

# BUSHMEAT: ACTIONS TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

For each recommendation, we established here a list of concrete actions that support and underlie the overall statement as well as offering suggestions to implement it.

These actions do not necessarily reflect the views of the FPS and the authors. They summarise the discussions and propositions made by the participants at the conference.

## ENSURE A COHERENT 'ONE HEALTH' POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF MEAT, INCLUDING BUSHMEAT

A coherent 'One Health' policy framework can be ensured by establishing transversal and coordinated National and European strategies and action plans to oversee the illegal importation of meat, including bushmeat, encompassing following features :

- Making the issue of illegal bushmeat import a priority in health and environmental policies
- Establishing effective and efficient biosecurity measures and ensuring current and legal policy frameworks are fit for purpose; timely supplementing these with new developments if needed
- Engaging with all concerned actors (civil society, governments, airlines companies, airports, policy-makers at national, European and international levels, and NGO's) and facilitating collaboration.

### CONCRETE ACTIONS

- Identify the public authorities to be involved in the development and implementation of the One World One Health policy;
- Involve development cooperation next to ministries of Health and Environment;
- Clarify competences, the work mandates and the human and financial resources available within the various public authorities concerned;
- Establish an action plan with a coherent share of actions between the responsible authorities;
- Allow for more synergies between the different regulatory frameworks and budgets at stake;
- Collaborate across different sectors for strategies aiming at improving efficiency of border checks;
- Better exchange and collaborate with other Member States in order to set up synergies.



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## EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT BORDER CONTROLS

An effective and efficient border control system is required to prevent the illegal importation of meat, including bushmeat, into the European Union. Concerned public authorities should work together and implement a coherent set of actions. Strengthened enforcement capacities at borders can be achieved by:

- providing appropriate resources for border authorities to perform controls at passengers airports, cargo airports, ports and state borders
- increasing frequency, regularity and efficiency of controls, targeting in particular flights from countries at risk
- imposing proportionate and dissuasive administrative or criminal penalties to offenders and informing passengers on the criminal dimension of bushmeat importation
- ensuring collaboration between Member States

## CONCRETE ACTIONS

- Establish clear protocols on and clear role repartitions between the different agencies/authorities involved;
- Provide the necessary means and resources to improve the border controls (at airports, ports, cargos, rail stations) and to support the authorities and personnel in their work: more budget, more space, more people, improved logistics;
- Organise more regular luggage checks and increase the number of controls; consider implementing mandatory luggage checks;
- Pay attention to transit luggage (e.g. coming from a high risk country);
- Collaborate with the airline companies (for the luggage check);
- Conduct genetic and/or DNA analyses of seized samples;
- Harshen fines & penalties, especially if endangered/CITES species are involved, or for repeated offenders;
- Money from the fines could fund more controls, studies, campaigns, etc.;
- Set up training programmes for personnel at border controls to identify wild meat/bushmeat;
- Set up sniffer dogs' programmes to detect wild meat/bushmeat;
- Engage in discussions and collaborate with local authorities from the source countries to improve controls and enforcement there too.

## APPENDIX II

# BUSHMEAT: ACTIONS TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

### COLLECT DATA AND ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE

Decision making regarding the illegal importation of meat, including bushmeat relies on evidence which can be improved by:

- better characterising the volumes, sources, pathways of introduction, taxonomic identity, and potential risks of imported bushmeat at national, EU and international level
- better characterising the drivers of consumption of bushmeat and the perception and behaviours of consumers in Europe
- considering transdisciplinary research by integrating sociological, economic, biological, epidemiological, anthropological and legal approaches
- establishing reliable, transparent and traceable databases and dataflows flows on imported wild meat species following FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable<sup>20</sup>) to allow reproducible data analysis and interpretation

### CONCRETE ACTIONS

- Collect information and data from airports and border controls on the existing trade;
- Insert the results of the genetic analyses of seized samples in the relevant databases;
- Ensure that the data (e.g. the format) is uniform and easily understandable, accessible, and available;
- Share data between airports and borders officers;
- Collaborate with source countries and at European and international level to collect data and exchange information;
- Fund research and studies on the scope of the trade/sale/consumption & on the trade routes, including:
  - the sociological/anthropological/cultural aspects and the social mechanisms underlying consumption; the cultural background; examine the demand and supply
  - the economic mechanisms that drive the trade
  - the risks and impacts on biodiversity, health, economy.



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### INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness can be improved by:

- Establishing a collaborative communication strategy with all relevant stakeholders (public authorities, private sectors, airline companies, airports, press and media) targeting all potential audiences from passengers to technical officers. This collaborative approach will ensure endorsement by the different stakeholders.
- Acceding to risk communication approaches.

### CONCRETE ACTIONS

- Involve & collaborate with the private air sector, especially airline companies, on communication and awareness raising campaigns of target passengers from the European countries as well as passengers from the source countries;
- Make the private sector more liable and more responsible of their role in the trade;
- Use subventions as incentives and encourage them to set a good example;
- Inform better about the risks and negative sides of the trade and consumption of bushmeat, and explain the reasons behind the existing legislation;
- Be more ambitious & creative with the campaigns: do not limit them to text, but produce videos, etc.;
- Include journalists & media to support the campaigns.

