

Bushmeat Working Groups Around the World UPDATES TO THE BUSHMEAT QUARTERLY

CEC-BCTF



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CEC-BCTF Bushmeat Education Resource Guide

In response to numerous requests from AZA member institutions and other BCTF Supporting Members and partners from the field, BCTF has embarked upon an effort to develop educational materials for the US public. This effort was initiated at the Conservation Education Committee (CEC) meeting at AZA's annual conference in Orlando, Florida in September 2000. Based on the numerous inquiries for information regarding the crisis and its solutions, the CEC approved a concept paper by the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF), which initiated the development of a *Bushmeat Education Resource Guide* (BERG). The document was also shared with the participants of the BCTF Collaborative Action Planning Meeting in May 2001. The structure of the Guide was developed according to survey responses from zoo educators, who indicated that training materials, sample graphics and text, age-appropriate programs and activities, and evaluation tools would be most helpful for developing their own bushmeat educational materials. Teams of volunteers from nearly 25 AZA-accredited institutions have developed these materials since September 2001.

March – June 2001 Update:

In recent months, BCTF and CEC have worked together to develop a concept paper for bushmeat education in US institutions and to form stronger linkages with bushmeat education on the ground in Africa. CEC approved the concept paper on 4th April 2001. During BCTF's Collaborative Action Planning Meeting in May 2001, the Bushmeat Education Sub-committee met and incorporated these plans into their long-term strategy for addressing the bushmeat trade in Africa. CEC and BCTF are now making plans for a review of current bushmeat education projects in zoos, the development of a template for zoo displays and the creation of an integrated set of age-appropriate educational materials for zoos, including videos, interactive CD-ROMs, other visual displays, as well as appropriate action to link to these educational initiatives.

July – September 2001 Update:

On 24th July 2001, volunteers for this project gathered at the offices of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association to discuss and plan the next steps for this ambitious project. The primary objectives of the project are: to review existing bushmeat education material, to develop an exhibit template that zoos can adapt to their own interests/skills, to develop learning activities for children and adults, to produce a set of training materials for zoo staff, docents and volunteers and to ensure techniques for evaluation throughout the project. The development of a consistent message about bushmeat, its problems and solutions, is a top priority.

The group of volunteers developed a survey to determine how many zoos are currently engaged in bushmeat education and what their efforts are as well as how many zoos were interested in developing bushmeat education and what their needs might be. On August 1, we sent out the survey of activities, needs and interests to all zoo educators via the education@lists.aza.org listserv. Over the following two weeks, we received a total of 50 completed responses. During the AZA Annual Conference in September 2001, BCTF and CEC presented the results of our survey to all zoo educators on the interests and needs for bushmeat education in US zoos.

39% (or 20) of survey respondents are currently involved with the bushmeat issue in some capacity. Of these, 9 are members of BCTF, 9 are involved with education and/or exhibits, 8 provide support for bushmeat programs in Africa and 10 are involved in other ways. Of the 29 institutions that are not currently involved, 73% were either interested or very interested in becoming involved in the bushmeat issue. 24% were neutral and only 3 percent (1 institution) stated that they were not supportive or interested in the bushmeat crisis. Thus, this is a topic that many zoos are interested in. 56% of responding zoos plan future exhibits involving African animals and 95% of respondents would consider making bushmeat a part of their masterplan.

37 zoos answered our question "Which materials on bushmeat would be most helpful for you: background information; takeaway brochures; activities for schoolchildren; staff, docent and volunteer training; graphics and images; interactive teaching tools; and curriculum." Zoos were then asked to rank the top two materials. 24% of zoos stated that training materials for staff, docents and volunteers would be most useful to them, 22% ranked interactive teaching tools in their top two; and 17% stated that they most wanted activities for schoolchildren. 11% thought

that curriculum was most important, while 10% wanted graphics and images the most. Background information and takeaway brochures ranked evenly at 8% each.

This project is a major undertaking and we need the support and input of all interested zoo educators. Each team of bushmeat education developers has approximately 5 members, including one team leader who is responsible for communications with other teams and with the BCTF office. The five primary teams of volunteers needed to carry out this project successfully are:

- The *Research Team* will collect information about current bushmeat exhibits as well as assessing zoos' needs and interests and assist in supplying all other teams with background information on bushmeat
- The *Template Team* will be responsible for the design and content of a bushmeat exhibit template which zoos can use to design their own exhibits
- The *Activities Team* is responsible for the design and content of interactive teaching tools and activities for informal education programs targeted to both children and adults
- The *Training Team* will provide design and content of educational materials for zoo staff, docents and volunteers.
- The *Evaluation Team* will be responsible for designing evaluation tools aimed at improving the full suite of this project.

