



CONASA

*Community-Based Natural Resource Management
and Sustainable Agriculture*

ILLEGAL BUSH MEAT TRADE REPORT MULOBEZI GMA

(By MER and Wildlife Sections)

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Acknowledgements and Special Remarks...

The study on the depletion of our natured and well treasured resource- the wild animals, in our renowned Great Kafue National Park and adjacent GMAs was made possible by the support from USAID. We greatly appreciate their support and many thanks also goes to our community for their relentless cooperation in unveiling this very 'sensitive information'.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

GMAs-Game management Area
ZAWA-Zambia Wildlife Authority
VAG-Village Area Group
MLGs-Muzzle Loader
CBO-Community Based Organisations
C/Belt-Copper Belt
ADMADE-Administrative Management Design

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

Village Coverage

A total of 79 respondents were interviewed in the study in about 54 villages within and surrounding Mulobezi and Sichifulo GMAs. Initially this particular survey targeted all five VAGs (Moomba Central, Mabwe, Choonzo, Kalobe and Mulanga) but it finally included even Mulobezi centre itself. See village cover list in *Annex One* and spatial distribution of survey results in the maps attached in *Annexes Two* and *Three*.

Movement of the illegal bush meat

A large quantity of the meat that is traded or supplied directly to the consumers/traders/market vendors/poacher agents and other members of the community originates from the surrounding two GMAs (Mulobezi and Sichifulo). A proportion of it comes from the open areas and the park (Kafue National Park). Some of the meat from the source gets to other centres other than Mulobezi where if it does, it is transported to other centres either by road or rail.

The centres where the meat gets to are: Livingstone, Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Lwampa, Sesheke, Sichili, Capriv Strip, Choma, Machile, Kaoma, Masese and Mbwinna. There are several routes (by road) that connect to Mulobezi or other centres along which meat is trafficked.

Observations/recommendations

The lack of patrols by ZAWA is affecting the much-needed conservation to reserve the wildlife resources and keep the stocks maintained. ZAWA has to improve on its law enforcement activities.

More has to be done on checks in the train to put an end to the concealed contrabands that find their way 'freely' into the market destinations.

BUSH MEAT TRADE IN MULOBESI AREA

INTRODUCTION

In order to assess the Project's impact through capacity building and management of resources the survey was carried to get baseline information on abuse of resources, especially the wildlife resources, even when there is much sensitisation.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine whether project activities are helping in the reduction of the bush meat trade as a threat to the resource.
- To measure the increase or decrease of the trade over a period of time within the project's span of existence.

METHODOLOGY

Eight enumerators, who were engaged on short contract, did the collection of data on the illegal trade. Training on them prior to doing their research was done. The training looked at the following:

1. 'Illegal bush meat trade questionnaire' its outlook and questions covered
2. The kind of interviewing skills relevant to achieving/collection information with.

DETAILS OF THE REPORT

1. RESPONDENTS' DYNAMICS

a) Sex ratios

A larger proportion of the respondents 67 (84.8%) reached were male while only 12(15.2 %) were female.

b) Age groups

Age group	# Of respondents	Percentage
12-25	15	18.9
26-40	45	56.9
41-65	17	21.6
Above 65	1	1.3
No Entry	1	1.3

The majority of the respondents comprised those between the age of 26- 40 who are still relatively active in various aspects of livelihood including poaching and its attendant activity of bush meat trade.

c) Marital status:

Category	# Of Respondents	Percentage	Total
Married	46	58	} 100
Single	27	34	
Undetermined	6	7.6	
Female Headed household	3	38.	} 100
Male Headed Household	62	78.5	
Undetermined	14	17.7	

