

TENGWOOD ORGANIZATION

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Calabar, 30 - Aug - 2015

TENGWOOD ORGANIZATION YEARLY REPORT JULI 2014 - JUNI 2015



OUR PARTNERS:

Marianne & Benno Lüthi Stiftung







Maria and Kurt Tenger





Yearly Report for 1 - Jul - 2014 to 30 - Jun - 2015

Tengwood Organization is now 5 years old. Founded on 9 - Dec - 2010 in Wallisellen Switzerland, the purpose of the organization is to help save some of the most vulnerable primates in Africa in their natural habitat; specifically, the drill monkey, and the Nigeria Cameroon Chimpanzee. This report looks back on our past fiscal year from 1 - Jul - 2014 to 30 - Jun - 2015.

We have been able to increase funding during this period, thanks to the support of a number of supporters, including foundations, private sponsors, and our loyal passive members. We also have several very important partners assisting us in our study in Africa. Although we have not fully achieved our full budget for this study, we have nevertheless, begun our work in Africa. To finance our long-term commitment, we will need continued and additional support. Thank you very much for your confidence.

The Drill Monkey (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) is one of the most endangered monkey species in Africa and is found only in Nigeria and Cameroon



The Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) is the most endangered subspecies of chimpanzee





Activities 2014/2015

Bushmeat in Swiss Airports – Completion of Report to CITES:

Our focus remains on the international trade in wild meat (i.e. the bushmeat trade). In 2014, we completed a report for CITES that highlights the full results of our bushmeat study in Swiss Airports.



www.tengwood.org/images/news/tengwood report to cites.pdf

Bushmeat Identification Guide for Customs:

We also worked together with the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Authorities (FSVO/BLV) to create a booklet for customs employees to aid in bushmeat recognition. Thanks to our extensive experience and determination of individual species by DNA analysis, we were able to define a number of identifying characteristics for some of the animal species that are commonly smuggled as bushmeat. This has been translated into 4 languages, so that customs employees worldwide can benefit from this document. (Links to the English, German, French and Italian versions can also be found on the FSVO/BLV website, as well as on our own website)



http://www.blv.admin.ch/themen/handel_wild/05116/index.html?lang=en_

Statistical Model for Predicting Bushmeat Amounts:

In addition, we had the opportunity to work with University of Bern/Bern University of Applied Sciences statistician, Alain Hauser, to create a more sophisticated model to calculate the amount of bushmeat smuggled into Switzerland. To deal with the uncertainty in some aspects of bushmeat smuggling, we created a number of models. The first model was our default, and assumed that customs officers found all smuggled bushmeat (i.e. bushmeat seized and recorded in the 2012 customs records represented the total amount smuggled into Switzerland). This is of course an unlikely assumption, as customs cannot search every passenger. Our second model assumed that customs officers search passengers randomly, and therefore find contraband randomly. As not all passengers can be searched, only a certain proportion of the smuggled meat is discovered and seized.

The results of these models showed that alarmingly, the lowest amount smuggled was estimated to be an average of 96 tonnes per year. This is twice as high as our own estimated model of 40 tonnes (see our CITES report model). Assuming customs did not find all smuggled contraband, the second model predicated that an average of 163 tons per year are smuggled into Switzerland. There is still some uncertainty in these models (i.e. details of the search methods of customs, as well as the proportion of planes/passengers that arrive from smuggling regions is not known). A meeting with BLV and the customs authorities to propose creating a more accurate model with new data that takes into account these factors was unfortunately rejected by the customs authorities on the grounds that methods of finding contraband cannot be disclosed for security reasons. This is understandable, albeit unfortunate, as it would have been very interesting to see the amount predicted with the inclusion of the Swiss Customs official's experience.

Creating a more sophisticated model...

 Model created with Alain Hauser, Berner Fachhochschule, Bern University of Applied Sciences

Estimator	Estimate (t)	Lower b. (t)	Upper b. (t)
'perfect' customs agents (i.e. all bushmeat found)	96	15	163
Model using information from control days, study results, airport and customs data, and flight proportions	1217	189	2072

Bushmeat smuggled into Switzerland
We estimate a total of 189 t to 2072 t of bushmeat was smuggled into Switzerland via airports ZRH and GVA in 2012 (exact estimate: 1217 t).
Probability or error (level of significance): 5%.

