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CELEBRATION AND RECEPTION ON BUILDING CAPACITY AND NETWORKS FOR BUSHMEAT SOLUTIONS

Please join us to celebrate:

- **10 years of achievement by the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF)**
- **2008-2009 USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program on bushmeat exploitation**
- **Launching of the new Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN)**

DRAFT AGENDA

DATE: 23 June 2009, Tuesday

TIME: 3:00 to 5:00pm

LOCATION: World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, Conf. Room 2004 A & B

OBJECTIVES:

- To celebrate ten years of accomplishments by the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) (www.bushmeat.org);
- To learn about capacity building for a cadre of eastern African conservationists addressing bushmeat exploitation through the 2008-2009 USFWS Wildlife Without Borders-Africa MENTOR Fellowship Program (www.mentorfellowshipprogram.org);
- To meet two USFWS MENTOR Fellows and a Mentor, and hear about their efforts on regional bushmeat solutions;
- To participate in the launching of the Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN) (www.bushmeatnetwork.org).

AGENDA:

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| 3:00 to 3:10pm | Welcome and Introductions
<i>Ms. Nancy Gelman, Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group</i> |
| 3:10 to 3:25pm | Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments by the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF)
<i>Dr. Heather Eves and Ms. Natalie Bailey, BCTF</i> |
| 3:25 to 3:35pm | Highlighting USFWS Wildlife Without Borders- Africa
<i>Dr. Richard Ruggiero, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> |
| 3:35 to 3:55pm | Building Capacity for Bushmeat Solutions in Eastern Africa:
The 2008-2009 USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program
<i>Mr. Vincent Opyene, Senior Warden Prosecution for Uganda Wildlife Authority and
Mr. Iregi Mwenja, Bushmeat Coordinator, East African Wildlife Society-Kenya</i> |
| 3:55 to 4:10pm | Launching the Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN)
<i>Dr. William Olupot, BEAN Director, WCS-Uganda</i> |
| 4:10 to 5:00pm | Reception |



USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program:

Through the 2008-2009 Wildlife Without Borders Africa program, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is addressing the need for action to curtail the illegal and unsustainable bushmeat trade in eastern Africa. The USFWS MENTOR (*Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation*) Fellowship program is an initiative of USFWS, the College of African Wildlife Management- Mweka, Tanzania, and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)ⁱ, a consortium of U.S. based international conservation non-governmental organizations. The MENTOR program invests in capacity building, training and career development of emerging conservation leaders. The resulting team is working to build a network of eastern African wildlife professionals who can lead efforts to reduce illegal and unsustainable bushmeat exploitation at local and regional levels. The eight Fellows from Kenya, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, were selected in February 2008 to participate in an 18 month post-graduate diploma program. The Fellows spend approximately 6 months at the College of African Wildlife Management taking specially designed coursework on bushmeat solutions and challenges. The Fellows are in the field for about 12 months working under the guidance of experienced conservation Mentors (advisors and role models) to conduct bushmeat field assessments and to implement pilot projects on bushmeat solutions. (See: www.mentorfellowshipprogram.org)

BEAN:

The new Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN) is an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional network consisting of stakeholders (wildlife professionals, human development experts, government representatives, private industry personnel, academic experts, local community leadership and citizens etc.) who work collaboratively to raise awareness, focus attention, share information, analyze, evaluate and report on trends, and leverage resources to build local partnerships and capacity to implement grassroots solutions that directly address bushmeat exploitation problems affecting protected and surrounding areas in eastern Africa. (See: www.bushmeatnetwork.org)

Dr. William Olupot:

Dr. William Olupot (BEAN Director) is an experienced wildlife researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Uganda. His major scientific achievements include research on arboreal rainforest forest primates, extensive study on the interaction between human communities and wildlife in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and analysis of the illegal bushmeat trade in rural and urban areas throughout Uganda. Dr. Olupot's wildlife research is widely published and he has received numerous international awards for his work. He is currently serving as a Mentor for the USFWS MENTOR Fellowship program where he provides hands-on guidance to two emerging conservation professionals from Uganda. Dr. Olupot has been selected as the new Director of the Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN).

Mr. Iregi Mwenja:

Mr. Iregi Mwenja (MENTOR Fellow-Kenya) is a wildlife biologist with nine years field experience in East Africa. He started his career at Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) working as a Park Warden in Mt. Elgon National Park, Saiwa Swamp National Park, and Kiunga Marine and Doodori National Reserves. Mwenja has worked as a Project Manager with the Eden Wildlife Trust. He is currently leading bushmeat efforts for the East African Wildlife Society as part of the USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program. Mwenja is an Associate Research Scientist with the Institute of Primate Research of the National Museums of Kenya and was the first wildlife biologist to study the newly discovered population of de Brazza's monkey in northern Kenya, a rare and highly threatened species. Mwenja is currently implementing the information management strategy of the BEAN Network which includes creating and managing the BEAN website, bushmeat awareness raising through articles in popular media and through blogging on the Internet.

Mr. Vincent Opyene:

Mr. Vincent Opyene (MENTOR Fellow-Uganda) is a Senior Warden Prosecution with Uganda Wildlife Authority. He prosecutes wildlife poaching and protected area encroachment cases throughout Uganda. Through the USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program, Vincent Opyene has conducted an assessment of the legal regime and institutional governance of illegal bushmeat utilization in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya. He recently facilitated workshops for law enforcement stakeholders in Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda. These workshops improve the understanding of wildlife law enforcers including prosecutors, magistrates, police, and park managers about the value of wildlife and assist with techniques for successful prosecution of bushmeat poachers. His efforts seek to improve bushmeat prosecution throughout eastern Africa.

ⁱ Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) comprises: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).