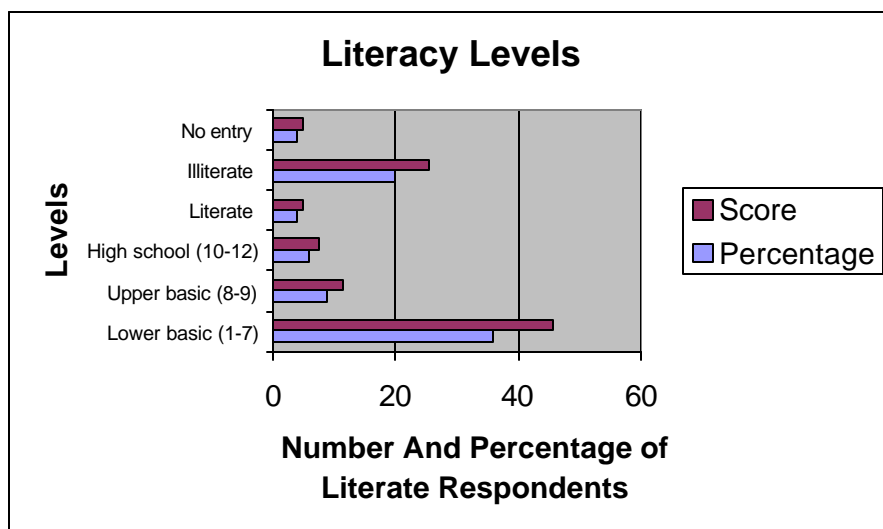
The majority of the respondents covered were married while the smaller proportion was single. Similarly the majority of them were from male-headed households.

d) Literacy levels

Grade category	Number of respondents	Percentage
Lower basic (1-7)	36	45.6
Upper basic (8-9)	9	11.3
High school (10-12)	6	7.6
Literate	4	5.1
Illiterate	20	25.3
No entry	4	5.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>100</i>

More than 60% of the respondents have at least attained some level of basic education though most of them at lower level.

To give an overview of the levels of education a chart representing this data is displayed as below:



e) Livelihoods

<i>Livelihoods</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Constraints</i>
Farming	Sorghum, cassava, maize, vegetables	Drought, poor markets, unsuitable crop seed varieties, lack of agric inputs, lack of animal draft power, high transport costs.
Black smiths	Hoes, axes, knives	Lack of specialised tools, lack of reliable market, uncertain sources of material.
Basketry	Baskets, doormats, floor mats, straw bowls, hats, trays	Lack of reliable market
Fishing	Fish	Lack of good fishing gear and reliable market.
Carpentry	Furniture	Lack of proper tools
Marketeering	Assorted goods	Costly transport, poor market, insufficient capital.
Knitting	Various products	Poor market, insufficient capital
Carving	Mortars, pistons, handles for various hand tools.	Limited market, lack of improved tools
Traditional healing	Access to various animal derivatives and herbs	May get arrested if done without police permit or found in possession of animal trophies
Beer brewing	Beer (local including illicit)	Some customers buy on credit; make loss if the beer goes bad.
Poaching	Game meat, animal parts or trophies	Risk being arrested and prosecuted even imprisoned or death, business is elusive
Honey harvesting and sale	Honey, honey beer money	Limited market
Pottery	Pots, water coolants	Limited market
Traditional thatch	Grass	Limited demand
Brick moulding	Bricks	Limited demand
Poultry	Chickens	Limited market, feed expensive, costly, transportation to urban centres, diseases
Livestock rearing	Pigs and goats	Diseases are common, insufficient feed, limited market, costly to transport to urban centres.

A stock of the livelihoods captured and intended for improved welfare are much more constrained by a varied range of aspects impacting on them as tabulated above.

f) Interview period

Time category	Frequency	Sub total
15	2	30
20	4	80
25	2	50
30	16	480
40	9	360
45	3	135
48	3	144
50	2	100
52	1	52
60	18	1080
70	1	70
75	1	75
85	1	85
90	9	810
100	1	100
110	1	110
115	1	115
120	2	240
1150	77	4116

Observation

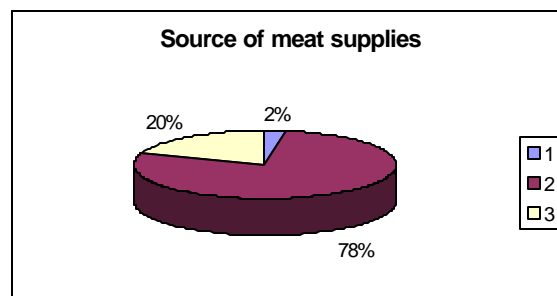
The average interview period spent on interviewing the respondents was 53.5. However the effective period spent ranged mostly between 30-60 minutes.

