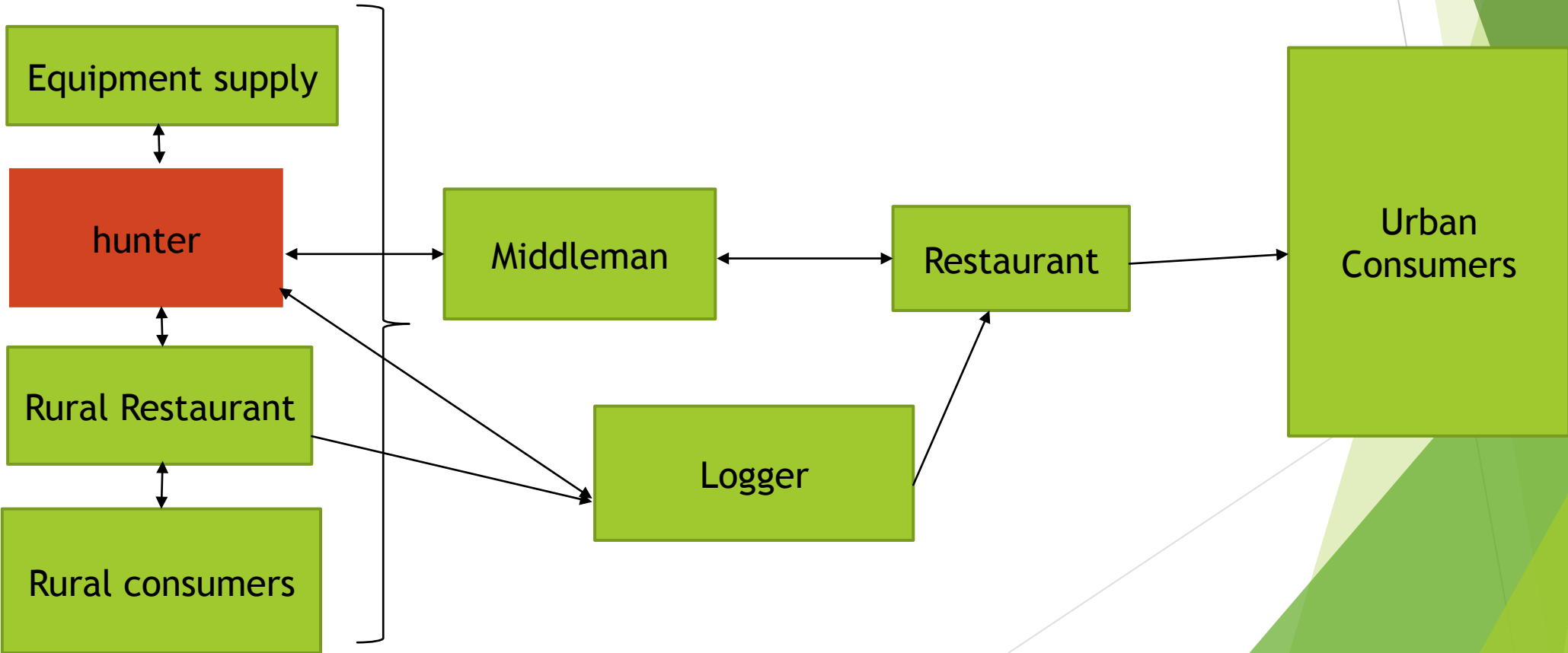
Bushmeat is fundamental in the nutrition of forest populations in Central Africa (protein, vitamins & minerals) and reliance on bushmeat can be very high

Reason: Domestic livestock practices and cultivation of protein rich foods is either limited or inexistent

