



USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program

(Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resources conservation to Reduce Illegal Bushmeat Exploitation)

**A presentation by Iregi Mwenja
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June 23rd, 2009**



the Jane Goodall Institute



Bushmeat

The bushmeat trade is the illegal overhunting of wildlife for meat and income.

Bushmeat challenges

Demand in EA driven by;

- rapidly increasing human population
- poverty,
- political instability,
- weak law enforcement,
- inadequate awareness



The MENTOR Fellowship Program



Wildlife Without Borders – Africa Cooperative Agreement:

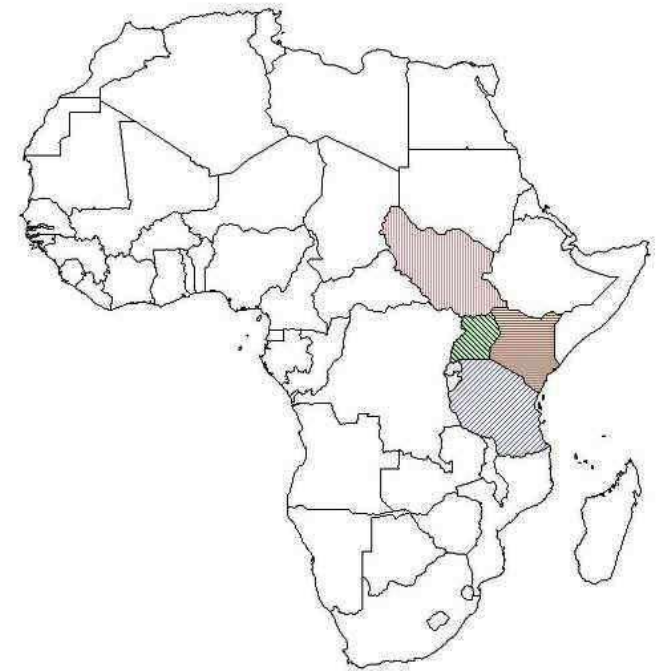
1. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS),
2. College of African Wildlife Management- Mweka, Tanzania
3. Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)

A “Model” Mentored Fellowship Program:

- build regional conservation capacity
- multidisciplinary team of eight fellows and four mentors from four countries in eastern Africa
- team works together to influence and lead efforts to reduce illegal bushmeat exploitation at local, national, and regional levels in eastern Africa.

The MENTOR Team

- 8 Fellows
- 4 Mentors
- Dozens of Trainers
- Committed partners



1000 0 1000 2000 Kilometers

Kenya
Southern Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda

MENTOR: Combining Field-Based Mentored Actions with Academic Studies

- 12 months fieldwork – initial assessment and overall implementation
- 6 months academic studies
- Mentors advise fellows throughout field studies and academics
- Fellows receive post-graduate diploma (e.g. one-year master's) at conclusion of fellowship



The MENTOR Fellowship Program Outputs

- An established, trained multidisciplinary team of eight fellows from four countries working together to address illegal bushmeat at local, national, and regional levels,
- National and local bushmeat field assessments in four countries,
- Five year plan (2008-2013) established using adaptive management *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation*
- Implement collaborative actions on alternatives, enforcement and awareness in four key protected areas
- Capacity and curriculum built for Mweka Wildlife College to provide training on the bushmeat trade.



Bushmeat Assessments

April – May 2008

- Kenya, Southern Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
- National Assessments
- Site Level Assessments
- Multiple methods applied
- Aim to identify and evaluate current bushmeat trade, potential solutions & partners