2. BUSH MEAT TRADE

a) Source of the supplies:

Table 2.a

NO.	Source	Score	%
1	Kafue National Park	2	2.4
2	GMAs(Mulobezi,Sichifulo)	63	77.8
3	Open Area	16	19.8
	Total	81	100



b) Suppliers of Game Meat:

Table 2.b

No.	Suppliers	Score	Percentage
1	Local	28	73.7
2	Outsiders	3	7.9
3	Scouts	7	18.4
	Total	38	100



The larger quantities of the illegal game meat that comes on the market is believed to be poached by the local illegal hunters that supply individuals in the villages, market vendors and traders at various centres such as Mulobezi where it is sold or resold before finally being consumed or transported to other rural or urban centres.

It may also be noted that some element of in-service poaching and trade was at play as captured by the survey. Outsiders away from the vicinity of the GMA boundaries and the park may not be ruled out.

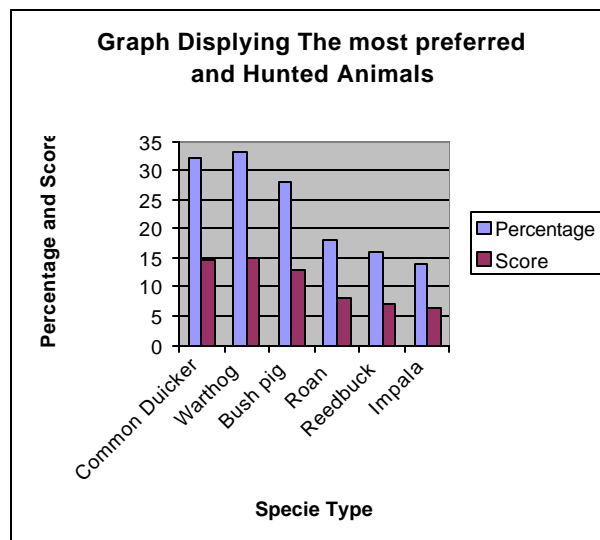
C) Animal Species Hunted and their Preference

No.	Species	Score	%
1	Common Duicker	32	14.7
2	Waterbuck	12	5.5
3	Bush pig	28	12.8
4	Warthog	33	15.1
5	Hartebeest	10	4.6
6	Reedbuck	16	7.3
7	Wildbeest	2	0.9
8	Roan	18	8.3
9	Kudu	13	5.9
10	Sable	8	3.7
11	Impala	14	6.4
12	Elephant	3	1.4
13	Buffalo	15	6.9
14	Eland	2	0.9
15	Grysbok	1	0.5
16	Bushbuck	6	2.8
17	Zebra	5	2.3
	Total	218	100

The Most Hunted

And Preferred Animals

1	Common Duicker	32	14.7
2	Warthog	33	15.1
3	Bush pig	28	12.8
4	Roan	18	8.3
5	Reedbuck	16	7.3
6	Impala	14	6.4



d) Reasons for species preference and frequency on the market

Reasons	Score	%	Associated species
Tasty (palatable)	19	27.9	Roan, warthog, reedbuck, Kudu, Impala
Abundance	22	32.4	Reedbuck, impala, bushbuck, bush pig, warthog, Roan, Kudu
Cheapness-meat	10	14.7	Common duiker, Reedbuck, Warthog
Meat quantity (profitability)	6	8.8	Roan, Elephant, buffalo, kudu,
Successful hunts (easy to hunt or trap)	3	4.4	Warthog, Impala, Reedbuck, Bush pig, Common duiker
Ready market (demand)	2	2.9	All species hunted species
Alternate livelihoods (not jobs)	1	1.5	All species hunted species
Less protection provided (insufficient patrols)	5	7.4	All species hunted species
Total	68	100.0	

The *most* hunted and preferred species associated with their variables or reasons above (palatability, abundance, cheapness of meat, successfulness of hunts) are common duiker, warthog, and bushpig, Roan, Reedbuck and Impala. Other species hunted or preferred for their profitability of sales due to meat quantity /trophies are buffalo, kudu, sable, hartebeest, elephant, wildbeest and Zebra. There is also a noted-localised distribution of some of these species (common duiker and reedbuck). One such area is Kalamba of Kalobe VAG.

e) Frequency Of Meat On The Market

Frequency	Score	Percentage
Once/week	1	1.4
Once/month	25	34.2
Twice/month	17	23.3
Thrice/month	2	2.7
Once/year	1	1.4
Twice/year	3	4.1
Several times a month	8	10.9
Through out the month	2	2.8
Depends on kill	1	1.4
Irregular	6	8.2
Year round	7	9.6
Total	73	100.0

The frequency is a reflection of the survey findings that give the number of times bush meat comes on the market. This is prominent in the periods of once or twice in a month. The findings purely give an active supply of meat as it is conveyed to centres such Mulobezi town and other distribution centres.

