

## **SOME INDICATORS OF THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN THE GUINEA SAVANNA, NIGERIA.**

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### **Abstract**

Man's efforts to sustain his economic activities and interests often harm the natural environment by simplifying many ecosystems. Two of the major factors affecting the survival of wildlife are food and cover. Observations on direct and indirect impacts of deforestation on wildlife management were reported. Impacts addressed include habituation (loss of natural fear of man by wildlife), loss of general cover, and elimination of actual or potential wildlife breeding and nesting sites. Wildlife activities were significantly higher ( $P < 0.01$ ) in undisturbed vegetal covers. Depleted forest and range lands caused many species of wildlife to shift their natural range or perish. A total of 115 animals comprised of several mammals, birds and reptiles were sighted in unburnt thickets while only 12 animals comprised of mammals were recorded in contiguous vegetation that has been ravaged by incessant annual fire. Reptiles were observed to be more abundant ( $P < 0.05$ ) in deforested sites compared with forest sites. A total of 247 snakes were recorded in deforested study sites compared with 18 in forested sites. A quantitative account of wildlife mortality owing to habitat destruction process presented.

**Keywords:**

cordons blue (*Estrilda bengalensis*), Venacious dove (*Streptopelia vinacea*), Laughing dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), Village weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*), Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trichilus*), Senegal parrot (*Plocephalus senegalus*), Sun bird (*Nectarinia verreauxi*), Wood dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*), Yellow fronted canary (*Srinus mozambicus*), Barbary shrike (*Phyconotus barbatus*), Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Owl (*Otus scops*), Sparrow (*Passer griseus*), Wood pecker (*Dendropicus gabonensis*), Senegal coucal (*Centropus senegalensis*), Red finch (Lagonostics Senegal), Abyssinian roller (*Coracla cyanogaster*).