

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

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An intriguing research outcome addressing global wildlife conservation issues. Valuable lessons can be gleaned from this article, serving as beneficial insights for various stakeholders involved in mitigating similar occurrences in the future.

Overall, this study has been conducted comprehensively and holistically, with a more dominant focus on socio-economic aspects. Nevertheless, ecological considerations remain integral to the research. The establishment of two stakeholder groups needs robust justification, such as being undertaken after thorough stakeholder mapping or analysis.

In general, the manuscript is well-crafted and merits publication. However, the following questions and comments should be taken into consideration:

In the methodology, it is crucial to provide information about the two surveyed populations of village residents. This ensures that the surveyed individuals adequately represent the population. The determination of the number of interview participants should be based on representative sampling, allowing for statistical justification. Therefore, the structure or proportions of the population based on age and/or livelihood should be presented as a basis for determining the number of participants proportionally.

It is advisable to provide reasons for having a relatively small number of participants. Are there acceptable justifications that support the notion that this number adequately represents the population?

Is it fair to compare the professional perceptions with those of the local residents?

Should a comparison be made between the two groups of stakeholders? Why not compare stakeholders who truly have high interests and significant influence? Perhaps conducting a stakeholder analysis beforehand could help identify the most appropriate respondents for the perception survey.

Do the proportionally sampled populations adequately represent the populations of the two surveyed villages? Are these two villages sufficiently valid to represent the entire population of villages bordering the national park?

Whom do the sampled professionals represent? Do they proportionally represent the professional population who are stakeholders in the national park?