Some areas near the hunting localities i.e. the GMAs may have high frequencies that may be even throughout the year or several times in the month or all month long. It may at times be attributed to the determining factor, which is that of the possibility of a kill at any certain time.

The true reflection, there as from the study is the possibility that hunting is done throughout the year. The only variation is on the market, which is influenced by a number of factors such as farming season, legalised hunting season and policing efforts by ZAWA etc.

f) Quantities of meat sold on the market

Quantity	Number
Bundles	644(K3, 265,500)
Pieces	230(K393, 000)
Pieces (for barter with maize at unknown quantities)	6
Pieces (Known quantities for maize)	6=9 galloons
Carcass	7(K581, 000)
Carcasses (exchange for maize)	2.5

During a period of two months the respondents captured in the survey bought bundles, pieces and animal carcasses of meat as reflected in the table. A total of 12 pieces and 2 ¹/₂ were bartered for maize.

The highest number of bundles, pieces and carcasses of meat bought by an individual of the respondents were 100,130 and 3 respectively.

Barter for maize is another medium of exchange in bush meat trade. The value for maize tends to increase with the onset of the rains when hunger gets rougher amongst community in the project area and surrounding areas.

g) Dealers in Game meat on the market

Dealers	Score	%
Traders	16	20
Vendors	6	7.5
Poachers	45	56.2
Local beer brewers	2	2.5
Scouts	6	7.5
Poachers	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

The majority of dealers in illegal game meat are hunters themselves who are suppliers to the other group of dealers. The hunters, as primary dealers supply traders, market vendors, local beer brewers and their agents. The other category of 'suppliers' that surfaced from the survey was the in-service poachers (scouts). In-service poaching may be attributed to the time when scouts went without salaries for quite a long time, which made their work uncomfortable. ZAWA disarmed the officers involved as a temporal measure.

3.HUNTING

a) Reasons for hunting period preference.

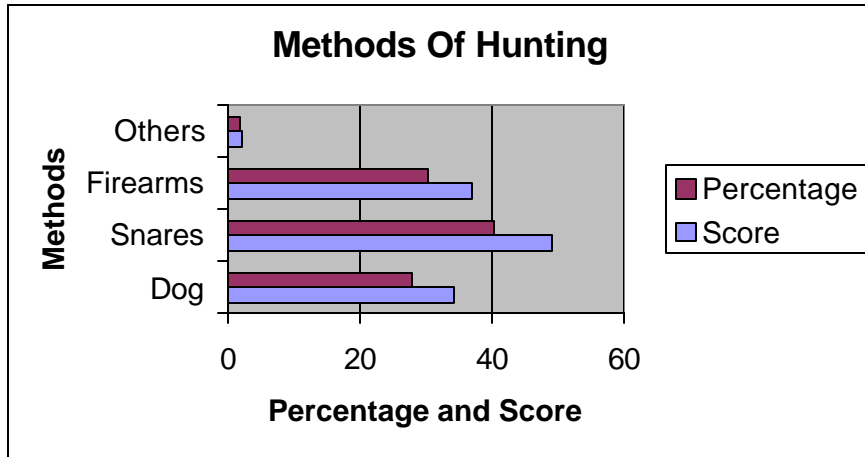
Dry Season	No. Of Respondents
Animals are easy to sight and hunt due to burnt vegetation	15
Animals come near people in search of water	8
Animals tend to be more gregarious due to limited water hence easier to trap	19
Green flush in the plains attract higher concentration of animals	2
Meat preserved better in the cool season	3
Better opportunities to accumulate more stocks of maize through batter system	1
Less household chores hence increasing poaching opportunities	1
Wet Season	
Starvation strikes more	6
Easier to hunt due to vegetation cover	8
ZAWA seldomly patrols due to the thick vegetation cover potential for hideouts for suspected poachers who are a great danger in cases where they are heavily armed.	4
Vegetation cover provides a conducive environment for trapping (trails are visible)	2
Easier to hide away from ZAWA	1
Year round	
Alternative livelihood	1
Dependent livelihood at that time	1

A lot of hunting is done in the dry season due to a number of reasons as pointed out above and perceived by 80% of the respondents.

