

TOOL USE BY FONGOLI CHIMPANZEES (*PAN TROGLODYTES VERUS*): NAVIGATING A SAVANNA MOSAIC ENVIRONMENT.

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At Fongoli, Senegal chimpanzees range within a savanna-mosaic environment, where gallery forest accounts for less than three percent of the community's approximately 70 km² home range. Here, we present data collected via focal animal sampling from 2006-2009 regarding how Fongoli chimpanzees navigate their savanna-mosaic environment in terms of locomotion, habitat use, and tool use specifically. Chimpanzees showed preferences for gallery forest during the dry season especially, when it provides valuable sources of water and shade, but most feeding and foraging occurred in woodland habitats. Subsequently, almost all travel occurred terrestrially. Tool use occurred most often in woodland habitat. Fongoli chimpanzees exhibit various forms of tool use, including tool-assisted hunting, termite and ant feeding with tools, and opening hard-husked fruits on rock and wood anvils. The use of tools by Fongoli chimpanzees occurs almost daily, and this extensive tool use can be linked to the relatively harsh environment in which they live. Fongoli chimpanzees termite fish throughout the year, for example, and crack open baobab fruit using anvils during the early dry season months when this fruit is the most important food in the chimpanzees' diet. Tool use at Fongoli suggests that the mosaic woodland-savanna environment provides an important context that elicits a variety of tool use, suggesting the importance of such an environment when reconstructing tool use in scenarios of early hominid evolution.

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