

The bushmeat trade has brought many endangered and threatened African species to the brink of extinction, as e.g. the Giant Pangolin and the Great Apes.

Species, previously widely spread, are growing rare and have already disappeared from some regions.

Factors contributing to the danger to a species through commercial hunting:

- small distribution area
- home ranges close to urban centers
- small populations
- body weight above 4 kg
- slow reproduction rate
- small number of offspring
- long maturation
- specialisation on certain habitats or food
- non-social lifestyle resp. low population density
- diurnal activity
- ground-living
- conspicuous behaviour (e.g. loudness) and slow locomotion

Large and eye-catching species are the first victims. The **majority hunted are hoofed animals and rodents.** In Equatorial Guinea, rodents form 32% of meat on the markets, in Liberia, duikers form 75% of the game on offer.



Black-fronted duiker with wire snares.

Duikers (forest antelopes) are among those species most affected by the bushmeat trade. They usually get caught in snares and nets. Some duiker populations are relatively stable given the pressure of hunting, but this does not mean that present methods are sustainable. **In Equatorial Guinea, the Ogilby's duiker is being hunted twice the sustainable capacity, while in Cameroon it is 11-13 times above.** It is also there that the Black-striped duiker is being hunted 9 times more than is sustainable in the long run. The Blue duiker, living in pairs, is now only seen on rare occasions.



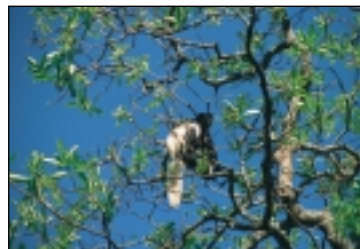
Okapi family

Okapis are not among the main victims of the bushmeat trade, but their numbers of only 6,000-10,000 animals could not stand hunting pressure.

The main distribution area of the Okapis is the Ituri-Forest in the North-East of the DR Congo, where the 13,000 km² large Okapi Wildlife Reserve was opened in 1992. In the mid 90s, the reserve was declared as a World Nature Heritage. Since the beginning of the war in the DR Congo, meat and furs of Okapis have appeared on the markets more frequently.



Leopard



Guereza



Bongo



Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus are among the preferred victims of the bushmeat trade. In some areas they are already threatened with extinction. **From 1990-97, in the Northern part of the VirungaPark/DR Congo alone 7,500 animals were shot dead for their meat, 75% of the population there!**

- Chimpanzee
- Bonobo
- Gorilla
- Drill
- Mandrill
- Preuss's Guenon
- Sclater's Guenon
- Suntailed Monkey
- Owl-faced Monkey
- De Brazza's Monkey
- White-nosed Monkey
- Crowned Guenon
- Diana Monkey
- Red-eared Monkey
- Red-bellied Guenon
- Moustached Monkey
- Black Colobus
- Olive Colobus
- Guereza
- Cloaked Mangabey
- Red Colobus
- African Forest Elephant
- Hippopotamus
- Okapi
- African Forest Buffalo
- Zebra Duiker
- Ogilby's Duiker
- Black Duiker
- Black-striped Duiker
- Black-fronted Duiker
- Jentink's Duiker
- Blue Duiker
- Yellow-backed Duiker
- Whit-bellied Duiker
- Peters' Duiker
- Bongo
- Situnga
- Water Chevrotain
- Bush Pig
- Giant Forest Hog
- Leopard
- Golden Cat
- Civet
- Giant Pangolin
- Dwarf Crocodile