



## ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE EXTENSION MEASURES AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN OLD OYO NATIONAL PARK

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### ABSTRACT

The research work assessed wildlife extension measures and its effectiveness in Old Oyo National Park. Purposive sampling was used to select the respondents from the total population. The demographic factors of the respondents revealed that male recorded the highest with 71.0% with age group 31-40 years recorded the highest (41.0%). The findings also showed that majority of the respondents are married (54.0%). The level of education indicated that respondents with tertiary education recorded the highest (61.0%). Also majority of the respondents are Muslims (52.0%) while Christianity recorded 44.0%. The various wildlife extension services in the study area showed that campaign against hunting and bush burning recorded the highest with 38.0% and 26.0% respectively, followed by campaign against deforestation with 21.0% while training on agro-forestry is the least with 2.0%. The effectiveness of the identified extension practices on wildlife conservation showed that the identified extension are slightly effective recorded the highest with 38.0%, followed by moderately effective with 33.0% while ineffective recorded the least with 4.0%. The methods been used to disseminate the extension services in the study area, in which focus group discussion recorded the highest with 39.0%, followed by radio and television with 22.0% while Newspaper/journal/magazine recorded the least with 6.0%. The challenges facing extension services delivery in the study area revealed that inadequate funding of some extension activities are the major challenges with 31.0%, followed by inadequate number of extension personnel with 21.0% while inadequate commitment personnel is the least with 5.0%.

**Keywords:** Assessment, Effectiveness, National Park, Wildlife Extension

### INTRODUCTION

Wildlife education has been recommended in combating the challenges confronting sustainable wildlife management in the tropics including Nigeria (Hamisu *et al.*, 2017). Wildlife extension program has been developed based on the needs of the people and the program is intended to meet and provides solution to problems facing wildlife management (Udo *et al.*, 2009).

According to Agbogidi and Ofuoku (2005), our forests reserved cannot be protected and conserved unless extensionists can exhibit to the local communities that they can make a reasonable livelihood from the forests on a sustainable basis. Extension is generally perceived as a non-formal educational process aimed at creating desired changes in the knowledge, attitude, skills and behavior of people (Agbogidi and Ofuoku, 2005). Extension is a professional message intervention deployed by a body to induce change in attitude and behaviors of people with a accepted public or collective effectiveness (Anderson and Farrington, 1996).

Wildlife extension is an essential tool to expand Park resources, to protect its deteriorating Park resources and to ensure optimum use of Wildlife resources (Samy, 2005). Similarly, Wildlife extension programmes are designed to meet the needs of small scale producers in forested areas through agroforestry techniques. There are many who question whether wildlife extension could or even should be subsumed within agricultural extension. Wildlife extension has much in common with agricultural extension and is based on a number of similar principles (Udo *et al.*, 2009). However, wildlife extension presents different challenges and different emphases from agriculture. The best approach to conserve the Park and its resources is to create awareness among surrounding communities on the usefulness and significance of Park and the reasons to conserve it (Udo *et al.*, 2009). This can be achieved by way of educating the community of the

shielding measures through extension. Wildlife extension enable the populace to know that wildlife will be better enjoyed by sharing their benefits if sustainably managed (Ogunwale *et al.*, 2006). Wildlife extension has great implications for wildlife protection and conservation as the importance of the environment and ecosystem to human survival can never be underestimated (Samy, 2005).

Studies abounds in wildlife management but few exist on wildlife extension services in the National Park of the country especially when compared with the related Agricultural science. Wildlife management extension study is very necessary as it will go a long way in examine the various conservation measures needed for the sustainable wildlife management in the country and Old Oyo National Park in particular coupled with the related numerous problems confronting sustainable wildlife management in Nigeria, emanating from unregulated exploitation of biodiversity resources in the country (Olagunju, 2015). Alao (2005) also opined that the only solutions to the problem of decrease in wildlife resources are to inform the support zone communities that depends on wildlife resources about the effects of wildlife degradation.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study Area

Old Oyo National Park is one of the Oldest conservation area in Nigeria and indeed the West African sub region having been designated upper Ogun Forest Reserve in 1936, converted to Oyo-Ile Forest Reserve in 1941 and designated Game Reserve in 1952. The park is situated in the heart land of commerce industry and culture and is in close proximity to Ibadan, Lagos, Akure and other cities. It has a total land area of about 2,512 km<sup>2</sup> and average rainfall of 1,100 mm/year. The park lies between latitude 8°15' and 9°00'N and longitude 3° 35' and 4° 42' E. The vast guinea savannah

ecotype with luxuriant grass, browse plants species and water supports grazing of ungulates. Unfortunately, this very attributes in vegetation also attracts cattle rearer who encroaches on the park annually; illegal grazing of livestock

has therefore become the greatest problem confronting the management of Old Oyo National Park, an act that was prohibited by section 30 of Decree 36 of 1991.

