

**HUMAN-ELEPHANT RELATIONSHIPS AND
ASSESSMENT OF CROP DAMAGE IN BABANRAFI
FOREST**

O.F. SMITH, E.L. INAH, A.OUSSOUMANE AND O.A AKINTUNDE

Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management
University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2240, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The crop damage by wild animals in Babanrafi forest with special emphasis on African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) was investigated through the administration of questionnaires designed for the local farmers. The data indicated a significant damage to crops planted by the local farmers by the elephants (57.50%). This happens when the elephants migrate from the neighbouring areas into the forest. During rainy season, the migration frequency was reported low (9.17%) however, they become more frequent in the dry season (55%) and the harmattan period (35.83%). The principal cause of their migration is in search for water (100%) and food (85%). The traditional methods of deterrence include raising of alarm by noise making (100%), fire and watching over their farms (100%). Others include the use of repellants and irritants.

Keywords: Crop damage, African elephants, Assessment, Babanrafi forest