That corresponds to 5 to 52 trucks full of bushmeat

Image: www.autohandel-weber.cl

 Uncertainty is so large that we can only estimate the order of magnitude of illegal bushmeat imports.



Obtaining Materials for a Detection Dog Program:

Tengwood Organization also participated in helping to create a more effective dog detection program in Switzerland. In 2014, CITES and FSVO/BLV and Swiss Border Police created a wildlife detection dog program and began training dogs to detect various wildlife products using materials obtained from Zoo Zurich and Zoo Basel (i.e. feathers, pelts, etc.). However, there are limitations to species and the types of materials that can be non-invasively collected. For example, our study found that the pangolin is the most at risk species from the bushmeat trade into Switzerland. However, the only captive pangolins that exist (outside of range countries) are found in Leipzig zoo. We were instrumental in linking the dog program with Leipzig Zoo, who provided bedding used by the pangolins which was successfully incorporated into program. Currently, we continue work on some of the issues involved in the training of these wildlife dogs. For example, it is important to include bushmeat in Customs searches; for this purpose, we offered the bushmeat samples collected during our study for use in training. However, Federal Veterinarians deemed the disease risk from these samples too high. This raises an interesting question. It is generally believed that the risk of the Ebola virus being carried in bushmeat to a developed world country and subsequently resulting disease is 'low' (see statements by EU Food Safety Authorities and FSVO/BLV). However, the risk to the dogs via use of our bushmeat samples was considered too 'high' by Federal veterinarians. We are now exploring this discrepancy in ideas with a number of detection dog trainers. We hope to determine how one might, given the risks, accomplish the training of dogs to sniff out bushmeat in order to better protect developed world borders from this influx of potentially risky wild meat into airports and other ports of entry.

Tengwood Fundraiser

Before our departure, we conducted an information session about Tengwood Organization's work in Wallisellen in Switzerland. We also invited Prof. Dr. Volker summer, one of the world's leading primatologists, to be a guest speaker. Dr. Volker Sommer's work on the Gashaka Primate Project (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/gashaka/park) in Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Taraba State, Nigeria has spanned many years and we thank him for the most interesting lecture, which was contributed free of charge. We will be collaborating closely with Volker's project in Nigeria.



Media Presence 2014-2015:

On the subject of bushmeat, as well as Tengwood Organization's work, we were again present in the media (articles in german only)

Gorilla Journal



http://www.berggorilla.org/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/journal/journal-en/gorilla-journal-

48-english.pdf

Zoo Journal



http://www.zoo.ch/documents/Zoojournal2015.pdf

Radio SRF 3 Input





http://www.srf.ch/sendungen/input/buschfleisch-affen-auf-schweizer-tellern

Walliseller Zeitung



http://www.tengwood.org/images/news/artikel-tengwood_walliseller_zeitung.pdf

Opfiker Stadtanzeiger



http://www.tengwood.org/images/news/artikel opfiker stadtanzeiger.pdf

Preparation for Africa 2015

Much of 2014-2015 was spent in obtaining adequate funding for the study. We have drawn up a number of proposals during this period to achieve this goal. Thanks to the generous donations of the Marianne and Benno Lüthi Foundation, the Zurcher Tierschutz, Zoo Zurich, the Bernd Thies Stiftung, and Maria and Kurt Tenger, along with a number of private sponsors and passive members, we were able to continue our work on bushmeat and begin to carry out our study in Africa in June of 2015.

