

Survey of Free-Range inhabitants of Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta Zoological Park

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Abstract : The study examined the abundance of free-range natural inhabitants of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) Zoo Park. A baseline data of free-ranging inhabitants of the Park is essential to monitor trends and institute conservation plans through unsustainable natural resources exploitation and habitat destruction. Four transects were selected across the study area. Each transect was traversed for a period of four months and observations was carried out twice a day. The Four existing tracks explored during the study were the aviary, reptile, carnivore and primate tracks. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The findings from this study revealed that 8 species of natural inhabitants were identified, which were the Vervet monkey (*Chlorocebuspygerythrus*), Maxwell duiker(*Philantombamaxwellii*), Mongoose (*Herpestidaespp*), Bushbuck(*Tragelaphusscriptus*), Cobra (*Najanaja*), Ground squirrel (*Marmotinispp*), Senegal coucal(*Centropus senegalensis*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*). The result further showed that a total of 115 animals were encountered in the primate transect, 77 animals in the carnivores transect, 46 animals in the aviary transect and 34 animals in the ungulates transect by the representative of 43.3%, 28.3%, 15.8% and 12.5% respectively. Human activities and level of disturbance were observed to have affected the abundance and distribution of animals at Funaab Zoo Park. Continuous field inventory is recommended to ascertain the dynamics of animals observed as free-range inhabitants in this study.

Keywords : abundance, ecosystem, extinction, free-range

Conference Title : ICWTGPS 2023 : International Conference on Wildlife Tracking and Global Positioning System

Conference Location : New York, United States

Conference Dates : August 10-11, 2023