

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 is a well-intended paper. Few things I personally liked were the conceptual frameworks presented on Pages 10 and 11.

Few points that can be improved upon:

1. The issue of crop depredation is probably self-explanatory, but the impact of it is different on different societies. Is poverty the only concern? So, if more points could be added in the Introduction section that better justifies taking CDIs as a base.
2. The magnitude of conflict or CDIs in the study area is not clearly mentioned. And the justification for selecting the study area needs explanation and elaboration.
3. Why were the respondents/participants divided into two large groups? 18-64 is a very heterogeneous category? Please justify this selection better.
4. Was the data analysis done manually or using any software tools? It needs to be clearly mentioned in the data analysis section of the methodology.
5. The segregation of results into four parts is repetitive information in the paper. It will be better to mention it once clearly.
6. There is a line on Page 5, "breaking down of themes by stakeholder groups." Is it that stakeholder groups brought out the themes or the researcher categorised them into different themes?
7. On Page 5 and following a few pages of results, there are sections and statements that could better feature in the methodology section. For instance, the last paragraph on Page 5. Similarly, on Page 9, the last paragraph is perhaps better suitable for the data analysis section of the methodology.
8. On page 6, there is use of 'We' which has not been used before or later. Passive voice is better.
9. The results and discussion section needs to be made crisp. The discussion section is too lengthy and doesn't bring together the key arguments well.
10. Overall, it's a good paper and will be even better with some improvements.