

# **ANIMAL WELFARE AND HUMAN HEALTH: A CASE STUDY OF THE HARVESTING AND CONSUMPTION OF BUSH MEAT IN GHANA**

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# Presentation Outline

1. Introduction (Bushmeat)
2. Bushmeat consumed in Ghana
3. Species of wildlife Harvested for bushmeat
4. Wildlife harvesting methods
5. Methods of Harvesting Wildlife for Bushmeat
6. Animal Welfare
7. Harvesting Bushmeat and Human Health
8. Bats as Bushmeat and Human Health
9. Bat Zoonoses
10. Rodent Zoonoses
11. Dogs involvement in Zoonoses
12. Conclusion and recommendation



# Bushmeat

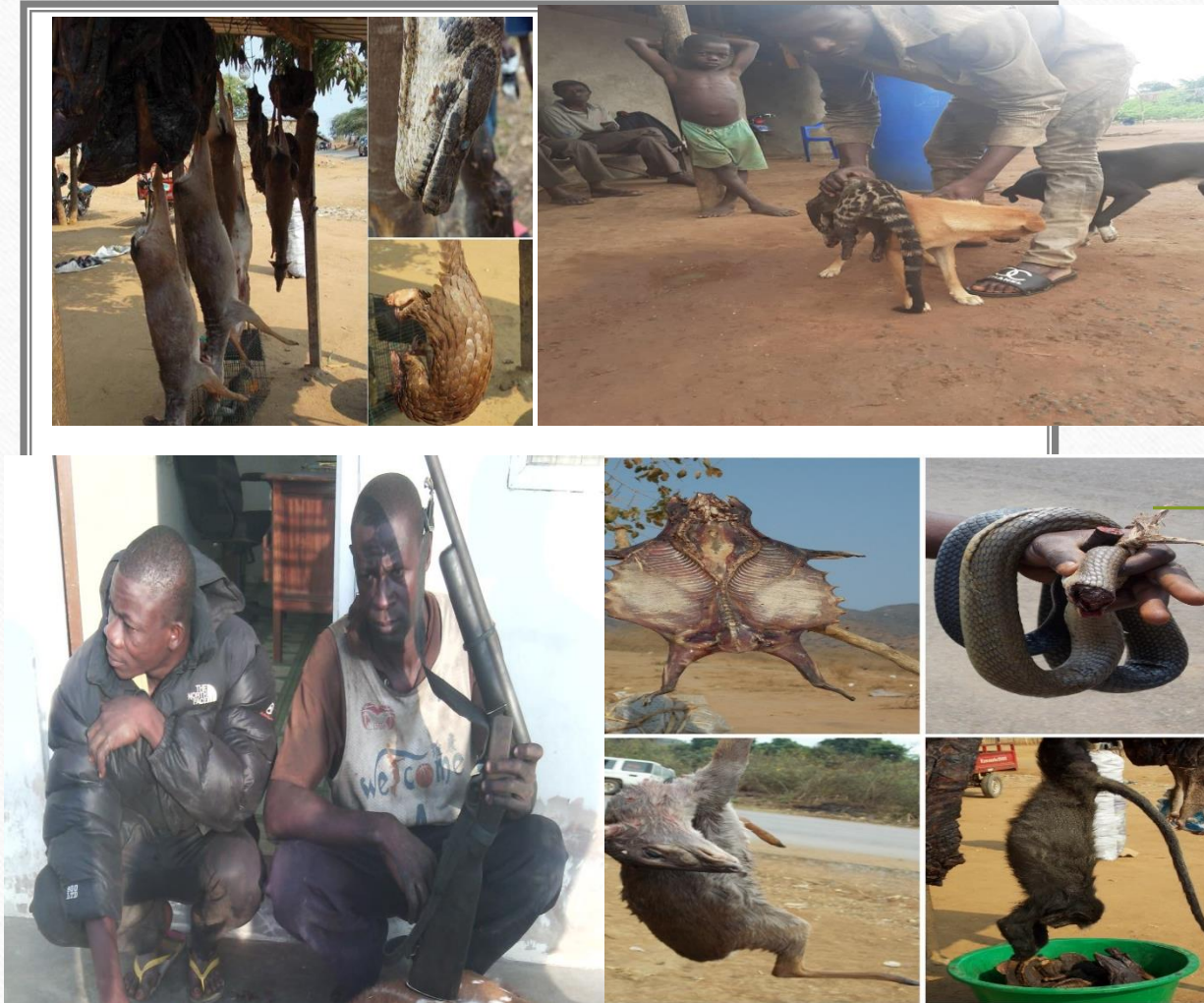
- Meat taken from free ranging animals
- Supplements protein needs
- Traditional medicine
- Trophies



