

MONITORING OF PRIMATES AND ILLEGAL HUNTING ACTIVITIES IN KAKUM NATIONAL PARK, GHANAE.D. Wiafe^{1,2}¹*Kakum national Park, Ghana*, ²*University of Cape Coast, Ghana**Presenter's Email: e_wiafe@yahoo.com*

Human activities that are likely to affect primates populations in the Kakum Conservation area in Ghana were monitored over the past three years in relation to number of primates sighted over the same period. The main aim was to monitor and develop trends of illegal activities in relation to primate numbers and seasons of the year. Along the patrol route, the patrol officers enumerate all encounters with human activities that are likely to hunt, capture or destroy animals and primates numbers within the vision range of the observer. All the encounters were divided by mandays used every month to get index. In all, six primate species were encountered from 2007 to 2009 as follows: bush baby (*Galagoides demidoff*), Bossman potto (*Perodictus potto*), Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli lowei*), spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), Geoffroy's pied colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*). In terms of illegal activities, classes of offences recorded were as follows: poachers arrested (77), firearms confiscated (22), used cartridges (720); gunshots heard (440), snares found (897), poacher's camps (112), primates found killed (17) skins confiscated (5) were found in the 360km² rainforest protected area between 2007 and 2009. The indices for animal encounter increased from 2007 to 2009 with decrease in illegal activities. The illegal activities decrease between February and April every year and this may suggest that, most of the hunters are farmers who engage themselves in farming activities in that period rather than hunting. The management was advised to intensify patrol during off farming season.

Keywords: monitoring, hunting, illegal, primates