



Some uses of the African buffalo *Syncerus caffer* (sparrman, 1779) by the populations living around the Comoé National Park (North-East Ivory Coast)

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1 ABSTRACT

The Comoé National Park (CNP) in Ivory Coast is home to significant biological diversity and is one of the priority areas of the West African protected areas network. It is subject to many anthropic pressures, the most intense in its history have been those of the periods of socio-political crisis that Ivory Coast has experienced. The anthropic pressures which weigh on this park are most often practiced by the riparian populations for their survival. The objective of this study is to list the buffalo's organs and their usual mode of use in order to identify the types of pressure that weigh on the species. It is mainly carried out in twelve villages on the periphery of the Comoé National Park: Bania, Kokpingé, Sanguinari, Mango, Lambira, Kalabo, Banvayo, Kakpin, Amaradougou, Gorowi, Tehini and Saye. It has made it possible to identify the forms of use that these residents make of the organs of this species. It was carried out on the basis of socio-economic and ethnozoological surveys of 168 people chosen at random from ecoguards and former hunters. The survey included eight sociolinguistic groups (Lobi, Koulango, Malinké, Lorhon, Agni, Yacouba, Toura, and Senoufo). These data made it possible to compare the frequency of usage citations within ethnic groups. Eleven organs of the buffalo are used by the populations living in the Comoé National Park for food, medicine and mysticism. 100 % of the respondents use buffalo meat as animal protein. About 76.92 % and 48.08 % of the respondents use the organs of this species in the medical and mystical fields respectively.