Despite the peak period which generally falls during the dry season, some individual make the illegal hunting activity a dependent livelihood. This is attributed to the advent of hunger and poverty levels amongst the rural communities

b) Methods of hunting

Method	Dog	Snares	Firearms	Others	Total
Score	34	49	37	2	122
Percentage	27.9	40.2	30.3	1.6	100

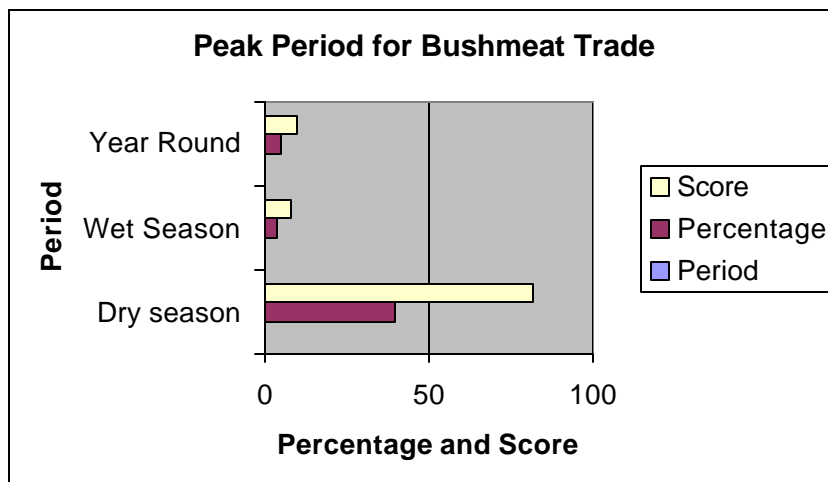


The main forms of hunting employed by illegal hunters are snaring, the use of dogs and firearms. Local hunters in most cases employ the use of dogs and snares. The big time illegal hunters especially from outside and locals both use firearms. Locally manufactured, Muzzle Loader Guns (MLGs), Conventional sport hunting guns and military firearms are used for the illegal hunts.

A wide a range or majority of the guns possessed by illegal hunters are illegal and in some cases they have since been confiscated by ZAWA. Some of these illegal firearms, for fear of victimisation, the hunters have surrendered them voluntarily to their area CBO leaders as sign of trust and commitment towards the partnership between communities and ZAWA.

c) Peak period for bush meat trade.

Period	Dry season (May/June -Oct/Nov)	Wet Season Nov/Dec-April	Year Round
Score	40	4	5
Percentage	81.6	8.2	10.2



d) Length of the availability of meat during the Peak period

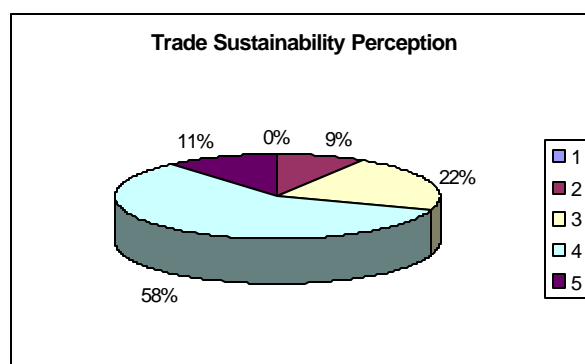
Period length in months	Frequency	Subtotal
1.5	1	1.5
2	12	24
3	8	24
5	13	65
6	7	42
7	3	21
8	4	32
9	2	18
11	1	11
12	3	3
	54	274.5

The average period by which meat is available on the market during the peak period is 5 months, which is as well a tally with the highest frequency score in the above table.

4. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BUSH MEAT TRADE

Respondent's perceptions on the trade-sustainability

	<i>Perception of Respondents</i>	<i>Number of Respondents</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Market demand dependant	7	8.9
2	Sustainable	17	21.5
3	Not sustainable	46	58.2
4	No entry	9	11.4
	Total	79	100