Teams and team leaders were announced on Friday, 12 October 2001. Teams are now drawing up their work plans for the following year. BCTF will serve to facilitate communication between all teams and bushmeat experts. Project rollout is planned for the AZA annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas in September 2002.

October – December 2001 Update:

BCTF is pleased to have 28 volunteers representing 22 zoos, conservation organizations, universities and national laboratories lending their expertise, enthusiasm and time to the bushmeat education development in US zoos project. BCTF will serve as a central facilitator with all teams, ensuring that information is shared among all of them and ensuring a smooth flow of the project.

RESEARCH TEAM (Amy Groff, Heather Eves and Natalie Bailey, Team Leaders)

The Research Team is gathering information about current bushmeat exhibits and programs through collection of graphics, curricula, presentation scripts, brochures, whatever is utilized in exhibits and programs. Special thanks to Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, John Ball Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Louisville Zoo, and Caribbean Gardens for their submissions. We're requesting that CEC volunteers and BCTF staff have access to material submissions in order to benchmark the state of bushmeat education in AZA institutions and use as a reference in developing our exhibit template, activities, training materials and evaluation program.

TEMPLATE TEAM (Penny Jarrett, Team Leader)

The Bushmeat Template Team is in the process of creating a template for on-grounds interpretive signage which other zoos can duplicate or modify for their particular needs in order to reach the zoo visitor in U.S. zoos. Suggestions have been made as to how to reach this population which include, but are not limited to: 1) Panels of signage; 2) Extend message to

other exhibits with logo on signs or pressure sensitive stickers; 3) Games and other interactives; 4) CD where individuals or organizations can choose from different images; 5) Theatre setting featuring a visual presentation; 6) Photo wall with interactives reachable and designed for children that depicts life within an African Village; 7) BCTF is working with Outdoor Life Network to create 1.5-minute TV spots highlighting different topics. These could be incorporated into the template.

The template needs to be approached on both the adult level and that of a child. Any models created must allow for the range of what each zoo could afford to spend and/or to enhance. It was decided that the team would provide an example of how a finished product could look.

Using the CEC-BCTF Education Support Project Message Points, the team will create text and images to be used on a panel, CD, etc. The Message Points to be used and assignments are as follows: 1) Define the bushmeat crisis; 2) include the animals involved and its global presence; 3) Discuss the "People Problem" by comparing and contrasting lives and diets, alternative food sources, poverty and protein alternatives; 4) Discuss extractive industries, pros, cons and alternatives; 5) Discuss the "Why should we care? How does this affect me? What can be done?"

ACTIVITIES TEAM (Anne Warner, Team Leader)

The Activities team has come up with a list of hands-on, age appropriate projects to illustrate some of the causes, problems and solutions to the illegal bushmeat trade. We hope these ideas will complement the ideas and messages being worked on by other teams, especially the template team. The activities could be used in informal information stations set up in the zoo or education building, be part of a travelling exhibit or be used in a classroom setting and address what the bushmeat crisis is; illustrate extractive industries, food sources and choices; and what you can do to help. Team members are choosing one activity to develop and we will "test" them in our own institutions by Earth Day.

TRAINING TEAM (Angela Peterson, Team Leader)

The AZA Training Team had an excellent conference call just before Christmas, and came up with a revised timeline and plan of action. We are in the process of developing materials for all AZA institutions to use in training staff and volunteers about the Bushmeat Crisis. To supply member zoos with the materials they need to be current and effective in this mission, the training team has developed a needs assessment that will be distributed, collected and analyzed in January. The results will determine the learning objectives of the training team, which will be further developed during the winter.

EVALUATION TEAM (Tara Stoinski, Team Leader)

The Evaluation Team will be building upon the work of the Template, Activities and Training teams, creating evaluation tools for each team's deliverables. In addition, the team will create an evaluation structure that may be tailored to individual zoos' needs depending on which deliverables they choose for their institutions. The Evaluation Team will begin their work in earnest in the first quarter of 2002.

January – April 2002 Update:

African Wildlife Colleges Bushmeat Training

The *Bushmeat Experts and Educators' Workshop* at École de Faune de Garoua (EFG) Cameroon was a great success! 34 participants representing 13 countries met at EFG to build a framework for the development of a bushmeat training program for wildlife managers in Francophone Africa. The US Agency for International Development provided support for this workshop and WWF-US's Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (WWF EFN) will provide support for the training program development over the next five years.