Upcoming Projects in 2015-2016

During the next year, we will fully concentrate on a bushmeat study in Nigeria and Cameroon. The objective of the study is to gain more information about the smuggling of bushmeat out of Africa and into Switzerland and other developed world countries. Currently, the smuggling of bushmeat into Switzerland and the EU is considered a misdemeanor rather than a criminal offense. An amendment to make bushmeat smuggling a crime and allow it to be pursued as such is needed. This is the only way that the backers of the bushmeat trade in Switzerland and Europe will be prosecuted. Currently, in cases where bushmeat is confiscated, offenders are not typically penalized and are prosecuted only when a smuggler is carrying an excessive amount, is a repeat offender, or a species being smuggled is known to be CITES-listed. However, our study also discovered that species recognition can be quite difficult; most bushmeat is cut into pieces before arriving in Switzerland and is often smoked – a type of preparation that obscures identifying features. This means that even if caught, customs agents are unlikely to recognize the meat as a protected species. Because it is difficult to identify bushmeat to the species level, endangered species are likely to be treated the same as non-endangered species. Bushmeat is typically confiscated and immediately destroyed because of the potential disease risk meat present in meats from third world countries. As a result, the fees and penalties for smuggling bushmeat are small to non-existent, and the act therefore carries few consequences. Another case demonstrates the difficulties in prosecuting bushmeat smugglers; police seized cocaine and monkey meat in an African shop in Zurich. However, the offender was only prosecuted for drug possession. If the police in Switzerland find suspected bushmeat, they cannot deal with this, because it is not considered a crime. If police recognize the meat as an endangered species, they must call Border police, who can then retrieve the item, deliver it to FSVO/BLV and CITES to identify it to species, from where Customs could pursue prosecution. However, DNA testing is not routinely carried out on bushmeat, so the meat must be grossly identifiable to species and given the type of preparation bushmeat undergoes, this is not often the case. All along the way, bushmeat is most often quickly disposed of and information about species at risk from the trade is lost.

Our study will encourage adapting the laws in Switzerland, as is required by a recent UN resolution. "Crime prevention and criminal responses to illicit trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna" (E/CN.15/2013/L.20/Rev). The resolution encourages member states to consider organized illegal trade in wild animals and plants as a serious crime, and encourages the efforts of member states to prevent illegal trafficking of wild animals and plants through publicity and education campaigns. The smuggling of bushmeat should be of great interest to Switzerland and other developed world countries - in addition to endangering vulnerable species, a serious health risk exists in wild meat. The link between emergent diseases such as Ebola and bushmeat was brought to light in the most recent 2014 outbreak of this disease. Of particular relevance to bushmeat arriving in developed world airports is the fact that bushmeat can be present in uncooked wild meats (WHO 2014) and one study showed that the virus can survive in a carcass up to 4 days (CDC 2014; Leroy 2004) - plenty of time for it to travel to many places (a typical commercial flight from Lagos Nigeria to Zurich Switzerland takes approximately 9 hours).

Prospects for the following year

In addition to our bushmeat study, we are concurrently working on development of a fresh water project, which will combine provision of clean drinking water with environmental education. A water purification system has been provided by the association Aqua pura (http://www.aqua-pura.org/). The system cleans bacteria and viruses from water using a combination of special filters and UV-C light. We will use the project "clean water for conservation" in combination with environmental education on watersheds, natural structures such as forests and mountains, and species protection. We are very grateful that Aqua Pura is committed to the concern of species protection, which is a new idea for them. Talks with local government, Ranger programs and local government area chiefs have already taken place and met with great approval. Aqua-Pura has provided all materials for the system, and we are testing these in 2015. We are being supported for this project by the Reformation Church Glattbrugg and other foundations. Funding is still needed for transportation, installation, and textbooks and other printed materials.

We are also striving to find information and ways of encouraging the use of alternative sources of protein for local people. We have approached the idea of goat farming with one local village. However, traditional methods of keeping and breeding animals are somewhat novel to forest populations. This will therefore take many further discussions and conviction to create a working solution.

Thanks to our Sponsors

We would like to thank our board, Benno Lüthi and Kurt Tenger, who support us with great dedication. We also thank everyone who has supported us with funding and/or expertise and hope you continue to support our project in the following years. Without sponsors, it would highly difficult if not impossible to implement these projects and we deeply appreciate all contributions. We will continue in 2015-2016 to expend all our energy on the protection of primates and their forest home.

Partners - Bushmeat Study:









Maria and Kurt Tenger

Partners – Clean Drinking Water Combined with Species Protection and Conservation:





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