

Do large birds experience previously undetected levels of hunting pressure in the forests of Central and West Africa?

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 1 Background information on hunting in the Ebo Forest, Cameroon

Hunters are exclusively male and sleep in semi-permanent, communal camps when hunting in the forest (Fa & García Yuste, 2001; Willcox & Nambu, 2007; Rist et al., 2010). Camps are normally positioned close to a stream or river for easy access to water, and generally consist of a central fire and a wooden structure covered with plastic tarpaulins. A rack is built above the fire, where meat is smoked and dried to facilitate preservation and portage to road systems. Hunters carry carbohydrates such as dried cassava into the forest and obtain protein by eating a proportion of their catch.

Hunters work during the day and night, trapping or shooting animals and occasionally using machetes to kill snakes, and catching lizards with their bare hands. Those working exclusively as trappers normally operate during the day, checking and re-setting wire snares, whereas gun-hunters work during the day or night, depending on the season and species targeted. Hunting with guns is probably the most commonly used method in the Ebo Forest (E. Abwe, pers. comm.) but this has not yet been quantified systematically. Snares are positioned on the ground and designed to capture terrestrial species such as duiker, although arboreal species, such as guenons, may occasionally be captured when they descend to the ground to drink or feed on fallen fruit. Guns are used to hunt both terrestrial and arboreal species but are the preferred method for hunting species that live in the canopy, such as hornbills. Dogs are used to track terrestrial mammals such as drills (Astaras, 2009).

Animals caught within a short distance of the nearest village or access road may be removed from the forest when fresh. Otherwise carcasses are carried back to camps and preserved for transport at a later date. Entrails are removed and discarded in situ and the fur singed off. Carcasses are then spread across bamboo frames and dried above the campfire. Some species, such as pangolins (Manidae) and Nile monitors *Varanus niloticus*, may be kept alive in camp. Meat consumed in camp is cooked on-the-bone and, once consumed, the remaining bones are discarded in the fire or in the vicinity of the camp. Birds are prepared by immersing the carcass in boiling water before removing the feathers, which are then discarded on the fire or in an adjacent river. Carcasses and live animals are then transported to nearby villages or access roads and the meat is consumed by family members, traded locally or sold to dealers from urban areas.