

Human Persecution of Wild Animals outside Conservation Areas in Bauchi State, Nigeria

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Thousands of wild plants and animals are being driven inexorably to extinction annually. The rate of biodiversity loss is believed to be growing due to human greed or cruelty, carelessness or indifference.

The human persecution of wild animals outside conservation areas in Bauchi State was assessed using structured questionnaire and informal discussion with natural resources conservation staff. The status of legal pressure and exploitation of the wild fauna species elucidated from hunting licences issued to hunters by the wildlife unit of Forestry Division, Bauchi. Licence fees paid varied with animal species and the number being hunted. It ranged from ₦5.00 for duicker in 1985 to ₦20.00 for warthog in 1990.

Between 1987 and 1990, 248 individuals of wathog, duikers and oribi were legally harvested with casualty figures of 70(28.2%), 77(31%) and 101(40.8%) respectively. 70% of wild animals persecution occurred in dry season.

The significance of the results on resource conservation and biodiversity loss are discussed. Recommendations are given.