Upon the arrival of the participants on 19th March, EFG greeted everyone with a welcome dinner on the campus where all enjoyed informal interactions and discussions. On 20th March, the Governor of the Northern Province officially opened the Bushmeat Crisis Workshop. Speeches were also made by EFG Director Ibrahim Soare Njoya and BCTF Director Heather E. Eves. Following the opening session, speakers from the CITES Bushmeat Working Group and IUCN gave presentations regarding the state of bushmeat in Central and West Africa. In addition, the Directors of the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka (CAWM) and Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) shared their institutional experiences with the participants. Administrators and instructors from EFG closed the day's sessions with information about their current certificate and diploma programs and how bushmeat is currently addressed in these programs.

On 21st March, the participants received an introduction to the working group process. Each working group focused their efforts on identified training needs, several of which were derived from the CITES BWG work plan: antipoaching, private sector, urban populations and high-level involvement, local communities, and surveys and monitoring. Working groups were composed of one individual from several sectors: Garoua instructors, education, private sector, fieldwork and NGOs. Groups determined the target audiences for this short course (wildlife managers and some conservation trainers/educators), reviewed current offerings in the EFG long curriculum and performed an analysis of the needed knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to address the bushmeat crisis. The working groups determined necessary components of a bushmeat training program to address current performance gaps.

On the final day of the workshop, working groups presented their results to the plenary session, which offered comments and additions to the proposed training program outline. We were able to extract several recurring themes including the need for regional and national networks to link and share information, the need for communicating with high level decision makers and the need to link to other educational institutions.

In addition to the formal workshop, the presence of many of the CITES Bushmeat Working Group members and focal points allowed for informal meetings of this important group to discuss the three year implementation plan for the MacArthur Foundation grant proposal. Marcellin Agnagna, Chair of the CITES BWG, led programmatic discussions regarding the five focal areas of the MacArthur proposal. IUCN is currently undertaking a policy and legislation review in the region. The final report is anticipated on 20th April.

Plans for the next workshop at the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka, to be held from 7-9 May 2002 are in motion. This workshop is also sponsored by the US Agency for International Development, with support from the Jane Goodall Institute for the training program development phase. The Southern African Wildlife College workshop will be held in early August, and further details will soon be forthcoming. All College Directors will attend each workshop to ensure linkages between the colleges and between their bushmeat training programs.

BCTF-CEC Bushmeat Resource Guide

Progress with all volunteer teams working on the Bushmeat Resource Guide continues successfully. The Activities, Template and Training teams have all produced drafts of their products and will be testing them on their target audiences soon. On 10th April 2002, Amy Groff, Disney's Animal Kingdom Training Proprietor and CEC Liaison to BCTF and Natalie Bailey, BCTF Program Coordinator, gave a progress report to the CEC at their mid-year meeting in Mystic, Connecticut. During our presentation, we gave CEC an update on the progress that each volunteer team has made thus far. It truly is the professional experience and work that each volunteer brings to this effort that has made our project such a success thus far. Several CEC members went out of their way to tell us how impressed they were with the amount of work that has been accomplished up to this point. We remain open to additional volunteers joining the effort to create bushmeat educational and training materials for US zoos. The text of the presentation is included at the end of this update.

In addition to the *Bushmeat Resource Guide* report, several other linkages to bushmeat were made during the CEC midyear meeting. Several of CEC's long-range planning goals are relevant to the activities of BCTF. One of CEC's stated goals is to "Integrate the efforts of AZA professionals in conservation education and conservation and science." CEC identified bushmeat as one of the two key issues in which they are engaging. Encouraging front-end evaluation on "hot topics" in conservation is also a priority.

Regarding field conservation, CEC is working to integrate their educational expertise with the Field Conservation Committee. They will acquire a list of projects, including ways to increase educator involvement. This would be a priority towards joint fundraising for these projects. The bushmeat issue intersects well with these activities, as CEC has expressed an interest to link their efforts to projects on the ground in Africa. BCTF's contact throughout sub-Saharan Africa, including our Supporting and Contributing Members, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and the Pan-African Association of Zoos, Aquaria and Botanical Gardens, can provide linkages to solutions being implemented on the ground throughout the region.

