

# Nature and management of human-elephant conflicts around the Dassioko classified forest on the Ivorian coastline

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## 1 ABSTRACT

In Côte d'Ivoire, conflicts between humans and elephants species (HEC) *Loxodonta Africana* classified as vulnerable in UICN red list occur around some protected area. This conflict occurs around the Dassioko Classified Forest (DCF) between human population and a small herd of elephants that have migrated into this forest. Agriculture and human settlements within or adjacent to DCF typically result in this conflict. This study aims to determine both the nature and management of HEC in order to implement a sustained conservation strategy for both the DCF and the elephants. The survey was done using a standardized questionnaire formulated by AFESG (African Elephant Specialist Group) with slight adaptations as well as on the damage that elephants have caused to villager's properties. Direct observations were then conducted in the fields around the DCF through plots measuring 2000 x 1000 m<sup>2</sup> to confirm and assess the extent of the damage. All damage reported was done by the small herd of elephants, which, are increasingly threatened. For mitigating this conflict, human population address some methods (beating drums, using firecrackers, or even burning the animals with lighted torches, or shooting in the air) unfortunately seem to be ineffective. For both sustainable conservation of this forest and the dwindle elephants, the government has to promote successful means to repel elephants into the farmlands.