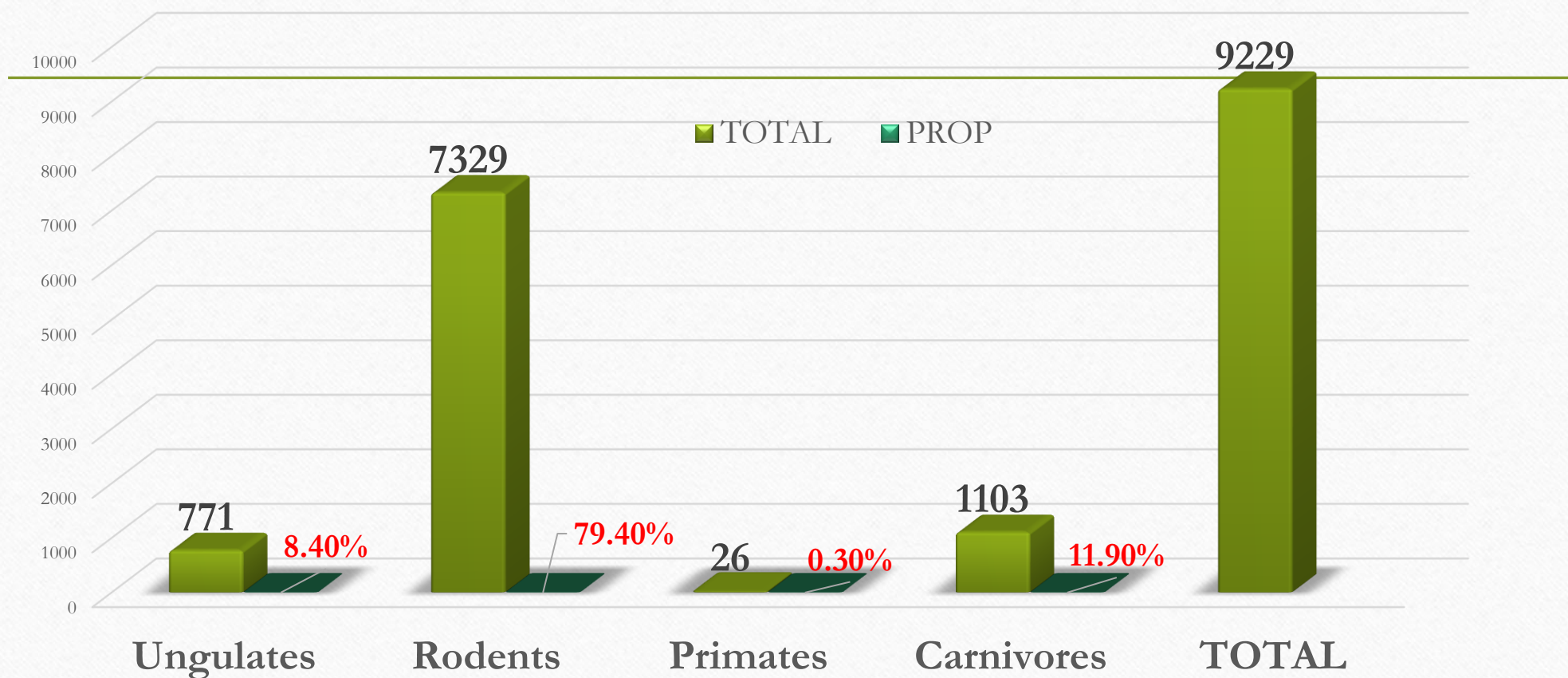


# Bushmeat consumed in Ghana

Over 30 different wildlife sp. are  
harvested and sold in our study  
area alone



