

Review of: "Stakeholders' Perception of Socioecological Factors Influencing Forest Elephant Crop Depredation in Gabon, Central Africa"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article explores stakeholders' perceptions of the socioecological factors influencing forest elephant crop depredation in Gabon, Central Africa, using various thematic areas. The article addresses one of the most contentious but pertinent issues in conservation work in light of the growing interest to balance biodiversity conservation and park-border community needs amidst human population growth. The article is fairly written and is worth publishing if the following comments can be addressed.

(1) Please consider minor changes to the title, "Stakeholders' perceptions of the socioecological factors influencing forest elephant crop depredation in Gabon, Central Africa."

(2) The abstract can be shortened by avoiding repetitions, and for the results, only key findings should be presented.

(3) Although the map has been provided, I thought more information is needed on the study area, such as the geographical location, size of the park, and additional socioeconomic activities (e.g., bushmeat hunting) of the park-border communities. A historical context of the park, such as eviction of people (if any), bushmeat hunting, and the ban on elephant hunting, should be included here. This may provide the reader with information on why farms may be in close proximity to the park border.

(4) Other than age groups and period of stay, please elaborate on the method used for the selection of the participants, particularly the villagers. How many villages are there, and was there any particular reason why the two villages were selected? The number (24) of villagers/farmers that participated seems rather on the lower side (please provide a justification).

(5) The authors have stated in the Results section that a total of 46 participants were interviewed out of the 40-60 participants. On what basis was this target made? If there are previous studies demonstrating that this target is adequate for the area for studies of this nature, then it would be nice to cite them.

(6) Please find a better term to replace "Conceptual framework" for Figures 5 & 6. As it is, that would mean the figures would have to come before the results. You may check if "Synthetic analytic diagram" may be appropriate.

One last and minor one: please replace "poses dual threats to" with "threatens both" in the first statement in the

Conclusion.