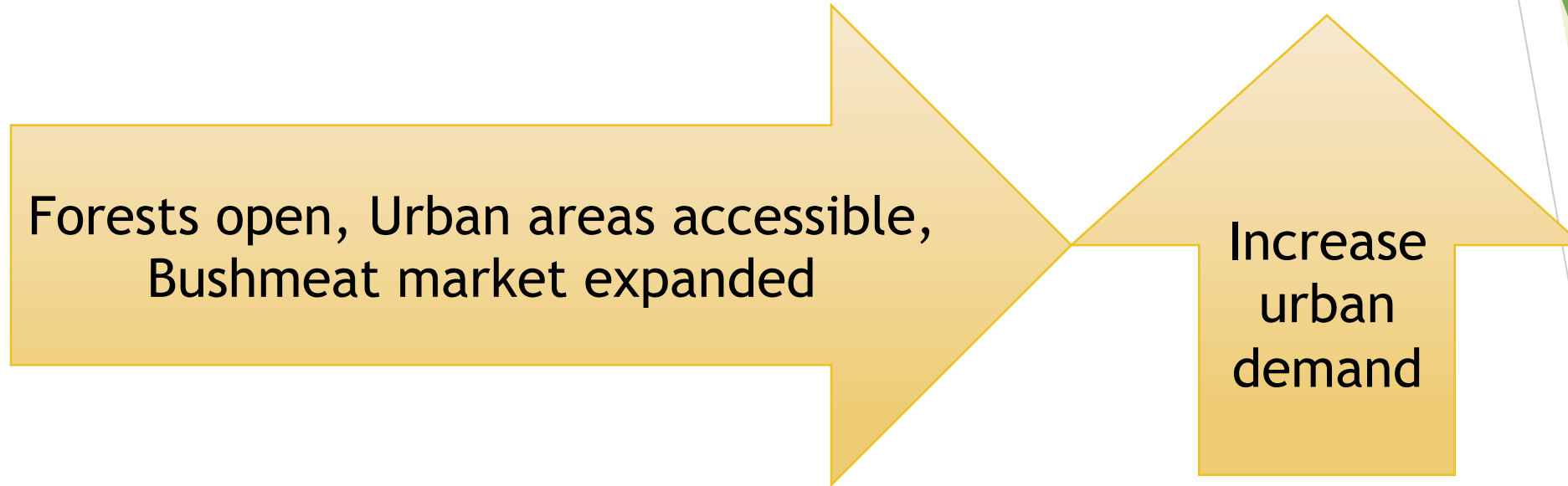


# Bushmeat demand, Anticipation and management of Urban Drift

The bushmeat market is informal/illegal thanks to wildlife conservation laws and follows a complex commodity chain



# Anticipating Urban Demand of Bushmeat



Urbanization and population growth rates which are on the rise in Central Africa may increase urban demand for bushmeat.

# Why do people eat bushmeat? Schenck et al., 2006

No alternatives available to satisfy meat needs (and as a consequence protein requirement) in rural areas

Bushmeat is cheaper in rural areas adjoining forest concessions

Preference (familiarity, tradition, pride), cultural significance (traditional festivals) common among urban dwellers

The proper assessment of these reasons may provide wildlife sustainable management strategies that assure the protein security of the rural poor

# Management strategies from a human wellbeing perspective

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1- Effective promotion of the production of animal protein alternatives (poultry, pig, goat, sheep, grasscutter, snails) to a medium scale and the cultivation of protein rich foods like mushroom, soya, beans, and groundnuts together with aquaculture

2- Wildlife conservation messages through media advertisement targeting change of attitude of consumers with preference and cultural reasons

The implementation of these strategies require a participatory learning or co-learning approach between the extension agents and the implicated stakeholders (hunters, loggers, traders, restaurants etc.)

# Bushmeat and Ebola Virus

Bushmeat species: porcupine, grasscutter, squirrel, cane rat, antelope, bush pig, bats, monkey, chimpanzee, gorilla etc.

The processing of cut game into bushmeat involves chopping, skinning, roasting, drying and salting which prevents microbial deterioration

Ebola virus causes the Ebola Hemorrhagic fever; rare and deadly disease endemic to Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Niger, Guinea, and RDC) and spreads through direct contact with contaminated subjects/objects



## The relationship between Bushmeat and the Ebola virus transmission is complex

Pigott et al. (2014) listed death gorillas, chimpanzees, monkeys and bats (life and death) as the potential carries of the Ebola virus and also underlined the fact that Ebola virus transmission through food has not been documented



Much is yet to be known about the link between bushmeat and the Ebola virus

Communities at risk are those in which hunters pick animal cadavers, getting in contact with the virus and passing it on to their closest and latter costumers

The protein requirement of the rural poor remains at risk and this can be better managed through a wildlife for human wellbeing approach

# Recommendations to Governments

1- Address the deficiency of sustainable protein in urban and rural areas by:

- ❖ Ensuring sustainable harvest systems of fish and Wildlife (feasible),
- ❖ Investing in the agricultural sector to ultimately produce competitively-priced protein, and
- ❖ Encouraging private enterprise through mild investment/tax

2- Improve economic opportunities for alternative protein sources at similar costs to bushmeat,

3- Develop cost effective systems for examining the importance of wild meat to populations in different ecological and socioeconomic settings,

4- determine casual links between alternative protein sources and wildlife populations and the ecological footprints of increasing accessibility to domestic meat.

# THANK YOU

