

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

Christine Majale<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kenyatta University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## **Stakeholders' Perception of Socioecological Factors Influencing Forest Elephant Crop Depredation in Gabon, Central Africa**

An interesting study that links together a number of factors influencing forest elephant crop depredation in Gabon. The effort made by the authors to show interactions between landscape-scale and site-scale factors is commendable. Figures five and six are particularly interesting and make it easy for the reader to understand the findings presented in written paragraph prose.

In the thematic analysis section, the authors indicate that they looked at the context of CDI across space and time. The results, however, are not very clear on matters of 'time' as they are on matters of 'space.'

Does it matter that in the results section, the links by villagers and their intensity are fewer than those of professionals? Is it the expected result, and how do we explain that, therefore?

### **Study Area:**

Pages 2 and 3. It would be interesting to give a little more detail that sets Lope National Park aside. From Figure 1, I can see that it is centrally located. Does that influence CDI in any way compared to the other parks?

### **Interview Procedure:**

'Villagers were selected from two villages, Kazamabika and Ramba, when only permanent residents were present, near the park...' It would be good to unpack this statement. Two villages out of how many, and why these two?

'The family members were interviewed prior to their elders to avoid influencing the family members' narratives...' on page 4. What does the author mean by this statement?

### **Suggestion- Conceptual Framework:**

Maybe a conceptual framework showing the different themes/factors and the manner in which they are interlinked would help ease understanding much earlier before the reader gets to figures 5 and 6 later in the paper.

**Participants Demographic Profile:**

Curious as to whether the gender of the respondents plays any role in a manner that could affect the data and/or the results.

Under professionals - It would help to explain just in a sentence or two what differentiates park agents from forest agents?

**Results:**

I would not present cumulative percentages lumping the professionals and the villagers together...but rather separately, as you have done in most instances, because they appear to be very different entities.

**Drivers and Problem Types:**

I would present the 'sub-drivers' and 'sub-problems' just as explanations to the main drivers and problems. Calling them 'subs' is a bit confusing to the readers.

**Discussion:**

You could consider moving the verbatim voices of the respondents to the results section, since they are part of the results.