



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55746

Title: Crucial role of vultures in the lives of local communities on the outskirts of comoé national park, northeastern cote D'ivoire

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity			✓	
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr. Sudheer Aluru

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This ethnozoological study documents the traditional knowledge and uses of vultures by communities near Comoe National Park, Cote D'ivoire. The research addresses a critical conservation issue and is based on a substantial, well-collected dataset (n=255). The topic is highly relevant.

However, the manuscript in its current form has significant issues with clarity of methods, statistical reporting, and language quality that hinder its scientific rigor and readability. These issues require substantive revision before it can be considered for publication.

Major Comments

1. The manuscript contains pervasive grammatical errors, inconsistent spacing (e.g., "Inthe contextof thepreservationof"), and awkward phrasing throughout. This significantly detracts from its professionalism and clarity. Professional English editing is essential.
2. The formulas for sample size (line 77-78) and indices (FC, UV, ICF) are poorly presented and formatted. The sample size formula is incorrectly typeset ($n = \frac{u(2)(-\alpha/2) * p(1-p)}{d^2}$) and difficult to decipher. These must be presented clearly.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

3. The use of the "snowball" method and the focus *only* on people with pre-existing knowledge of vultures is a significant source of selection bias. This limitation must be explicitly acknowledged and discussed.
4. The content and structure of the KoboCollect questionnaire are not described, making the data collection process opaque. Alternatively, the questionnaire could be provided as supplementary material.
5. The manuscript states the Kruskal-Wallis test was used and results were "not significant ($p>0.05$)." This is insufficient. For scientific transparency, the exact p-values and the H-test statistic must be reported for each test performed (e.g., for recognition criteria and use categories). The rationale for choosing this specific non-parametric test should also be briefly stated.
6. The manuscript notes the use of Borrow & Demey (2015) for identification, but it should be clarified whether - (1) Photographs or plates were shown to respondents; (2) Identification relied on informant descriptions verified post-interview. This clarification is important given the centrality of species-level recognition.
7. As a matter of common journal practice, abbreviations such as FC, UV, and ICF should be avoided in the abstract. These terms can be written in full without loss of clarity.
8. The Results section clearly presents the data but is primarily descriptive. The Discussion effectively links findings to other studies but would benefit from a more critical analysis of the direct conservation implications. For instance: Which specific uses (e.g., demand for heads/beaks) pose the greatest threat? How can this documented cultural value be transformed from a conservation challenge into an opportunity for community-led stewardship? Specifically, the authors are encouraged to:
 - Outline how traditional knowledge could be integrated into community-based conservation programs
 - Suggest awareness or education strategies informed by local beliefs
 - Briefly discuss whether any sustainable or non-lethal alternatives to current uses could be promoted

This would significantly enhance the applied value of the study.

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Minor Comments

9. Abstract is dense and could be more impactful. Briefly state the key conservation implication of the findings.
10. Standardize the use of "Use Value (UV)" (avoid switching with "VU")