## Species of wildlife Harvested for bushmeat

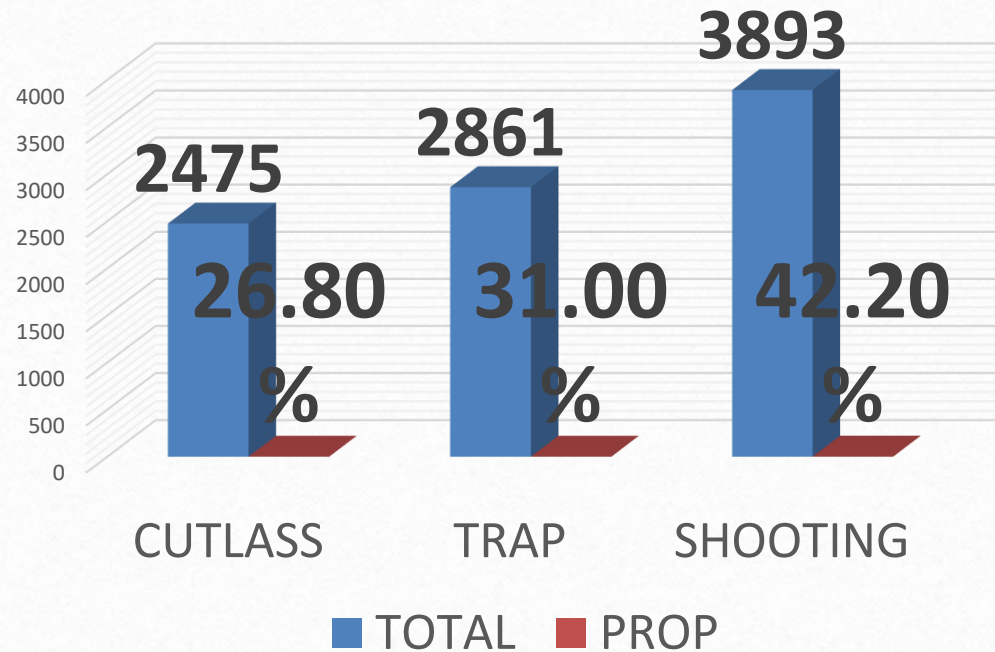




# Wildlife harvesting methods



Methods of Harvesting Bush meat in  
Kumasi, Ghana

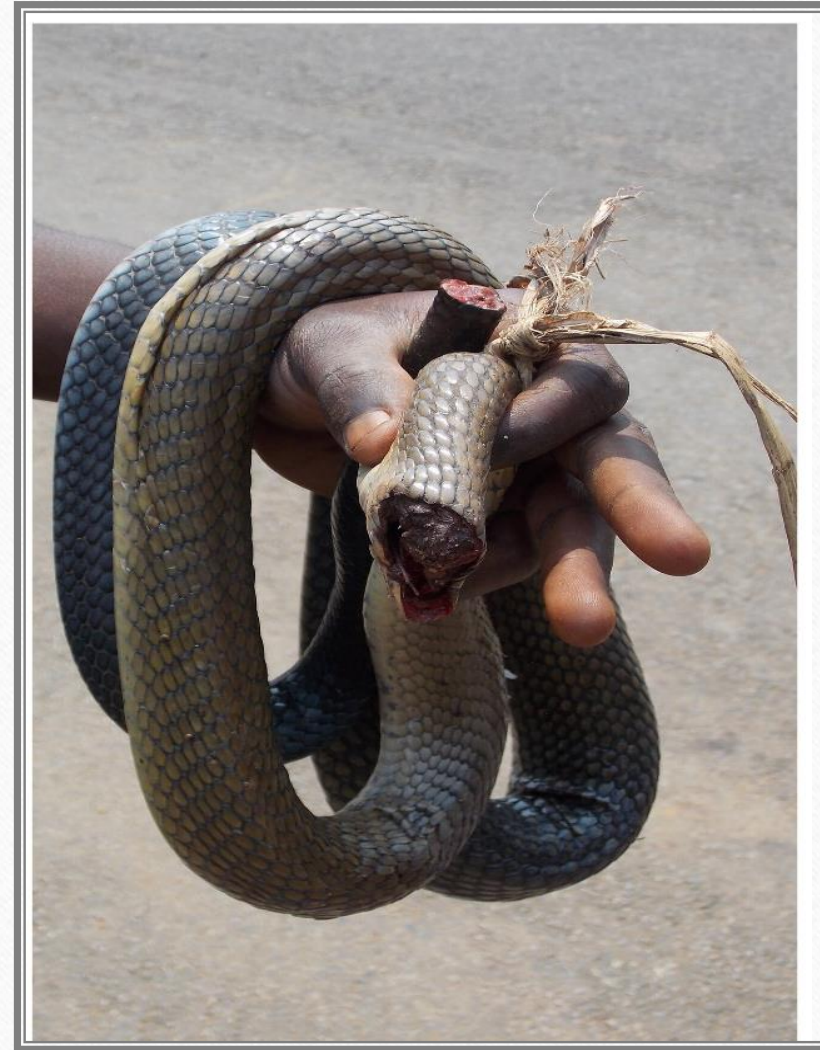


Methods of  
Harvesting  
Wildlife for  
Bushmeat



## Methods of Harvesting Wildlife for Bushmeat (cont.)

- Use of cutlass and other crude trapping methods of harvesting technique infringe of animal welfare, causing pain and suffering to wildlife animals.
- These methods are also transmitters of zoonoses
  - Hunters who handle partially killed animals
  - Women in markets who receive and prepare bushmeat





# Animal welfare

- Physical functioning,
- mental state/feelings and
- performance of important behaviours by an animal (domestic or wild, free roaming or in captivity).

# Harvesting bushmeat and Human Health

- Bush meat harvesting not only leads to animal welfare violations
- loss of habitat and biodiversity
- spillover of zoonotic diseases
- >60% of infectious diseases are of animal origin
- 75% being of wild animal origin



# Bats as bushmeat and Human health

- Bats and reptiles are also harvested in high quantities but not commonly seen in the market
- Bats are primary reservoirs of several zoonotic pathogens
