

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR TECHNIC WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

I.I. Ero & P.O. Adegbola

Forest Research Institute of Nigeria, PMB 5054, Ibadan

A.E. Onyeanusì, S.A. Onadeko & H.E. Osakwe

Federal School of Wildlife Management, PMB 268, New Bussa

Abstract

Relevant knowledge is essential to ensure effective and efficient management of wildlife resources. Nevertheless, until 1978, there was no technical curriculum for wildlife education in Nigeria to cater for the much needed middle-level manpower. Up to this time, training efforts were at the game protection level, i.e. for game guards; this was a vocational course administered as part of the general forest guards' training programme at the School of Forestry, Jos. Also available was a single subject course in wildlife management, offered as part of the technician foresters training in the Schools of Forestry at Ibadan and Jos. The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations provided fellowships for overseas training of Nigerian staff, to specialize in the various aspects of wildlife management. Some were trained in East Africa and others in the United States of America. Areas of specialisation were: natural history of African mammals, wildlife management techniques, range management, park interpretation and planning, wildlife extension, museum management and ballistics. However, training opportunities at the College of African Wildlife, at Mweka in Tanzania, or at the College of Wildlife, at Garoua in Cameroun, could not satisfy the needs of wildlife technical education in this country.