



MISSION REPORT

Human Dimension surveys in the Giraffe Zone

1 June to 6 July 2020

Abdou M. Abdoul Razakou

Acknowledgements

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I. Introduction

From 1 June to 6 July 2020, we undertook targeted human dimension surveys mission in the 'Giraffe Zone' in Niger. Eight communes were visited: Kouré, Falmey, N'Gonga, Kiota, Harikanassou, Koygolo, Dantchandou and Fakara, 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 surveys to be undertaken in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and Africa-wide.

II. Objectives

The objective of this survey is 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.

III. Survey Team

The survey team was comprised of:

- Abdoul Razakou ABDOU
MAHAMADOU - interpreter
and survey coordinator
(Student Intern – GCF)
- Hassan ISSOUFOU MOUSSA -
driver (GCF)
- Ousseini IDRISSE - Guide
(AVEN)



IV. Mission

1 to 2 June

A pilot study was carried out in the ‘Giraffe Zone’ to assess the feasibility of the questionnaire and survey methods. The pilot was undertaken in the village of Kanaré where ten people were interviewed. The team was first introduced to the traditional and administrative chiefs and the purpose of the survey was presented. Following this, those interviewed were selected randomly and voluntarily within the village.

Fourteen people in three villages were then randomly interviewed over the next day. The same procedure was followed, starting with the presentation to the village chief and the request for permission to start the interview.

In total, 25 people (70.8% men and 29.2% women) were interviewed for the pilot study. Important to note, all people involved in the pilot phase were Zarma speaking – the second most spoken language after Hausa in Niger. The following main survey was also conducted in Zarma.

4 to 9 June

We continued our pilot study into the Dallol and intermediate zones after meeting with the Ministry Commander of the Giraffe Zone. Our first interviews were conducted in Harikanassou after first meeting with the traditional and administrative chiefs (and similarly in all subsequent areas). on the same day, 4 June 2020. Several villages were then visited after Harikanassou, including N’Gonga and Koygolo.

Following the pilot surveys, the collected data was compiled and shared with those providing technical advice and support of the study. In order to better understand the effectiveness of the pilot study and where appropriate amend, documentation was shared and a subsequent Skype call organized with technical partners Karolina Brandlova, Julien Blanco, Katerina Gasparova,



Abdou Razack Moussa Zabeirou and Abdou M. Abdoul Razakou. Following the meetings, a number of recommended changes were made to the questionnaire to make things clearer and the interviews quicker.

20 to 27 June

After validation of the questionnaire, we returned to the field to start our formal data collection. Koygolo, Harikanassou, Kiota, Fakara, Kouré and Dantchandou were visited during this period. The choice of people in these communes was random and voluntary. Importantly, we presented the project again first to the traditional and administrative chiefs for adoption before conducting.

2 to 6 July

We returned to the field to finalise interviews in the greater 'Giraffe Zone'. On the recommendation of GCF's Programme Officer Abdoul Razack MOUSSA ZABEIROU, we extended our surveys to Falmey and Fandou. However, in light of ongoing insecurity in Filingué, we suspend work in the Fandou area and returned to the capital.

V. Results

- 1st Field Mission (1 to 9 June)

127 people (male (72,45% and female (27,55) were interviewed (Old questionnaire)

Language: 104 Zarma (81,89%), 22 Peulh (17,32%) and 1 Beriberi (0,79%)



- 2nd Field Mission (20 to 27 June)
102 people (male (82,35%) and female(17,65%)) were interviewed. (New questionnaire)
Language: 90 Zarma (88,24%), 3 Peulh (2.94%) and 9 Touareg (8.82%)
- 3rd Field Mission (2 to 6 July)
111 people (male (62,16%) and female(37,84%)) were interviewed (New questionnaire)
Language: 106 Zarma (95,5%) and 5 Touareg (4.5%)

VI. Discussion

Difficulties encountered

The methodology adopted requires individual interviews of 15-20 people per village. However, the realities on the ground differed and the number of villages were maximized in each village.

During the first Field Mission, the municipal authorities denied the team access to certain areas because of the lack of administrative documents. "Difficulty interviewing the Peulh, especially without the chief's presence. As a result, the ethnicity of the interviewees can hardly be representative of the ethnic diversity of the region". Abdoul Razack (GCF).

During the second Field Mission, the major difficulty encountered was the unavailability of people. People were working in their fields and therefore we maximised interviews during their lunch break as once home they are tired, they do not want to talk.

The advantage of the new questionnaire format is that they make the interviews faster and save time for all involved.

During the Third Mission, we had difficulty in the presence of people in Peulh. The various Peulh villages were essentially empty with only a few women and children. Unfortunately, in the Peulh community, people cannot speak out without the presence of their chief. However, we were able to undertake interviews in a few Tuareg villages in the Koygolo area, which was still somewhat insecure.

VII. Recommendation

Source a map of the area in order to facilitate understanding the location and planning of interviews to be undertaken.

VIII. Conclusion

The missions went well despite the poor state of the roads and accessibility to certain sites. I was exposed to valuable training in the field and to directly understand the situation in which the local population live with giraffe.

A total, 340 people (245 males and 96 females; old and new questionnaire) were interviewed, including the pilot phase. To date a total of eight communes were visited: Kiota, N'Gonga, Harikanassou, Koygolo, Fakara, Kouré, Dantchandou and de Falmey.