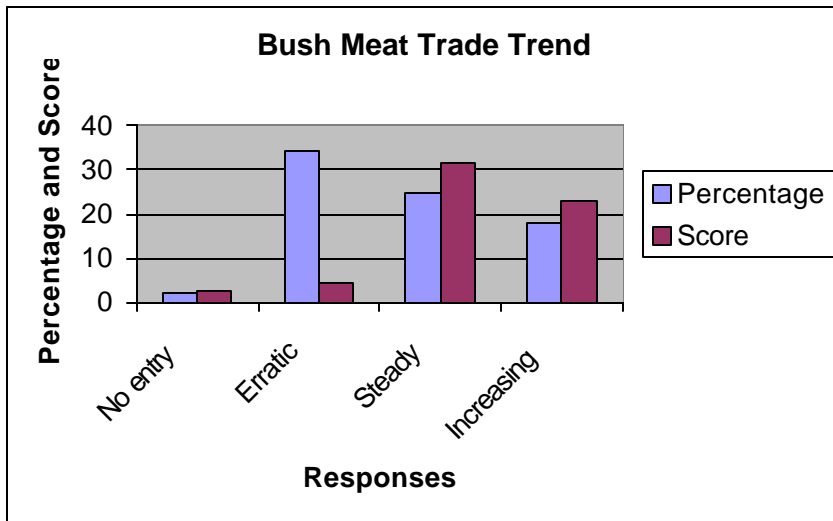


The majority, which is about 58.2% of the respondents, perceived the trade as being unsustainable probably due to the reason that it was done illegally. This perception was probably based on long-term view considering the repercussions that go along with it. The trade is considered sustainable when it is targeted at fulfilling short-term urgent needs especially if they are related to the poverty levels obtaining among the rural communities. The other school of thought viewed it as that of market demand dependent.

5. BUSH MEAT TRADE TRENDS

a) Trend on bush meat trade

Responses	No entry	Erratic	Steady	Increasing	Total
Number	2	34	25	18	79
Percentage	2.5	4.3	31.7	22.8	100



The survey on the trade gives a picture of erratic trend due to the fact that the business is not conducted freely both at the market centres and with individual buyer's door steps. Law enforcement agents vested with the responsibility of curbing the vice can strike at any either of these points without any hesitation or restrictions as this is provided by the law (wildlife Act) in force.

b) Origin of bush meat buyers

Origin	Score	Percentage
C/Belt (Kitwe, Ndola)	4	3.4
Lusaka	10	8.1
Choma	1	0.8
Livingstone	28	22.8
Sesheke	3	2.4
Machile	1	0.8
Masese	1	0.8
Mbwina	1	0.8
Sichili	10	8.1
Mulobezi Centre	19	15.1
Caprivi	1	0.8
Kaoma	3	2.4
Lwampa	2	1.6
Local	39	31.7
	123	100.0

Buyers of the illegal traded bush meat originate both from within and around the locality of the GMAs (Mulobezi and Sichifulo) and within Kazungula and far beyond its boundaries to other places. The local buyers are apparently perceived to be the majority including those from Mulobezi centre, which is a major exit point either by road or rail. The localities within Sesheke district include Masese, Machile, Sichili and Mbwina, where the meat gets to Kaoma and Lwampa are some other areas in the western Province. The meat gets to urban centres along the line of rail including Choma, Lusaka and copper belt towns i.e. Kitwe and Ndola

6.MODE OF TRANSPORT

a) Mode of transport from the sources

Mode of transport	Vehicle	Bicycle	Foot	Total
Score	2	41	33	76
Percentage	26	54.0	43.4	100.0

b) Mode of transport to other places

The most commonly used mode of transport out of Mulobezi area where the survey was conducted to other centres (i.e. Livingstone) is the train. The road is less used due to the bad condition of it and this has greatly affected transport communication to which higher fees are paid for use of the facility to and fro the area.

The train is considered the most 'conductive' mode of transport as other means are occasionally searched at the ZAWA checkpoints.

There are other town centres such as Sesheke, Kaoma, Mulobezi, caprivi, and others where illegal bush meat finds itself by the road through various routes that connect to them. Listed below are some of these roads.

Mulobezi-Kachenje, Kalamba-Mulobezi, Kalamba-Mulobezi, Kalamba-Kasima, Kanyenze-Mulobezi, Sitondo-Mulobezi, Kangubu-Machile, Mbwina-Nyambi, Mangango -Mulobezi, Masese -Mulobezi, Mulobezi - Sichili and Mulobezi- Nyambi routes.

7. HOW THEY LEARNT OF THE BUSH MEAT TRADE AND WHAT MADE THEM JOIN

a) Knowledge of the trade

The majority of the respondents (46) learned of the trade in bush meat through their friends/poachers/traders while others from relatives (16 respondents).

b) Factors that led individuals to join the trade.

