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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51398 Date: 05-05-2025

Title: Impacts de la transhumance sur la biodiversite dans la zone peripherique de la Reserve de Biosphere de Gadabedji au Niger

Recommendation:	Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Accept as it isYES	Originality	$\sqrt{}$			
Accept after minor revision Accept after major revision	Techn. Quality				
Do not accept (Reasons below)	Clarity		$\sqrt{}$		
,	Significance			$\sqrt{}$	

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: Recommended for Publication.

Comments (Use additional pages, if required)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Résumé Review:

The summary effectively outlines the objectives, methodology, and key findings of the study. It clearly presents the core concern: the negative impacts of transhumance on biodiversity in the peripheral areas of the Gadabédji Biosphere Reserve. The use of both qualitative (interviews with 82 agro-pastoralists and transhumants) and observational data (field visits to camps, watering points, and pastures) demonstrates a comprehensive approach. The enumeration of 16 forage species—categorized into ligneous and herbaceous—is informative and adds depth. The identification of key biodiversity threats such as habitat destruction, bushfires, and illegal logging is well-supported by data percentages, making the findings tangible and relevant.

Abstract Review:

The English abstract is a faithful and accurate representation of the original French résumé. It presents the problem, methodology, and results clearly, highlighting the significance of transhumance as a

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biodiversity stressor. The inclusion of specific forage species and average herd sizes lends scientific rigor. The final recommendation for developing transhumance route maps and enhancing forage plant propagation is both logical and aligned with the study's objectives. The abstract is coherent, well-structured, and serves as an effective summary for an international audience.

Keywords:

The keywords—*Transhumance*, *natural resources*, *biosphere reserve*, *Gadabédji*, *Niger*—are appropriate and reflective of the manuscript's core themes. They ensure discoverability and thematic clarity.

Methodology:

The study's methodology combines social science tools (surveys) with ecological observation. The survey of 82 participants is a solid sample size for a regional study, and the combination of field visits to key ecological points adds contextual reliability. The attention to specific locations along the transhumance route (watering points, grazing areas, and rest stops) provides spatial detail essential for future interventions.

Results and Discussion:

Results are systematically presented with clear statistical data. The mention of average herd sizes, precise species names, and specific threats enhances the scientific value of the work. The discussion successfully links transhumance practices to tangible ecological risks such as overgrazing, competition with wildlife, and vegetation degradation. It also considers social and climatic factors influencing the practice, giving the research a holistic dimension.

Originality and Value:

This work contributes valuable insights into the understudied relationship between traditional pastoral practices and biodiversity loss in West Africa. It bridges ecological science with rural sociology and pastoral policy, enhancing its interdisciplinary value. The regional specificity (Gadabédji Reserve) ensures contextual relevance, and the data-driven conclusions can inform local governance and conservation strategies.

Language and Clarity:

Both the French and English versions are written in a clear and concise academic style. Terminology is precise, and the structure facilitates understanding across disciplines.

Overall Assessment:

This is a well-executed and policy-relevant study that provides detailed, data-supported insights into the

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impact of transhumance on biodiversity. It offers a strong foundation for further research and sustainable management efforts in pastoral zones, particularly in semi-arid and Sahelian contexts.