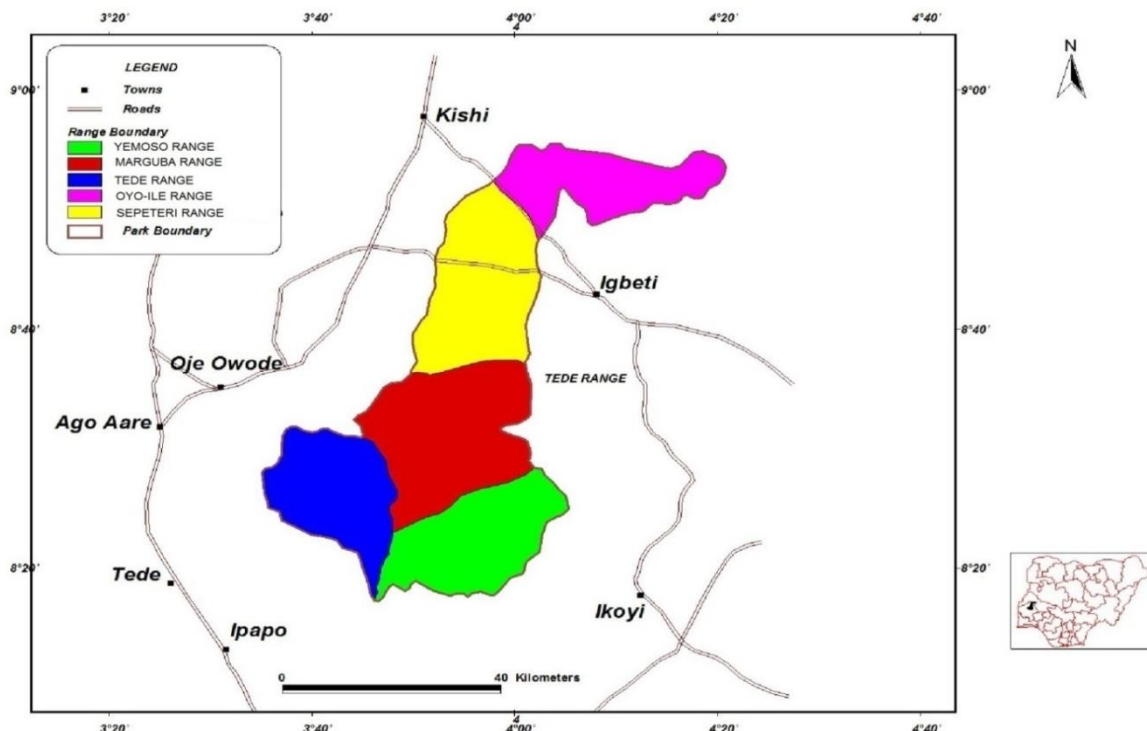


Figure 1: Map showing Old Oyo National Park Source: Ogunjimi et al., (2016)

**Method of Data Collection**

The population for this study consists of staff of Old Oyo National Park. Purposive sampling was used to select one hundred (100) respondents from the total population of Old Oyo National Park. Data was collected through the use of structured questionnaire.