The Marketplace Workshop proposal submitted by *Bushmeat Resource Guide* volunteers was accepted by CEC as fitting into their long-range plan and was passed to the AZA Annual Conference program committee for final approval and placement within the conference program. This session will provide a preview of the *Bushmeat Resource Guide's* final products to AZA colleagues. Representatives from each team will take part in the session, introducing their team's products to AZA peers and gathering feedback regarding final revisions to the Bushmeat Resource Guide. The final product will be distributed in Fall 2002.

Community-based Education in Africa

BCTF is currently laying the groundwork for further engagement in this aspect of our education endeavors by collecting information, building databases and working to integrate groups focused on this topic. Most importantly, we are working in collaboration with our members and partners to facilitate engagement in bushmeat education in Africa. For example, during the Bushmeat Training Development Workshops in Garoua, Cameroon, one working group focused its attention on addressing local communities engaged in the bushmeat issue. This group identified “training the trainer” as one of their top priorities for bushmeat training. In addition, the CITES Bushmeat Working Group has identified a public awareness campaign as a top priority for them. In facilitating the support of the MacArthur foundation for the CITES BWG, BCTF is assisting in the process of reaching out to local communities. We look forward to further efforts with the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and others regarding the formation of conservation education networks throughout sub-Saharan Africa to address the bushmeat crisis. BCTF Steering Committee member Anne Warner will represent BCTF at the upcoming PASA meetings in June.

May – September 2002 Update:

The BRG workshop at the AZA 2002 Annual Conference provided an opportunity for AZA members to preview the Guide’s products (signage, programs & activities and training materials) and provide feedback to be incorporated in the final stages of the project’s development. Through presentations and hands-on experiences, workshop presenters reviewed the project, described the bushmeat crisis, described the collaborative effort between the Conservation Education Committee (CEC) and BCTF and reviewed the development process of the project. Team leaders shared details of the BRG, including future plans for development. Workshop participants were invited to provide hands-on feedback for each product of the BRG that will assist the teams in finalizing their products for greatest benefit to its end users.

Message Points

The primary message points of the BRG are:

- **Bushmeat is the most significant, immediate threat to wildlife populations in Africa today**
- Many animals are affected (elephants, apes, other primates, large and small antelopes, rodents)
- It is a pan-African problem (West, Central, East & South)
- It is a global problem (North & South America, Africa, Asia)
- Bushmeat is a Band-Aid for larger problems of poverty, food security and economic development
- Extractive industries can choose to help solve the problems of the bushmeat crisis
- The BCTF, its members and colleagues are working to identify and implement solutions to the bushmeat crisis
- YOU can help (by learning more, supporting projects such as sanctuaries, telling private industry and government that you want them to support protected areas in Africa)

Template Team

The **Template Team** was given the task of creating a template for signage that could be used by U.S. institutions for on-grounds interpretation of the bushmeat crisis. There were four key decisions made by the team, which guided the development of the template design. They were: 1) Keep signage information basic; 2) Focus on key concepts: what is the bushmeat trade? why is there a bushmeat crisis? and what can be done about the bushmeat crisis? 3) Photo images would provide the most powerful message; and 4) An interactive element should be included.

Four informational panels were developed along with a larger central panel that would be a collage of live animals and dead animals killed for the bushmeat trade. Individual institutions can determine the strength of the images and modify them as appropriate. For example, the image of a group of live bongos can be replaced with an image of an animal head on a plate. The four outer panels provide the information on the bushmeat crisis.

Programs & Activities Team

The **Programs & Activities Team** has been responsible for the design and content of interactive teaching tools and activities for informal education programs targeted to both children and adults. Programs include a 7th grade curriculum, a loan kit for use at a school or at a zoo or aquarium and programs that would be part of typical education offerings at an aquarium or zoo, including summer camp, outreach programs, day classes and overnights.

Activities that have been developed to date include a web quest (a multimedia tool that offers a variety of questions about the bushmeat trade and then guides students to appropriate websites for answers), an informational coloring book, a scavenger hunt, word games and a multi-part curriculum on a 7th grade level. There are also “Flip the Door” panels that could be produced in a variety of materials depending upon the use, including paper for a classroom-based unit or a more durable material for a graphic panel at an exhibit.

Our future plans include further development of the loan kit, development of examples of zoo programs that can easily incorporate these activities and creating background information for teachers. We are also planning to make links between the bushmeat crisis and the global fishing crisis. These subjects share many key points, and perhaps the story of the overconsumption of our fisheries will be a bit more personal to the many Americans who eat animals that inhabit our oceans.

Training Team

The goal of the **Training Team** is to develop training workshops and training materials that can be used in the training of bushmeat crisis messages to the staff in AZA zoos and aquariums. Based on the results of the initial survey, the team decided to develop a trainer’s workbook containing bushmeat crisis background information, a facilitators guide for the workshops, and a list of references.

