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## Floristic Analysis and Local Communities' Interactions on the Included Savanna of Grand-Lahou, Southern Côte d'Ivoire

### Introduction and problem statement

- ✓ The Grand-Lahou included savanna, a rare savanna formation within a forest zone, faces increasing pressures from agriculture, urbanization, and overexploitation.
- ✓ These pressures lead to biodiversity loss, vegetation degradation, and the weakening of local community livelihoods.
- ✓ Current management policies insufficiently integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), limiting conservation effectiveness.

### Objectives

To analyze floristic composition and Local Community Interactions on the Included Savannah of Grand-Lahou, using Azagny National Park as a control site.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Analyze the floristic composition of Grand-Lahou included savanna;
2. Evaluate the impact of local community interactions on the degradation of the Grand-Lahou included savanna;
3. Examine existing management policies and formulate local community-based recommendations.

### Methods

- ✓ Floristic inventory (quadrat and roving inventory method)
- ✓ Questionnaire-based survey (n=150)
- ✓ Focus group discussions (n=3), Semi-structured interviews (n=10)

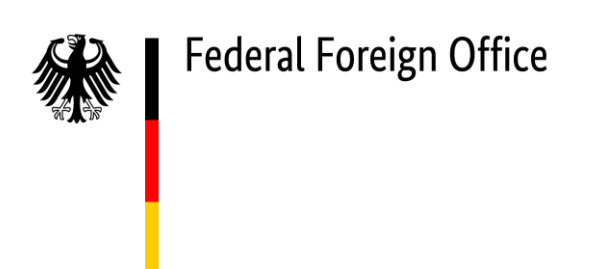


Figure 1: Photographs illustrating field activities. Source: author.

### Partner institutions:



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### Results

#### Objective 1: Floristic diversity

	Site 1 (far from the village)	Site 2 (close to the village)	Site 3 (close to the village)
Species diversity index	42	21	32

Table 1: Species richness index according to plots

#### Objective 2: Community interactions

##### ❖ Ethnobotanical survey

**Community use:** Agriculture (23.5%), firewood (34.7%), medicinal plants (38%).

**Extracted resources:** Plant (38%), wood (34%), culture (23%)

**Major threats:** Oil palm plantations (31.1%), urbanization (25.2%), biodiversity loss (33%).

#### Objective 3: Management policies and local knowledge

##### Management Policies

Monitoring, sanctions, controlled burning, co-management committees, "green" projects.

##### Local knowledge

53% of plants used for medicine. For 81% of participants: traditional management techniques do not exist.

### Conclusion and recommendations

The Grand-Lahou savanna remains a biodiversity reservoir of high ecological and cultural value but faces accelerating degradation. For sustainable management of the Grand-Lahou included savanna, the following recommendations are proposed:

- ✓ Strengthening co-management with local communities (cooperatives, participatory surveillance).
- ✓ Enhancing ecological monitoring using GIS and field inventories.
- ✓ Establish in-situ conservation plots dedicated to vulnerable and rare species.

**Stakeholders:** OIPR, Ministry of Water & Forests, local communities, researchers, development agencies (AFD, UNEP, IUCN).