



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Raptors in changing West African savannas : the impact of anthropogenic land transformation on populations of Palearctic and Afrotropical raptors in northern Cameroon

Buij, R.

Citation

Buij, R. (2013, January 24). *Raptors in changing West African savannas : the impact of anthropogenic land transformation on populations of Palearctic and Afrotropical raptors in northern Cameroon*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/20446>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Leiden University Non-exclusive license](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/20446>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20446> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Buij, Ralph

Title: Raptors in changing West African savannas : the impact of anthropogenic land transformation on populations of Palearctic and Afrotropical raptors in northern Cameroon

Issue Date: 2013-01-24

Acknowledgements

At first, the research work that makes up this thesis started during weekend days away from the office. Fortunately, I could later continue my research as part of the research program of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) in Cameroon. This would not have been possible without the support of my *copromotor* Hans de Iongh, who granted me time to work on these studies, and later on invested much time and effort in student supervision. I would like to make a special mention of Hans' help, not only in luring materials around when he visited Cameroon, but also allowing me to further develop these raptor studies. I am also extremely grateful to my *promotores*, Jan Komdeur of the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies at the University of Groningen, for providing such great feedback, support and providing all means possible for a highly fruitful collaboration, and Geert de Snoo of CML, for his valuable suggestions over the course of the study.

This study was financially and logistically supported by CML through its collaborative program with the University of Dschang, Cameroon, at the CEDC. Further financial support was generously provided by the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies at the University of Groningen, the Dean Amadon Grant of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., the Peregrine Fund, and the British Ornithologists' Union.

Many other colleagues were supportive at CML: Gerard Persoon, Paul Loth, Denyse Snelder, Maarten van 't Zelfde, Kees Musters, Patsy Haccou, Wouter de Groot, Wil Tamis, Erik Kien, Ton Brouwer, Annelies Oskam, and Edith de Roos. At Groningen University, I want to especially thank Maurine Dietz for her great help and enthusiasm, Marco van der Velde for genetic analyses, and Gertjan van Dijk, Bernd Riedstra, and Joyce Rietveld for their support and suggestions. At Wageningen University I especially thank Ignas Heitkönig and Frank van Langevelde, and at Utrecht University Max Rietkerk, for taking on student supervision in the Netherlands. I would also like to thank for fruitful discussions, comments and suggestions: Joost Brouwer, Christiane Trierweiler, Franck Noël, Christian Riols, Rob Bijlsma, Paul Scholte, Peter Weesie, Gerard Malan, Simon Thomsett, Michel Louette, Douglas Russell, Alan Kemp, Rob Davies, Bill Clarke, and Munir Virani. Sjoukje Rienks is thanked for suggestions regarding the layout of this book. I thank Wim Mullié for our pleasant collaboration and Jean-Marc Thiollay for accepting my invitation to visit Cameroon in 2007, which was a source of inspiration.

I would like to thank the students who assisted in this study, for their company and hard work: Deborah Winkel, Dirk van der Goes, Ingrid Folkertsma, Jet Salomons, Judith Brouwer, Kim Kortekaas, Leontien Cenin, Lianne Korpelshoek, Martijn Wagemans, Nikie van Dorst, Ralph van Krimpen, Rien van Wijk, and Saskia van der Zanden. I will not forget how some managed to overcome nasty bacterial infections, malaria, cobras, typhus, heat stroke, broken vehicles *en route*, and the many hours in the baking hot sun, for the benefit of these studies. I am very grateful to all of them.

During my time in Cameroon, I had invaluable support from many people at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies in Cameroon (CEDC), without whom the already

challenging conditions may have been insurmountable. *Un grand merci* goes to Hamidou Hamadou, who was a pleasant and trustworthy person to work with throughout this period. I would further like to thank Jean-Pierre Mvondo, my counterpart at CEDC, who assisted in arranging the necessary permits. I also thank Bachirou Mohamadou, Fatima Damdam, Baba Ila, Jérôme, Ahmadou Abdoulaye, Eric Fotsing, Maurice Zeufack, Stephen Lambi, Roland Ziebe, Haman Unusa, Pricelia Tumenta, Theodore Mayaka, Charles Ndjomaha and Francis Tarla. I thank Saleh Adam, Seini Djobdi, and André Ndjidda of MINFOF, for allowing us to work in the four national parks of northern Cameroon and for arranging the necessary permits.

A special word of thanks goes to Ambassa Linis, Abba Boukar, and Amadé Ali in assisting with much of the daily work in Waza, which was greatly appreciated. Abba and Amadé were essential in making the Grasshopper Buzzard study a success – their skills and enthusiasm were inspiring.

Finally, I thank my family for their support and for stimulating my passion for nature and raptors in particular. Last, and foremost, I thank my partner Barbara. Without her unconditional devotion to these studies, including many days of hard labour, much of the work presented here would not have been possible.



Curriculum vitae

Ralph Buij was born in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 12 February 1976. He started his biology study in 1994 at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, where he graduated in 2000. Apart from a short Masters project at the Department of Molecular Genetics, he was involved in a 14-month Masters study on the behavioral ecology of the Sumatran orangutan. He published several papers based on his work on orangutan ecology in Aceh, among others as a visiting scientist at the Behavioral Biology Department of the University of Utrecht and the Department of Biological Anthropology and Anatomy at Duke University, USA.



In 2002 he enrolled in a BSc (Honours) course in wildlife management and conservation at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He subsequently worked as a consultant in southern Africa in 2003, on the development of natural resource management plans and environmental impact assessments. In 2004-2005, he led a research project for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, investigating the impact of oil, forestry and mining industry infrastructure on a forest elephant population in the Gamba Complex of southwest Gabon. This study supported the development of a sustainable forest management plan for an industrial corridor between two coastal national parks.

From 2006, he took over the coordination of Leiden University's research program in Africa, at the Centre for Environmental and Developmental studies in Cameroon (CEDC). He was responsible for the supervision of MSc and PhD students focusing on a range of studies, on large carnivores, nomadic pastoralism, wetland management and other natural resource management issues. Important aspects of the position were capacity strengthening of Universities and partnership development at a variety of levels, conservation project acquisition, implementation and management, and (post-)academic course and curriculum development. He initiated work on the studies that form the basis of this thesis in 2007, which included supervision of the research projects of 13 MSc students in Cameroon.