Assessment Results



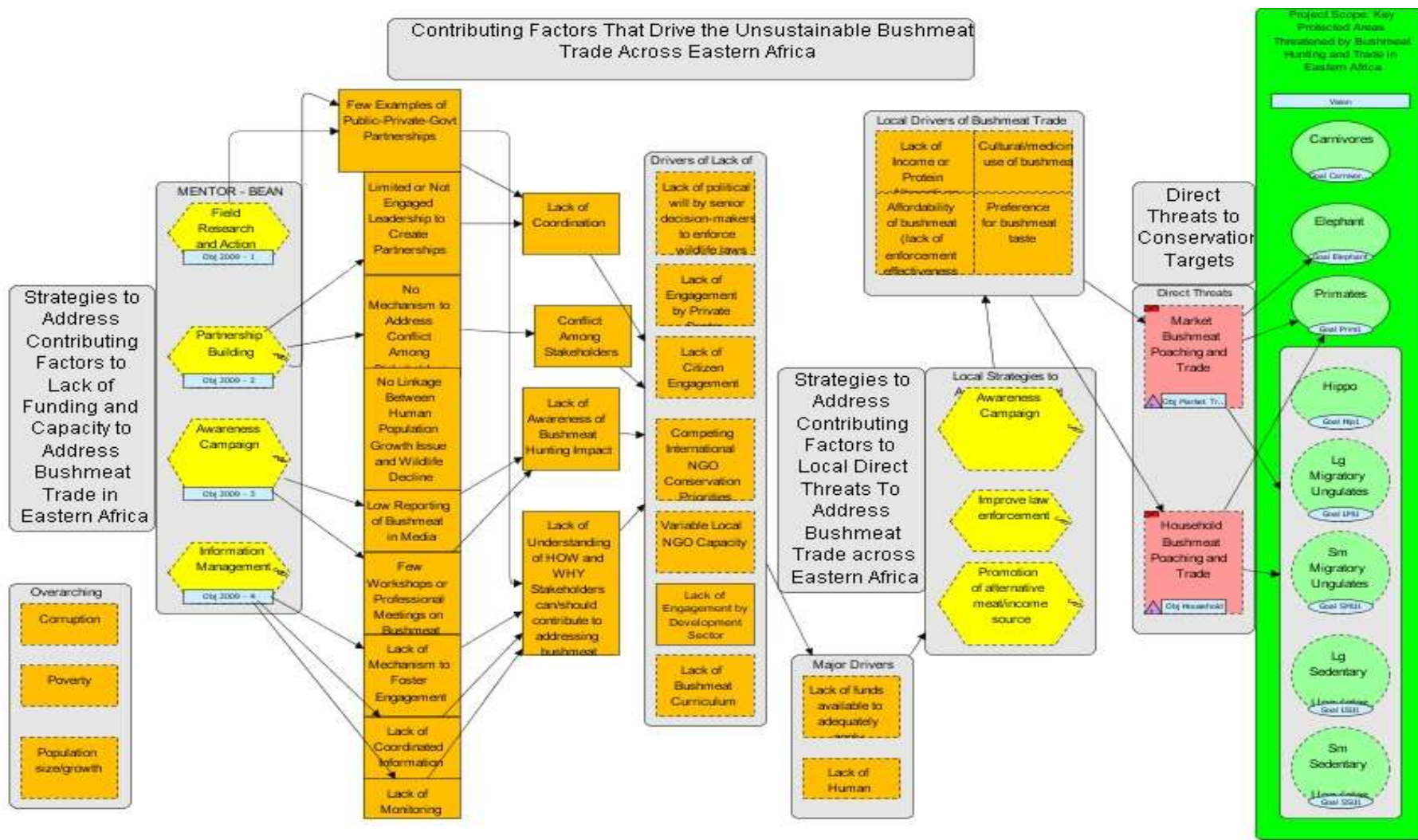
Commonalities

- Inadequate awareness (diseases, wildlife laws, impact of bushmeat) across the region
- Inadequate enforcement of laws, capacity and technology
- Decreasing wildlife population
- Common drivers
- Common hunting tools
- Inadequate collaboration among stakeholders

