

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.

This article discusses what factors stakeholders in Gabon perceive as influencing forest elephant crop damage.

In general, this article is well-written; however, few statistical analyses were presented to strengthen the reader's understanding of the problem. You might consider multi-dimensional scaling.

Also, take another look at your figures. For #2, 3, & 4, remove the % sign along the x-axis. It is listed in the title. Instead of a star, perhaps add another line that demonstrates the mean. For figures 5 & 6, is there a statistical difference between the percentage groups? If not, can you break them down into groups that are statistically different? It's very busy, and I'm not sure this degree of differentiation is relevant.

You have a few typos – (primarily *economic*, *ofelephant*, *thedisruption*, *they pursued i.t*, Gabon(*Vanthomme*))

...an increased number of years during which an individual tree cannot produce any fruits. Do you mean senescence?

You discuss, "an increased pressure by elephants seeking crops in conjunction with rural exodus has made labor-intensive traditional crop protection methods less effective, as elephants become used to them or find other means to overcome them."

Depopulation of rural areas is also affecting Japan and increasing human-wildlife conflict. You could cite published works to demonstrate that this is a phenomenon found elsewhere in the world.

You say, "Forest elephants may also seek out crops because they provide important nutritional value, particularly minerals in their diets (Chiyo et al., 2005; Rode et al., 2006; Chiyo & Cochrane, 2008). " Crops may also be high in calories and predictably located.

"Despite intensive efforts to prevent CDIs, solutions have proved elusive, with mostly temporary fixes rather than a long-term solution. " There will not be one solution.

All the best with your research. I hope that it will help humans coexist with forest elephants!