From this information, we determined to create a workbook designed to train staff and docents about the bushmeat crisis, to be distributed in CD-ROM format and hardcopy. It was determined that we did not need to include all bushmeat crisis information in the training materials as all of

the content is located on the bushmeat crisis website. Working closely with the BCTF, we established learning objectives and the content to be included in the workbook. We used this content to begin developing the workshops and the workbook. During the workshop, we passed out 10 copies of the facilitators guide in the workbook for education departments to look at and evaluate. We are at this time waiting on feedback in order to make sure that we are creating a needed tool.

Our future plans are to complete the development of the eight hour workshop, develop the two four hour workshops (one for zoos and the other for aquariums) and complete the training workbook with an activities, PowerPoint, and handout sections.

Evaluation Team

Once the resource guide is finalized, we will be developing evaluation tools that individual institutions can use to assess the effectiveness of their displays. Tools will assess factual knowledge of bushmeat, attitudinal and behavioral changes following exposure to bushmeat signage, programs and activities and training materials. The final product is anticipated to be a multi-institutional assessment of our effectiveness on educating about bushmeat which will help us refine our methodologies in conveying bushmeat information and will provide pilot information on which to build future studies and obtain funding.

Next Steps

Our Template, Programs & Activities, and Training teams are now incorporating the feedback from education and zoo professionals into their products. Once all materials are compiled, we will begin taking orders for the completed Bushmeat Resource Guide and plan to distribute them in March-April 2003. For further information, please contact Natalie Bailey at <nbailey@bushmeat.org>. The paper produced for the AZA conference is available on the BCTF website in the "Bushmeat Documents" section.

BCTF is also working with members of its network to support community-based bushmeat education in Africa. We are currently exploring opportunities to work with the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), an umbrella group of 19 African primate sanctuaries that care for the orphans of the bushmeat trade, to support educational materials regarding bushmeat. BCTF hopes to link US-based institutions with like-minded African institutions, such as PASA, to assist in bushmeat education materials development. We would be happy to provide contacts, information and other tools to facilitate linkages between your institution and our colleagues in Africa.

October – December 2002 Update:

Each team met in October to discuss the Bushmeat Education Resource Guide (BERG) feedback from educators at the AZA 2002 annual conference and to update their contributions to better respond to the needs of institutions. Overall, the feedback was very positive, with more than 73% of respondents stating that the materials were “very helpful” and 89% of respondents stating that

their institutions would use the materials offered. With the assistance of Disney's Animal Kingdom/Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, the Bushmeat Education Resource Guide will be produced and distributed in April 2003. A brief summary of each team's activities is given below:

Programs & Activities: The team has put together several new elements, including a checklist for incorporating bushmeat into adult education and member activities at institutions. The team is also working on incorporating similarities between bushmeat and sustainable seafood issue. A webquest and board game have been developed and are now being revised. The middle school curriculum – which includes national curriculum standards – is under review by several educators. The Programs & Activities section of the Guide will include resource pages that will be shared with all teams. The teacher loan kit will include snares from Uganda and a hangtag with an explanation of how their use harms wildlife.

Template: The team has worked to revise the text for the signage and has received feedback from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Graphics Advisory Group. In Fall 2002, the Cincinnati Zoo posted the signage near their gorilla exhibit and has received advice from the evaluation team on getting visitor feedback. The team continues to work on audio component with the cooperation of the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Cameroon.

Training: All team leaders are reviewing the training manual and sending in feedback. Training sessions can be organized into two four-hour presentations. In addition, a shorter, one-hour presentation is included that can be used for outreach to a more general audience (i.e. marketing department at an institution).

Other: BCTF has received generous donations from photographer Haldor Noss and graphic designer Michael Boardman for use in elements of the BERG. We are very grateful for their contributions and will include descriptions of their services in the BERG.

January – March 2003 Update:

All elements of the Bushmeat Education Resource Guide (BERG) are now in their final stages. With the assistance of Disney's Animal Kingdom/Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, the Bushmeat Education Resource Guide will be produced and distributed in June 2003. A brief summary of each team's activities is given below:

Programs & Activities: The Programs & Activities component is now being structured into two primary elements: a Teachers' Guide and a Zoo Programming Guide. The Teachers' Guide is structured around a curriculum targeted at middle school students, which incorporates the individual activities that have been designed by the team. The Zoo Programming Guide offers institutions numerous ways of incorporating the bushmeat issue into currently existing programs, and provides many suggestions for designing new programs focused on bushmeat. One of the lessons included in the Teachers' Guide provides tools for exploring African cultures and how bushmeat plays a role in those cultures. In addition, the team has made a point to incorporate similarities between bushmeat and sustainable seafood issue as well as specific actions that people in the U.S. can do to make wise choices when purchasing food.

