



MISSION REPORT

Human Dimension surveys in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve

14 to 30 July 2020

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Acknowledgements

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1. Introduction

From 14 to 30 July 2020, we undertook targeted human dimension surveys mission in the villages within and surrounding the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (BR). Our purpose was to collect individual interview data in the framework of a study on the human dimension in West African giraffe conservation. Prior to the survey, a targeted method was developed in collaboration with local and international partners so as to ensure best approach, respect of the interviewees and where possible, comparable with survey undertaken in "Giraffe Zone" and Africa-wide.

2. Objectives

The objective of this survey was to study the knowledge and attitudes of local people towards the West African giraffe in Niger. Additionally, we are seeking to learn about people's habits and practices, and how they use the landscape.

3. Survey Team

The survey team was comprised of:

4. Abdoul Razakou ABDOU MAHAMADOU - interpreter and survey coordinator (Student Intern – GCF)
5. Hassan ISSOUFOU MOUSSA - driver (GCF)
6. Alhadji Agali ALKOU - guide



7. Mission

14 to 15 July

Drove from Niamey to Gadabedji BR.

July 16

The team was first introduced to the traditional and administrative chiefs in the Gadebedji village and the purpose of the survey presented. As a larger pilot study in the 'Giraffe Zone' had already been conducted to assess the feasibility of the questionnaire, only a small pilot study was undertaken in Gadebedji village where 11 people (all men; 81.82% Tuareg and 18.18% Hausa) were randomly selected and interviewed. The interviews were conducted in the local Hausa language. All data collected was shared with the rest of the team and data analysed with partners before further interviews undertaken after minor revisions.

18 to 29 July

The next part of the survey started on the eastern side of Gadabedji BR in the village Zangon Bakoba, and then travelled around the reserve finishing on the western side in the village Zangon Gomki. The choice of the villages surrounding the reserve was random and an introduction to the chief of village was undertaken in each prior to starting.



8. Results

In total, 111 people (94 men (84.7%) and 17 women (15.3%)) were interviewed in and around Gadabedji BR. Among those interviewed, the ethnicity of the individuals was: 56 Peulhs (50.45%), 53 Touareg (47.75%) and two Hausa (1.8%).

9. Discussion

The mission in Gadabedji went well. The support of the administrative authorities and the customary chiefs helped us a lot and facilitated the access to the locals.

The participation and willingness of the locals made the survey easy. All the questions of the survey were appreciated by the local communities.

However, a number of difficulties were encountered during the fieldwork:

10. Accessibility – the terrain is very sandy and as such we had to cover large distances to access villages.
11. Availability – we observed that many villages had only a few people e.g. chief, two adults and wife(s). As such, we visited the weekly markets and other activities e.g. baptisms to meet people in the middle of nowhere and interview them.



12. Conclusion

The mission took place in good conditions, despite the state of the roads and the accessibility of the villages. This mission allowed me as an intern to see a new environment and people, and compare with the “Giraffe Zone” – in particular the situation under which the local population live

with the newly translocated giraffe of late 2018. In total 111 people were interviewed in and around the Gadabedji BR.