

DEVELOPMENTS IN PRIMATOLOGY: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS

Series Editor: Russell H. Tuttle, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Primates of Gashaka

Socioecology and Conservation in Nigeria's Biodiversity Hotspot

> Volker Sommer Caroline Ross Editors



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Volker Sommer • Caroline Ross Editors

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Socioecology and Conservation in Nigeria's Biodiversity Hotspot



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In memoriam Jeremiah Adanu (1969–2004) Mallam Salamu Waziri (c1945–2007) Doris Nyanganji (c1976–2008) Yakubu Ahmadu (c1967–2009) Bobbo Buba (c1978–2010) Ymke Warren (1970–2010)

Foreword

The importance of research for human development and the management of protected areas cannot be overemphasized. Early in the history of national parks, the primary role of research was to provide information for interpretative talks and displays, as a result of visitors' demands to learn more about the interesting phenomena they encountered. More recently, research has been directed toward collecting data in the field and providing analyses that inform and influence policy recommendations, thereby ultimately improving management effectiveness of protected areas and development of community projects.

Nigeria's Gashaka Gumti National Park embodies unique biological, physical, and cultural resources. The expanses of this wilderness, combined with a protective government policy, attract researchers from varied disciplines to this part of West Africa. Their efforts are unique, considering the challenging nature of the area, the invested time, and the remote location of the research centre. Researchers conducting studies of these primate communities deserve commendation, considering their patience, sacrifice, and commitment while trailing their subjects and collecting detailed information on their socio-ecology.

The results of such in-depth research as published here showcase the rich biodiversity potential embedded in Nigeria's largest national park. I warmly recommend this book, which adds much scientific knowledge and highlights some of Africa's hidden treasures for the world to see. It is my hope that this book will serve as a reference and source of knowledge and information to both scientists and nature lovers, particularly those in the field of biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism.

With the support and cooperation of all stakeholders, we are dedicated to the enforcement of conservation policies that aim to protect unique ecosystems such as the vast and serene Gashaka Gumti National Park for the benefit of wildlife and humans alike.

Conservator General, Nigeria National Park Service Abuja, Nigeria, April 2010 Alhaji Haruna Tanko Abubakar

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