Template: The team has worked to revise the text for the signage and has received feedback from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Graphics Advisory Group. In Fall 2002, the Cincinnati Zoo posted the signage near their gorilla exhibit and has received advice from the evaluation team on getting visitor feedback. The team continues to work on audio component with the cooperation of the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Cameroon. The final graphics will be completed in May 2003.

Training: Following extensive review and feedback, the training manual is nearly complete, with two complete workshops included. The first is a six-hour workshop targeted at educators and keepers and the second is a one-hour workshop targeted at more general audiences (marketing, PR and other departments). The activities included in the workshops have been tested on audiences at the AZA 2002 Annual Conference, at Disney's Animal Kingdom and at the recent Bushmeat Roundtable at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Evaluation: The Evaluation Team has completed some brief evaluations with the public regarding the bushmeat signage text and has designed an excellent evaluation tool for use by institutions choosing to implement the signage. This tool includes cognitive, affective and behavioral components. The team is also designing evaluation tools for the Teacher's Guide and the Zoo Programming Guide. In the coming year, BCTF and the teams will collect information gathered from implementing institutions and make appropriate updates to the BERG elements based on the results of the evaluations.

Other: The Bushmeat Promise is incorporated into each section of the BERG, and BCTF anticipates that it will be an incredibly effective mechanism for encouraging action and tracking the collective voice for bushmeat around the world. For more info, see the [article in this issue](#) of the BQ.

All elements of the BERG will be produced and distributed on CD-ROM to facilitate distribution and to minimize production costs. If your institution is interested in receiving the completed BERG, please contact Natalie Bailey, BCTF Program Coordinator at nbailey@bushmeat.org.

April – June 2003 Update:

The Bushmeat Education Resource Guide (BERG) is now available! This collaborative effort involved the efforts of BCTF staff and more than 30 volunteers representing 23 institutions throughout North America. [Disney's Animal Kingdom](#) has generously provided funds for the production and distribution of the BERG and [Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program](#) has provided support for video footage used in some sections of the BERG. BCTF's [Steering Committee](#) and [Supporting Members](#) have provided excellent support, guidance and feedback for this effort.

We hope that this resource will assist you in your efforts to educate your own staff and volunteers and to reach out to the public regarding the most significant, immediate threat to wildlife in Africa today. It is a critical time for Africa's wildlife, and the BERG will aid institutions in bringing this issue to the North American public, who can support solutions to this

crisis. BCTF served as a central facilitator with all teams, ensuring that information is shared among all of them and ensuring a smooth flow of the project.

Based on feedback from AZA educators, the BERG has been structured to provide signage templates, zoo programming, curriculum, training materials, evaluation tools and resources for further information. Each of these sections links to and supports all other sections, and may be customized to fit institutional collections, programs and visitors. These elements may be combined in different ways to suit different institutions. For example, signage alone may not be appropriate for your institution. Rather, you may wish to train your volunteers and keepers on the bushmeat issue and have them serve as an interpreter for signage. Or use a public lecture to promote the [Bushmeat Promise](#). As you know, conservation messages are more effective when presented in multiple ways. In addition, we have compiled reports on institutions that are currently engaged in bushmeat education – these reports may be found in the Resources section of the BERG.

Solutions to the bushmeat crisis may be found throughout the BERG to emphasize that everyone can play a role in solving this crisis. In particular, the BERG provides numerous links to the overfishing crisis and to the various seafood awareness programs that are working to raise awareness of this issue and to promote solutions. By linking these two overconsumption issues, the BERG provides North American residents with a better perspective on Africa's current crisis and drives home the point that conservation begins at home.

Two hundred copies of the BERG are available on CD-ROM and more than 100 have already been reserved by our members and colleagues. We can only distribute one copy of the BERG to each institution, so please share it with your colleagues, including educators, keepers, managers, exhibit developers and directors. For further information on this project or to request a copy of the BERG, please contact Natalie Bailey, BCTF Program Coordinator, at nbailey@bushmeat.org

For the most recent news on this and other Bushmeat Working Groups, see the latest issue of the Bushmeat Quarterly, www.bushmeat.org/bq.html