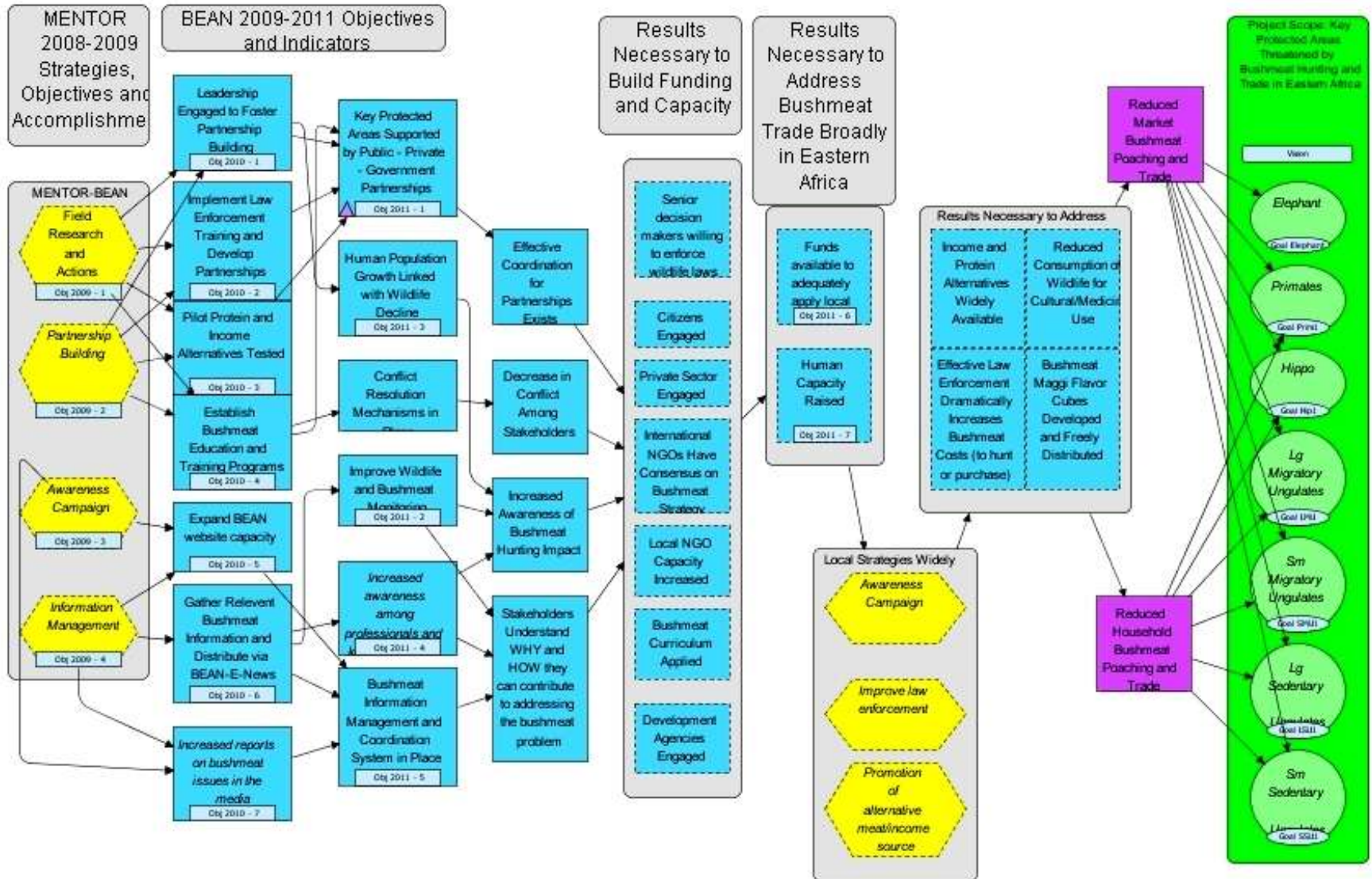
Differences

- Values of wildlife from legal perspectives
- Policies and laws

Strategies to Address the Eastern Africa Bushmeat Trade Conceptual Model



Result Chain



Bushmeat Solutions

- **Alternatives** for both protein and income
- **Enhanced Awareness** by individuals and institutions on the impact illegal and unsustainable bushmeat trade.
- **Partnership** building with government authority, private industry, non-profit organization
- **Improved policy, legislation and regulation** of legal wildlife use.

MENTOR Team Achievements

Awareness:

- BEAN website launched,
- communications strategy and materials produced,
- over 125 awareness-raising meetings with key stakeholders held,
- key media placement including over 10 articles and 10 radio reports and 1 book,
- attendance and team presentations at Society for Conservation Biology – Africa professional conference in Ghana, January 2009

MENTOR Team Achievements contd..

- **Law Enforcement:**
- workshops with law enforcement personnel held in Tanzania (Serengeti Ecosystem) and Uganda (Murchison Falls NP) and planned in Kenya (Masai Mara GR),
- meetings with key authorities in Kenya resulted in having bushmeat issue included in law enforcement planning,
- in Southern Sudan five key poachers arrested and 14 vehicles provided by authorities to increase law enforcement capacity

MENTOR Team Achievements contd..

- **Protein Alternatives:**
- secured support from wildlife division for developing protein alternative activities in two villages associated with Serengeti Ecosystem,
- secured commitment for continued support of protein alternatives in numerous villages in Serengeti Ecosystem,
- discussions with a private industry to support protein alternatives in areas associated with Tsavo Ecosystem,
- discovery that current protein alternative efforts in Serengeti region not linked as alternative to bushmeat, communications with international development agencies regarding need for protein alternatives to bushmeat

MENTOR Team Achievements contd..

- **Income Alternatives:**
- discussions with a private industry to develop income alternatives in areas associated with Tsavo Ecosystem,
- income alternative projects started by two reformed poacher groups in Uganda, communications with international development agencies regarding need for income alternatives to bushmeat.

MENTOR Team Achievements contd..

- **Capacity Building:**
- Capacity raised among eight fellows and four mentors to work collaboratively in teams to address conservation problems,
- conduct bushmeat field assessments, adaptively plan and implement conservation projects,
- develop communications strategies and materials, develop professional law enforcement workshops and scientific symposia, identify and build capacity for addressing bushmeat by engaging key stakeholders within existing partnerships.

Achievements

- Meetings with Conservation Area Managers in Key protected areas
- Engaged alums of International Law Enforcement Academy(Botswana) in improving wildlife crime investigation.
- In May 2009 Law enforcement partners workshop in Serengeti and Murchison Falls Conservation Area

Achievements

BEAN websites

- Over 1600 visitors and over 6500 pageviews

Awareness raising

- 4 articles published in popular media
- Presented assessment at SCB regional conference in Accra
- Organized 1st national bushmeat symposium in Kenya
- Published 48 blog post on bushmeat blog

Partnership

- EAWLS starts Bushmeat program and partners BEAN
- Negotiated protein /income alternative private company



