

# Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria™

## Tackling Bush Meat, Penguin Conservation Crises

Wild populations of many species in Central and East Africa are facing a new, rapidly escalating peril: being hunted not only for subsistence, but for lucrative Bush Meat food markets around the world. In the face of the growing crisis, the Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria™ (PAAZA™) and its member Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) have organized outreach programs to educate people in the most remote villages about the dangers of the Bush Meat trade and to help them establish alternative food sources.

Through Bush Meat Crisis Africa™, a World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)-branded conservation program, PAAZA™ and UWEC have also developed curriculum-based programs for schools, residential camps and excursions for children in communities neighboring protected areas. These children return home and influence others as role models on environmental issues. PAAZA™/UWEC ambassadors also work with rangers and game reserve managers to re-establish safe wild animal migratory corridors through farming communities.

The next phase of Bush Meat Crisis Africa™ is to raise global awareness of the destruction to ecosystems caused by the Bush Meat trade and the real potential for disease transmission through Bush Meat consumption.

“We are grateful to WAZA for branding this project and ISIS for bringing new support to one of Africa’s most important conservation initiatives,” says John Werth, PAAZA™ Executive Director. “This is what it will take to save threatened and endangered species affected by the Bush Meat trade.” Bush Meat Crisis Africa™ is implemented jointly by PAAZA™ and Uganda Wildlife Education



Centre (UWEC) with the key support of SRE Developments and Bester Birds & Animals Zoo Park. Other supporters include Lory Park and Butterfly World Tropical Garden.

## Rallying Around Endangered African Penguins

The African penguin is the only penguin species that breeds in Africa—and is found nowhere else in the world. Like most other penguin species, the African penguin is declining, and is classified as Endangered in the IUCN threatened species categories. One hundred and six member zoos and aquariums belonging to International Species Information System hold a total of 2796 African penguins—up from 69 institutions and 1757 individuals in 2005.

Penguin Promises™ is a WAZA-branded campaign to educate people about African penguin conservation. PAAZA™ works in collaboration with a number of national organizations towards this end.

Also through PAAZA™'s partnerships with other conservation organizations, oiled penguins and other seabirds sometimes get a second chance, as their staff and volunteers have become very proficient in cleaning, rehabilitating and releasing them. As a result, these birds have a very good survival rate and the current population is considerably larger than it would have been in the absence of rehabilitation efforts.

[Learn more](#) about PAAZA™ conservation programs.



International Species  
Information System  
Information made easy.