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Human-wildlife Conflicts Around Exclosures: the Case of May Ba’ati, Douga Tembien Woreda, Tigray, Ethiopia

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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess the human—wildlife conflicts around exclosures as perceived by farmers in Tigray, Ethiopia. Individual interviews of sixty respondents which were selected from the list of households using stratified random sampling, and focus group discussions were conducted in data collection. Chi-square test was used for data analysis. Results revealed that damages on crops and domestic animals by large wild mammals are the most common conflicts. Respondents perceived that the establishment of exclosures near human residence and existence of hiding place for large wild mammals were the two main causes of the conflict. 40 % of the respondents rated the damage very high while 40 % rated less. Killing of the dangerous large wild mammals and different preventive measures such as using smoke at farmland and around houses were used by the respondents to manage the damage by large wild mammals. It is found that the relationship between age and education level of respondents with advantage of wildlife and killing animals as a strategy to solve conflicts were not significant ($p > 0.05$). This could be due to the absence of wildlife related courses in schools. The study revealed that there were human-wildlife conflict of different forms which could influence the co-existence between large wild mammals and man. Thus, during exclosure establishment, both the needs of stakeholders and biodiversity conservation should be considered. Awareness creation and incorporation of wildlife education in schools are important to enable the local people understand the short and long-term benefits of exclosures and wildlife resources.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Conflicts, Conservation, Exclosure, Forest rehabilitation, Large wild mammals