- Primates, ungulates and rodents follow closely Cleaveland *et al.* ( 2007 )

# Bat zoonoses

- Rabies
- SARS coronavirus
- Hendra
- Nipah virus
- Ebola
- Marburg



# Rodents zoonoses

- Hantavirus
- Leptospirosis
- Lassa fever
- Rat bite fever
- Plague
- Tularemia
- Salmonellosis

# Dogs involvement in zoonoses





## Conclusion and Recommendation

- The current harvesting methods represent potential sources of zoonoses transmission
- Violates animal welfare regulations
- We recommend sensitization of hunters on use of humane methods of harvesting bushmeat sustainably
- Use of protective gears by sellers and hunters while handling wild animals

THANK YOU AND DO NOT PATRONISE  
BUSHMEAT ESPECIALLY DURING CLOSE  
SEASON TO HUNTING



**FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**WILDLIFE DIVISION**

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*BAN ON HUNTING & CAPTURING OF  
WILD ANIMALS IN GHANA*

**CLOSE  
SEASON  
OBSERVATION**

**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> TO DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>  
EACH YEAR**





**\*\*\*THANK YOU\*\*\***

**PLEASE DO NOT PATRONISE BUSHMEAT ESPECIALLY  
DURING CLOSE SEASON TO HUNTING**



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