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The central nucleus of the Lama classified forest is one of the rarest relics of dense semi deciduous forest located in the south of the Benin. Hunting for bushmeat in Lama Forest represent the main threat despite the protection of the fauna habitat.

In this study report, we examined stakeholders' perceptions of wildlife use (consumption and medicinal purpose), awareness of illegal hunting practices, hunting seasons and attitudes of the local population toward Lama Forest management and wildlife conservation. Respondents were asked to give their perceptions about law enforcement against illegal hunting in the local area. We did the diagnostic study of the bushmeat activities at the vicinity of the Lama classified forest. Different survey techniques have been used to diagnose the bushmeat activities for consumption and medicinal in order propose a sustainable management strategies. The survey has targeted 120 persons including hunters, sellers of the bushmeat and the sellers at the medicinal market around the Lama forest. The most three important markets visited were Bohicon, Abomey and Avogbannan.



Field work assistant working with the hunters at the bush meat market



Above: The high number of the bush meat found on the display of only one seller demonstrating the importance of the pressure of this activity on the wildlife species.



Left: Heavy pressure on the bird species at the medicinal market in animal based medicine market of Abomey city in central Benin.

Keys findings

Our results show several threat that wildlife species are facing in Lama Forest. The problem of poaching is the top important problem and causing the decreasing of species of wildlife species inside the forest classified of the Lama. The hunting of animals using the guns and traps stifles exacerbating this human pressure and may prove some dysfunction in the fauna ecological system of Lama Forest. The local communities around the Lama Forest were fairly aware of the occurrence of illegal hunting practices, as well as the modalities of existing law enforcement, but knowledge about legal hunting systems was limited. We are analysing

the data to draft the first paper based on the assessment of wildlife consumption awareness and attitudes of the local population toward Lama Forest management in southern Benin.