**Data Analysis**

Data obtained was analysed using descriptive statistics i.e frequency tables, charts and bars. The statistical analysis was performed using SPSS.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Results**

The demographic factors of the respondents are indicated in table 1 in which male recorded the highest with 71.0% while female recorded 29.0%. Age group 31-40 years recorded the highest with 41.0% while age group 51 years and above is the least with 13.0%. The table also showed that majority of the respondents are married with 54.0% while widow/widower are the least with 8.0%. The level of education indicated that respondents with tertiary education recorded the highest (61.0%), followed by secondary education (24.0%) while

primary education recorded 15.0%. Also majority of the respondents are Muslims (52.0%) while Christianity recorded 44.0%. Table 2 revealed the various wildlife extension services in the study area, campaign against hunting and bush burning recorded the highest with 38.0% and 26.0% respectively, followed by campaign against deforestation with 21.0% while training on agro-forestry is the least with 2.0%. The effectiveness of the identified extension practices on wildlife conservation showed that the identified extension are slightly effective recorded the highest with 38.0%, followed by moderately effective with 33.0% while ineffective recorded the least with 4.0% (Fig 1). Table 3 indicated the methods been used to disseminate the extension services in the study area, in which focus group discussion recorded the highest with 39.0%, followed by radio and television with 22.0% while Newspaper/journal/magazine recorded the least with 6.0%. The challenges facing extension services delivery in the study area are revealed in table 4, inadequate funding of some extension activities are the major challenges with 31.0%, followed by inadequate number of extension personnel with 21.0% while inadequate commitment personnel is the least with 5.0%.

**Table 1: Demographic Factors of the Respondents**

| Demographic    | Variables | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Gender         | Male      | 71        | 71.0           |
|                | Female    | 29        | 29.0           |
| Age Group      | ≤30       | 17        | 17.0           |
|                | 31-40     | 41        | 41.0           |
|                | 41-50     | 29        | 29.0           |
|                | ≥51       | 13        | 13.0           |
| Marital Status | Married   | 54        | 54.0           |

|                           |               |            |              |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>Level Of Education</b> | Single        | 27         | 27.0         |
|                           | Divorce       | 11         | 11.0         |
|                           | Widow/widower | 8          | 8.0          |
|                           | Primary       | 15         | 15.0         |
|                           | Secondary     | 24         | 24.0         |
| <b>Religion</b>           | Tertiary      | 61         | 61.0         |
|                           | Christianity  | 44         | 44.0         |
|                           | Muslims       | 52         | 52.0         |
|                           | Traditional   | 4          | 4.0          |
| <b>Total</b>              |               | <b>100</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Table 2: Various Wildlife Extension Services in Old Oyo National Park**

| Wildlife Extension Services         | Frequency  | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Campaign against deforestation      | 21         | 21.0           |
| Training on agroforestry            | 2          | 2.0            |
| Training on wildlife domestication  | 8          | 8.0            |
| Training on raising of seedlings    | 5          | 5.0            |
| Campaign against hunting            | 38         | 38.0           |
| Campaign on dangers of bush burning | 26         | 26.0           |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>100</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

