Deforestation and wildlife management: ARE ELEPHANTS ATTRACTED BY RECENTLY DEFORESTED AREAS?

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INTRODUCTION

- Slash and burn agriculture is the main activity for the communities around Gilé National Reserve for 89% [1].
- •The elephant population face pressure in GNR due to deforestation, conflicts with farmers related to crop-raiding and illegal hunting.





OBJECTIVES

- Understand the impact of deforestation on elephant movement and habitat use in and around GNR.
- Study how seasonality affects ressource selection of elephants in GNR.

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



- Elephants are equally attracted by crops and fallows patches during the late rainy season and the early the dry season.
- Crop patches preferences coincide with the harvesting period.
- Fallow preferences could be explained by the high species richness of these patches formed by regenerating miombo vegetation [4].

CONCLUSION

The shift in preferences from crop patches to fallow patches implies that stakeholders can give new attention to this habitat and continue initiatives such as agro-forestry programs and fallow management around GNR. Also, seasonal changes in preferences should be considered in management and conservation plans in order to protect the elephant population and reduce human-elephant conflinct with the communities around GNR.

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