

transforming Tanzania's wild meat model

For people like Jane, a restaurant owner in Dodoma, Tanzania, traditional wild meat cuisine is about more than just generating income; it is part of her identity.

“ I love to cook; my favourite is antelope served with banana. When I cook my heart feels happy.

Tens of millions of people like Jane across Africa rely on hunting for income and food. For communities that live side-by-side with buffalo, antelope, wildebeest, and impala, trading and consuming wild meat has been a fabric of everyday life for generations.

But widespread poaching, significant inequity of access to resources, along with concern about unsafe and unhygienic food practices that could lead to zoonotic disease transmission, meant that change was urgently needed.

a new wild meat industry - a One Health approach

In 2020, [Tanzania pioneered new Game Meat Selling Regulations \(GMSR\)](#) - a bold approach to tackle poaching and illegal trade while improving food security, supporting community based conservation and economic opportunities. A report published by TRAFFIC in June 2024 [Bush to Butchery](#) set out detailed findings and recommendations from across the wild meat supply chain to help the GMSR meet the needs of Tanzania's population and wild species.

For example, a common misconception among consumers is that wild meat has no associated health risks. But [research conducted in collaboration with Tanzania's Veterinary Association](#) discovered multiple zoonotic pathogens present among wild meat samples.

To keep consumers safe from potentially contaminated products, TRAFFIC amended Tanzania's [Meat Inspection Regulations in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to ensure food safety protocols and inspection mechanisms are embedded within the GMSR.](#)

We have also provided expert recommendations to Tanzania's Game Meat Selling Advisory Committee (GMSAC), convening meetings with government agencies including the President's Office to help place a One Health approach to Tanzania's game meat industry on the political agenda. This legacy continues, as the government has now confirmed ongoing funding and support for the GMSAC to continue its work for the benefit of Tanzania's people.

“ **The legal wild meat trade is another way to fight poaching and inequality. If legal hunting can replace sources of poached meat, we'll not only keep our animals safe, but we'll create more job opportunities, the government will raise more income, and we'll protect our people from crime and disease.**

Francis Nade

Chairman of Tanzania's Game Meat Sellers Association, Dodoma

In the short time since the GMSR were enacted, the legal game meat industry has developed rapidly. Through collaboration with Tanzanian government agencies TRAFFIC has identified where interventions still need to be made towards ensuring the game meat trade is sustainable, safe, and legal. Once these are applied, there is great potential for the GMSR to demonstrate how Target 5 of the GBF can be met through following a One Health approach.



Our work on Tanzania's wild meat trade was conducted under the Wildlife TRAPS Project, implemented by TRAFFIC and IUCN with funding support from USAID, with additional support from the German government through the International Alliance Against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade and GIZ's Global Programme for Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health.