Source: Field Survey, 2022

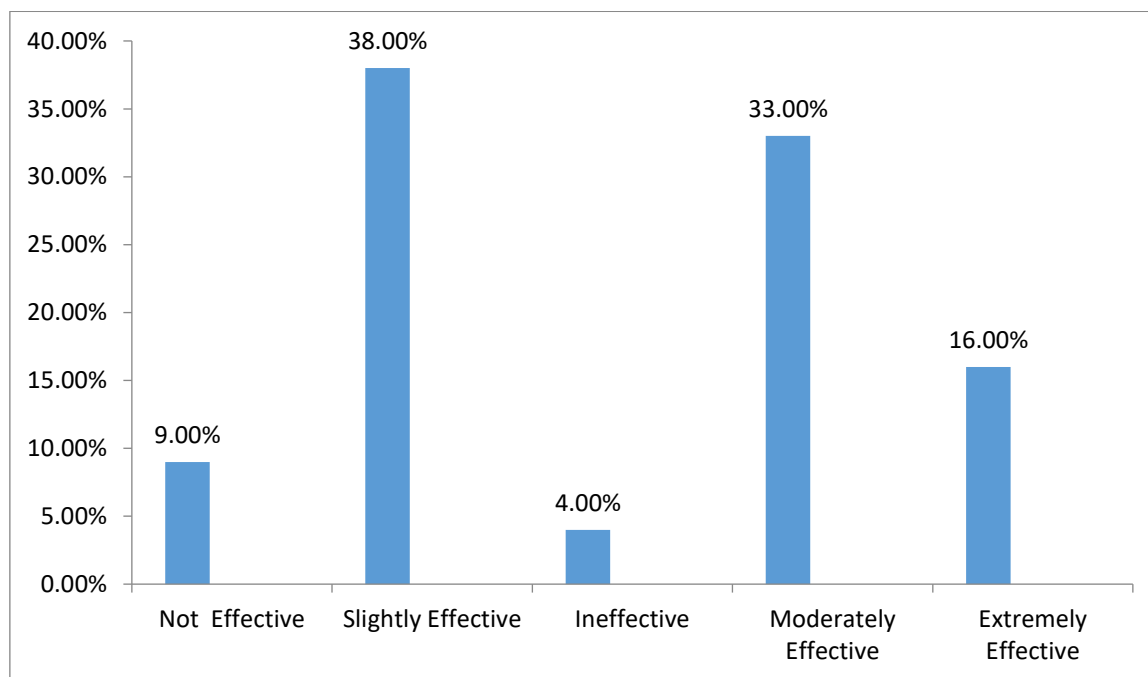


Figure 1: Effectiveness of the Identified Extension Practices on Wildlife Conservation

**Table 3: Methods Been Used to Disseminate the Extension Services in the Study Area**

| Methods                    | Frequency  | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Newspaper/journal/magazine | 6          | 6.0            |
| Social media platform      | 14         | 14.0           |
| Seminars and talks         | 19         | 19.0           |
| Focus Group Discussion     | 39         | 39.0           |
| Radio and television       | 22         | 22.0           |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>100</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Table 4: Challenges Facing Extension Services Delivery in the Study Area**

| Challenges                                      | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Inadequate funding of some extension activities | 31        | 31.0           |
| Inadequate number of extension personnel        | 21        | 21.0           |

|  |            |              |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Lack of in-service training of personnel | 8          | 8.0          |
| Inadequate commitment of personnel       | 5          | 5.0          |
| Inadequate transport facilities          | 13         | 13.0         |
| Lack of incentives/motivation            | 22         | 22.0         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>100</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: Field Survey, 2022

### Discussion

Extension services have an important function to play in wildlife conservation as it serves as fundamental linkage between support zone communities and Park management (Kiptot and Franzel, 2012). The Sex of the respondents reveals that majority (71.0%) were males. This suggests that male are the head of households and they are engage in poaching activities more than female counterpart. This can be attributed to the socio-cultural setting of the area which gives males the access to production resources like land more than females. The age of the farmers in the study area revealed that 31-40 recorded the highest. This shows that majority of the respondents are in their active age. Ajayi *et al.* (2007) reported that youths are more likely to be better agents to adopt extension messages compared to older. Majority of the respondents were married. This infers that married people dominates the study area. This result agrees with Obasi *et al.* (2012) and Orisakwe and Agomuo (2011) who revealed in their separate studies that majority of agroforestry farmers in Nigeria were married. It could be deduced from this result that most of the respondents had at least one form of education. Education is an important factor influencing peoples innovation uptake. From this finding, it is apparent that there is a possibility of adopting innovations when an effective extension unit is available to disseminate information and raise the awareness of the people which lead alleviation of poverty. According to Henri-Ukoha *et al.* (2014) the level of education of a person not only increases his productivity but also enhances his ability to understand and evaluate new production technologies.

The distribution of respondents according to wildlife extension services available to them revealed that campaign against hunting and bush burning recorded the highest. Although extension performance in these areas was not bad, there is need for advancement. All these extension service provided are slightly effective against wildlife conservation. Extension service providers should be given the responsibility of ensuring that support zone communities are continually satisfied with services being delivered.

The challenges facing the extension services indicate that inadequate funding are major challenges to extension service delivery in the study area. This study agrees with Hamisu *et al.* (2017) that ascertain that funding is the most difficult and challenging policy issue confronting the wildlife extension service. This study also agrees with Agbamu (2005) who observed that Nigeria extension service is bedeviled by several problems which include inadequacy and instability of funding and poor logistic support for field staff.

### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that Old Oyo National Services uses different wildlife extension services which includes campaign against felling of trees, campaign on dangers of bush burning, campaign against felling of trees etc. This wildlife extension service is slightly effective. The major methods use in the dissemination of this service is through focus group discussion and radio/television. The major challenges facing the extension services delivery are inadequate funding of some extension activities and lack

of incentives/motivations. The study therefore, recommends that Park authority should increase its funding for extension service to alleviate the problems of inadequate staff, insufficient training and there is the need to recruit more wildlife extension agents to achieve most favorable extension service.

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