

**HUNTING CHARACTERISTICS IN ALABATA RANGELAND OF ODEDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA OF OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Some characteristics of hunting in Alabata Rangeland of Odeda local Government area of Ogun state, Nigeria were highlighted. One Hundred hunters in five randomly selected villages (Alabata, Egbeda, Kofesu, Isolu and Eleweran) were interviewed through a structured questionnaire. Visits were also made to points where hunters' returns were displayed at Camp and Alogi areas of Abeokuta. Twenty six species of wild animals were commonly hunted which includes *Thryonomis swinderianus*, *Cephalohus spp.*, *Francolinus bicakaratius*, *Xerus erythropus*, *Lepus capensis zechii*, *Viverricivetta*, *Protexera strangeri*. Current status of animal abundance from the hunters' perception were increasing (11%), stable (16%) and decreasing (73%). Seventy seven percent of the hunters were aware of conservative measures in the area, About (67%), carry out hunting daily while (33%) on a weekly basis. About 24% carry out individually hunting while 76% were engaged in group hunting. Fifty six percent hunt in early hours of the morning while forty four percent hunt at any time of the day. About 67% of hunters interviewed were professional hunters, 20% inherited the trade from their family ancestors, and only 13% were part time hunters. Perceived reasons for hunting were for sales (55%), food (21%), medicinal reasons (24%). Nine percent had taboos related to hunting while ninety one percent had none. About 83% belong to hunters association while 17% did not. Conservation effort to regulate hunting in the area were discussed.