

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.

Comments to authors of "Stakeholder's perception of sociological factors influencing forest elephant crop depredation in Gabon, Central Africa."

Summary: This paper presents a descriptive analysis of stakeholders' perceptions of sociological factors influencing forest elephant crop depredation in Gabon, Central Africa. The authors used a qualitative data collection technique but employed analytical techniques to convert responses to quantitative use, which can be understood by readers who are not much conversant with qualitative reporting. In the discussion section, the findings are compared to other studies that have looked at similar subjects. The paper can be accepted after some adjustments have been made, especially in the methodology section.

General Comments to the authors:

- Abstracts - Key words needed to be provided.
- Materials and methods - The discussion of the types of vegetation found in Gabon, particularly around the national parks, is not quite clear.
- How many professionals were interviewed in each category you have given, e.g., rangers?
- Did you contact all the professionals in all the ten national parks? This is not clear.
- Why use the snowball sampling method when you can easily identify the park rangers and forest agents? I thought the snowball sampling should have been used for only groups that you cannot easily locate.
- Why mention family members? Did you interview families from the two villages? It is not clear. And also, you grouped the interviewees from each village into focus groups; why use family members to translate or interpret interviews? I thought the interviews were done at the household level.
- The sample size seems to be small, especially for the villagers, but it can also depend upon those who were willing to participate.
- It is also not clear how many villages are around the park and why you selected only these two villages for the study.
- Can you further explain how the literature review helped you to identify conservational professionals?
- Stakeholders - I think this should have been stated earlier, not at the end.
- Finally, since you focused your study on the central forest park in Gabon, did all the nine park agents you interviewed

come from the same park or elsewhere? It is not clear.