

THE BUSHMEAT HUNTING BOOM IN A VILLAGE OF THE BAKA HUNTER-GATHERERS IN SOUTHEAST CAMEROON

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Abstract

When a logging road was opened to traffic, many poachers and traders in bushmeat came to the villages in the heart of the forest, bringing miscellaneous goods and liquors. They have also brought to the villages a variety of hunting tools, including steel wires, guns and bullets. Some hunt themselves under the Baka's guidance, while others commission the Baka to hunt. Consequently, the hunting mode of the village has changed drastically from subsistence to commercial. The Baka hunters consume one out of three captures in their home, selling the rest to purchase food and alcoholic drinks. The hunting pressure seems to be excessive, though hunting efficiency has not declined considerably yet. The game population may rapidly deteriorate and the forest may become "empty" if the hunting pressure remains at its present level.