**Excerpt 2:**

Of more than fifty hunters who agreed to answer questions, only three--one each in three case-study sites--said that the primary reason for **killing** their last **elephant** was meat. Ivory and other products were also taken, but for these three, meat was the main objective. Almost all of the hunters replied that meat was the second most important reason for **killing** elephants, after ivory.

Targeting meat might seem odd, considering that raw ivory prices had been skyrocketing. However, when one considers how much meat can be carved off an **elephant**, and multiply that by prices we recorded in our study, one wonders why more **poaching** for meat is not carried out. The prices hunters reported for meat ranged between $1 and $5 per kilogram ($0.45 and $2.27 per pound). A thousand kilograms (2,200pounds) of smoked **elephant** meat, reported in one case in Okapi Faunal Reserve, yielded about $2,000 for the hunters and sold at retail for around $5,000, paid to vendors by consumers who lived in the vicinity of the reserve.

Ivory prices also varied quite a bit. In general, a hunting party could receive anywhere from about $100 for a pair of small tusks (weighing about six pounds each) up to $4,000 for a pair of very large tusks (weighing more than forty pounds each). Potentially, hunters could receive more for meat than for ivory from an **elephant** **kill**.

Hunters also sell other parts taken from elephants, including the tail (hairs to make bracelets), ears (drum tops), hide (exported for boots), feet (eaten or made into containers for tourists), and trunk (eaten). An **elephant** is by far the most valuable animal in the Central African forest, from a **hunter's** or trader's point of view. If most products from an **elephant** carcass could be transported to buyers, a large bull would easily produce $10,000 or more, though this is rarely, if ever, achieved.

The main constraints to realizing full economic potential from an **elephant** **kill** are twofold: logistics and security. A man can lug 60 to 100 pounds of baggage for up to a week out of the forest to a road. This usually includes other bushmeat captured on the **hunt**, weapons, food, and water. To carry out 2,000 pounds or more of **elephant** meat, 100 pounds of tusks, and other **elephant** products from one bull would therefore require more than twenty men. In many cases, more than one **elephant** is **killed** on a **hunt**, making it logistically almost impossible to realize full economic potential.

Author: Suites, Daniel.

Title: Jumbo Threat.

Source: *Natural History* 120.4 (2012): 12-16.

Database Info *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 3 Sept. 2013.