

Spatio-temporal distribution and interannual variability of waterbirds of the lower valley of Ouémé in the south of Benin

Jacques B. ADJAKPA¹, Wilfried A. L. ADJAKPA², Louis E. LAWOUIN²,
Joselito TOSSOU², Peter D. M. WEESIE³, Léonard E. AKPO⁴

¹*Département de Génie de l'Environnement, Ecole Polytechnique d'Abomey-Calavi (EPAC), Université d'Abomey-Calavi, 01 BP 2009 Cotonou, Bénin*

²*Centre de Recherche Ornithologique et de l'Environnement (CEROE), Godomey, 03 BP 1323 Cotonou, Bénin*

³*Science and Society Group, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

⁴*Laboratoire d'Ecologie et d'Ecophysologie, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques (FST), Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD), BP 5005 Dakar, Sénégal*

Corresponding author: adjakpaj@yahoo.fr, Tel.: (+229) 95151464

Keywords: Waterbirds, variability, diversity, Lower Valley of Ouémé, Benin.

1 ABSTRACT

Located in the East of the complex of wetlands in southern Benin, the Lower Valley of Ouémé includes water bodies (Lake Nokoué, Lagoon of Porto-Novo, Sô and Ouémé rivers), relics of forest, mangroves, flooded savannas, grasslands, plantations, fields and fallows. Annual counts of waterbirds were conducted over a period of ten years. Eighty-seven species of waterbirds belonging to 48 genera, 19 families and 9 orders were recorded during the period 1998 to 2004 and 2008 to 2010. Correspondence analysis and discriminant analysis applied to matrices species / sites x years allowed determining two groups of waterbirds A and B established along a salt gradient.
