

WILDLIFE EXTENSION SERVICES AND FACILITIES AS MANAGEMENT TOOLS IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The needs and problems of Wildlife extension services particularly in the rural settings of Nigeria are discussed. The strongholds of wildlife resources are in the rural areas. A vast majority of the rural dwellers depend on several species of Wildlife for animal protein intake. Effective protection has been a major obstacle in the actual practice of wildlife management in Nigeria. "Managing the rural publics is considered to deserve as much as 80% of all the efforts in wildlife project areas. Depreciative human behaviours in wildlife project areas epitomize a basic issue: the issue of publics that have neither accepted nor consented to wildlife conservation. Adequate provision of realistic offers to local people must be made as trade-offs for wildlife-related problems which they have to face. Departments involved in conservation must come up with well-defined management actions especially local assistance such as employment opportunities and provision of bore holes means of transportation, roads and road maintenance, electricity and security to attract rural public support.