Factor	Score
To earn a living	5
To generate money (for food, clothes, school and other social needs)	14
To improve livelihood (alleviate hunger and poverty)	33
Profitable business	7
Farming has become unproductive or unprofitable due drought	1
Influence from friends.	10

8. PERCEPTIONS OF THE TRADE

Individual perception of the trade

The general perception from most of the respondents was that the trade should be stopped while a cross section felt that it should continue for varied reasons.

Those who felt the trade should be stopped had the following reasons:

It is a risky business: -

Loss of life, depletes the animal resources, benefits a few individuals other than the vast majority of the community, it is not profitable.

*A total of about 63 respondents alluded to the above reasons.

Those who were for the idea that the trade should continue gave the following reasons: -

Good livelihood strategy (especially using traps- 'silent killer'), an alternative for lack of jobs, government does not help people, No licence is required, Gives quite a good sum of money.

*A total of about 7 respondents feel the illegal trade is worth continuing for them to benefit.

9. POSSIBLE MITIGATIONS

Opinions/Recommendations to address the scourge

Opinion/Recommendations	Number of responses
Encourage individuals to concentrate on other livelihood i.e. projects	7
Increase policy enforcement manpower (village scouts, camps, patrols, roadblocks)	16
Provide or increase awareness campaigns at VAG level	4
Encourage and provide a conducive environment for obtaining licences (at VAG Level)	7
Provide linkages for accessing funding	1
Pay staff salaries when they are due	7
Provide improved farming skills (early maturing varieties, coservation farming, drought resistant crops, animal draft power-donkeys)	5
Initiate community-culling programmes-community to be availed chance to buy cheap meat (which will be pegged at reasonable prices).	1

10. SOME WEAPONS USED IN THE TRADE

Firearm Prevalence

Calibre	Still in possession	Confiscated	Surrendered	License	Sold
12 bore	4(I)	7	1(AD MADE)	8	1
375	-	2(ZAWA)	1(H/man)	1	
MLG	1(I)	2(ZAWA)			
Rifle	1(I)			1	
Caraviner AK 47	1(I)	2(ZAWA)			
306				1(H/man)	

NOTE
I=illegal Possession

The indication on the possession of illegal firearms is apparently rife. There has been at least some effort by ZAWA to disarm some of these individuals especially those of lethal military firearms (AK 47 and Caraviner), which are so destructive.

CONCLUSION

The community seem to have adopted 'the commercial' type of bush meat trade than the 'traditional' hunting that they where involved in previously. This is greatly contributing to the depletion of the wildlife resources. Their 'neighbours' seemed to have 'inspired' them into hunting for money as a quick way of getting cool cash.

Annex One

Village/Area Coverage list

VAG/Area	Village	
Choonzo	1. Mulumani	
	2. Kaholola	
	3. Maleya	
	4. Kaboleshya	
	5. Kapunda	
Kalobe (Kalamba area)	6. Litunta	
	7. Mataka	
	8. Lyomboko	
	9. Nakambowa	
	10. Kasempa	
	11. Musaka	
	12. Mbundi	
	13. Mazala	
	14. Mwambwa	
Moomba Central	15. Lishinga	
	16. Choongela	
	17. Kapalingwa	
	18. Siibai	
	19. Siafwiti	
	20. Muyandulwa 'A'	
	21. Siamwanja	
	22. Lukena	
	Mulobezi Centre and its Vicinity	23. Railways compound
24. Kapiha(kasima)		
25. Mbulangambwa		
26. Kandiana		
27. Samusambo		
28. Malabwe		
29. Bongola		
30. Kashitu		
31. Kasima		
32. Katota		
33. Nacitu		
34. Munambwa		
35. Kaswuso		
36. Njoko		
37. Sanyemu		
38. Senyamba		
39. Mabenga		
40. Siloka		
41. Mulauli		

	42. Ndala
	43. Limbibi
	44. Mabombo
	45. Mungongo
Mabwe	46. Simbeza
	47. Kapanza
	48. Muyandulwa 'B'
Mulanga	
	49. Chiluwe
	50. Kuwabo
	51. Boikeyu Farms
	52. Sankope
	53. Njongolo
	54. Shabuwe

Surveyed Households In Mulobezi GMA And The Town Area

